

# Congress Must Act Now to Extend Funding for Wastewater Monitoring: A Key Tool to Detect Emerging Threats and Protect Communities

Over the past five years, communities across the country have come to rely on wastewater as a modern early warning system to detect infectious diseases and help protect families. Whether it is seasonal viruses, emerging threats like avian influenza or measles, or even the next pandemic, wastewater now plays a crucial and cost-effective role in detecting threats before they appear in hospitals—empowering communities and individuals to respond proactively and make informed health care decisions. According to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, wastewater monitoring is fast and effective, does not require individual testing or clinician reporting, protects privacy, and “will continue to be a valuable component of the nation’s strategy to manage infectious disease outbreaks.”

Now is the time to build on, not dismantle, this significant progress. Wastewater funding expired at the end of fiscal year (FY) 2025, and despite strong bipartisan support, Congress has not secured sustained funding. Once jurisdictions have exhausted the funding that was allocated at the end of 2025, programs will be forced to end or scale back operations, decreasing population coverage and limiting the capacity to test for additional and novel pathogens. Americans are losing access to a vital early warning system, leaving our nation less equipped to confront emerging threats. Swift action is the only way to prevent further loss and greater risk.

Wastewater Action Alliance (WAA) is working to strengthen America’s wastewater monitoring system and secure renewed federal funding so that American families, communities, and health care providers nationwide have access to its valuable, real-time, and life-saving data.



**\$150 million is urgently needed for FY 2027**

to continue CDC’s critical wastewater monitoring system in **all 50 states** and strengthen the ability of states and communities to quickly detect and respond to new and emerging health threats.

**Congress must act now to strengthen and sustain this important tool that has modernized our nation’s ability to detect threats and protect individuals, families, and communities all while protecting individual privacy.**

