



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING FY 2018 GRANT RECIPIENTS

State: Alaska

Organization: Alaska Forum on the Environment, Inc.

Contact Information: Office: (907) 331-0271 ext.4
Website: <http://www.akforum.org>

Funded: \$133,625

Assistance: The Alaska Forum on the Environment, Inc. (Alaska Forum) is proposing to provide technical assistance to eight rural Alaskan communities that choose to pursue their Green Star Community Program. This program will include an on-site assessment, technical assistance, and training for landfill operators, community environmental personnel, and City and Tribal governments. Training opportunities include Alaska Forum’s Landfill Management and Operator, Hazardous Household Waste reduction, and Water Quality and Watershed Basics training courses. Approximately 265 communities have been identified, but the eight communities have not been selected.

State Alaska

Organization Alaskan Native Tribal Health Consortium, Inc

Contact Information: Office: (907) 729-1900
Website: <https://anthc.org/>

Funded \$196,644

Assistance The Alaskan Native Tribal Health Consortium, Inc. is proposing to provide technical assistance to the members of the Alaskan Rural Utility Collaborative (ARUC) through the funding of two Utility Management Specialists. A continuation of prior funding, the Specialists will provide on-site training, system evaluation, repair guidance, and other services to water and wastewater system operators. In addition to system operation, this award is vital to aiding communities in budgetary tasks, such as determining user charges, increasing collection rates, and decreasing operator turnover. These efforts will increase system sustainability and reduce grant dependency. Currently, there are 27 member communities. All systems serve remote populations of less than 1,000 users.



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING FY 2018 GRANT RECIPIENTS

State: Alaska
Organization: Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council
Contact Information: Office: (907) 258-3337
Website: <https://www.yritwc.org/>
Funded: \$178,542
Assistance: This project will identify and assess uncertified drinking water sources in rural Alaskan communities. The project will also provide group trainings and community education on safe practices for collection, treatment, and storage of drinking water from uncertified water supplies. Finally, this project will offer technical assistance to small rural water and wastewater utility operators.

State: Alaska
Organization: Tanana Chiefs Conference
Contact Information: Office: (907) 452-8251 ext. 3110 Website: <https://www.tananachiefs.org>
Funded: \$202,340
Assistance: The Tanana Chiefs Conference proposed to provide technical assistance through the delivery of five classroom trainings to approximately 60-75 water operators, utility managers and/or council members. Focused but not limited to the 32 member communities, this program will augment the Tanana Chiefs Conference's Remote Maintenance Workers program. Comprised of rural, low income interior villages, the trainings are vital to the communities to prevent catastrophic failure during the harsh winters, increase compliance with laws and regulations, and improve their chance at obtaining capital financing.

State: Alaska
Organization: Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corp.
Contact Information: Office: (907) 258-3337
Website: <http://www.yritwc.org>
Funded: \$146,384
Assistance: The project includes the development of a new technical assistance program to develop local capacity to manage tribal and municipal water and wastewater utilities. Investing in the development of strong local governments supports sustainable sanitation facility infrastructure. It provides the added benefit of building a management skill set essential for enduring economic growth in these communities. Intensive, on-site capacity building and training will be conducted in four AK communities.



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State: Alaska
Organization: Zender Environmental Health and Research Group
Contact Information: Office: (907) 277-2111
Website: <http://www.zendergroup.org/>
Funded: \$292,669
Assistance: The project will provide technical assistance and training to all rural and remote non-hub communities by: 1) assisting villages with identifying and evaluation their unique and dynamic set of health risks and solutions; 2) assisting villages in preparing USDA water and waste grant applications; and 3) assisting villages in improving their waste facilities and practices.

State: Alaska
Organization: Maniilaq Association
Contact Information: Office: 1-800-478-3312
Website: <https://www.maniilaq.org/>
Funded: \$114,876
Assistance: The purpose of this project is to provide essential certification and professional development training opportunities for rural water/wastewater utility personnel (i.e. operators, line crews, utility managers, administrators, clerks, etc.) in Northwest Alaska. It is Maniilaq’s intent to develop the capacity of rural utility personnel by creating an adept workforce through education and hands-on training. The Federal Inter-agency Infrastructure Task Force (ITF) identified an “adept workforce” as a key element for increasing tribal capacity and creating *sustainable management entities*¹. An adept workforce empowers a utility to efficiently and consistently deliver a level of service expected by the consumer, and can allow for the utility to effectively respond to changing circumstances such as emergencies, new regulations, climate impacts, and changes in community finances and development. They plan to use FY18 USDA Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) grant funds to help build an adept utility workforce by hosting at least three training opportunities in Kotzebue, Alaska. USDA Rural Utility Support (RUS) supports the sound development of rural communities and the growth of economies without endangering the environment. The TAT grant program was developed to support technical assistance and/or training of personnel that will improve operation and management (O&M) of water and waste disposal systems.



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State: Arizona

Organization: Painted Desert Demonstration Projects, Inc.

Contact Information: **Office:**
Website:
N/A

Funded: \$120,066

Assistance: The Painted Desert Demonstration Projects, Inc., d/b/a the STAR School, is proposing to provide essential technical assistance and training necessary to resolve the most pressing water and wastewater problems in Navajo Nation. Working with the University of Arizona and AATech, this award will enable the STAR School to conduct two workshops and technology demonstrations, continue the development of their Water and Wastewater Education Center, and to assist in the analysis and remedy of identified water and wastewater problems. The STAR School will also assist rural Navajo communities who wish to apply for grants and loans from Federal and state sources in order to solve local sanitation problems.

State: Arizona

Organization: Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.

Contact Information: **Office:**(602) 258-4822
Website: <http://itcaonline.com/>

Funded: \$1,076,368

Assistance: ITCA proposes to provide training, tribal operator certification, and technical assistance services to small, rural tribal communities located in USEPA Regions 5 through 10—a project service area spanning 28 states and 95% of all tribal public water systems in the U.S. The following three project activities will be implemented. First, ITCA will empower tribes to effectively manage water/wastewater utilities by: conducting widespread Tribal Utility Tune-Up Workshops (EUM “workshop in a box”); providing managerial and financial capacity-building technical assistance; updating the Tribal Utility Management Certification; and providing training on tribal utility management. Second, ITCA will strengthen the tribal water utilities workforce by: conducting regional tribal operator certification training and exam events; providing year-round tribal operator certification services, including computer-based testing; providing training in operator worker safety awareness; and engaging public stakeholders through meeting presentations and public service announcements. Third, ITCA will build tribal operations and maintenance technical capacity by providing operations and maintenance technical assistance as well as trainings on Safe Drinking Water Act regulations, backflow prevention, wastewater lagoons, water loss control, and utilities resilience.



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State: Arizona
Organization: Winrock International
Contact Information: Office: (703) 302-6500
Website: <https://www.winrock.org/>
Funded: \$208,512
Assistance: Winrock International will direct and implement the Native American Water Improvement Program. The NAWIP is dedicated to building the capacity of Native American Tribes related to water and wastewater infrastructure. Winrock’s proposed project will improve sustainability, increase energy and water efficiency and cost reductions. The Native American Water Improvement Project (NAWIP) will provide much-needed hands-on technical assistance and training to two Oklahoma-based Native American Tribes.

State: California
Organization: OCT Water Quality Academy
Contact Information: Office: (800) 886-9717
Website: <https://www.octwqa.org/>
Funded: \$154,832
Assistance: OCT Water Quality Academy (OCTWQA), an established 29-year old non-profit 501(c)(3), non-membership water/wastewater private career school proposes to establish the Western Technical Assistance and Training Program (WTAT) as follows: (A) an ongoing Search & Serve outreach to rural operations that serve small and very small water/wastewater system operators in California and Oregon to provide training and technical assistance as warranted; training can be conducted at their site or in the classroom at McClellan; (B) provide four total “Workshops in a Box Sustainable Management” – two each in California and Oregon to communities and systems experiencing on-going compliance issues with SDWA and NPDES; (C) the Administrative Points project involves OCTWQA assisting in the identification and evaluation of solutions to water problems of Priority 1 Colonia communities in rural areas relating to source, storage, treatment, or distribution, including Colonia communities experiencing high rates of health issues and disease, and will provide technical assistance training to system personnel that will improve the management, operation and maintenance of water and waste disposal facilities by providing low-cost, easily accessed instruction as listed under the proposed work plan.



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State: California
Organization: OCT Water Quality
Contact Information: Office: (800) 886-9717
Website: <https://www.octwqa.org/>
Funded: \$536,767
Assistance: The purpose of the proposed project is to convert a number of highly successful in-the-seat classes to online eLearning classes to meet the ongoing licensing, re-certification and educational needs of operators nationwide who otherwise would not be able to attend classes at a school site. The option of remote eLearning provides affordability, convenience, accessibility, and customizability for the many operators and employers who have requested classes online to cut the cost of travel, minimize time spent away from their jobs via quick access to the Internet posted classes to meet certification goals, as well as to help them maintain system compliance with regard to SDWA and NPDES permits at work sites.

State: California
Organization: Walking Shield
Contact Information: Office: (657)-900-2197
Website: <https://walkingshield.org/>
Funded: \$100,000
Assistance: The purpose of this project is to provide the technical assistance to build the capacity of three rural American Indian Reservation to address critical needs associated with clean drinking water and waste disposal into their respective communities. These Reservations include Santa Rosa Reservation in Riverside County, whose current water facilities does not meet the needs for additional water sources and water storage.

State: California
Organization: Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
Contact Information: Office: (916) 432-EJCW (3529)
Website: <https://ejcw.org/>
Funded: \$218,240
Assistance: The Environmental Justice Coalition for Water is proposing to assist 12 small (<2500 population), rural, economically disadvantaged communities in California to identify and evaluate solutions to address their water and/or wastewater problems by providing technical assistance.



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State: Colorado
Organization: American Water Works Association, Inc.
Contact Information: Office: (202) 326- 7210
Website: <https://www.awwa.org/>
Website: <https://www.awwa.org/>
Funded: \$856,866
Assistance: The AWWA purposes to train personnel at water systems in small and very small, and low-income and very low-income rural communities in how to perform self-assessments to identify major issues confronting their systems, how to operate their systems more efficiently, how to access low-cost USDA loans to in order to find solutions to identified water system issues, and how to repay a portion of the loan using cash flow realized from system efficiency gains.

State: Colorado
Organization: Engineers Without Borders USA, Inc.
Contact Information: Office: (303) 772-2723
Website: <https://www.ewb-usa.org/>
Funded: \$286,730
Assistance: Community Engineering Corps is proposing to assist current and potential future communities in need in rural, small, underserved communities by identifying and evaluating solutions to water problems of associations in rural areas related to source, storage, treatment, or distribution; assist associations in the preparation of water and/or waste loan and/or grant applications; provide technical assistance and/or training to association personnel that will improve management, operations, and maintenance of water facilities; and pay expenses associated with providing technical assistance and/or training authorized in the above tasks.

State: District of Columbia
Organization: Rural Community Assistance Partnership, Inc. (DC)
Contact Information: Office: (202) 408-1273
Website: <http://rcap.org>
Funded: \$6,014,081.10
Assistance: Rural Community Assistance Partnership, Inc. will create a National Water/Wastewater Infrastructure Application and Development Assistance Project to provide application assistance and project development coordination that facilitates efforts by rural communities to access funding for water and wastewater infrastructure projects, particularly those communities in smaller, lower income, and persistent poverty areas.



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State: District of Columbia
Organization: Rural Community Assistance Partnership, Inc. (DC)
Contact Information: Office: (202) 408-1273
Website: <http://rcap.org>
Funded: \$8,000,000
Assistance: The proposed project will go for one year to operate the Technitrain Program. Under the Technitrain project, RCAP will provide training and on-site technical assistance to 700 systems and present 90 training sessions to at least 1000 system personnel. This training will include at least 50 Workshop-in-a-Box (Effective Utility Management) based trainings. RCAP will work with RD borrowers that are financially unsustainable to help them achieve sustainability. RCAP will focus its projects on communities that have a high participation rate in the Reduced Lunch School Program.

State: District of Columbia
Organization: Rural Community Assistance Partnership, Inc. (DC) Tribal
Contact Information: Office: (202) 408-1273
Website: <http://rcap.org>
Funded: \$500,000
Assistance: The purpose of this grant is to provide a Tribal Technitrain program that will provide on-site technical assistance and training to 12 systems in Alaska and 48 systems serving large numbers of tribal members (tribal systems). The assistance received will be tribal specific program of training and technical assistance addressing managerial, financial and utility management.

State: District of Columbia
Organization: Rural Community Assistance Partnership, Inc. (DC) Colonias
Contact Information: Office: (202) 408-1273
Website: <http://rcap.org>
Funded: \$750,000
Assistance: Under the proposed Technitrain Colonias 2018-2019 project, RCAP will provide training and on-site technical assistance to a minimum of 50 projects benefiting more than 120 Priority 1 and 2 colonia areas, which shall be selected in consultation with state and area Rural Development (RD) offices. A minimum of five projects will be "regional" in nature. Onsite technical assistance will be conducted by two RCAP regional partner organizations: the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC- Western RCAP serving Arizona, California, and New Mexico) and Communities Unlimited (CU- Southern RCAP serving Texas).



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State: Hawaii
Organization: Kumano I Ke Ala O Makaweli
Contact Information: Office: (808) 634-3652
Website: <https://www.kumanoikeala.org/>
Funded: \$504,448
Assistance: The grant application is for PHASE I of a proposed Koloa-Poipu Regional Wastewater Reclamation Facility (Regional WRF) in response to Rural Utilities Service (RUS) purpose in meeting the infrastructure needs of the County of Kauai's South Kauai Regional Plan, more specifically the Koloa-Poipu area; identified as rural. The proposed Regional Wastewater Reclamation Facility and collection system is intended to collect and treat wastewater associated with a service area encompassing two (2) communities, Koloa and Poipu. PHASE I of the project is for (1) a feasibility study for the Koloa-Poipu area; (2) a technical assistance and training/educational program focusing on the need for a Regional WRF through a series of activities/workshops for stakeholders and community members to build an effective and sustainable wastewater system for the South Kauai community; and (3) technical assistance to explore the application process of a Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant.

State: New York
Organization: Syracuse University- Environmental Finance Center
Contact Information: Office: (315) 443-1870
Website: <http://www.syr.edu>
Funded: \$183,210
Assistance: Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center (EFC) will provide technical assistance through a multitude of avenues. EFC team members will host a Local Leaders Conference, conduct two Workshop in a Box sustainability sessions, a municipal board training, provide three technical training webinars, continue the Water and Wastewater Education and Outreach Committee, and develop and deliver promotional material to the general public. Additionally, the EFC will complete a Rural Community Needs Survey for the State of New York and offer one-on-one technical assistance to interested municipalities. Finally, the EFC will promote the NYSDEC's Climate Smart Community program. Engaging multiple layers of associated personnel, this project is designed to provide rural New York communities with knowledge and tools to facilitate system sustainability.



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING FY 2018 GRANT RECIPIENTS

State: Nevada
Organization: Native American Water Association
Contact Information: Office: (775) 782-6636
Website: <http://www.nawainc.org/wordpress/>
Funded: \$233,400
Assistance: The Native American Water Association (NAWA) is proposing to provide technical assistance through eight training classes for water and wastewater system operators and managers. Seminars will be held regionally to help reduce travel costs, including stops in California, Florida, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, Washington, and Wisconsin. Geared towards managers, operators, boards and commissions, and tribal leadership, the trainings will cover a variety of pertinent topics. Additionally, using the Workshop in a Box approach, NAWA will provide up to 13, two-day presentations focused on the development of sustainable tribal utility systems. Finally, the award will continue the development of the tribal network group and help subsidize some of the travel costs for the training participants.

State: Oklahoma
Organization: National Rural Water Association
Contact Information: Office: (580) 252-0629
Website: <https://nrwa.org/>
Funded: \$9,939,370
Assistance: The National Rural Water Association (NRWA) will provide training and on-site technical assistance to wastewater systems in all 50 states. The training will provided help to reduce exposure to waste related health and safety hazards, and enhance the sustainability of wastewater systems in rural and small communities. The services provided will focus on small, rural communities, including established colonias and areas where at least 20% of the population lives in poverty. NRWA will also provide “Workshop in a Box Sustainable Management” and sustainability training. In total, the 77 technicians are anticipated to complete almost 27,500 contacts and at least 98 sustainability workshops. In addition, NRWA technicians will provide emergency planning and assist Rural Development staff achieve state strategic goals.



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING FY 2018 GRANT RECIPIENTS

State: Oklahoma
Organization: National Rural Water Association
Contact Information: Office: (580) 252-0629
Website: <https://nrwa.org/>
Funded: \$2,262,120
Assistance: National Rural Water Association (NRWA) will complete a minimum of 570 energy audits in 19 states. A continuation of prior fiscal years, the NRWA's Energy Efficiency Technical Assistance Program is currently carried out in 16 states. US Environmental Protection Agency estimates that three percent of all national energy consumption is from water and wastewater systems. These costs are magnified for small systems that have less economy of scale and cover more land. Focusing on energy efficiency, the NRWA will assess potential improvements in energy efficiencies in rural and small water and wastewater operations, recommend efficiency implementation measures, and assist in the acquisition of low cost financing for the implementation of efficiency recommendations. In total, this program is expected to reduce energy consumption of participating systems by an average of ten percent.

State: Oklahoma
Organization: National Rural Water Association
Contact Information: Office: (580) 252-0629
Website: <https://nrwa.org/>
Funded: \$6,014,081
Assistance: National Rural Water Association will create a career pathway for water workers through the National Apprenticeship/Workforce Development Program, to enhance quality of life, create jobs, and promote economic development opportunities in rural America while improving water and wastewater infrastructure across the country.



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State: Tennessee
Organization: United South & Eastern Tribes, Inc,
Contact Information: Office: (615) 872-7900
Website: <https://www.usetinc.org/>
Funded: \$216,774
Assistance: United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) is proposing to provide the following: training and workshops for Tribal leaders; training at the Annual Tribal Utility Summit for tribal operators, managers, Board members of Tribal utilities, and Tribal administration; and technical assistance through on-site visits at tribal water and wastewater systems and utilities. USET will conduct energy audits and water loss analyses to determine potential energy and water efficiencies and cost savings.

State: Utah
Organization: Solid Waste Institute
Contact Information: Office: (801) 773-3160
Website: <https://www.uta.edu/swis/>
Funded: \$150,890
Assistance: This project will provide training to rural, low-income areas, facilitating five Workshop in a Box: Sustainable Management of Rural and Small System Workshops.

State: Washington
Organization: Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention
Contact Information: Office: (206) 352-2050
Website: <http://pprc.org/>
Funded: \$106,618
Assistance: The Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center (PPRC) is proposing to provide a series of webinars on how to create and monitor a program to keep Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOGs) out of municipal wastewater systems. Per the Environmental Protection Agency, FOGs are estimated to cause between 21 to 30 percent of all sanitary sewer overflows and 47 percent of all blockages. The training is focused on system operators and managers, building officials, food service establishments, pumpers, and plumbers in rural communities throughout the northwest. Building on feedback from previous in-person trainings, the webinars will be available on flash drives and other electronic mediums.



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING FY 2018 GRANT RECIPIENTS

State: West Virginia

Organization: West Virginia University Research Corp.

Contact Information: Office: (304) 293-3998
Website: <https://research.wvu.edu/>

Funded: \$466,478

Assistance: West Virginia University's (WVU) National Environmental Services Center (NESC) and the University of Kentucky's (UK) Water Resources Research Institute (KWRRRI) are collaborators on a Land Grant University model program that will provide face-to-face training and technical assistance to small/rural Appalachian communities to improve water infrastructure and services. WVU and UK will conduct two workshops each in West Virginia and Kentucky, or jointly, for a total of 4 training sessions with 44 targeted communities.