

WORKSHOP GUIDE

The Water Finance Exchange (WFX), a 501(c)(3), works closely with federal and state stakeholders, communities, philanthropy, and the financial sector to address the water infrastructure funding shortage facing thousands of communities across the U.S. With a network of experts and a revolving pre-development fund, WFX connects communities to funding sources and offers technical and financial expertise integral to building scalable solutions.

WFX builds state-level partnerships by hosting workshops, convening environmental and public health regulators, water innovators and non-profits, university affiliates, and community leaders to explore sources of funding, the process and procedures involved for communities to seek those funds, governance management, and innovative strategies.

A goal of these convenings state leaders and community partners in conversation with nationwide conversations around resilient and sustainable water infrastructure systems, inclusive of regional solutions and partnerships. This workshop will identify collaborative opportunities to leverage public, private, and philanthropic funds toward affordable, sustainable water infrastructure in economically healthy regions where water serves as the cornerstone for economic development priorities.

Proposed Workshop Agenda Topics

- Briefing on new state and federal resources and priorities.
- Identifying and defining challenges facing small, rural, and disadvantaged communities
- Discussion of watershed/regional perspectives and governance models.
- Sharing models of success for regional partnerships and sustainable infrastructure solutions.
- Developing partnerships and establishing a pipeline of communities needing pre-development and technical assistance support.

WFX will utilize its network of advisors to bring national expertise on regional solutions and cooperative models in water infrastructure and broadband, governance structures, water technology solutions, innovative financing models, and national infrastructure policy.

With the new resources available from the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act, as well as the increasing ramifications of climate change, this workshop is an opportunity to catalyze collaborative efforts around the new federal funding opportunities.

WFX Workshop Role and Responsibilities

- Event Planning and Management
- Drafting and Distribution of Communication Materials
- Agenda Design and Securing Nationally-Recognized Thought Leaders and Practitioners
- Leading Post-Event Water Infrastructure Community Engagement and Support
- Development of Post-Meeting Report and Collaborative Action Items

Partner Workshop Role and Responsibilities

- Identification of Local Agencies and Stakeholders
- Providing Input on Agenda, Speakers, and Attendees (including community leaders)
- Outreach and Invitations to Local Partners (with WFX support)

WFX typically requests a 2-3 month planning process for each workshop, which is managed with bi-weekly meetings leading up to the event. WFX relies on the local partner for input and advice on the venue location, as well as catering and dining recommendations for the welcome dinner the evening before the workshop.

WFX workshops typically cost approximately \$20,000 - \$30,000 (depending on the workshop venue site), excluding staffing costs. This budget is met by WFX's philanthropic funding sources, along with support from partner organizations to pursue sponsorship opportunities to defray workshop expenses. WFX's goal is to catalyze philanthropic and sponsorship support from this workshop towards larger projects in the state.