



# NEWS RELEASE

## Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Illinois EPA Announces \$1 Million in Grant Awards for Unsewered Communities

### *Planning Grants to provide funding for communities to develop plans to address wastewater collection and treatment*

SPRINGFIELD — Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Director John Kim today announced grant awards totaling \$1 million in funding to assist unsewered communities with inadequate or nonexistent wastewater collection and treatment systems. The Unsewered Communities Planning Grant Program will assist small and disadvantaged communities to develop project plans that identify solutions to wastewater collection and treatment needs. The program is made possible through Governor Pritzker's Rebuild Illinois capital plan, the first in nearly a decade.

Illinois has more than 200 "unsewered" communities that lack wastewater collection and/or treatment systems. Many of these communities have patchwork systems or decades-old underground "wildcat" pipes that illegally discharge to surface waters. While a lack of planning capacity is often a significant initial barrier for these communities, the biggest hurdle remains the lack of local revenue to invest in the construction and long-term operations and maintenance of modern collection and/or treatment facilities.

"Because of the historic investments of the bipartisan Rebuild Illinois capital plan, Illinoisans in every part of the state will see significant upgrades in their communities, not only in our roads and bridges but in our wastewater collection and treatment facilities," **said Governor JB Pritzker**. "The Unsewered Communities Construction Grants program will provide disadvantaged communities across Illinois with the needed funds to improve sewer systems and reduce impacts in the environment. These investments are only one piece of the capital plan and we will continue working to improve the financial wellbeing, health, education and safety of all Illinois residents."

"Proper wastewater collection and treatment is important for the health and welfare of Illinois' communities," **said Director Kim**. "This grant program was created to assist those communities with the initial funding to develop a formal plan to address the wastewater needs, which could ultimately lead to them submitting an application for an Unsewered Communities Construction Grant from Illinois EPA."



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The Unsewered Communities **Planning Grant Program** (UCPGP) provides communities an opportunity to obtain funding to develop a Project Plan that will address problems with the collection and treatment of wastewater. Information from the Project Plans may also be used to apply for a grant from the [Unsewered Communities Construction Grant Program](#) (UCCGP), which was also announced by Illinois EPA in September 2020. Over the next five years, Illinois EPA UCCGP is making \$100 million available through Governor Pritzker's bipartisan Rebuild Illinois Capital Plan for construction of wastewater collection and/or treatment facilities.

A list of grant recipients under the UCPGP is attached.

Unsewered Communities Planning Grant Program Awards/2

<b>County of Applicant</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>
Bureau	Cherry	\$30,000
Cass	Beardstown	\$26,000
Christian	Pana	\$30,000
	Taylorville	\$29,000
Coles	Ashmore	\$30,000
Effingham	Effingham	\$30,000
Grundy	Braceville	\$30,000
Henderson	Lomax	\$30,000
Iroquois	Buckley	\$30,000
	Woodland	\$30,000
Jackson	Grand Tower	\$30,000
Jefferson	Belle Rive	\$27,500
Jersey	Elsah	\$22,500
Kane	Hillcrest	\$7,000
Kendall	Lisbon	\$30,000
LaSalle	Leland	\$30,000
	Ransom	\$25,000
	Rutland	\$30,000
	Streator	\$30,000
Lee	Compton	\$30,000
	Dixon	\$24,000
Livingston	Saunemin	\$30,000
Macoupin	Modesto	\$30,000
Madison and St. Clair	Collinsville	\$30,000
McHenry	Union	\$27,500
McLean	Hudson	\$20,000
Moultrie	Sullivan	\$30,000
Ogle	Burlington	\$17,500
	Davis Junction	\$25,000
Piatt	Mansfield	\$30,000
Pike	New Salem Township	\$30,000
Putnam	Magnolia	\$20,000
	Standard	\$30,000
Rock Island	Port Byron	\$19,000
Schuyler	Browning	\$30,000
Scott	Manchester	\$26,000
Whiteside	Rock Falls	\$24,000

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