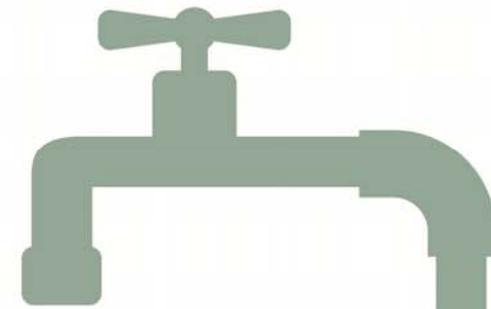


Ensuring Access to **BASIC SANITATION** for Indian Country



EPA supports tribal communities in improving wastewater infrastructure.

THE GROWING NEED

~399,000 tribal homes



2000 → 2010

The American Indian and Alaska Native (tribal) population increased **8.4%** more than the national average.¹



6% of these homes lack access to safe drinking water and/or wastewater facilities.²

WHY ARE THE AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE POPULATIONS UNIQUE?



- A higher proportion of tribal communities use water for subsistence living, traditions, and worship
- Often very remote and rural
- Each Federally recognized tribe is a unique sovereign nation³

THE DANGER OF DISEASE

Exposure to untreated wastewater can increase occurrences of:

- Gastrointestinal illnesses such as hepatitis A, gastroenteritis, and giardiasis (giardia)
- Respiratory illnesses such

Raw sewage often contains:



Parasites, viruses, and bacteria



Pharmaceuticals

What does lack of access to wastewater service mean?



Broken sewer lines



Children play in septic overflow

as pneumonia

- Skin diseases such as staph infections



Chemical toxins, including metals and pesticides

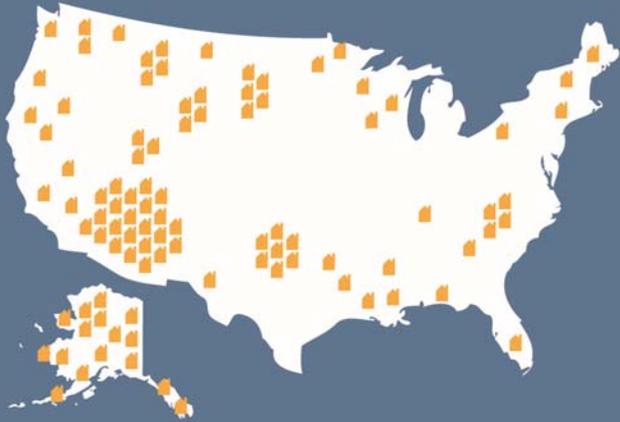


Human waste carried in five-gallon buckets



Pipes carry wastewater directly into streams and waterways, without treatment

Tribal community locations across the U.S.



To provide adequate wastewater service to the tribal population, over **\$1 billion** is needed.⁴



MAKING PROGRESS, DROP BY DROP

EPA's Clean Water Indian Set-Aside (CWISA) Program funding is dedicated to the planning, design, and construction of wastewater treatment systems for American Indians and Alaska Natives. Types of projects typically carried out include:⁵



**Septic Tanks/
Drain Fields**
32.3% of total projects



**Wastewater
Treatment Plants**
24% of total projects



Lagoons
21.9% of total projects



Lift Stations
9.4% of total projects



Piping Projects
8.3% of total projects



Other (e.g. grinder pumps, aerators)
4% of total projects

From 2005

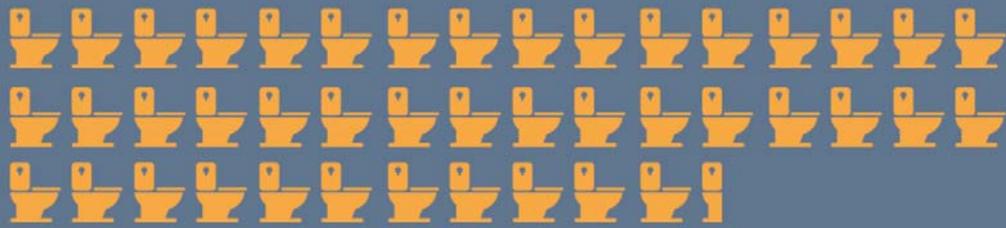
→ 2015

874 Projects





have been funded through CWISA.



EPA provided **65,562 tribal homes** with access to basic wastewater sanitation, in coordination with other federal partners.

In FY 2015, CWISA awarded roughly **\$29 million** for wastewater treatment construction projects in tribal communities.

\$29M =



80 Projects



12,115 tribal homes to be served and

40% to provide first-time access

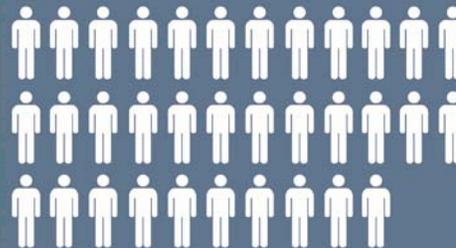
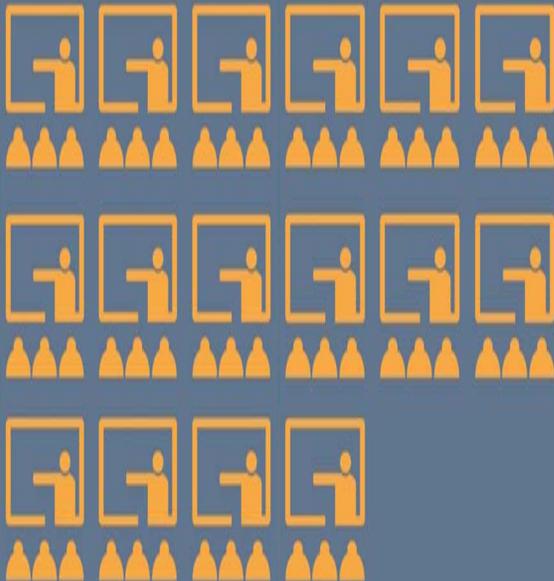
to safe wastewater services.



**WHEN POSSIBLE,
CWISA-FUNDED
PROJECTS HIRE
LOCAL RESIDENTS**

to assist with building
wastewater infrastructure that will
serve their community.

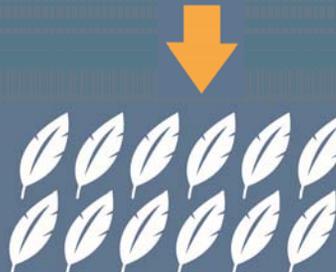
As progress is made, challenges are being addressed **through in-person and online training.**



The workshops reached **510 people**



Published online
O&M training modules





The Infrastructure Task Force (ITF) promotes access to sustainable safe drinking water and basic sanitation in tribal communities by connecting tribes with infrastructure and resources. The task force aims to maximize these federal investments by improving the capacity of tribes to perform operations and maintenance of their facilities.

The ITF is a multi-agency initiative led by EPA and composed of:

- Indian Health Service
- U.S. Department of the Interior
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

More ITF information at: www.epa.gov/tp/trprograms/infra-water.htm.

THE ONGOING WORK



In 2000, the U.S. agreed to support the United Nations Millennium Development Goal to reduce the number of homes without access to water and basic sanitation.



EPA and other federal agencies aim to provide **an additional 14,300 American Indian and Alaskan Native homes** with access to basic sanitation by 2018.

1 U.S. Census Bureau
2 Indian Health Service Sanitation Tracking and Reporting System (IHS-STARS)
3 Federal Register, Volume 78, Number. 87, "Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible To Receive Services From the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs"
4 IHS-STARS
5 Based on the 96 CWISA projects funded in 2009 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act