



MAKING WAVES



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE**  
CITIES INITIATIVE  
**L'ALLIANCE DES VILLES**  
DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

## Next Steps for Water Equity Commission

After completing a suite of recommendations to strengthen water equity in 2021, the Mayors Commission on Water Equity will transition to focusing on advancing its priorities under the bipartisan infrastructure bill signed by President Biden last November. The Commission developed federal and state recommendations related to lead water lines, water affordability, urban flooding, and water workforce development.

The infrastructure bill provides more than \$50 billion for water infrastructure, including \$23 billion for the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund programs; \$15 billion for removing lead water lines; and \$10 billion to address PFAS and other emerging contaminants. The White House has released a detailed [guidebook](#) to the infrastructure bill and EPA recently released [implementation guidance](#) for the water infrastructure funding.

EPA's priorities for the first year are to target resources to disadvantaged communities; maximize funding for lead service line removal; and help communities address contamination by PFAS and other emerging contaminants.

The Mayors Commission will focus on ensuring cities fully access water funding under the infrastructure bill, particularly small or disadvantaged communities that often lack the capacity to prepare project funding applications. A portion of the bill's funding is set aside for technical assistance and the Cities Initiative is exploring options to administer a technical assistance program for U.S. Great Lakes cities.

Next steps and a call to action on water equity for Great Lakes cities will be the focus of the Cities Initiative's May 26 monthly webinar. Look for an upcoming announcement of this.