

# Civic Innovation Hub

## Session 4: Municipal Planning & Financing for Climate Resilience

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### Municipal Staff Roles

- **Public Works:** Municipal agency responsible for maintenance of infrastructure including roads, snowplowing, drinking water, and stormwater. Some communities have engineers on staff.
- **Planning Staff:** Municipal staff responsible for planning for land use, economic and community development, emergency preparedness, etc. They often work with other departments to develop plans that include stormwater infrastructure. Some municipalities have their own in-house staff, whereas some hire a planning firm that provides a staff member to the municipality for a contracted period.
- **Town Manager or Administrator:** Oversees the budget and responsible for all the town's departments. Ultimately responsible for stormwater management of the community's roadways and other public spaces and infrastructure. With the Mayor/Council they are responsible for developing the capital plan which sets the budget for projects.

### Types of Financing

#### Tax Base

**Taxes:** Generally the largest source of finance for any municipality, property taxes are collected by the County and then paid out to the municipalities. Sales taxes are also a source of revenue in our communities, though some communities have much less of this than others.

#### SRF Funding

**State-Revolving Loan Fund (SRF):** Additional funding source for communities to address infrastructure repairs and upgrades, including green and grey infrastructure projects. When communities apply for funding, they must pay back the SRF loan amount, though communities with lower median household income are offered partial or total loan forgiveness.

## The County, State, and Federal Funding

**County, State, and Federal Funds:** Governments often have targeted grants that can cover stormwater infrastructure. There is currently a lot of federal money for infrastructure that communities can access through the state, the county, or local agencies. When communities complete total road rebuilds, they can redo storm infrastructure, so federal transportation funding can be a way that communities can attend to storm infrastructure. There are a few programs directly administered by the federal government. For example FEMA disaster funding and some EPA funding both can be applied to stormwater infrastructure.

## Private Grants & Foundations

**Private Grants & Foundations:** Sometimes, communities can access philanthropic fundings (money that comes from a private source such as from corporations, estates, pooled donation funds, trusts, etc) to support stormwater work. Most philanthropies work directly with community groups or non-profits, and some may be able to provide grants to local governments directly. Grants are an amount of money over a time period given by the donor to operate a program or projects (sometimes they can cover general operations for non-profits). This money is available by developing relationships with program officers and submitting a successful application.