

# Capacity Development

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# What is Capacity Development?

The process through which individuals, organizations, communities, and nations transform themselves into more developed, more equitable, and more sustainable societies over time. The process is characterized by the active participation of all stakeholders in the development process, and by the achievement of their own development objectives over time. The process is inclusive, participatory, and sustainable basis. Uneca.org

Capacity Development is a **process** for water systems to **acquire** and **maintain** adequate **technical, managerial** and **financial** (TMF) capacity. TMF capacity enables water systems to have the **capability** to **consistently** provide safe drinking water to the public. Epa.gov

# Federal Requirements

- 1996 Safe Drinking Water Amendments
  - All new public water systems must demonstrate capacity
  - State must have strategy to assist system acquire and maintain TMF capacity
  - Restricts use of State Revolving Fund loans for systems without capacity
- EPA Approved Capacity Development Strategy

# State Implementation

- **2000 Citizen Advisory Board Recommendations**
  - Sanitary Survey inspections, self-assessment tool, financial/managerial training, RCA improvements, training for professionals/consultants, metering, planning, early notice for new rules, third party studies on consolidation, loan guarantee fund, DWSRF eligibility for private utilities, agency cooperation, public outreach about TFM, CapDev program resources and staffing.
- **2016/2017**
  - Transition from Drinking Water to Technical Assistance & Financing
    - Combined Operator Certification, Capacity Development, Remote Maintenance Worker Program and State Revolving Loan Funds under a single manager
    - Created CapDev Program Coordinator position - Sarah Mutter

# State Implementation

- **Current Activities**
  - Operations & Maintenance Best Practices
  - Regional Coordination Meetings
  - Training Coalition
  - Training Calendar
  - Contracted development of new training materials
  - Certification Exam Prep
  - New System Reviews
  - Business Plan Reviews

# State Implementation

- 2020 Interim Strategy, Stakeholder Input
- ~2021 Updated Strategy Implementation
  - Must include asset management considerations
    - Practice of managing infrastructure capital assets to minimize the total cost of owning and operating these assets while delivering the desired service levels.
- Available Funding
  - Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Set-Asides
  - \$1.2-\$1.5M annually
  - Supports Capacity Development and Operator Certification Programs
  - \*\*All public water systems\*\*