

Save-the-Date

The Office of Community Services' World Water Week 2021

Building Resilience Faster: Partnering to Increase Availability, Affordability, and Access to Quality Water and Wastewater Services



Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to announce that the Office of Community Services (OCS) will host ***Building Resilience Faster: Partnering to Increase Availability, Affordability, and Access to Quality Water and Wastewater Services***, a series of events in observance of World Water Week 2021, **August 23 - 27, 2021**.

Join OCS for a week of learning focused on water and wastewater needs across America. The events will address economic, racial, and geographic disparities that impact access to water and wastewater resources by low-income individuals and communities. We will discuss efforts on the local and federal level to address these disparities and how, collectively, we can support increasing access to water and wastewater resources for all.

An overview of each event OCS will host during World Water Week is listed below. Additional details, including information on how to attend the virtual sessions, will be sent next week. We hope that you will add placeholders to your calendars for **#OCWorldWaterWeek2021** events:

Monday, August 23, 2021, 2:00 – 3:30 PM (ET)

Setting the Stage: A Look at the Water and Wastewater Landscape Across the United States

Water stakeholders and policy experts will provide an overview of water and wastewater needs across the United States, including in tribal and rural communities, and in communities of color. The discussion will also address issues of racial equity and water affordability.

Tuesday August 24, 2021, 2:00 – 3:30 PM (ET)

Leveraging LIHWAP and CSBG Resources Webinar

The Office of Community Services will provide a status update on the new Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) and discuss the ways LIHWAP and Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) grantees can work together to support vulnerable households. Low-income individuals and families may receive a LIHWAP benefit for water bill assistance and the restoration of services. However, LIHWAP funding cannot be used to support other water-related needs that could impact water bills and the restoration of water services such as running toilets and leaking pipes. This session will highlight opportunities to link LIHWAP efforts

to potential household support available through CSBG to support household needs not addressed through LIHWAP, including small household plumbing repairs.

Wednesday August 25, 2021, 2:00 – 3:30 PM (ET)

Illuminating the Work of the Rural Community Development Program and its Efforts to Address Water and Wastewater Needs in Low-Income, Rural Communities

Join this session to learn more about the Rural Community Development (RCD) program. RCD is the nation's only federal program—through Regional Training and Technical Assistance grants and Tribal Training and Technical Assistance grants— that builds community capacity to support water and wastewater systems in the nation's unincorporated areas and lowest-income communities, including tribal and persistent poverty areas. During this session, you will learn how RCD grantees are addressing water needs in rural and tribal communities. You will also learn more about partnerships between RCD and CSBG grantees and how RCD grantees and LIHWAP grantees can work collaboratively to support access to quality water and wastewater services for our nation's most vulnerable communities.

Thursday August 26, 2021, 2:00 – 3:30 PM (ET)

The Intersection Between Equity, Environmental Justice, and Water Access: A Book Chat

Hear directly from several leading authors about their efforts to illuminate environmental inequities, water and wastewater access challenges, and the effects of climate change on low-income communities and communities of color. This discussion will be followed by a facilitated Q&A session.

Friday August 27, 2021, 2:00 – 3:30 PM (ET)

Voices from the Field: A Virtual Roundtable with Water Stakeholders and Advocates

Join OCS as we wrap up the week with a discussion about progress made to date, and important next steps for moving closer to quality water and wastewater access for all.

Thank you for your attention to these matters. OCS looks forward to continuing to provide high-quality services to OCS grantees.

/s/

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/s/

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/s/

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