

# CREATING THE WATER WORKFORCE OF THE FUTURE WEBINAR SERIES

## Workforce Solutions in Action: NRWA's Apprenticeship Program Driving Skilled Talent in Rural Water

Water sector utilities are essential to providing clean and safe water for every American. Within each utility, administrative professionals are critical to achieving compliance and to ensuring the technical, financial, and managerial capacity to address both current and future challenges, all while providing the reliable service, especially in small and rural communities.

Apprentice programs are an important approach to ensuring utilities have a fully trained and motivated workforce that can meet both current and future challenges and provide clean and safe water for all Americans.

This webinar will focus on the National Rural Water Association (NRWA) Apprenticeship Program. NRWA's Apprenticeship Program is recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor and provides guideline standards to State Rural Water Associations and offers training and tools for State Apprenticeship Coordinators to help build workforce capacity. Water utilities can participate in a little to no-cost, two-year training program through a State Association. This program combines classroom technical instruction and on-the-job training in an earn-while-you-learn model, resulting in a nationally recognized Water or Wastewater Operations Specialist credential, helping utilities develop skilled operators.

This webinar is part of an ongoing webinar series hosted by EPA, in partnership with leading water sector organizations around the country.

**ATTENDANCE IS FREE**  
Register now at:

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FEBRUARY 17, 2026  
1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

### Moderators:

- **Jim Horne**, U.S. EPA

### Speakers:

- **Shannan Walton**, NRWA  
Apprenticeship Program Manager
- **Stephanie Ahart**, NRWA  
Apprenticeship Program Assistant Manager
- **Heather Stevenson**, Kentucky  
Rural Water Association, Director  
of Workforce Development

This webinar series is supported by:

