

# REPORT CARD

## Drinking Water State Revolving Funds in Great Lakes States

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund allows water systems to apply for loans and grants to keep drinking water safe, accessible, and affordable. Congress passed an infrastructure bill in 2021 that triples these funds for 5 years with record benefits for disadvantaged communities.

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Data is current as of 2/16/24 and was collected from the states' most recent SRF policies from fiscal years 2024 or 2025. See page 2 for category details.



|   | IL        | IN        | MI        | MN         | NY        | PA     | OH     | WI     |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|
| <b>Application Assistance</b>                                 | NO        | NO        | YES       | YES        | YES       | NO     | NO     | YES    |
| <b>Policy Update Type</b>                                     | LAW       | ANNUAL    | LAW       | LAW & RULE | ANNUAL    | ANNUAL | ANNUAL | ANNUAL |
| <b>Environmental Justice</b>                                  | IMPROVING | NO        | NO        | NO         | YES       | YES    | NO     | NO     |
| <b>Small Population Bias</b>                                  | IMPROVING | NO        | NO        | NO         | YES       | NO     | YES    | YES    |
| <b>Governance &amp; Asset Protections for Regionalization</b> | NO        | NO        | NO        | NO         | NO        | NO     | NO     | NO     |
| <b>Transparency</b>   | IMPROVING | IMPROVING | IMPROVING | POOR       | IMPROVING | POOR   | POOR   | POOR   |

# CATEGORY DEFINITIONS

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## **Application Assistance**

In addition to the required Small System Technical Assistance for systems of 10,000 people or less, is there a grant program or other technical assistance to help disadvantaged communities apply to the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)?

## **Policy Update Type**

How does the State update the scoring and “disadvantaged community” definitions? Law changes are the hardest with little public input. Rule and code changes are less challenging, but can take years. An annual process within the responsible agency or department and a public comment process is recommended.

## **Environmental Justice**

Is the concept of legacy pollution and environmental racism addressed in the state's DWSRF program?

## **Small Population Bias**

Does the state use population benchmarks to exclude mid-to-large sized communities from subsidies or project prioritization?

## **Governance & Asset Protections with Regionalization**

If the state program incentivizes regionalization and consolidation projects by offering points for these processes, are there existing legal protections for equitable financial, property, and governance management?

## **Transparency**

Are scoring mechanisms, project plans, and DAC designations published?