

**WUV DEC CLEAN WATER WORKFORCE CAPACITY  
DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT WEBINAR  
4/10/2024**

**WATERSHEDS UNITED VERMONT**



# Watersheds United Vermont (WUV)

[Watersheds United Vermont](#) (WUV) is an association of community-based watershed groups across Vermont with a mission to empower watershed groups to protect and restore Vermont's waters.

WUV currently holds 6 Department of Environmental Conservation Block Grants to subgrant funds to eligible entities for clean water restoration efforts including:

- Project Development Block Grant (ending this spring)
- Design and Implementation Block Grant (ending in 2024)
- Enhancement Project Development Block Grant (combined with below)
- Enhancement Design and Implementation Block Grant (combined with above)
- Dam Removal Design and Implementation Block Grant
- Woody Buffer Block Grant
- New Pilot **Clean Water Workforce Capacity Development (CWWCD) Block Grant**

# WUV Staff

Lyn Munno: WUV's Director, [lyn@watershedsunitedvt.org](mailto:lyn@watershedsunitedvt.org)

Christian Pelletier: WUV's Grant Administrator, [christian@watershedsunitedvt.org](mailto:christian@watershedsunitedvt.org)

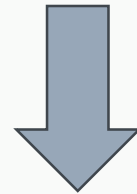
Tobi Schulman: WUV's Grant Coordinator, [tobi@watershedsunitedvt.org](mailto:tobi@watershedsunitedvt.org)

# Webinar Agenda

1. Overview of Capacity and the Clean Water Workforce Capacity Development Block Grant
2. Application Process
  - Application - Word Document
  - Application - Work Plan Guidance Document
  - Work Plan Examples
3. Criteria and Review Process
4. 2023 Flood Response Opportunity

# DEC Clean Water Workforce Capacity Development Initiative

Key Finding from Phase 1: In order to build the State's Workforce Capacity, organizations need funding to build and maintain staff and provide the framework of a healthy stable organization.



**Thank you to DEC for Establishing the Clean Water Workforce Capacity  
Development (CWWCD) Block Grant!**

# WUV DEC Clean Water Workforce Capacity Development Block Grant

The intent of CWWCD Block Grant is to support and invest in the capacity of our clean water partners in Vermont, both current and potential, in an equitable and inclusive way to address unmet capacity needs and ensure a strong partnership network that continues to efficiently deliver high quality and high priority clean water projects.

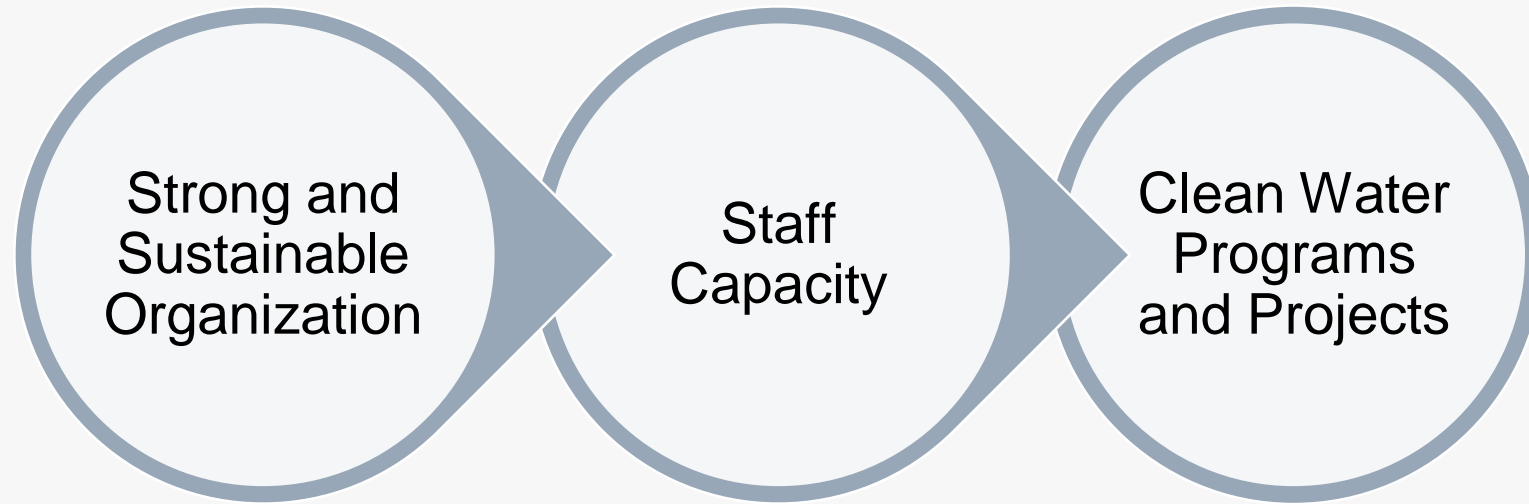
**This grant is meant to build capacity in under-resourced entities to increase their ability to engage in more clean water projects, engage in more complex clean water projects, or propel others to do clean water projects.**

# What Do we Mean By Capacity?

An entity's capability to meet their organizational goals as well as the collective clean water goals that the entity chooses to engage in.

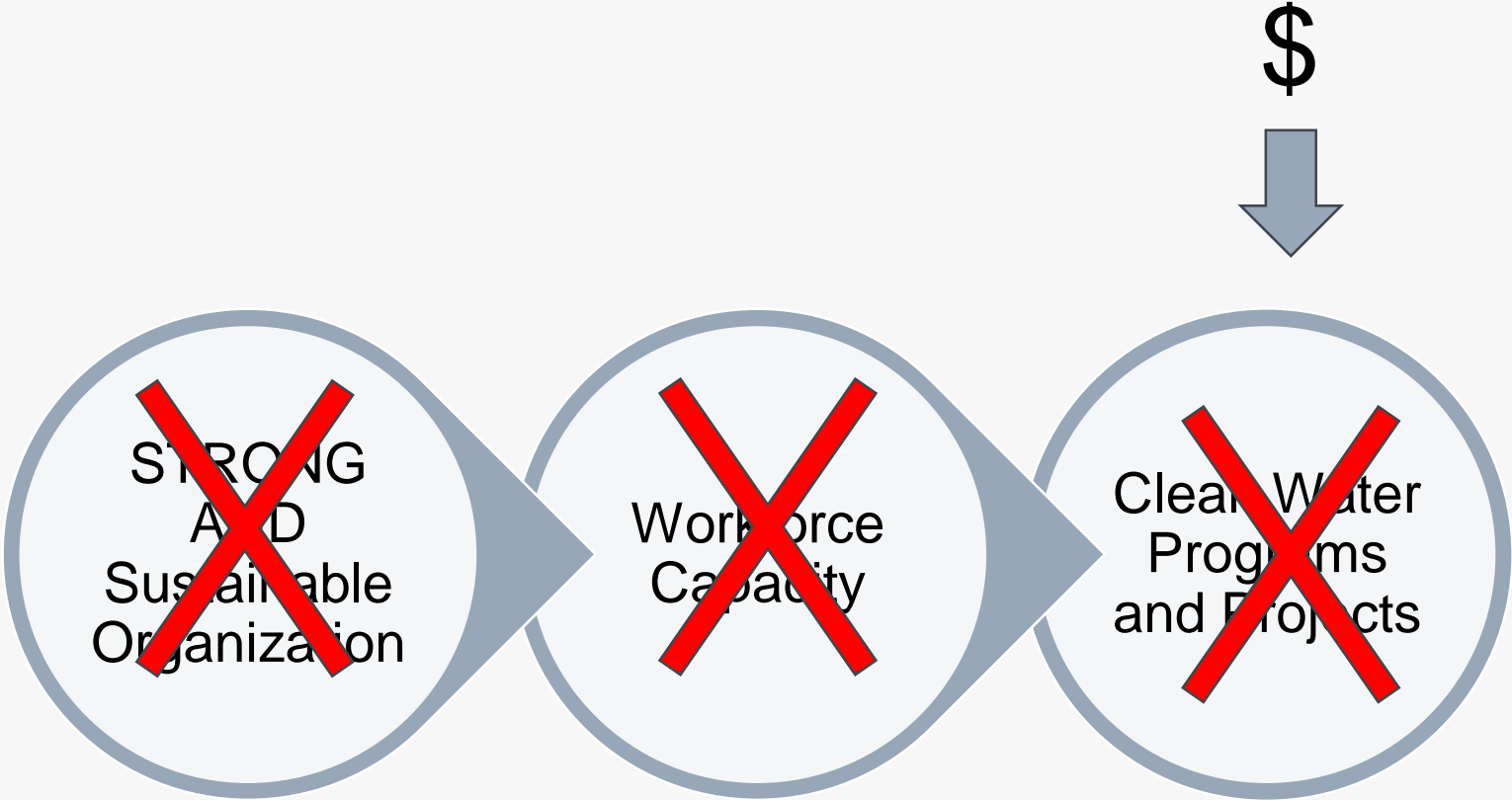
This includes sufficient staffing, training, financial and organizational systems, and tools/equipment needed to achieve those goals both for today and to meet future needs.

# Why Organizational Capacity is Key for Clean Water Programs and Projects

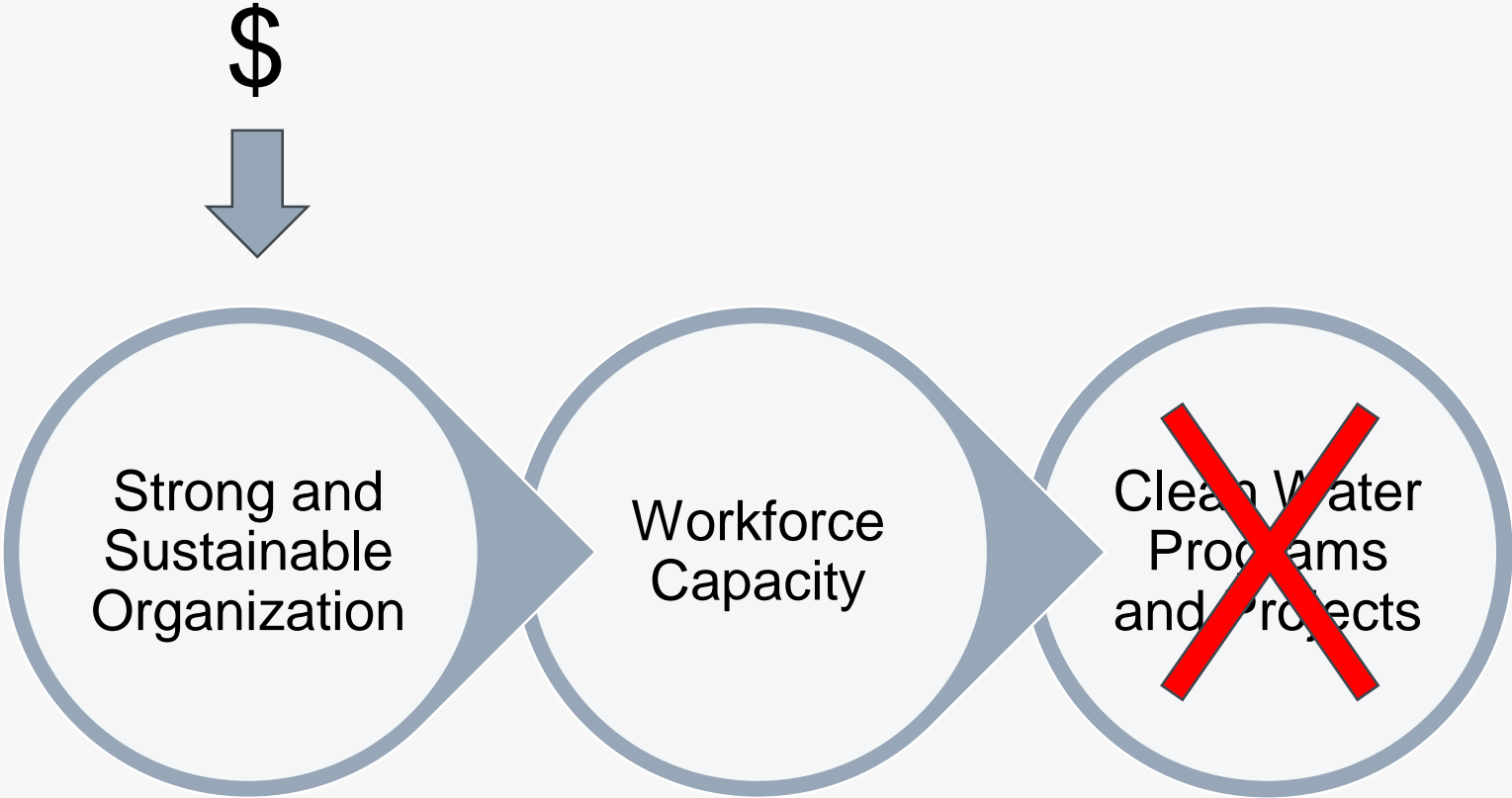




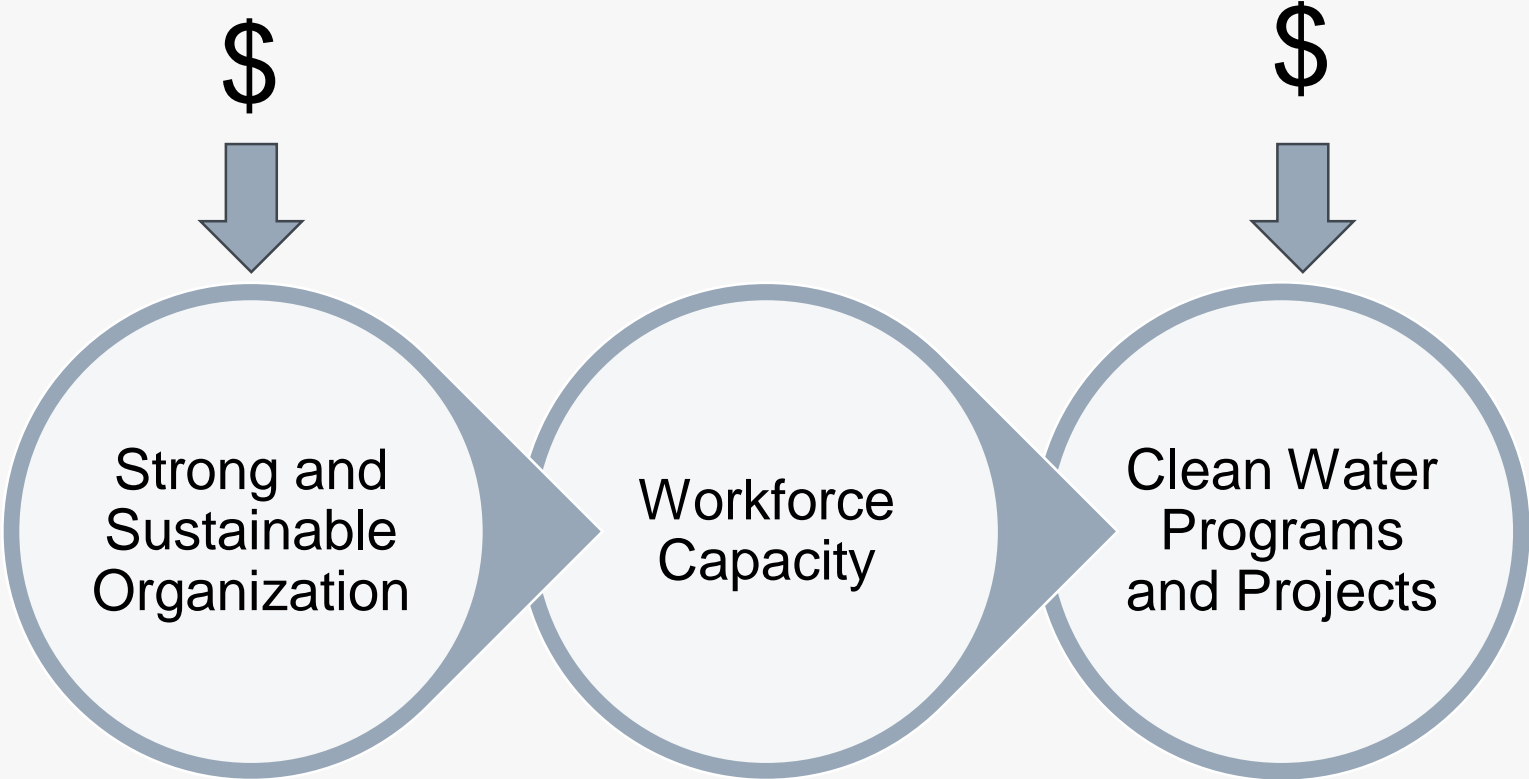
# Need to Infuse \$ in the Right Places



# Capacity Building Funds are Key!



# Capacity Building + Project Funding



# WUV CWWCD Grant Funding

Pilot Grant: **\$850,000** to Subgrant

For at least:

**15 entities** that work in the Lake Champlain Basin to access a capacity building intervention.

**10 entities** that work outside the Lake Champlain Basin to access a capacity building intervention.

Maximum of \$30,000 per entity (should be scaled to need and other available state and federal capacity grants and appropriations)

Will hold at least \$100,00 for fall Grant Round

Modified Cost Reimbursable Grant

# WUV CWWCD Block Grant Dates

## Round 1 Grant **OPEN NOW**

Webinar: **April 10, 2024**, 10:00am – 11:30am

Grant Due Date: **May 9, 2024**

Grant Announcement Date: **Early June 2024**

Grant Period: **June 2024 – December 2025** (1.5 years)

**Round 2 Grant:** (for newer or nontraditional groups who need more time for application development)

Grant Release Date: **September 6, 2024**

Grant Due Date: **October 11, 2024**

# WUV's CWWCD Block Grant Webpage



<https://www.watershedsunitedvt.org/resources/block-grants>

[WUV Clean Water Workforce Capacity Development Grant Application](#)

[Capacity Work Plan Spreadsheet](#)

[Capacity Work Plan Guidance Document](#)

[Other Resources: CWWCDI Summary Document](#)

[2023 CWIP Program Funding Policy](#)

# Organizational Information

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION
Organization Mission/Purpose: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>
What is your organization type (please see pg. 22 of the <a href="#">2023 CWIP Funding Policy</a> for details on eligible and ineligible entities):  Do you have a fiscal sponsor? If so, who?
Organization service area (where does your organization primarily serve in Vermont?):
How long has your organization existed?:
How many staff does your organization currently employ (number and FTE)?:
Total Annual Organizational Budget: \$  Annual Operational Budget (without project expenses): \$

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How long has your organization existed?:
How many staff does your organization currently employ (number and FTE)?:
Total Annual Organizational Budget: \$
Annual Operational Budget (without project expenses): \$

These questions are important in helping WUV understand the size and scale of your organization. The goal of this funding is to build capacity in under-resourced entities to increase their ability to engage in more clean water projects.



# Organizational Capacity Overview

## **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY OVERVIEW**

Please provide an overview of the type and scale of clean water work your organization is performing in Vermont. If your organization is new to clean water project work, please describe why your organization is planning to work on water quality and watershed health efforts (approximately 200 words):

Who does your organization reach? Does your organization target a specific constituency? Is your organization's board and membership open and accessible to everyone? (approximately 200 words):

Do you have plans to maintain or increase clean water work (by location, sector, scale, constituency) in the future (1-3 years)? (approximately 200 words):

What are the main capacity gaps in your ability to perform clean water work in Vermont? (approximately 200 words):

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Do you have plans to maintain or increase clean water work (by location, sector, scale, constituency) in the future (1-3 years)? (approximately 200 words):

What are the main capacity gaps in your ability to perform clean water work in Vermont? (approximately 200 words):

This question is crucial to the application – all the activities listed in your Capacity Work Plan Spreadsheet should be targeted at addressing the gaps that you have outlined in this question!

# Alternative Capacity Funding

ALTERNATIVE CAPACITY FUNDING
<p>Are you eligible to apply for Organizational Support Grant through the Lake Champlain Basin Program or the Memphremagog Capacity Grants through the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB)?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, did you receive or anticipate receiving either of these grants in 2024, and for how much?</p>
<p>Do you have organization capacity development funding through a Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets Agricultural Clean Water Initiative Program Grant (AgCWIP)?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, for how much?</p>
<p>Does your organization receive funding through a direct Legislative Appropriation or any other Governmental/Quasi-governmental Appropriation?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, for how much?</p>
<p>If you answered "Yes" to any of the above questions about additional sources of capacity funding, please describe why the Clean Water Workforce Capacity Development Initiative funding is different from the above and how this funding will complement the other capacity funding sources? (Please note we will consider applicants' additional sources of capacity related funding in prioritizing and scaling funding amounts)</p>

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Yes

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If yes, for how much?

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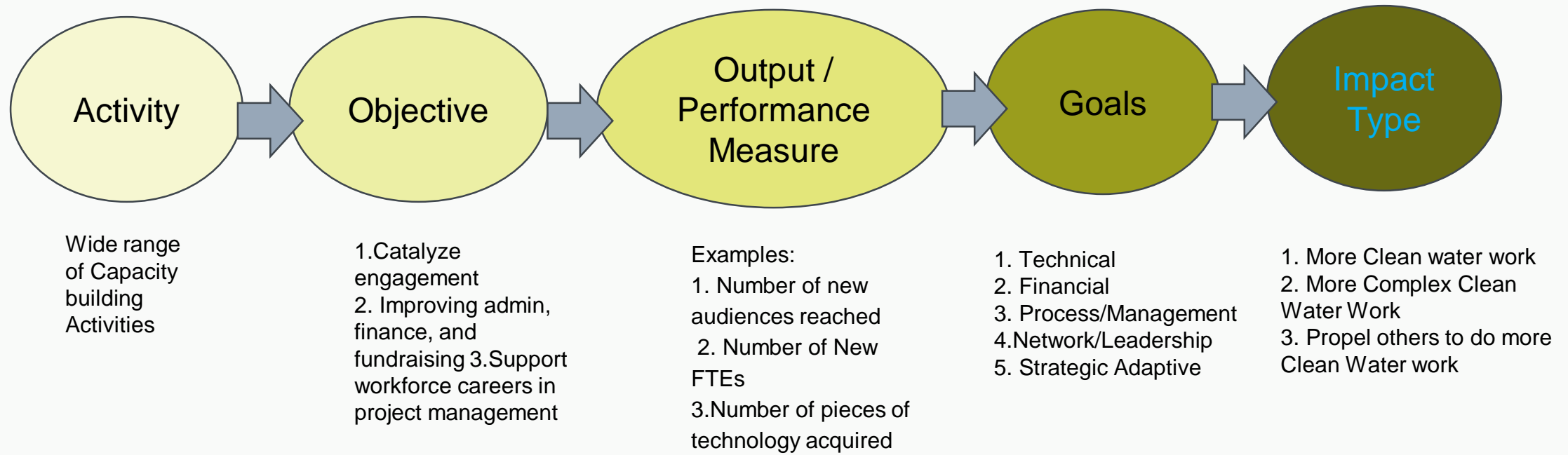
We would like to understand your organization's alternative federal and state capacity/organizational funding. Please indicate not only received funding but any funds you anticipate you will receive. Receiving additional capacity/organizational support funds does not make the organization ineligible but we will take scale of additional dollars into account in prioritization and funding amounts. Please explain why CWWCD funds are needed and how they differ from the funds you currently have.

# Work Plan Guidance

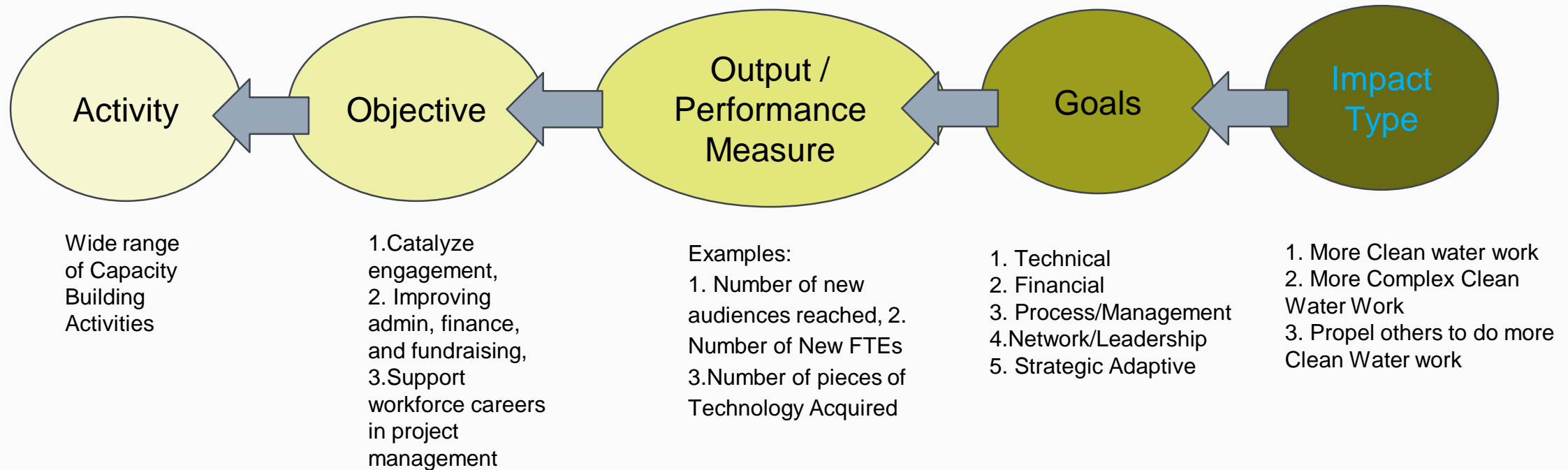
[Click here to view the WUV Capacity Work Plan Guidance Document!](#)

You will need to review this document and have it open for reference while you are completing your Work Plan Spreadsheet!

# Linkages between Activity, Objectives, Outputs, Goals and Impact!



# May Help to Plan Backwards!



# Capacity Work Plan Spreadsheet Example

[Click here to view WUV's example Capacity Work Plan Spreadsheet!](#)

Please use this example as a guide to the type of activities that can be completed under this grant and as a model of how a completed Capacity Work Plan Spreadsheet should look.



# Completing the Application

## CAPACITY WORK PLAN EXPLANATION

*Once you have completed the Capacity Work Plan Spreadsheet, complete the following questions on how the proposed work plan will address capacity needs:*

How will each activity in your Work Plan allow your organization to meet your capacity goals? (approximately 200 words)

How will each of your proposed activities allow your organization to engage in more clean water projects or more complex clean water projects in the future? Please discuss direct and indirect linkages. (approximately 200 words)

How will each of your proposed activities allow you to address the gaps in capacity that your organization is experiencing? (approximately 200 words)

How do you anticipate the increased capacity for clean water work will be sustained after the close of the capacity grant/in the absence of future funding? (approximately 200 words)

These questions are aimed at translating your Capacity Work Plan Spreadsheet into a narrative on how the activities you outlines will lead to more clean water projects or more complex clean water projects! Make sure to complete each question for all activities you provided in your spreadsheet. You need to reference back to the gaps in your capacity that you outlined at the start of the application and address how the activities you selected will fill those gaps!

# Required Capacity Deliverables

1. A capacity pre-assessment, completed before capacity investments or efforts are initiated.
2. A final report, completed at most one month after capacity investments or efforts are complete, to include a capacity post-assessment
3. Complete all required fields in the Clean Water Outreach Efforts “NForm” as applicable per intervention activities (for clean water outreach efforts).
4. A retrospective impact report, completed at least one year after capacity investments or efforts are finished.

# Prioritization for Funding

- Funding should be directed or prioritized towards areas of the state and organizations that don't otherwise have access to other state or federal capacity funds.
- Funding should be directed or prioritized towards new or non-traditional clean water partners.
- Funding should be directed or prioritized towards the strongest proposals.
- FPA should fund a large number of strong proposals.

# Scoring Considerations

- Capacity Need
- Capacity Work Plan narratives and completeness
- How well each activity is likely to meet Capacity Goals - Linkages
- How each activity is likely to have intended impact
- How well does the activity address Capacity Gaps
- Project Budget
- Access to other state or federal capacity/organizational funding
- CWWCD Block Grant impact on organizational capacity - scale

# WUV Review Process

- Grant Review Team: Includes WUV, DEC and Two Outside Reviewers
- Scoring Rubric
- Review Team Meeting
- Iterative Process if Needed
- Grant Awards in Early June
- Grant Agreements to Follow

# OPTIONAL SUMMER 2023 FLOOD RELIEF FUNDING AND PROJECT FLOOD RESPONSE VERIFICATION ASSESSMENTS

Built into the Clean Water Workforce Capacity Development program is the ability to fund expenses related to Summer 2023 flood relief. An additional priority goal added to CWWCD program states: “Support organizational or community-level flood relief and recovery efforts”. This funding can be used to cover retroactive uncovered expenses to your organization from the summer 2023 flooding event

Eligible expenses include but are not limited to:

- Replaced damaged equipment, technology, or tools
- Incurred moving expenses due to loss of workspace
- Previous participation in local, regional or statewide forums on flood response or recovery
- Previously organized river clean-up events

# PROJECT FLOOD RESPONSE VERIFICATION ASSESSMENTS

DEC is very interested in learning about and collecting data on how projects were impacted by the 2023 Summer flooding events. Funding can also be used for:

Completion of flood recovery assessment of projects that may have been impacted by the Summer 2023 flooding using the DEC Flood Response Verification Form found [here](#).

The goals of Flood Response Verification are to:

- Support partners in examining the extent of damages to clean water projects and establishing workload priorities for maintenance, repair, and/or relocation of projects,
- Assess the extent and location of damages as it informs funding gaps and priorities,
- Learn which projects did or did not succeed and why (if determinable).

# PROJECT FLOOD RESPONSE VERIFICATION ASSESSMENTS

2 options for completing the Project Flood Response Verification Assessment:

1. If you have previously visited sites for assessment after the flooding, DEC would like to hear about how the project fared. Applicants are eligible to receive up to \$150 for each Flood Response Verification Assessment that they complete using data/photos from previous site visits.
2. If you have not previously visited sites, you can use this funding to cover the expenses of visiting and site and collecting the information to complete the Flood Response Verification Assessment. The budget for this activity is not limited to 150/survey and can cover the time to visit the site, collect information and complete the survey.



# OPTIONAL SUMMER 2023 FLOOD RELIEF FUNDING AND PROJECT FLOOD RESPONSE VERIFICATION ASSESSMENTS

***2023 Summer Flood Relief Funding does not count towards the \$30,000 maximum capacity award.***

Please note this funding is only for recovery efforts related to flooding events in Summer 2023 and does not cover any expenses incurred from Winter 2023/2024 flooding.

Do not incorporate request for 2023 Summer Flood Relief funding into the budget table for the capacity funding!

# WUV is Here to Help

- Broader outreach to reach groups interested in building capacity to develop clean water projects. Help us spread the word.
- Webinar: Recording will be available.
- Questions on the application – schedule a time to chat with WUV!
- Possibility of shared services.
- Communication and assistance throughout the grant period.
- Pilot Program: WUV and DEC want Feedback!

## Schedule a time to meet with WUV!

Please follow the link to Calendly where you will see 30 minute time slots where you can sign up to meet with WUV to go over your application and any questions you may have!

[Sign up here for a meeting with WUV!](#)

**THANK YOU**

**Q&A**