



Southeast Manager, Funding Navigator

Background

Inadequate water infrastructure puts lives, livelihoods, and nature at risk and prevents residents from living the healthy and prosperous lives they deserve. Too many households lack reliable access to safe drinking water and sanitation. Too many communities face contamination from water pollution or are ill-equipped to manage stormwater. Too many utilities don't even apply for federal help because programs are complicated, and state agency resources for supporting these utilities can be limited. Climate change amplifies these threats, and systemic disinvestment along lines of race and class has resulted in communities of color and low-income communities bearing greater environmental injustices. Addressing such structural problems requires an array of solutions, including equitable public and private infrastructure investments.

With its national and local partners, EPIC has launched a [Funding Navigator](#) to help overburdened water utilities invest in community-centered, climate-resilient drinking water provision, wastewater treatment, and stormwater management. EPIC provides technical assistance through philanthropic support and as a [National Environmental Finance Center](#). EPIC is seeking to hire a project manager who has: 1) a passion for stepping up to this type of challenge; 2) talent and hands-on experience managing projects involving teams with diverse perspectives or technical areas of expertise; and 3) experience working with community groups or utilities on infrastructure projects.

Position Description

Reporting to the Funding Navigator National Manager, the Southeast Funding Navigator Manager will lead and advance EPIC's efforts to connect utilities in overburdened municipalities with technical assistance, community engagement, and state and federal funds for infrastructure. The focus will be on municipalities and tribes in EPA Region 4 (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee), with additional work outside the EPA region as needed. We are looking for someone with water sector experience, experience managing projects that involve teams of contractors or stakeholders; engaging with state program staff, water utility managers, municipal leaders, or environmental justice groups; building or leading diverse coalitions; or experience with infrastructure funding programs. We seek candidates who can manage EPIC's regional Funding Navigator projects within a small organizational structure and help build momentum working with engineers, state agencies, EPA, other nonprofits and technical assistance providers.

We know there is not one ideal candidate who has all the traits listed below. If you have a mix of interests, skills, and experience related to the above – and a passion for this work, we encourage you to apply!

Responsibilities

- Together with the Funding Navigator team and a team of local and national partners, recruit, build relationships with, and provide guidance and technical assistance to communities through all stages of the process of applying for state and federal funds, from assessing capital investment needs, facilitating project designs through contracting with consultants, and ultimately developing robust applications for funds.
- Work closely with state SRF program staff, regional EPA staff, other agency personnel, and other Environmental Finance Centers in managing initial outreach to communities seeking help.
- Coordinate collaboration between partners. Provide communication on and assist with management of EPIC's program consultant and partner contracts and MOUs.
- Together with the Funding Navigator team and partners, work with other technical assistance providers and community-based organizations to assist in the development of effective, equitable infrastructure projects.
- Provide guidance, and help build an effective regional team that serves as an advocate for equitable public policies and investments in communities that need assistance.
- Identify and participate in working groups, associations, and nonprofit collaborations.
- Work with partners to provide thought leadership based on lessons learned, and contribute to case studies, blogs, best practices, and grant reports.
- Participate in webinars, convenings, and public events to highlight prominent issues and solutions.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree required, with a preference for study in engineering, environmental science, or public administration. Applicants should note certificates in public management, water or wastewater operations, or environmental sampling and compliance if relevant.
- 3+ years' experience in one or more of the following areas: water infrastructure design or finance, water utility operations or utility or municipal finance, project management. Time pursuing a graduate degree and other relevant experience can serve for portions of this experience requirement.
- Expertise providing leadership and/or coordinating teams to keep projects on track.
- Experience with community-based participatory projects. This experience may include activities such as facilitating municipal or neighborhood meetings.
- Understanding of or willingness to learn about federal and state funding programs for water infrastructure.
- Experience leading initiatives that require carrying forward a vision, thinking strategically, making quick decisions, and forming and sharing opinions on policy.
- Strong people and program management skills. This position will work with peers, contractors, and stakeholders, especially with municipal staff and elected officials.
- Ability to accomplish multiple goals, with a focus on outcomes.
- Passion for pursuing equitable outcomes.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Creative thinking and flexibility.

We will prioritize candidates who can bring:

- Experience working with municipalities and/or tribes in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and/or Tennessee.
- Understanding of the technical or financial management of a water utility.
- Experience working for or providing technical assistance to a water utility.
- Skills and experience with community-centered project development.
- Experience managing, monitoring, or reporting for state or federal government funding programs.
- Experience measuring and evaluating project outcomes.
- A network of contacts within water utilities, trade associations, and local or state government agencies.

Location

The Manager will be based in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, or Tennessee. We anticipate that this position will require travel approximately once a month for regional meetings, conferences, and other events and approximately 1-3 times per year nationally. Work other than travel is done at the candidate's home office.

Salary Range

\$75,000 - \$90,000 based on experience and qualifications.

Benefits

EPIC offers an excellent benefits package that includes health, dental and vision care, 401k contributions, and four weeks of paid time off.

Applying

Qualified candidates should send an email to Steve Barr at sbarr@policyinnovation.org with "Manager, Funding Navigator" in the subject line. Please include a resume and a cover letter. This job post will remain open through August 18, 2023.

About EPIC

Thank you for your interest in working with the [Environmental Policy Innovation Center \(EPIC\)](#). EPIC builds policies that deliver spectacular improvement in the speed and scale of environmental progress so people and nature can thrive. A national nonprofit, EPIC is committed to finding and highlighting the best approaches to scaling up results quickly. EPIC works to further environmental and public health outcomes by improving water infrastructure, restoration, procurement, endangered species, and the use of data. EPIC operates through a fiscal sponsorship with the Sand County Foundation.