



Increased Federal Support Needed for State Implementation of Federal Programs

State Need

- States receive three core categorical grants from the federal government that support state implementation of key federal programs: **air**, **water**, and **hazardous waste**.
- Relatively stagnant funding combined with increased **regulatory complexity**, **emerging issues**, and **state responsibility**, compounded by significant growth in inflation, has eroded the actual level of support these programs receive and increases strain on state program budgets.
- States need **increased funding** to each of the grant programs to successfully carry out our responsibilities under federal law and protect public health.

Ask to Congress

ECOS requests that Congress and U.S. EPA **provide states with funding** for FY25 based on 2010 funding adjusted by a 1.4% yearly inflationary factor, half the actual rate, through 2023 to begin to address funding needs:

- State and Local Air Quality Management (CAA §§103, 105, and 106) at **\$271.9M** (FY24: \$236M)
- Pollution Control (CWA §106) at **\$275.1M** (FY24: \$226M)
- Resource Recovery and Hazardous Waste (RCRA §3011) at **\$124.0M** (FY24: \$102M)

What challenges do states face?

- Recruiting, training, and retaining specialized staff to execute programs,
- Supporting small and rural communities to meet permit limits and develop sustainable funding for permitted systems,
- Addressing complex, emerging contaminants such as PFAS,
- Adapting programs and community expectations in the face of new rulings (e.g., Waters of the U.S.),
- Preparing and responding to natural disasters,
- Balancing prescribed burns with increased air pollution from resulting smoke for greater overall protections,
- Developing expansive and inclusive public engagement opportunities for a growing number of constituents of varying backgrounds and communities to more readily partake in the permitting process (e.g., Limited English Proficiency),
- Assisting regulated entities with changing compliance requirements and simplifying complex regulations to improve public understanding, and
- Providing permitting support for expanded road and water infrastructure projects.

State Problem Solving

Successful implementation of federal requirements calls for state ingenuity and resourcefulness. States programs improve tourism and recreational opportunities, support economic benefits through redevelopment, assist wastewater treatment plants, optimize nutrients to save money and meet permit limits, restore watersheds, attain and sustain ambient air quality standards, digitize files to improve customer service, assist new and expanding industry during design prior to construction to maximize protective systems and reduce compliance costs, and more. Some specific ways states have stepped up to the plate include:

- Research and development of state-specific emissions calculators for disposal ponds not previously measurable (**Wyoming DEQ, 2023 Best Practices winner from the Association of Air Pollution Control Agencies**)
- Design and execution of standardized Water Loss Auditing & Control Programs to identify leaks, improve savings, and promote sustainability (**Oklahoma DEQ**)
- Drafting and publication of standardized definition of “disproportionally impacted communities” to eliminate confusion across state agencies (**Colorado DPHE**)

For two decades, federal funding for Categorical Grants has remained largely stagnant. However, inflation since 2010 is estimated at nearly 40%. Recognizing the extreme change in the real value of dollars granted and the pronounced growth in regulatory complexity, emerging issues, and state responsibility, there is an urgent need to significantly boost federal funding for these critical grants to states that help build and sustain state capacity for environmental and public health progress.

FY24 Funding Detail

CAA §§103, 105, and 106

\$236M allocated to states and tribes to develop and revise state implementation plans, conduct compliance evaluations, and enforce permits for more than 47,300 facilities, maintain national air quality standards, manage air monitoring networks, and train staff. The \$9M increase since FY10 does not provide the sustained support to carry out an increasing complex air quality program.

CWA §106

\$226M of congressional funding for states to conduct water quality assessments, identify impaired waters, develop pollution standards, and enforce National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits for 900,000 regulated facilities. The states are increasingly tasked with carrying out CWA responsibilities for waters within their jurisdiction.

RCRA §3011

Hazardous waste programs received **\$102M** to support Subtitle C generator permitting, monitoring, and compliance and enforcement initiatives including greater numbers of small quantity generators. For FY24, there is a decrease of \$3M over FY23, of which \$9M is for new state coal combustion residuals programs and recycling programs, cutting hazardous waste program funding.

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