

Pomperaug River Watershed Based Plan - Potential Funding Sources, Technical Assistance, and Other Resources

Funding Source	Description	Reference
Federal Sources		
EPA and WEF National Municipal Stormwater and Green Infrastructure Awards Program	The National Municipal Stormwater and Green Infrastructure Awards program, led by the Water Environment Federation (WEF) through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), has been established to recognize high-performing regulated Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer Programs (MS4s). The objective of the program is to inspire MS4 program leaders to seek new and innovative ways to meet and exceed regulatory requirements in a manner that is both technically effective as well as financially efficient. Recognition of innovative approaches is also a highlight of this program.	<a href="http://www.wef.org/ms4awards/">http://www.wef.org/ms4awards/</a>
EPA Healthy Communities Grant Program	EPA New England's main competitive grant program to work directly with communities to reduce environmental risks to protect and improve human health and the quality of life.	<a href="http://www.epa.gov/region1/eco/uep/hcgp.html">http://www.epa.gov/region1/eco/uep/hcgp.html</a>
EPA Environmental Education Grants	The Grants Program sponsored by EPA's Office of Environmental Education (OEE), Office of External Affairs and Environmental Education, supports environmental education projects that enhance the public's awareness, knowledge, and skills to help people make informed decisions that affect environmental quality.	<a href="https://www.epa.gov/education/environmental-education-ee-grants">https://www.epa.gov/education/environmental-education-ee-grants</a>
FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) Preparedness (Non-Disaster) Grants	FEMA provides state and local governments with preparedness program funding to enhance the capacity of their emergency responders to prevent, respond to, and recover from a range of hazards.	<a href="https://www.fema.gov/non-disaster-grants-management-system">https://www.fema.gov/non-disaster-grants-management-system</a>
EPA Smart Growth	EPA helps communities improve their development practices and get the type of development they want. EPA works with local, state, and national experts to discover and encourage development strategies that protect human health and the environment, create economic opportunities, and provide attractive and affordable neighborhoods for people of all income levels.	<a href="https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/epa-smart-growth-grants-and-other-funding">https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/epa-smart-growth-grants-and-other-funding</a>

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FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance	<p>FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs provide funding to protect life and property from future natural disasters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) assists in implementing long-term hazard mitigation measures following a major disaster.</li> <li>• Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) provides funds for hazard mitigation planning and projects on an annual basis.</li> <li>• Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) provides funds for projects to reduce or eliminate risk of flood damage to buildings that are insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) on an annual basis.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance">http://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance</a>
US Forest Service Land and Water Conservation Fund	<p>The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides money to federal, state and local governments to purchase land, water and wetlands for the benefit of all Americans.</p>	<a href="https://www.fs.fed.us/land/staff/LWCF/">https://www.fs.fed.us/land/staff/LWCF/</a>
United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	<p>The USFWS administers a variety of natural resource assistance grants to governmental, public and private organizations, groups and individuals.</p>	<a href="http://www.fws.gov/grants/">http://www.fws.gov/grants/</a>
USFWS North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA)	<p>NAWCA provides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico for the benefit of wetlands-associated migratory birds and other wildlife.</p>	<a href="https://www.fws.gov/birds/grants/north-american-wetland-conservation-act/how-to-apply-for-a-nawca-grant.php">https://www.fws.gov/birds/grants/north-american-wetland-conservation-act/how-to-apply-for-a-nawca-grant.php</a>
USFWS National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program (NCWCGP)	<p>The NCWCGP provides States with financial assistance to protect and restore these valuable resources. Projects can include (1) acquisition of a real property interest (e.g., conservation easement or fee title) in coastal lands or waters (coastal wetlands ecosystems) from willing sellers or partners for long-term conservation or (2) restoration, enhancement, or management of coastal wetlands ecosystems. All projects must ensure long-term conservation.</p>	<a href="http://www.fws.gov/coastal/coastalgrants/">http://www.fws.gov/coastal/coastalgrants/</a>

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USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program	The Partners Program provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners and Tribes who are willing to work with USFWS and other partners on a voluntary basis to help meet the habitat needs of Federal Trust Species. The Partners Program can assist with projects in all habitat types which conserve or restore native vegetation, hydrology, and soils associated with imperiled ecosystems such as longleaf pine, bottomland hardwoods, tropical forests, native prairies, marshes, rivers and streams, or otherwise provide an important habitat requisite for a rare, declining or protected species.	<a href="http://www.fws.gov/partners/">http://www.fws.gov/partners/</a>
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Resilience Grants Program	This competitive grant program funds projects that are helping coastal communities and ecosystems prepare for and recover from extreme weather events, climate hazards, and changing ocean conditions.	<a href="http://www.coast.noaa.gov/resilience-grant">http://www.coast.noaa.gov/resilience-grant</a>
NRCS Conservation Reserve Program	The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) pays a yearly rental payment in exchange for farmers removing environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and planting species that will improve environmental quality.	<a href="https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/index">https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/index</a>
NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	For implementation of conservation measures on agricultural lands.	<a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ct/programs/financial/eqip/">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ct/programs/financial/eqip/</a>
NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program	The Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program is designed to help people and conserve natural resources by relieving imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, wind-storms, and other natural occurrences. EWP is an emergency recovery program, which responds to emergencies created by natural disasters. It is not necessary for a national emergency to be declared for an area to be eligible for assistance. EWP is designed for installation of recovery measures. Activities include providing financial and technical assistance to remove debris from stream channels, road culverts, and bridges, reshape and protect eroded banks, correct damaged drainage facilities, establish cover on critically eroding lands, repair levees and structures, and repair conservation practices.	<a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/ewpp/">http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/ewpp/</a>

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NRCS Floodplain Easement Program	The Emergency Watershed Protection - Floodplain Easement Program (EWP-FPE) provides an alternative measure to traditional EWP recovery, where it is determined that acquiring an easement in lieu of recovery measures is the more economical and prudent approach to reducing a threat to life or property. The easement area will be restored to the maximum extent practicable to its natural condition. Restoration utilizes structural and nonstructural practices to restore the flood storage and flow, erosion control, and improve the practical management of the easement. Floodplain easements restore, protect, maintain and enhance the functions of floodplains while conserving their natural values such as fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, flood water retention and ground water recharge. Structures, including buildings, within the floodplain easement must be demolished and removed, or relocated outside the 100-year floodplain or dam breach inundation area.	<a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ct/programs/financial/ewp/?cid=stelprdb1244478">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ct/programs/financial/ewp/?cid=stelprdb1244478</a>
NRCS Healthy Forests Reserve Program	Helps landowners restore, enhance and protect forestland resources on private lands through easements and financial assistance.	<a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/hfrp/proginfo/index.html">http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/hfrp/proginfo/index.html</a>
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant Program	The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is a flexible program that works to ensure decent affordable housing, provide services to the most vulnerable in our communities, and create jobs through the expansion and retention of businesses. CDBG-financed projects could incorporate green infrastructure into their design and construction. The Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 (Pub. L. 113-2) allocated \$5,400,000,000 of Community Development Block Grant disaster recovery (CDBG-DR) funds for the purpose of assisting recovery in the most impacted and distressed areas declared a major disaster due to Superstorm Sandy.	<a href="https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/communitydevelopment/programs">https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/communitydevelopment/programs</a>

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State Sources		
CT Department of Agriculture (CT DOAG) Farmland Restoration Program (FLRP)	The main objective of this voluntary program is to increase the State's resource base for food and fiber production agriculture focusing primarily on prime and important farmland soils.	<a href="http://www.ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=3260&amp;Q=498322">http://www.ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=3260&amp;Q=498322</a>
CTDEEP Section 319 Grant Program	Federal Clean Water Act Section 319 funds, administered by CTDEEP, are intended to effectively and efficiently address nonpoint source pollution are available to municipalities, nonprofit environmental organizations, regional water authorities/planning agencies, and watershed associations. Section 319 funds may be used for watershed based plans implementation projects, watershed based plan development, implementation of non-structural BMPs, and other related activities.	<a href="http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2719&amp;q=325594&amp;deepNav_GID=1654">http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2719&amp;q=325594&amp;deepNav_GID=1654</a>
CTDEEP Connecticut Clean Water Fund	The Connecticut Clean Water Fund (CWF) is the state's environmental infrastructure assistance program. The fund was established in 1986 to provide financial assistance to municipalities for planning, design and construction of wastewater collection and treatment projects. This program was developed to replace state and federal grant programs that had existed since the 1950s. The 1987 amendments to the Federal Clean Water Act required that states establish a revolving loan program by 1989. The fund was modified in 1996 to include the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) to assist water companies in complying with the Safe Drinking Water Act by providing low cost financing. The CWSRF currently includes set-asides or reserves categories for green infrastructure, river restoration and small community wastewater (including decentralized) systems.	<a href="http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2719&amp;q=325576&amp;deepNav_GID=1654%20">http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2719&amp;q=325576&amp;deepNav_GID=1654%20</a>
Long Island Sound Study - Long Island Sound Research Grant Program	To support research that will enhance scientific understanding of Long Island Sound, and provide information needed by managers to protect and effectively manage the Sound and its valuable resources. Available to Connecticut academic institutions.	<a href="http://longislandsoundstudy.net/research-monitoring/lis-research-grant-program/">http://longislandsoundstudy.net/research-monitoring/lis-research-grant-program/</a>

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CTDEEP Recreational Trails Grants Program	Since 2015, CTDEEP's recreational trails program has provided funding to non-profits, municipalities, state departments and tribal governments in support of trail construction and/or restoration projects, accessibility improvements, purchase of trail maintenance equipment, land acquisition, and educational programs. Requests should be under \$1million, and a 20% match is required.	<a href="http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2707&amp;q=513740&amp;deepNav_GID=1650">http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2707&amp;q=513740&amp;deepNav_GID=1650</a>
CTDEEP Long Island Sound License Plate Program	Section 14-21e of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) authorizes the issuance of the Long Island Sound license plate by the Department of Motor Vehicles, while CGS Section 22a-27k establishes the Long Island Sound Fund to be administered by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection into which proceeds from the sale of the plates are deposited.	<a href="http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2705&amp;q=323782&amp;depNav_GID=1635">http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2705&amp;q=323782&amp;depNav_GID=1635</a>
CTDEEP Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition	The Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA) Grant Program provides financial assistance to municipalities and nonprofit land conservation organizations to acquire land for open space and to water companies to acquire land to be classified as Class I or Class II water supply property.	<a href="http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2706&amp;q=323834&amp;depNav_GID=1641">http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2706&amp;q=323834&amp;depNav_GID=1641</a>
CTDEEP Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program	The Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust program was created by the Legislature in 1986 in order to help preserve Connecticut's natural heritage. It is the CTDEEP's primary program for acquiring land to expand the state's system of parks, forests, wildlife, and other natural open spaces.	<a href="http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2706&amp;q=323840&amp;depNav_GID=1641">http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2706&amp;q=323840&amp;depNav_GID=1641</a>
CTDEEP Urban Forestry Grant Programs	<p>America the Beautiful Urban Forestry Grants: Grants of up to \$12,000 are available to assist municipalities and non-profits in local urban forestry efforts.</p> <p>Urban Forestry Outreach Grant: Grants for non-profit organizations in urbanized areas to foster outreach in these areas.</p>	<a href="http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2697&amp;q=322872&amp;depNav_GID=1631&amp;depNav= ">http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2697&amp;q=322872&amp;depNav_GID=1631&amp;depNav= </a>

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Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) – Municipal Resilience Grant Program and Matching Funds Program	The Municipal Resilience Grant Program is for municipal governments and councils of government for initiatives that advance resilience, including the creation of conceptual design, construction (demonstration projects or other) of structures, or the design of practices and policies that increase their resilience to climate change and severe weather. The Matching Funds Grant Program is applicable to municipalities, institutions, universities, foundations, and other non-governmental organizations for matching funds for projects that address the mission of CIRCA. As of June 1, 2017, CIRCA is currently not accepting applications for the Municipal Resilience Grant Program or Matching Funds Program.	<a href="https://circa.uconn.edu/">https://circa.uconn.edu/</a>
CTDEEP Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) Funds	In the settlement of an environmental enforcement case, CTDEEP will require the alleged violator to achieve and maintain compliance with State environmental laws and regulations and to pay a civil penalty. To further CTDEEP's goals to protect and enhance public health and the environment, in certain instances one or more environmentally beneficial projects, or Supplemental Environmental Projects, may be included in the settlement.	<a href="https://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/enforcement/policies/seppolicy.pdf">https://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/enforcement/policies/seppolicy.pdf</a>
CT Office of Policy and Management (OPM) Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP)	Funds economic development, community conservation and quality of life projects for localities that are ineligible to receive Urban Action (CGS Section 4-66c) bonds. This program is administered by the Office of Policy and Management. STEAP funds are issued by the State Bond Commission and can only be used for capital projects. Eligible projects include projects involving environmental protection.	<a href="http://www.ct.gov/opm/cwp/view.asp?Q=382970">http://www.ct.gov/opm/cwp/view.asp?Q=382970</a>
Connecticut In-Lieu Fee Program	The National Audubon Society, Inc., through its Connecticut program (Audubon Connecticut) is the sponsor of an In-Lieu Fee Program for aquatic resource compensatory mitigation required by Department of the Army authorizations. Audubon Connecticut administers a competitive grant funding program, soliciting proposals for wetland and waters restoration, enhancement, creation and/or preservation.	<a href="http://ct.audubon.org/conservation/in-lieu-fee-program">http://ct.audubon.org/conservation/in-lieu-fee-program</a> <a href="http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Mitigation/In-Lieu-Fee-Programs/CT/">http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Mitigation/In-Lieu-Fee-Programs/CT/</a>

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Other Sources		
Private Foundations	Connecticut Community Foundation, Southbury Community Trust Fund, Ion Bank Foundation, Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation, The Watertown Foundation, Argall Hull Foundation, Kresge Foundation	<a href="https://conncf.org/">https://conncf.org/</a> <a href="https://ionbank.com/about-us/foundation/">https://ionbank.com/about-us/foundation/</a> <a href="https://www.thomastonsavingsbank.com/foundation">https://www.thomastonsavingsbank.com/foundation</a> <a href="https://www.watertownfoundation.com/">https://www.watertownfoundation.com/</a> <a href="http://www.kresge.org/programs/environment">www.kresge.org/programs/environment</a>
NOAA Community-Based Restoration Program Partnership	These grants are designed to provide support for local communities that are utilizing dam removal or fish passage to restore and protect the ecological integrity of their rivers and improve freshwater habitats important to migratory fish.	<a href="https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/habitat-conservation/strategic-habitat-restoration">https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/habitat-conservation/strategic-habitat-restoration</a>
FishAmerica Foundation Conservation Grants	FishAmerica, in partnership with the NOAA Restoration Center, awards grants to local communities and government agencies to restore habitat for marine and anadromous fish species. Successful proposals have community-based restoration efforts with outreach to the local communities.	<a href="https://www.fishamerica.org/grants/">https://www.fishamerica.org/grants/</a>
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program	The Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program seeks to develop nation-wide-community stewardship of local natural resources, preserving these resources for future generations and enhancing habitat for local wildlife. Projects seek to address water quality issues in priority watersheds, such as erosion due to unstable streambanks, pollution from stormwater runoff, and degraded shorelines caused by development. The program focuses on the stewardship and restoration of coastal, wetland and riparian ecosystems across the country.	<a href="http://www.nfwf.org/fivestar/Pages/home.aspx">http://www.nfwf.org/fivestar/Pages/home.aspx</a>
NFWF Long Island Sound Futures Fund	The Long Island Sound Futures Fund supports projects in local communities that aim to protect and restore Long Island Sound. It unites federal and state agencies, foundations and corporations to achieve high-priority conservation objectives. Funded activities demonstrate a real, on-the-ground commitment to securing a healthy future for the Long Island Sound.	<a href="http://longislandsoundstudy.net/about/grants/lis-futures-fund/">http://longislandsoundstudy.net/about/grants/lis-futures-fund/</a>
National Forest Foundation	Through its on-the-ground conservation programs, the National Forest Foundation supports action-oriented projects that directly enhance the health and well-being of America's National Forests and Grasslands and that engage the public in stewardship.	<a href="https://www.nationalforests.org/grant-programs">https://www.nationalforests.org/grant-programs</a>



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Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP)	The Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) is an innovative private-public initiative aimed at preserving, restoring, enhancing and protecting aquatic habitats throughout the United States. Bringing together corporations, federal and state agencies, non-profit organizations and academia, the CWRP allows members to contribute in a fundamental way to crucial projects involving America's coastal and inland aquatic resources and support related education programs. Since its inception in 1999, CWRP has aided in the restoration of more than 64,000 acres and 1,050 stream miles through the monetary donations and in-kind services of its corporate partners.	<a href="http://www.cwrp.org/">http://www.cwrp.org/</a>
Trout Unlimited Embrace A Stream	Embrace-A-Stream (EAS) is a matching grant program administered by TU that awards funds to TU chapters and councils for coldwater fisheries conservation.	<a href="http://www.tu.org/conservation/watershed-restoration-home-rivers-initiative/embrace-a-stream">http://www.tu.org/conservation/watershed-restoration-home-rivers-initiative/embrace-a-stream</a>
Wildlife Conservation Society Climate Adaptation Fund	Provides \$2.5 million in funding annually, with awards ranging from \$50,000 to \$250,000. The program focuses on projects that promote functionality of ecosystems, long-term conservation impact, and landscape-scale impacts. All projects must conduct on-the-ground implementation; research and planning are not funded.	<a href="https://www.wcsclimateadaptationfund.org/program-information/">https://www.wcsclimateadaptationfund.org/program-information/</a>

Note: Some grant programs, particularly federally-funded grant programs, may not allow the use of funds for projects/actions that are required as part of State or federal permit or enforcement-related actions. For example, projects intended to meet mandated requirements of the MS4 General Permit are not eligible for Section 319 NPS grants. However, Section 319 NPS grant proposals that provide stormwater mitigation above and beyond permit requirements may be considered.

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### Grant Search Resources

Please also see the following grant search resources for assistance in finding additional state, federal, local, and private sources of funding related to nonpoint source pollution management:

- Grants.gov  
<http://grants.gov/>
- Federal Assistance Listings  
<https://www.cfda.gov/>
- CTDEEP Watershed and Stormwater Funding Website  
[http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2719&q=335494&depNav\\_GID=1654&pp=12&n=1](http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2719&q=335494&depNav_GID=1654&pp=12&n=1)
- EPA Funding Sources for Watershed Protection and Restoration  
<https://www.epa.gov/nps/funding-resources-watershed-protection-and-restoration>
- EPA Watershed Funding  
<http://water.epa.gov/aboutow/owow/funding.cfm>
- EPA Water Infrastructure and Community Resiliency Finance Center  
<https://www.epa.gov/waterfinancecenter>
- EPA Green Infrastructure Funding Website  
<https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/green-infrastructure-funding-opportunities>
- Foundation Center: Philanthropy News Digest  
[http://philanthropynewsdigest.org/rfps/\(search\)?tags\\_interest\[\]=environment](http://philanthropynewsdigest.org/rfps/(search)?tags_interest[]=environment)
- USDA National Agriculture Library: Water Quality Information Center  
[https://www.nal.usda.gov/waic/water-quality#quicktabs-waic\\_water\\_quality=2](https://www.nal.usda.gov/waic/water-quality#quicktabs-waic_water_quality=2)

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Other Nonpoint Source Funding Opportunities

Congressional Appropriation - Direct Federal Funding
State Appropriations - Direct State Funding
<p>Membership Drives</p> <p>Membership drives can provide a stable source of income to support watershed management programs.</p>
<p>Donations</p> <p>Donations can be a major source of revenue for supporting watershed activities, and can be received in a variety of ways.</p>
<p>User Fees, Taxes, and Assessments</p> <p>Taxes are used to fund activities that do not provide a specific benefit, but provide a more general benefit to the community.</p>
<p>Rates and Charges</p> <p>State law authorizes some public utilities to collect rates and charges for the services they provide.</p>
<p>Stormwater Utility</p> <p>A stormwater utility operates much like an electric or drinking water utility. Fees collected from property owners go into a dedicated fund to pay specifically for the work of operating, maintaining, and improving stormwater infrastructure.</p>
<p>Impact Fees</p> <p>Impact fees are also known as capital contribution, facilities fees, or system development charges, among other names.</p>
<p>Special Assessments</p> <p>Special assessments are created for the specific purpose of financing capital improvements, such as provisions, to serve a specific area.</p>
<p>Property Tax</p> <p>These taxes generally support a significant portion of a county's or municipality's non-public enterprise activities.</p>

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Other Nonpoint Source Funding Opportunities

<p>Excise Taxes These taxes require special legislation, and the funds generated through the tax are limited to specific uses: lodging, food, etc.</p>
<p>Bonds and Loans Bonds and loans can be used to finance capital improvements. These programs are appropriate for local governments and utilities to support capital projects.</p> <p>Green Bonds are a growing mechanism for funding green projects, including green infrastructure and flood resilience projects. Green bonds are debt instruments issued to finance environmental projects focused on climate change initiatives. The identification and labeling of a green bond is typically based on a set of voluntary standards drafted by a consortium of investment banks that outlines the process for issuers to designate specific green projects. The guidelines specify that a bond issue qualifies as green if the issuer uses the proceeds solely for capital expenditures associated with green or climate-related environmental benefits in accordance with certain standards.</p>
<p>Investment Income Some organizations have elected to establish their own foundations or endowment funds to provide long-term funding stability. Endowment funds can be established and managed by a single organization-specific foundation or an organization may elect to have a community foundation to hold and administer its endowment. With an endowment fund, the principal or actual cash raised is invested. The organization may elect to tap into the principal under certain established circumstances.</p>
<p>Emerging Opportunities for Program Support for Water Quality Trading Allows regulated entities to purchase credits for pollutant reductions in the watershed or a specified part of the watershed to meet or exceed regulatory or voluntary goals. There are a number of variations for water quality credit trading frameworks. Credits can be traded, or bought and sold, between point sources only, between NPSs only, or between point sources and NPSs.</p>
<p>Mitigation and Conservation Banks Created by property owners who restore and/or preserve their land in its natural condition. Such banks have been developed by public, nonprofit, and private entities. In exchange for preserving the land, the "bankers" get permission from appropriate state and federal agencies to sell mitigation banking credits to developers wanting to mitigate the impacts of proposed development. By purchasing the mitigation bank credits, the developer avoids having to mitigate the impacts of their development on site. Public and nonprofit mitigation banks may use the funds generated from the sale of the credits to fund the purchase of additional land for preservation and/or for the restoration of the lands to a natural state.</p>

### Other Nonpoint Source Funding Opportunities

#### Public Private Partnerships (P3s)

Innovative financing mechanisms are being explored at the national level, particularly tapping into the resources of the private sector through public-private partnerships (P3s). Traditionally, water and wastewater infrastructure has been funded through municipal bonds, with help from EPA State Revolving Loan funds, while stormwater is typically funded either through its limited share of local general funds or stormwater utilities. The Chesapeake Bay states are exploring P3s to meet TMDL obligations for nutrients and sediment. A P3 is an arrangement between government and the private sector in which the private sector assumes a large share of the risk in terms of financing, constructing, and maintaining the infrastructure. Government repays the private sector over the long term if the infrastructure is built and maintained according to specifications. Prince George's County, Maryland is implementing a P3 program to retrofit 2,000 acres of impervious surfaces in the public right of way. Private funds will finance 30% to 40% of the program costs upfront, enabling project construction to begin sooner and proceed more quickly. This program is part of the County's Watershed Protection and Restoration Program.