

Environmental

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NY



UNTAPPED POTENTIAL:

*A New Era for New York's
Water Infrastructure*

UNTAPPED POTENTIAL

A New Era for New York’s Water Infrastructure

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Environmental Advocates NY extends our appreciation to the Park Foundation, the Marta Heflin Foundation, and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation whose generous support made this research and report possible.

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February 2023



The Scale of New York's Water Infrastructure Crisis

New York's water infrastructure is aging and crumbling, and it is putting clean water at risk. Outdated wastewater pipes discharge billions of gallons of raw sewage into our lakes and rivers every year. Many treatment plants are operating beyond their intended lifespans or lack the most up-to-date technology to remove contaminants from our water. Frequent water main breaks can shut down streets, disrupt water service to homes and businesses, and cause harmful bacteria to enter drinking water.

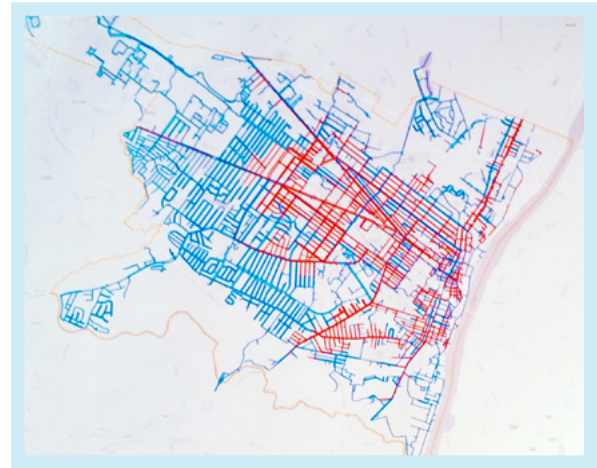


Figure 1: Red lines indicate water mains installed before 1920 in the City of Albany.

The enormity of the need to fix our pipes can be seen in almost every municipality across the state. For example, in New York's capital, the City of Albany, 116 miles of water mains are over 100 years old (Figure 1).¹ Many of these old mains are in predominantly Black communities, exacerbating environmental injustices.

Unsurprisingly, water main breaks in Albany frequently threaten access to clean drinking water. In 2022 alone, emergency work crews responded to 81 water main breaks (Figure 2). Most of these breaks occurred in the winter months, when frozen ground increases pressure on the pipes. For every 100 miles of pipe, Albany experienced 21 water main breaks in 2022, exceeding the water industry goal of less than 15 breaks per 100 miles.²

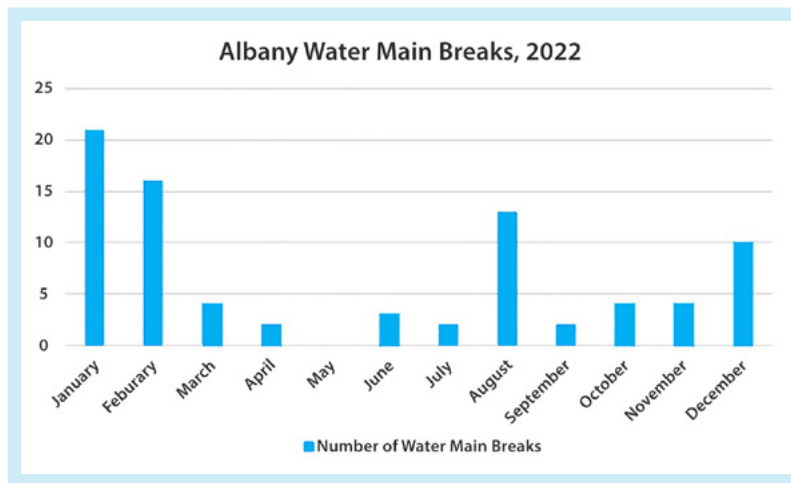


Figure 2

In 2008, state agencies estimated that it will take \$80 billion to fix New York's drinking water and wastewater infrastructure.³ Eighty billion dollars is, in fact, a conservative estimate and certainly now outdated. It does not take into account the billions of dollars needed to build climate resiliency, eliminate toxic contaminants like PFAS from drinking water, and replace the estimated 360,000 lead service lines across the state putting New Yorkers' health at risk.

To protect clean water and public health, New York State must make significant investments to repair, replace, and upgrade our broken water infrastructure.

1 Albany Water Department, Water Main Breaks, <https://eany.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Albany-Water-Main-Breaks.pdf>.

2 Ibid.

3 NYS Department of Health, Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs of New York State, 2008, health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/infrastructure_needs.htm. NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Wastewater Infrastructure Needs of New York State Report, 2008, dec.ny.gov/chemical/42383.html

A New Era for the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act

THE HISTORY OF WIIA

In 2015, New York State created the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA), which provides grants to local governments to help make water infrastructure upgrades affordable. Without this financial assistance, many costly but essential drinking water and wastewater projects would not be able to get off the ground.

WIIA's funding has grown significantly since 2015 thanks to the popularity of the program. Former Governor Cuomo and the State Legislature invested \$200 million in WIIA each year in 2015 and 2016. Then, in 2017, New York created the Clean Water Infrastructure Act (CWIA), which funds thirteen different clean water initiatives, including WIIA and the Intermunicipal Grant Program (IMG). IMG funds water infrastructure projects that service multiple municipalities. For the purposes of this report, the use of "WIIA" signifies applications and awards for both the WIIA and IMG programs.



Photo 1: Water main break in Albany.

New York invested \$2.5 billion into the CWIA in 2017 and has invested \$500 million in new funding for the CWIA in each state budget since 2019. This has brought the CWIA's total appropriation to a historic \$4.5 billion as of the publication of this report, an investment in clean water that few if any other states have matched. The Governor and Division of Budget ultimately determine how much of the \$4.5 billion WIIA will receive.

Environmental Advocates NY (EANY) is committed to tracking and evaluating WIIA through its *Untapped Potential* reports. After each grant cycle, EANY submits a Freedom of Information Law request to the Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC), which administers the program, to request data on the project applications submitted by local governments for WIIA funding.⁴ The goal is to determine whether New York is succeeding at getting WIIA grants out the door and whether the program's funding is adequate to meet the demand from local governments eager to jump-start clean water projects.

GOVERNOR HOCHUL TAKES THE REINS

This report focuses especially on analyzing Governor Hochul's stewardship of WIIA. Since Governor Hochul assumed office in August 2021, EFC has undertaken several important initiatives under her leadership, including:

- Restarting the WIIA program, with the first new request for proposals since 2019 issued in September 2021. Former Governor Cuomo had stopped awarding new WIIA grant awards during COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021, forcing local governments to delay much-needed projects;
- Awarding the most WIIA grant dollars in a single year, via two grant announcements in April and November 2022, including record numbers of emerging contaminant (EC) treatment grants; and
- Instituting new environmental justice (EJ) criteria for WIIA project applications.

⁴ When a grant award amount differed between the FOIled spreadsheets and EFC's online award lists, the online award data was used. Fifteen grant awards included on EFC's online award lists but not on the FOIled spreadsheets were included for analysis, as were three grant awards in the FOIled spreadsheets but not on EFC's online award lists.

At the same time, this report will also reveal the continuation of a troubling Cuomo-era trend: in both grant cycles in 2022, just like in each previous grant cycle, WIIA did not fund 100% of the shovel-ready applications that local governments submitted. Each of those unawarded shovel-ready projects represents a missed opportunity to protect clean water, which both the Governor and the State Legislature must address moving forward.

WIIA Successes in 2022

WIIA reached a milestone in 2022. The program has awarded \$2.1 billion to 933 projects since its creation in 2015, crossing the \$2 billion mark for the first time in 2022. Sixty percent of that funding has benefitted drinking water projects, with 40% benefitting wastewater projects. Of the over \$2 billion total, \$404 million (22%) has been distributed to 101 EC projects, which eliminate emerging contaminants like PFOA, PFOS, and 1,4-dioxane from drinking water when those chemicals exceed the state’s Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs).

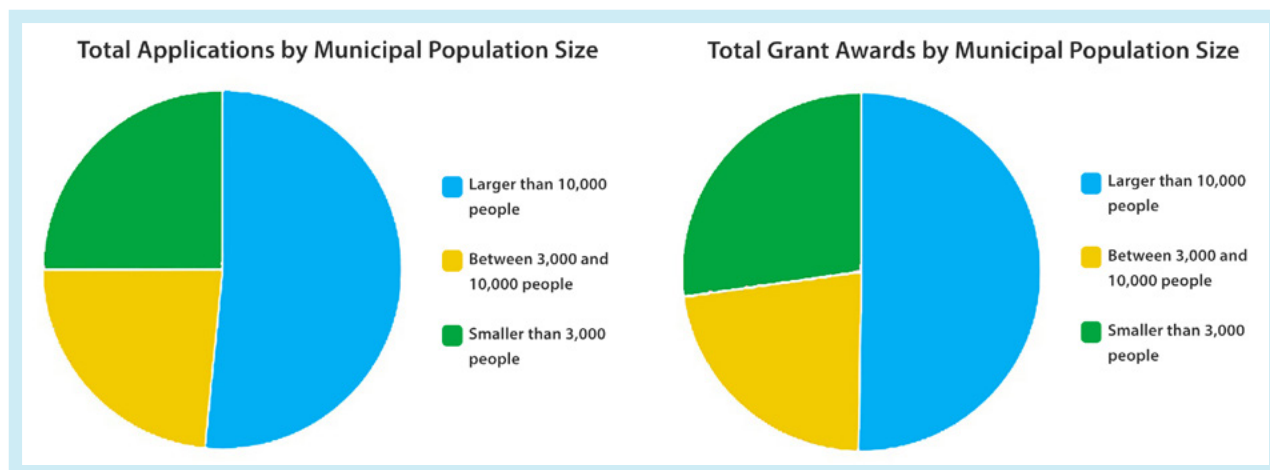
Under Governor Hochul, WIIA has strongly rebounded from its COVID-era hiatus. EFC awarded \$884 million to 269 projects in 2022’s two grant cycles, the most grant dollars ever awarded in a single year. EFC provided over half of all EC funding awarded, \$241 million to 51 projects, in 2022 alone.

**WIIA has awarded almost half of the \$4.5 billion appropriated for the entire CWIA.
That statistic alone proves how important and popular the program is.**

WIIA dollars continue to be distributed in every region of the state (Figure 3), with every single county in New York benefiting from the program’s grant awards. Long Island has received an especially high amount of funding, including 95% of the dollars awarded to EC projects. Interestingly, New York City had not submitted any WIIA applications until 2019, but since that time has received close to \$20 million for two wastewater infrastructure improvements.

Region	Grant Dollars Awarded, 2022	Grant Dollars Awarded, 2015-2022	Percentage of Grant Dollars Awarded out of Total Grant Dollars Awarded, 2015-2022
Capital Region	\$33.9 million	\$189.9 million	8.9%
Central NY	\$44.5 million	\$130.1 million	6.1%
Finger Lakes	\$83.4 million	\$185.8 million	8.7%
Long Island	\$303.1 million	\$575.1 million	26.9%
Mid-Hudson	\$114.4 million	\$291.9 million	13.6%
Mohawk Valley	\$81.5 million	\$193.6 million	9.0%
New York City	\$6.5 million	\$19 million	0.9%
North Country	\$70.8 million	\$187.6 million	8.8%
Southern Tier	\$58.6 million	\$177.2 million	8.3%
Western NY	\$87.4 million	\$190.7 million	8.9%
Totals	\$884.3 million	\$2.1 billion	100%

Figure 3



Figures 4 and 5

EFC has also made a strong effort to ensure that small, rural municipalities have benefitted from WIIA grants, though more remains to be done as will be detailed in the next section. These municipalities may struggle to find the resources or staffing necessary to compile grant applications, and therefore face challenges in accessing the program. Approximately half of grant awards since 2015 have been given to municipalities with fewer than 10,000 people, almost exactly mirroring the proportion of total applications submitted by these municipalities (Figures 4 and 5).⁵

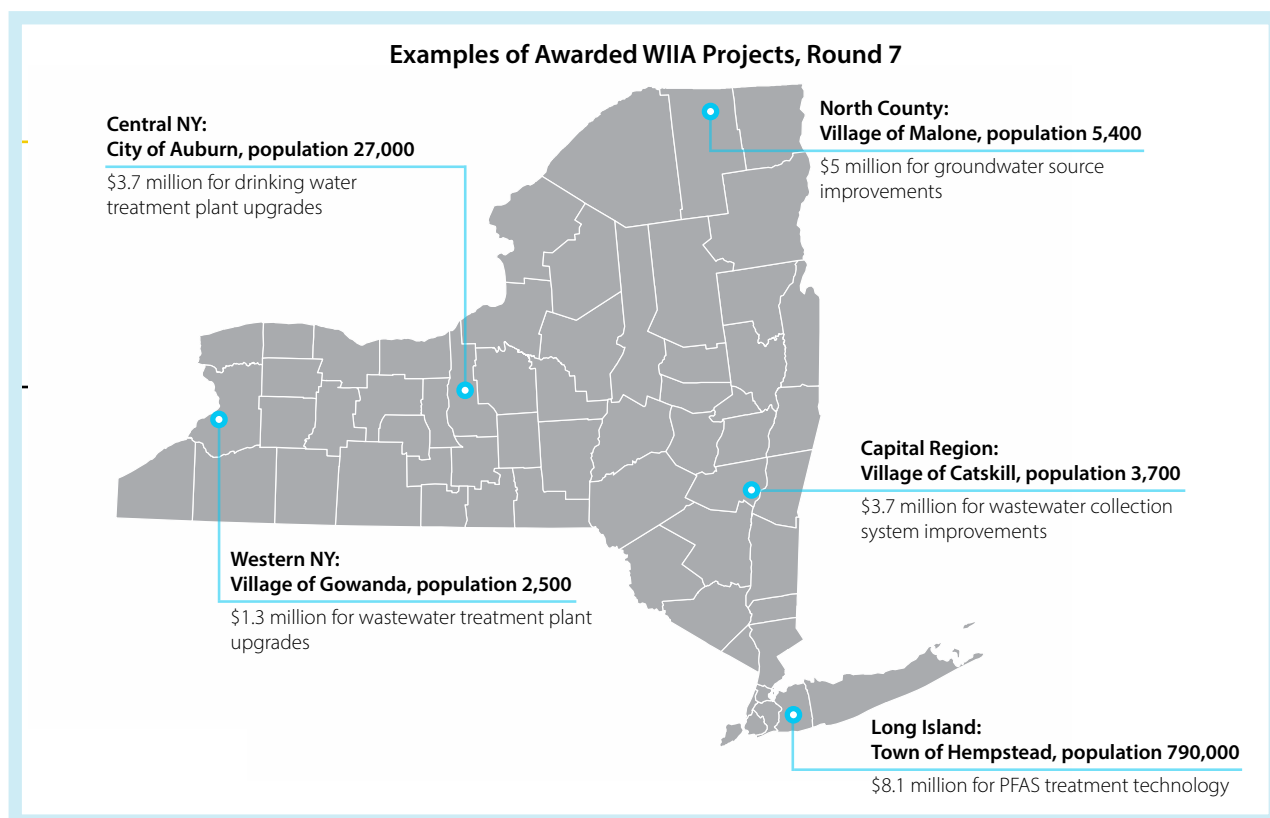


Figure 6. Each project displayed was classified by EFC as benefitting an EJ area.

⁵ For the purposes of this report, a “municipality” refers to a city, village, town, county, water or sewer authority or district, or school district that operates at least one water supply that applied for a WIIA grant. Some municipalities, especially counties and towns, may contain multiple water and/or wastewater utilities.

The Need for More WIIA Funding

The amount of grant dollars requested for “shovel-ready” projects (awarded and unawarded) skyrocketed in 2022. Local governments asked for nearly double the amount of aid in Round 7 (November 2022) than they had in Round 5 (2019). The fact that the amount requested in Round 7 exceeded that of Round 6 (April 2022) suggests that municipalities’ increasing need is not a short-term phenomenon confined to pent-up demand from WIIA’s pause during COVID-19.

Unfortunately, Governor Hochul’s administration did not award enough money to meet this enormous demand. In both grant cycles in 2022, just like each grant cycle from before the pandemic, WIIA did not fund 100% of the shovel-ready applications submitted. This lack of sufficient funding likely meant that many local governments had to keep drinking water and wastewater upgrades on the shelf for at least another year.

As seen in Figure 7, the problem of unfunded shovel-ready projects was especially acute in Round 7. That cycle, EFC only awarded \$279 million to 73 projects, while \$665 million in requests from local governments to jump-start an additional 246 shovel-ready projects went unfunded, producing by far the biggest gap ever between funded and unfunded shovel-ready projects. Twenty-six of these projects would have eliminated toxic PFAS and 1,4-dioxane detected in drinking water at levels below the MCLs but still posing a risk to human health. Each of the 246 unfunded projects represents a missed opportunity to protect clean water.

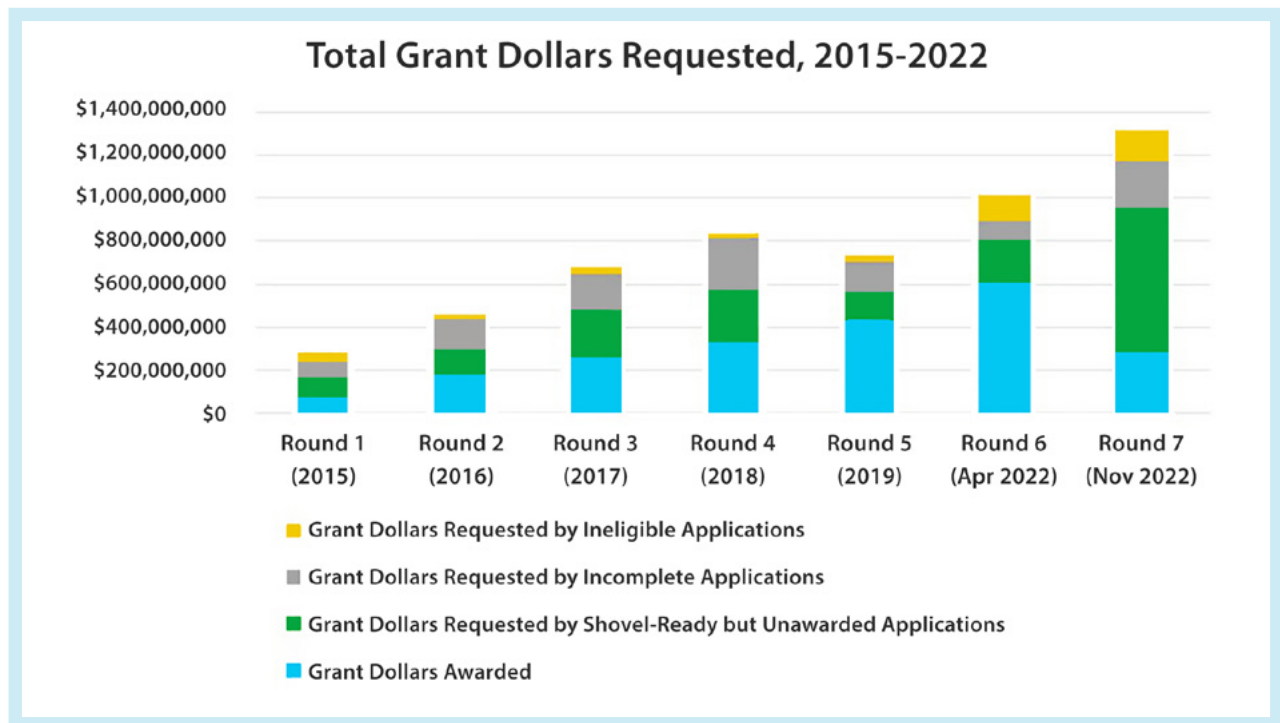


Figure 7

- **Awarded** applications received grant funding.
- **Shovel-ready but unawarded** applications were fully eligible to receive a WIIA grant, but were not provided one. These applications included all of the necessary paperwork, including information on a project’s costs and timeline.
- **Incomplete** applications were good fits for WIIA grants but were missing a full engineering report or other important paperwork. Incomplete applications can be resubmitted for funding in future grant cycles.
- **Ineligible** applications cannot receive a WIIA grant. EFC may deem an application ineligible for a number of reasons, including if another application with the same scope was already awarded a grant, the applicant was already awarded the maximum grant, the proposed project has almost completed or completed construction, or the application is outside of WIIA’s scope of funding.

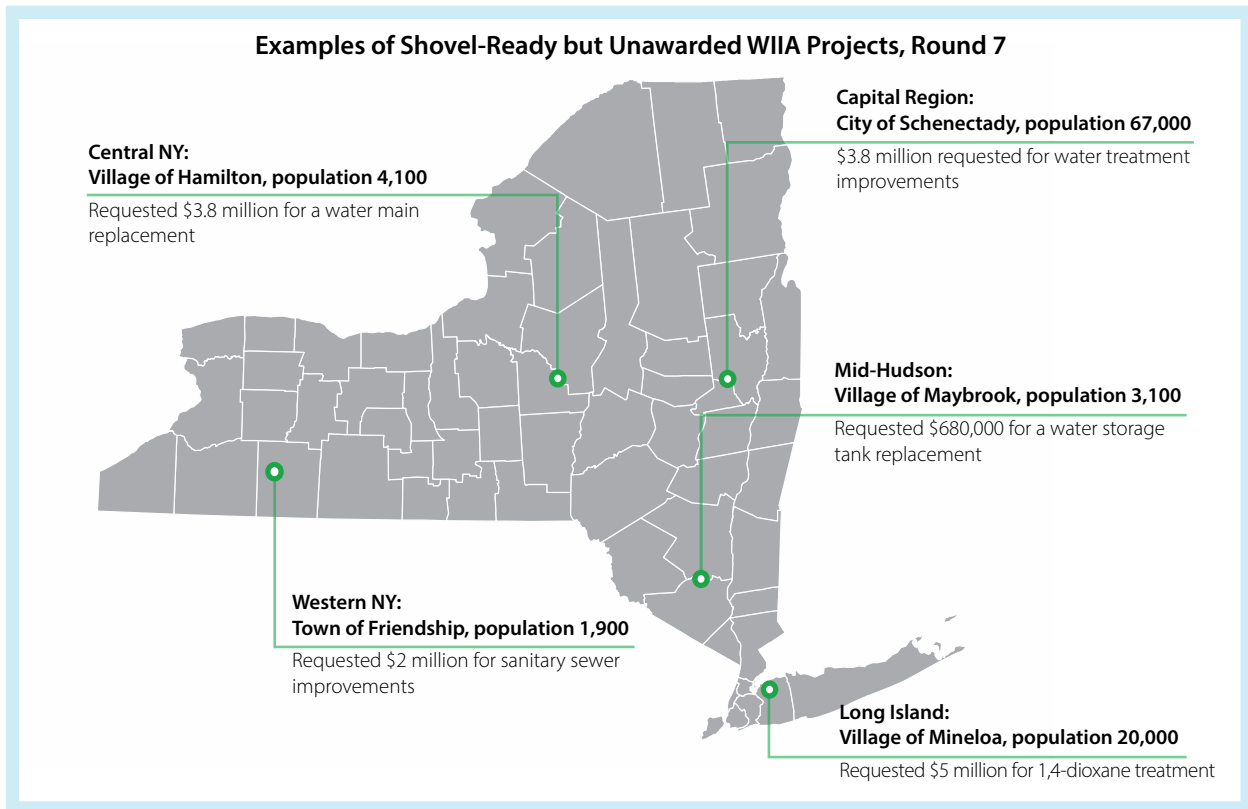


Figure 8. Each project displayed was classified by EFC as benefitting an EJ area.

There are several potential reasons why WIIA failed to put enough funding out the door, despite having enough CWIA reserves to draw from due to the program’s pause during COVID-19. Governor Hochul and the Division of Budget may have held back CWIA funds under the belief that EFC, the NYS Department of Health (DOH), and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) staff did not have the capacity to manage so many grant awards. This would be highly unfortunate, and points to the importance of ascertaining the staffing needs of each agency so that upcoming state budgets can include funding for more staff where gaps are identified.

Just as importantly, the magnitude of the demand being demonstrated by local governments each cycle is quickly dwarfing the \$500 million annual CWIA appropriations being made by Governor Hochul and State Legislature. Without a higher annual appropriation level for the CWIA in future state budgets, it will be extremely difficult for WIIA to make enough progress in protecting New Yorkers’ access to clean water.

WIIA could have awarded nearly \$1 billion to shovel-ready projects just in Round 7, far exceeding the \$500 million invested in the entire CWIA in 2022, which supports a dozen programs in addition to WIIA.

More grant awards distributed would help EFC reach a greater number of municipalities, especially small, rural municipalities. 687 unique municipalities have applied for WIIA grants since 2015, but 170 of those did not ultimately receive

any grant awards. The breakdown of these municipalities by population size can be seen in Figure 9. Along with more grant awards, more technical assistance from EFC is needed to expand the pool of unique applicants and ensure no municipality faces barriers to applying.

Municipal Population Size	Number of Unique Municipal Applicants, 2015-2022	Number of Unique Municipal Awardees, 2015-2022
Larger than 10,000 People	225	178
Between 3,000 and 10,000 People	202	141
Smaller than 3,000 People	260	198
Totals	687	517

Figure 9

A New Focus on Environmental Justice

As of 2021, every New Yorker has a constitutional right to clean air, clean water, and a healthful environment.⁶ But too often, environmental spending has not been accessible to or benefited EJ areas, which have been disproportionately harmed by pollution and other racial, social, and economic injustices. Thanks to powerful organizing and advocacy, EJ leaders have pushed this urgent problem to the center of environmental discourse, including in New York.

Over the last several years, New York has enacted new laws to ensure EJ areas receive their fair share of resources. The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) and the \$4.2 billion Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Bond Act (Bond Act) both require that at least 35% of spending generated through those laws be directed to EJ areas, which they term “disadvantaged communities” (DACs).

There are no EJ requirements attached to the CWIA, however. WIIA is not required to direct a certain percentage of the funding that it receives through the CWIA to EJ areas, and until recently EFC did not track whether its WIIA grants were advancing EJ.

In 2021, under Governor Hochul’s leadership, EFC announced that their evaluation of WIIA applications would begin including “consideration for Environmental Justice Areas.”⁷ This section will explore the implementation and impacts of this new policy and will be one of the first analyses conducted on the potential EJ benefits of clean water spending in New York.

DEFINING EJ AREAS

State agencies have developed different criteria over time to determine which parts of the state are considered EJ areas and which are not. In 2003, DEC created a definition of Potential Environmental Justice Areas (PEJAs) through DEC Commissioner Policy 29. A PEJA is defined as “a minority or low-income community that may bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal,



Photo 2: Granulated Activated Carbon filters in Newburgh, used to remove toxic PFAS chemicals from the city’s drinking water. Almost every neighborhood in Newburgh is classified as a PEJA.

6 New York State Constitution, Article 1, Section 19, <https://dos.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/01/Constitution-January-1-2022.pdf>.

7 NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation, “Grant Summary: NYS WIIA and IMG Program,” October 2021, <https://eany.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/EFC-WIIA-Summary-2021.pdf>.

and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies.”⁸

To identify PEJAs, DEC mapped census block groups in urban and rural communities that contained at least a certain percentage of minority groups or households below the federal poverty level. This tool exists as an interactive online map⁹ and is also housed within DEC’s DECinfo Locator, a GIS depository of environmental data.¹⁰ DEC’s current PEJA map utilizes racial and income data from the 2014-2018 American Community Survey, the latest available data as of 2020.

More recently, the CLCPA created a definition of DACs in 2019, which was later incorporated into the Bond Act. DACs are defined as “communities that bear burdens of negative public health effects, environmental pollution, impacts of climate change, and possess certain socioeconomic criteria, or comprise high-concentrations of low- and moderate-income households.”¹¹ The CLCPA goes on to list high unemployment, high rent burden, low levels of home ownership, low levels of educational attainment, or members of groups that have historically experienced discrimination on the basis of race or ethnicity as examples of the socioeconomic criteria mentioned.

The DAC definition is intended to be a more holistic approach to identifying EJ areas, taking into consideration many variables that DEC’s 20-year-old PEJA definition leaves out, such as threats from climate change. Consequently, DEC and the Climate Justice Working Group, which is a body formed under the CLCPA to advise on the creation and implementation of New York’s EJ policy, have produced a draft map of DACs substantially different than the PEJA map.¹² As of the writing of this report, DEC had completed a public comment period on the draft DAC map but had not yet finalized it.

ANALYSIS OF WIA’S EJ BENEFITS IN 2022

EFC utilized DEC’s PEJA definition and map to determine whether its grants were reaching EJ areas. According to EFC staff, the application process for those rounds included a question for the municipality to identify whether the project will benefit the residents of an EJ area and to provide a description of how the project will serve the EJ area. EFC confirmed the EJ area using the PEJA layer in the DECinfo Locator. EFC then evaluated each project, using the project information provided in the application and project engineering report, to confirm if the project scope benefits or serves the EJ area. Importantly, EFC only evaluated whether a project benefited or served an EJ area if the municipality claimed that it would do so.

EFC determined whether a project would “benefit or serve” a PEJA on a case-by-case basis and did

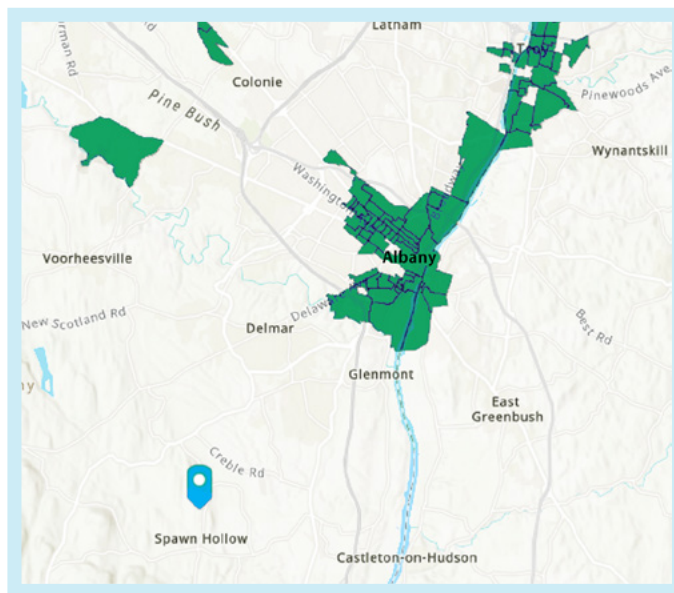


Figure 10: Location of a City of Albany WIA project in relation to nearby PEJAs

8 NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, “Commissioner Policy 29, Environmental Justice and Permitting,” March 2003, <https://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/36951.html>.

9 NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Maps & Geospatial Information System (GIS) Tools for Environmental Justice, accessed January 2023, <https://www.dec.ny.gov/public/911.html>.

10 NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, DECinfo Locator, accessed January 2023, <https://gisservices.dec.ny.gov/gis/dil/>.

11 NYS Environmental Conservation Law, Section 75-0101, <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/ENV/75-0101>.

12 Climate.NY.Gov, “Climate Justice Working Group,” accessed January 2023, <https://climate.ny.gov/resources/climate-justice-working-group/#disadvantaged-communities-map>.

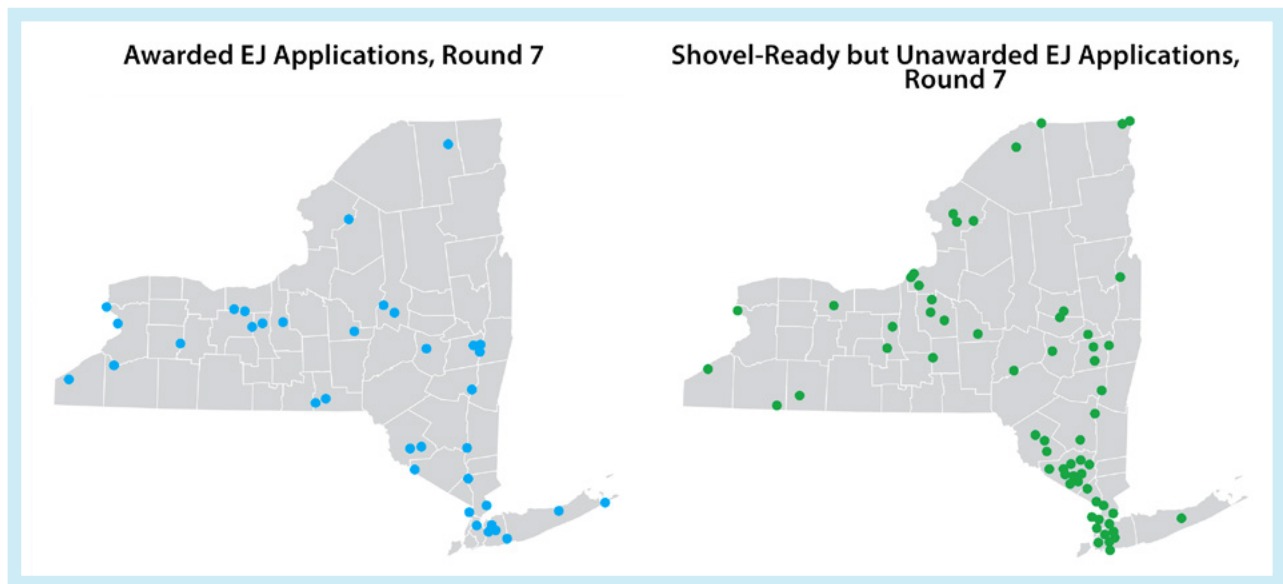


Figure 11

not solely rely on whether the proposed project was located within a PEJA. For example, in Round 7 the City of Albany applied for a grant to make capital improvements to its drinking water treatment plant, which is not located in a PEJA (Figure 10). But EFC still classified the project as benefiting or serving a PEJA, likely because the treatment plant delivers drinking water to all Albany residents, many though not all of whom reside in PEJAs.

EFC provided data on the EJ benefits of Round 7 WIIA applications in response to EANY’s FOIL request. The following provides an analysis of that data.

In Round 7, EFC classified 148 applications requesting \$542 million as benefiting or serving PEJAs, 41% of all grant dollars requested that cycle. The share of grant dollars awarded to EJ applications was even higher, with 36 EJ projects receiving \$158 million, 56% of all grant dollars awarded that cycle. This percentage is well above the 35% minimum mandate for EJ investments in the CLCPA and the Bond Act, a positive sign that EFC is committed to providing significant funding to PEJAs. EFC also achieved a robust statewide distribution of EJ grants, as seen in Figure 11.

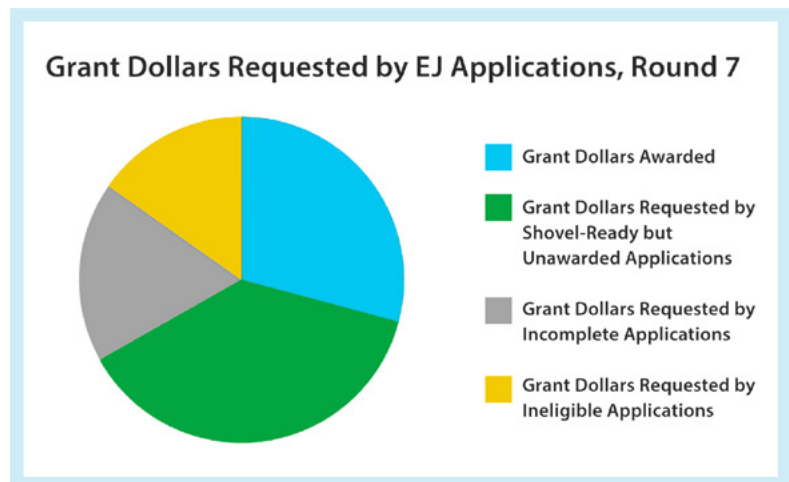


Figure 12

However, the previously mentioned failure by EFC to fund 100% of shovel-ready projects submitted for WIIA funding in Round 7 also impacted PEJAs. As seen in Figure 12, over a third of grant dollars requested by applications that EFC classified as benefiting or serving PEJAs were for shovel-ready projects that went unfunded. 65 EJ projects, requesting \$204 million, likely could not get off the ground and deliver clean water improvements to PEJAs because WIIA did not have enough funding to go around. Examples of these projects can be found in the previous section, and a full map can be seen in Figure 11.

THE FUTURE OF WIIA'S APPROACH TO EJ

EFC has indicated its long-term commitment to ensuring WIIA funds reach EJ areas, but the form that their initiatives take may change. One outstanding question is whether EFC will use the CLCPA and Bond Act's definition of DACs instead of DEC's PEJA definition to track EJ impact in future grant cycles once DEC finalizes the DAC map.

The decision over which map to use has important implications for which areas are prioritized for WIIA grants and which are not. Some census block groups may be classified as an EJ area on one map but not the other. For example, the Village of Westfield in Chautauqua County, located near the Lake Erie waterfront, has a PEJA within its boundaries and received a grant in Round 7 to upgrade its wastewater treatment plant that EFC classified as benefiting or serving an EJ area (Figure 13). However, Westfield does not have any draft DACs within its boundaries, and that same grant may not have been classified as benefiting or serving an EJ area had EFC utilized the draft DAC map (Figure 14).

In addition, WIIA's choice of map will also affect Bond Act implementation. WIIA will receive at least \$200 million and potentially more of Bond Act funding, at least 35% of which must benefit DACs, likely necessitating the use of the DAC map to track those benefits. It would certainly be more efficient and consistent for EFC to use one map to track its EJ impact rather than two.

Ultimately, the future of WIIA's approach to EJ should be wholly informed by meaningful engagement with EJ organizations and activists who are on the frontlines of these issues. EFC should conduct a sustained dialogue to identify if their current policies and processes are sufficient to ensure EJ areas receive their fair share of grant dollars.

More outreach is also needed to ensure that municipalities seeking grants to benefit and serve EJ areas don't face significant roadblocks during the grant application process. The 27 incomplete applications that EFC classified as benefiting or serving EJ areas submitted by municipalities in Round 7 point to the urgent need for more technical assistance from EFC to help with compiling applications. Communities facing a lack of staff capacity or resources should not be at a disadvantage when it comes to accessing critical clean water funding.

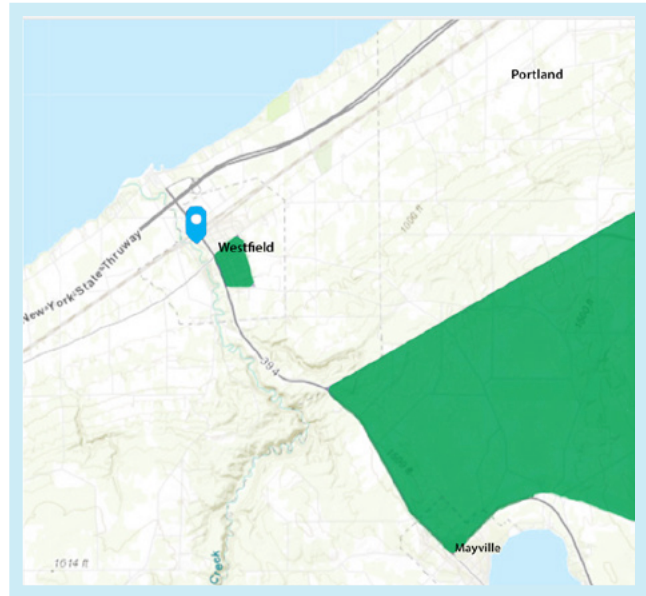


Figure 13: Location of a Village of Westfield WIIA project in relation to nearby PEJAs

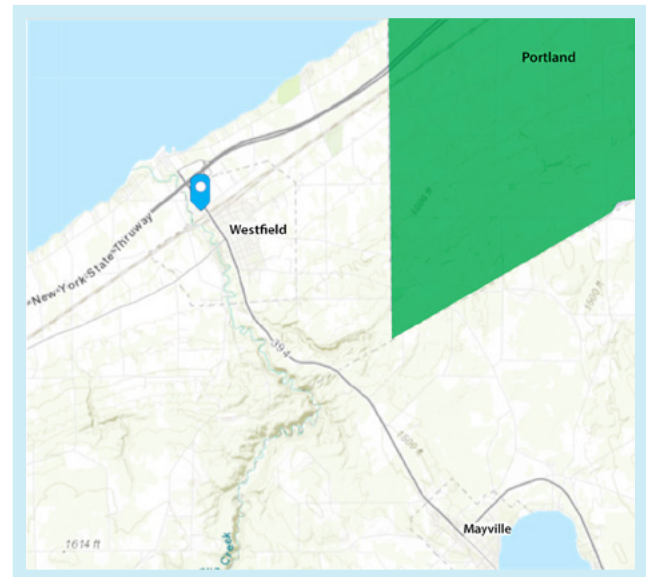


Figure 14: Location of a Village of Westfield WIIA project in relation to nearby draft DACs

Future Trends for Water Infrastructure Spending

Critical water infrastructure improvements should not be left waiting in the wings.

Despite the clear trend of a rising amount of grant dollars requested, the number of total applications submitted to WIIA each year has stayed relatively constant since 2017, though with small increases each year since 2019, as seen in Figure 15. The result is that more money is being requested by a similar number of applications. EFC has been the key driver behind this phenomenon, initiating several program changes since 2019 that have boosted the amount of funding eligible per project.

First, as detailed in our last *Untapped Potential* report, EFC eliminated their \$3 million grant cap for EC projects in 2019, allowing these projects to receive grants covering up to 60% of eligible project costs. As a result, EC projects have a higher average award (\$4 million) than traditional drinking water projects (\$2 million). The demand for EC grants is likely to remain high, both from communities that have already exceeded New York's current MCLs for PFOA, PFOS, and 1,4-dioxane, as well as those who may exceed new PFAS MCLs under consideration by DOH. Significant contamination remains in the state's drinking water.

Second, under Governor Hochul, EFC has updated rules for traditional drinking water and wastewater projects that have nearly doubled the average grant available to these projects. In 2021, EFC increased the cap on wastewater grants per project to the lesser of \$25 million or 25% of eligible project costs, and in 2022 they increased the cap on drinking water grants per project from \$3 million to \$5 million.¹³ Due to this shift, the average grant provided to both drinking water and wastewater projects increased from \$1.7 million pre-pandemic to \$3 million post-pandemic.

More funding awarded per project provides important benefits to local governments, helping make costly water infrastructure upgrades even more affordable at a time of new challenges from supply chain constraints and inflation. But given the increasing costs, a greater annual level of funding for WIIA is required.

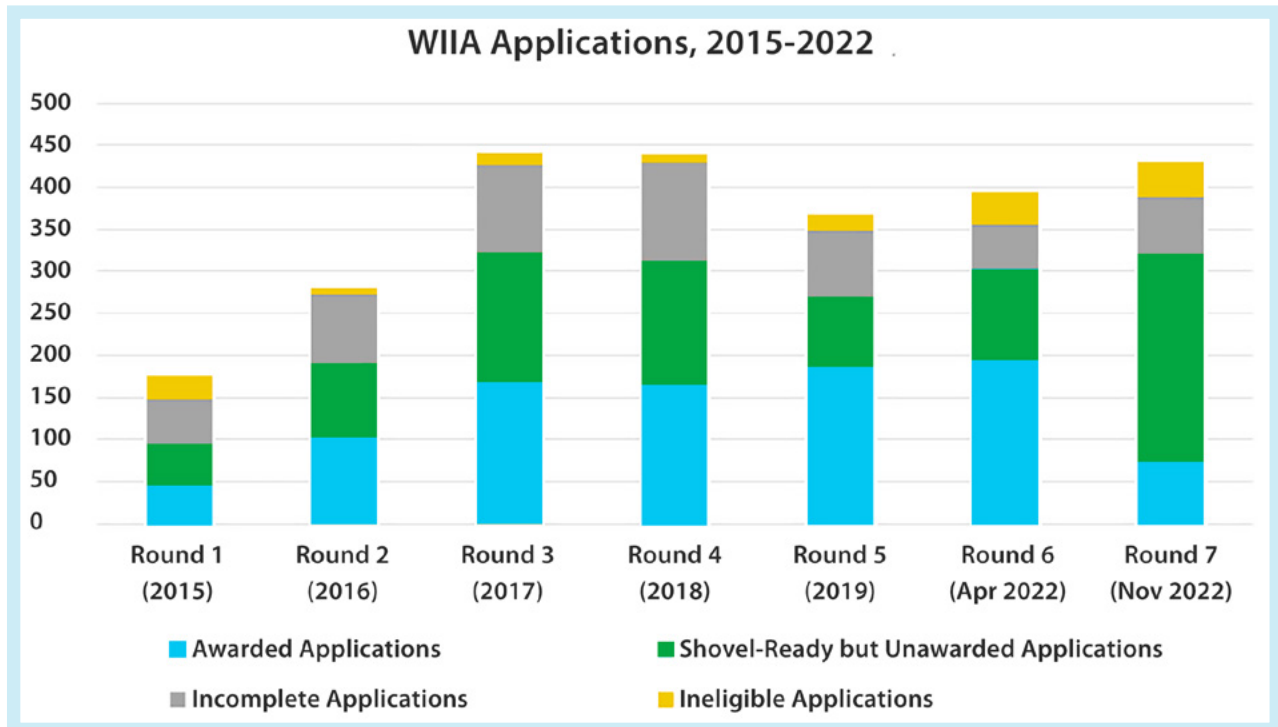


Figure 15

¹³ EFC also increased their cap on IMG projects from \$10 million to \$30 million in 2021. Due to the small size of the IMG applicant pool, EANY did not calculate a pre- and post-pandemic average grant for IMG projects. IMG projects were not included in calculations of average drinking water and wastewater grants pre- and post-pandemic.

Conclusion

The COVID-19 crisis highlighted the importance of clean water to keep every New Yorker safe and healthy, while at the same time introducing uncertainty into the future of New York's efforts to protect this critical resource. WIIA's pause during the pandemic meant two years of potential clean water progress were lost, and it was unclear in 2021 how or whether the program would rebound once the immediate public health crisis subsided.

Fortunately, Governor Hochul has cemented WIIA's place as New York's premier vehicle to fix our pipes, and indeed has instituted several important initiatives to expand the accessibility of the program. WIIA had its most successful year ever in 2022, putting more money out the door than ever before and directing a significant amount of this funding to projects that EFC classified as benefiting or serving EJ areas.

Challenges, however, remain. Governor Hochul will need to break free from the Cuomo-era trend of leaving large numbers of shovel-ready drinking water and wastewater projects waiting in the wings for funding. The demand from local governments is skyrocketing, with close to \$1 billion being requested by shovel-ready applications in the last grant cycle alone, including applications to remove emerging contaminants like toxic PFAS and 1,4-dioxane from drinking water.

More agency staffing and an increase in annual CWIA funding to at least \$1 billion in New York's state budgets are needed to keep pace with this increased demand. In addition, the sooner that EFC releases its next request for WIIA applications, the better. EANY hopes to see an announcement early in 2023. WIIA funding will only become more important to local governments, as many may seek to leverage hundreds of millions of federal loan dollars that New York will be receiving for water infrastructure improvements through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law over the next five years.

EFC should also renew its efforts to expand the number of communities applying for and benefiting from WIIA funding. EFC should expand its technical assistance offered to EJ communities and small, rural water utilities that may need help navigating the grant application process. WIIA must be accessible to all, and EFC must ensure its benefits flow to the New Yorkers harmed the most by water pollution and loss of access to water.

In this new era for WIIA, one fact has remained constant: investing in water infrastructure is a win-win for the environment and the economy. Upgrading our drinking water and wastewater systems safeguards public health and creates thousands of good-paying, union jobs across the state at the same time. EANY looks forward to seeing these successes continue into the future.



Photo 3: Sewage discharge sign in New York City.

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