# PENNVEST Virtual Training Event

March 11, 2025



## Today's Presenter

#### Brendan A. Linton

**PROJECT SPECIALIST - REGION 1** 

Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Indiana, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Venango, and Warren Counties

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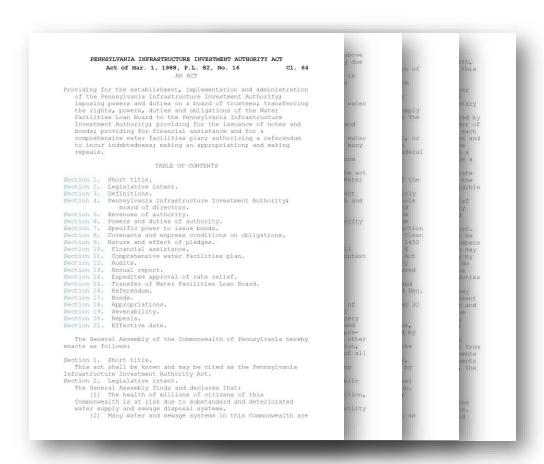
## How to Ask a Question

- Please remain muted during the webinar
  - Use the "Mute" button on the Teams application or your cell phone
  - Dial \*6 on your standard telephone handset
- During the presentation, use the "Chat" window
- At the end of the webinar, use the "Raise Hand" button to be called upon
- Questions may be answered by PENNVEST staff verbally or in writing within the "Chat" window

## **Overview of PENNVEST**

## **Our History**

- Established March 1, 1988 by act of the General Assembly
  - Instrumentality of the Commonwealth
  - "State-affiliated entity"
- 34 full-time staff members
- Governed by a 13-member Board of Directors



## **Our Funding Programs**



- Drinking Water
- Wastewater
- Stormwater
- Nearly any type of construction project
- Capital contributions towards another system



# Non-Point Source

- Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) Treatment
- Brownfield Remediation
- Green Infrastructure



## Residential\*

- Owner-occupied primary residences
- On-Lot Septic System Repairs
- Existing Sewer Lateral Repairs
- First-Time Public Sewer System Connections

\*Funding provided by PENNVEST; program administered by Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA)

### **Our Fast Facts**

- We provide complete project financing with no matching funds or tap fee contributions required
- We can fund most project costs from start to finish including engineering, legal, permits, etc., excluding Act 537 sewage planning
- We are primarily a revolving loan program, not a grant program
- We can work with other funding programs and serve as a "local match"
- We do not refinance previous projects and/or long-term debt
- We have the "cheapest money" you can find today
- We're from the government... and we're here to help!

## Our Applicants and Borrowers

- We can provide financing to most public or private entities in the Commonwealth
- All projects must have a positive water quality impact
- Drinking water projects must involve a system with a Public Water System Identification Number

Municipalities Counties Municipal School Authorities Districts Utility Private Entities Companies

## Our Funding Sources (FY 24-25)

#### Federal Funds

U.S. EPA Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund

U.S. EPA Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant Program (OSG)

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA/BIL)

#### **Internal Funds**

Investment Income

Interest Earned

#### **State Funds**

**Growing Greener Grants** 

Capital Budget

Marcellus Legacy Grants, Act 13 of 2012

Act 218 of 2004

General Fund

Clean Water Procurement, Act 54 of 2022

## State General Obligation Bond Proceeds

2008

1992

1988

1981

## Our Budget

- \$1 billion total!
- Funding is received from various federal, state, and internal sources
- Available funding is spread "equally" across the PENNVEST quarterly board meeting schedule

- Additional funds available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)
  - Covers clean water and drinking water projects
  - Factored into our current budget calculations
  - Automatically considered, no separate application process

## **Our Regulatory Requirements**

#### **ALL PROJECTS**

- Competitive procurement
- "Or-equal" provisions in bid documents
- Pennsylvania Steel Products Procurement Act (Act 3 of 1978)
- Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act\*

### FEDERALLY-FUNDED PROJECTS

- American Iron and Steel Regulations
- Davis-Bacon Wage Rate Compliance
- Fiscal Sustainability Plan Preparation\*\*

#### FEDERAL EQUIVALENCY-FUNDED PROJECTS

- Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Solicitations (DBE)
- Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act
- Single Audit
- Architectural/Engineering Service Procurement\*\*
- Project Site Signage\*\*\*

<sup>\*</sup>Excluding private entities which receive all loan funds

<sup>\*\*</sup>Projects funded via the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) only

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>Only required with a funding package containing mandatory signage, typically Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) projects

## **Our Regulatory Requirements**

- Wastewater projects only should consider completing architectural and engineering (A/E) procurement
- Prior to design, we recommend contacting PENNVEST and PA DEP staff for RFQ and DBE procedures
- Applicants who do not complete this are still PENNVEST eligible, but projects that ultimately receive federal equivalency funding...
  - 1. Must self-fund the A/E portion of the project costs; or
  - 2. Will be given a separate funding award solely for A/E costs

## Our Statewide Project Portfolio

#### **5,148 APPROVED PROJECTS** \$12.9 BILLION TOTAL FUNDING

1,290 **Drinking Water** 

1,853 Wastewater

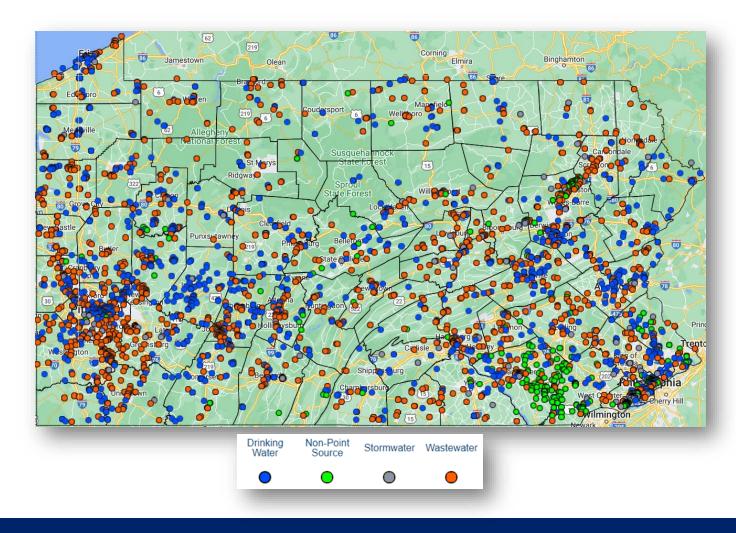
17 **Brownfield Remediation** 

202 Non-Point Source

3 Acid Mine Drainage

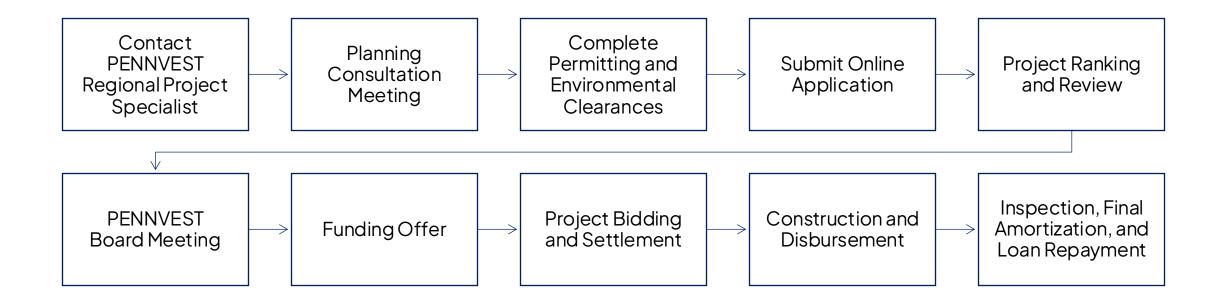
164 Stormwater

Residential On-lot Repairs, Connection, Lateral Repairs 1,619



## The PENNVEST Application Process

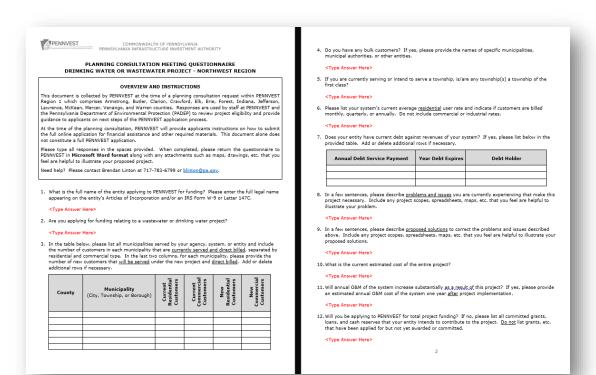
## **Application and Project Workflow**





## Contact PENNVEST Regional Project Specialist

- Go to the PENNVEST website for a list of contacts
  - www.pa.gov/pennvest, then "Apply for PENNVEST Funding"
- Call or email your project specialist
  - Provide basic details on project
  - Complete and return intake questionnaire
  - We will circulate your details to the PA DEP for an initial review



## **Planning Consultation**

- Mandatory meeting for each project and application
- Should be held 3 to 9 months in advance of PENNVEST application submission
- Can be held in-person or virtually
  - Applicant
  - Applicant's engineer
  - PENNVEST Project Specialist
  - PA DEP representatives
  - Other state officials

Review scope of project Discuss specific PENNVEST application requirements Confirm environmental permits and clearances Preliminarily analyze potential funding package

### **Environmental Clearances**

- Projects <u>must</u> be "shovel ready" at the time of application submission
- All design work must be complete with environmental-related permits issued and in hand
- Biddable plans and specifications must be made available for PA DEP Municipal Facilities Division review
- Contact PA DEP regional office early in the process to discuss permits and avoid delays

Public Water Supply Permits Water Allocation Permits

Act 537 Sewage Facilities Planning Approval

**NPDES Permits** 

Submerged Lands License Agreements Water Quality Management Permits

Chapter 102
Erosion and
Sedimentation
Control Permits

Chapter 105 Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permits Chapter 106 Floodplain Management Permits

## **Submit Online Application**

APPLICATION CUT-OFF DATE BY 5:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME	PENNVEST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING DATE
May 8, 2024	July 17, 2024
July 31, 2024	October 16, 2024
October 30, 2024	January 22, 2025
February 5, 2025	April 23, 2025
May 7, 2025	TBA

More details: www.pa.gov/pennvest > Quick Links



## **Project Ranking and Review**



**JEP** 

#### • TECHNICAL AND ENGINEERING

- Public Health
- Public Safety
- Environment
- Compliance
- Adequacy
- Efficiency



## CED

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Job Creation
- Job Growth
- Job Retention
- Industrial Expansion
- Tourism
- Community Action Team Participation



#### • COMMUNITY CAPACITY

- Land Use
- Infill Priority
- Financial Capability
- Environmental Justice
- Funding Offer
- Collateral

## **PENNVEST Board Meeting**

- Board votes on funding offers at quarterly meetings
- Applicants do not need to attend in-person
- All meetings live-streamed from Harrisburg via Microsoft Teams
- Open to public participation



## 7 Funding Offer

- Applicant receives copy of funding paperwork via email
- Contains all terms and conditions
  - Funding source (state or federal) with associated regulatory requirements
  - Funding amount
  - Loan vs. non-repayment amounts
  - Interest rates

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#### PENNVEST Funding Offer

This Funding Offer is based upon the information submitted for consideration. This offer includes the amount of PENNYEST funding, interest rate, repayment term, as well as the standard terms and conditions that accompany the offer. You must review the offer in order to continue on to the settlement checklist and information collection process.

#### Description

Contact:

Project Number: 25033031907-CW Status: Under Review

Project Title: Erie City Water Authority - Cherry Street Pump Station and Pro-Fi Improvement Projects

Company: Erie City Water Authority

#### **Funding Offer**

10/16/2019	Board Approval Date: Loan Amount:	
\$32,000,000.00		
\$0.00	Non-Repayment Amount:	
\$0.00	Credit Enhancement Amount:	
\$147,166.18	Estimated Monthly Payments for Years 1 through 5:	
\$155,296.93	Estimated Monthly Payments for Years 6 through Maturity:	
240	Amortization Period in Months:	
(up to) 36	Interest Only Period:	
1.000	Interest Rate of Loan for Years 1 through 5:	
1.739	Interest Rate of Loan for Years 6 through Maturity:	
None	Credit Enhancement Type:	
\$0.00	Credit Enhancement Fee:	

## Project Bidding/Settlement

CALL<sub>1</sub>

CALL 2

CALL 3

CALL 4

CALL 5

- Review funding offer
- Review terms and conditions
- Review bid schedule
- Review bank account requirements

- Held after bid opening
- Review bids
- Discuss funding increase if needed

- Review settlement checklist
- Review contracts
- Discuss final legal matters

- Sign closing paperwork via DocuSign
- Can begin construction the next day
- Review pay request process



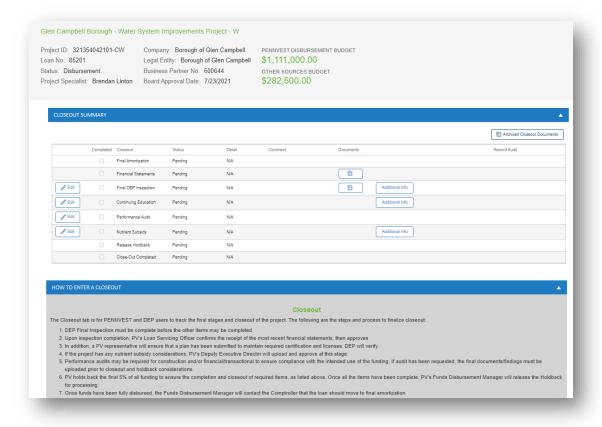
## Construction/Disbursement

- Construction may begin after settlement is complete
  - <u>Do not begin construction or material acquisition early</u> renders project ineligible
  - Exceptions granted via a Letter of No Prejudice (LONP) request
- Payments and change orders processed 100% electronically via PENNVEST portal
- Interest-only payments up to 36 months during construction



## 10 Project Closeout

- Submit final payment request via PENNVEST portal
  - PA DEP, PENNVEST, and other state/local officials will participate in on-site final inspection
  - A five percent holdback applies to project disbursement until inspection is complete
- PENNVEST reconciles final costs and moves project to repayment status



## Funding Determination Process

## Funding Limits: Stormwater Projects

- Based upon number of municipalities currently served and/or proposed to be served by a project
- PENNVEST does not require a stormwater user rate or fee to be charged

## TOTAL FUNDING CANNOT EXCEED (whichever is less)\*

- \$1,000 per resident within the municipalities served
- \$10 million flat cap

\*See 35 P.S. § 751.10

## Funding Limits: All Other Projects

- Based upon number of municipalities currently served and/or proposed to be served by a project
- Includes both direct-billed customers and bulk service to other municipalities or municipal authorities

#### ONE MUNICIPALITY SERVED

• \$11 million per application

### TWO OR THREE MUNICIPALITIES SERVED

• \$20 million per application

### FOUR OR MORE MUNICIPALITIES SERVED

 No limit with supermajority vote of PENNVEST Board of Directors

### Offer Determination

#### **TARGET RATE**

- Between .5 to 1.25\* percent of median household income
  - Taking into account various social and economic factors
- Rate of inflation

#### **RESULTING RATE**

- Annual O&M costs of borrower's system
- Current annual debt of borrower
- Impact of annual debt service of a PENNVEST loan

<sup>\*</sup>All stormwater projects use .25% of median household income as the target rate

### Offer Determination

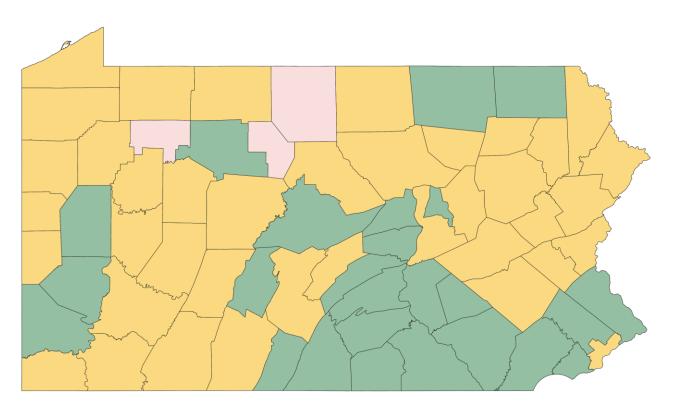
## RESULTING RATE AT OR BELOW TARGET RATE

- All loan
- Interest rates vary by county and are adjusted annually, typically in the spring

## RESULTING RATE ABOVE TARGET RATE

- Hardship considerations
  - Reduced interest rate as low as 1% for full term
  - Non-repayment (grant)
  - Extend loan term to 30 years
- Grant funds are often prorated due to demand and not guaranteed

## **Current Interest Rates (May 2024)**



	YEARS 1-5	YEARS 6+
PINK	1.000%	1.000%
YELLOW	1.000%	1.743%
GREEN	1.743%	2.179%

### Offer Determination

- For traditional PENNVEST applications, we use a uniform funding calculation across all 67 counties
- Applicants will receive the best offer we can provide in accordance with our program limitations and available funding
- We suggest exploring other funding as a backup plan

Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR) Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)

PA Department of Agriculture

PA Department of Transportation (PennDOT)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (CDBG)

## **Competitive Terms**

\$1,000,000	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3
Term in Years	20	20	20
Payment Frequency	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
Annual Interest Rate	1.00%	5.00%	7.50%
Scheduled Payment	\$4,598	\$6,600	\$8,056
Total Payments	240	240	240
Total Interest	\$103,520	\$583,894	\$933,424

## Special Funding Opportunities

## **Advance Funding Program**

- Covers design and engineering costs to get to a "shovel ready" stage
  - Act 537 planning costs ineligible
- Up to \$2 million
  - 5-year term, typically all loan
  - Interest only for 59 months with onetime balloon payment at month 60
- If system applies for and closes PENNVEST construction financing before 60 months, ballon payment is waived, and loan term is extended to match the construction loan term

#### **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS**

- Brand new start-up systems with no user rate or funding source to support initial planning and design costs
- New or existing systems...
  - in a PA DEP-defined Environmental Justice (EJ) area
  - denied by other lenders and unable to secure interim financing elsewhere

## Small Project Initiative (SPI)

- Quick turnaround, processed outside of traditional cut-off dates
- Apply anytime during the year
- \$500,000 PENNVEST funding limit
  - Loan only, no grant, 20-year term
  - Uses county cap interest rates
- Total project cost cannot exceed
   \$1 million including contingency
- State funds guaranteed
  - No federal dollars and associated regulatory requirements

Population of 12,000 people or less

Hookups of 1,000 or less

Agricultural BMP's

(some exceptions)

## Programmatic Financing (Pro-Fi)

- Bundle a series of projects on an approved capital improvement plan under one PENNVEST application
  - Only one project must be shovel ready
  - Implement remaining projects over a three-year period
- Loan only, no grant
- Locks in the county cap interest rate

#### **RECENT PARTICIPANTS**

- Erie City Water Authority, Erie County
- Capital Region Water, Dauphin County
- Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority, Allegheny County
- Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority, Luzerne County
- Lancaster Area Sewer Authority, Lancaster County
- Central Delaware County Authority, Delaware County

## Lead Service Line Replacement

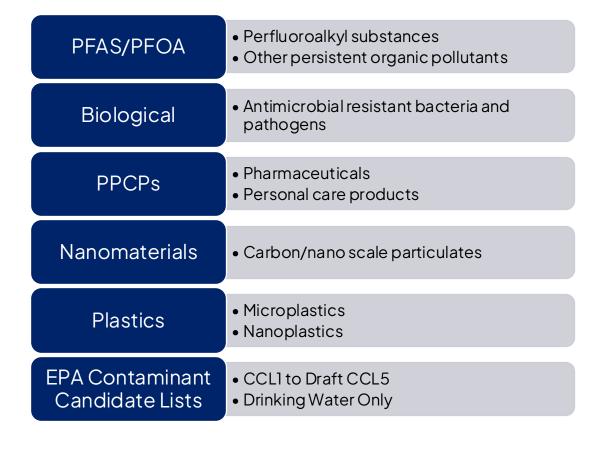
- Special incentives under BIL funding for lead service lines and goosenecks
  - Full lead line replacement required
  - Requires a separate application in the PENNVEST system
  - Can be paired with another project
- Higher chance of grant funding with revised financial calculation
- Risk mitigation measures must be followed per EPA and PA DEP rules, these are eligible PENNVEST costs



Example lead gooseneck and corroded lead service line Erie City Water Authority - City of Erie, Erie County

## **Emerging Contaminant Funding**

- Targeted towards drinking water, but some wastewater systems may also be eligible
- Primary focus is PFAS in drinking water systems
- Uses normal PENNVEST application and cut-off dates
- Higher chance of grant funding, otherwise, all loan or a loan/grant combination will be awarded depending on funding demand



## Homeowner Sewage Program

- Administered by the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA)
- Fixed rate of 1.75% (up to 2.8% APR)
  - Maximum 20-year term, 15-year term for manufactured homes
  - \$25,000 maximum loan amount
  - No household income limits
- Homeowners contact PHFA directly and work with a participating lender
- Call (855) 827-3466 or visit
   phfa.org > Sewer Repair Help

Most Primary Owner-Occupied Residences

Repair or replacement of existing on-lot septic systems

Repair or replacement of existing laterals to public sewer

First-time connections to public sewer and tap-in fees\*

\*Includes both tap-in fee and construction costs, but applicant may choose to only finance initial tap-in fee



### Want to learn more?

PENNVEST Processes:

A Deep Dive

Virtual Sessions

April 3 –
Preparing for a PENNVEST
Application

Aug. 20 –
The PENNVEST Funding
Application Process

## How to Register

Visit

www.pa.gov/pennvest

Pennsylvania
Infrastructure
Investment Authority PENNVEST

Our mission is to serve communities through capital funding for drinking water,
wastewater stormwater non-point source pollution prevention and other



Our mission is to serve communities through capital funding for drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, non-point source pollution prevention and other related projects. PENNVEST funding aids communities to increase the health and safety of Commonwealth citizens, protect our environment, promote economic development, and improve water quality.

## Expand the "Resources Tools and Training" section

Select "Training Center"



## **Training Center**

In-person and Virtual event lists.

Select the event date to view event details and the registration form.

#### PENNVEST In-Person Information Exchange Events

Select the event from the list below to be directed to that event's registration form.

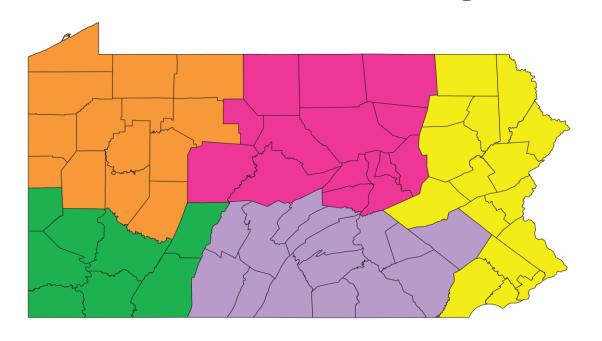
Somerset County Thursday, April 17, 2025 REGISTER NOW	ď
Lycoming County Wednesday, April 30, 2025 REGISTER NOW	ď
Warren County Thursday, May 1, 2025 REGISTER NOW	ď
Mifflin County Thursday, May 22, 2025 REGISTER NOW	ď
Bucks County Thursday, June 12, 2025 REGISTER NOW	ď
Lawrence County Thursday, July 24, 2025 REGISTER NOW	ď
Adams County Tuesday, August 26, 2025 REGISTER NOW	ď

#### PENNVEST Virtual Information Exchange Events

This year's virtual events are designed to build knowledge through the PENNVEST process. The session in March will provide an overview of PENNVEST, identify eligible projects, and review various funding programs available. April's session will provide instruction on what a prospective applicant is required to prepare before beginning an application. The session in August will walk attendees through the application process and provide best practices to ensure a complete and informative application.

Virtual - PENNVEST Overview Session Tuesday, March 11, 2025 REGISTER NOW	ď
Virtual - Preparing for a PENNVEST Application Thursday, April 3, 2025 REGISTER NOW	ď
Virtual - The PENNVEST Funding Application Process Wednesday, August 20, 2025 REGISTER NOW	ď

## **PENNVEST Regional Contacts**



www.pa.gov/pennvest



facebook.com/pennvest



linkedin.com/company/pennvest

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