

## Summer Law Internship - Water Policy

### About EPIC

Thank you for your interest in working with the [Environmental Policy Innovation Center \(EPIC\)](#). A non-profit start-up, EPIC is a results-oriented “think-do” tank focused on elevating critical research and analysis, spurring new innovations and strategies, and sharing best practices to advance policy change at the state and federal level. EPIC works to further environmental and public health outcomes by improving water infrastructure, restoring critical habitats, procuring ecosystem services, protecting endangered species, and integrating data and technology into conservation. These values define the character and culture of our organization:

- Speed. When the planet’s on fire, rapid innovation is better than slow and steady.
- Equity. We are committed to environmental progress and to prosperity for all people, because the most enduring and exceptional outcomes require both.
- Honesty. We bring real data, analysis, and facts to the limelight. Being honest about what is working and not working is not always easy, but we are committed to telling the truth.
  
- Pragmatism. We focus on ambitious but achievable solutions and believe that compromise and progress is more effective than purity and stasis.
- Wall-less. Innovation happens more in places without hierarchies and where every person and every idea gets respect. We do that.
- Empathy. We must ensure the voices of all people affected by our work are heard. We will support each other and others outside our organization with justice and respect.

### Background

Far too many US residents suffer from environmental injustices related to lack of access to clean water. Thousands face unaffordable bills for drinking water. Many small drinking water and wastewater systems lack the technical, managerial, and financial capacity to operate well or to pay for much-needed water infrastructure upgrades. More frequent flooding damages property and pollutes waterways. Failures to provide safe, reliable, and affordable water services prevent all US residents, especially lower income people and persons of color, from thriving as they deserve.

While 2021 kickstarted five years of historic investment by the federal government in water through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), disparities across water systems will endure unless we seize the moment to reform crucial policies. EPIC is seeking to hire a **Summer Law Intern** who has a strong passion and skillset to develop solutions and pursue policy reforms.

### Position Description

Reporting to the Senior Policy Analyst for Water Infrastructure, the Summer Law Intern will conduct insightful research to catalyze policy change. The analysis will support EPIC’s aims to replace lead service lines, eliminate disparities in funding and financing infrastructure, and increase investment in nature-based

solutions to water quality and climate risks. The focus of work will include researching state policies that govern how Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (DWSRF) and Clean Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF) are distributed to communities across the Nation, and supporting EPIC's efforts to ensure sustainable and equitable water policies through various research projects.

### Responsibilities

- Engage with water policymakers at the state and federal level
- Engage with state NGOs and local community-based organizations working on drinking water, clean water, and water equity issues.
- Conduct policy research and develop insightful policy analysis
- Track developments of key executive and legislative efforts at state and federal levels
- Participate in work groups, webinars, and convenings
- Write legal memoranda, formal comments on proposed state policies, case studies, fact sheets and explainers, and blogs

### Qualifications

Candidates must have:

- Passion for equity and justice
- At least 2 years of education towards a JD
- Excellent research and writing skills
- A willingness to undertake a variety of tasks to support program goals
- Good communication and collegial skills

We will prioritize candidates who can bring:

- A demonstrated capacity to analyze legal issues through an equity lens
- Experience working on water policy and equity issues
- A demonstrated capacity to effectively engage underserved communities
- Creative thinking

### Compensation, time commitment, legal supervision, and location

The Summer Law Intern position is expected to be full-time for a period of three months, from late May - late August 2024. Compensation will be \$10,000 for the summer term.

Although EPIC's staff is not primarily lawyers, the Summer Law Intern position will be supervised by an experienced lawyer. The Summer Law Intern is expected to work remotely with the option of working in EPIC's Washington, DC office.

### Applying

Interested candidates should email a CV, cover letter, unofficial law school transcript, and writing sample to Danielle Goshen at [DGoshen@policyinnovation.org](mailto:DGoshen@policyinnovation.org) with "Summer Law Intern" in the subject line.