



Funding Navigator Manager, Lead Service Lines

Background

The next five years will see a historic investment by the federal government in water through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. However, disparities across water systems will endure unless we seize the moment to reform policies that leave too many US residents without access to clean water and too many water systems without the capacity to maintain and improve their drinking water, wastewater and stormwater treatment systems. Our water team was founded around the knowledge that there are solutions, innovations, capacities, and policy changes that can dramatically increase the speed and effectiveness with which we solve these problems. We believe we can play an important role in making that happen, through direct work helping communities - especially overburdened, underserved ones - secure support. And through analysis and policy work to make change happen on a systems level. Equity and justice are at the center of the water team's [initiatives](#), as we work on policies and programs related to the accessibility of safe, affordable water; the right to clean water; and facilitating access to funding and environmental services for under-resourced communities.

Along with national and local partners, EPIC's [Funding Navigator](#) helps water utilities and municipalities, especially those serving overburdened, underserved communities, invest in drinking water provision, wastewater treatment, and stormwater management. That capacity is financed through philanthropic support and from EPA, for whom we serve as a [National Environmental Finance Center](#) (EFC). Helping communities replace lead service lines is a big part of our technical assistance, which works in concert with our [lead service line replacement \(LSLR\) initiative](#) to advance strategies that replace pipes efficiently so the available funding goes further and is more likely to be used to advance equity priorities. EPIC is seeking to hire a Manager located in the Midwest, Northeast, or Mid-Atlantic 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 utilities, municipalities, or community groups on lead service line replacement and other infrastructure projects.

About 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.

Position Description

Reporting to the Funding Navigator Director, the Funding Navigator Manager brings demonstrated experience with lead service lines to the job from Day 1 and leads EPIC's efforts to advance faster lead service line replacement and connect utilities in overburdened, underserved municipalities with technical assistance, community engagement, and state and federal funds for infrastructure. 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; and building or leading diverse coalitions. An example of an ideal candidate might be an engineer or operator with public works experience or a project manager who has connected municipalities with public funds for capital projects.

We seek candidates who can manage EPIC's Funding Navigator projects within a small organizational structure and build momentum working with engineers, state agencies, EPA, other nonprofits, community-based organizations, and technical assistance providers. The Manager is part of a team with expertise in engineering, utility and municipal management and finance, community engagement, policy analysis, regulatory programs, and data science.

Responsibilities

- Acquire knowledge of state and federal funding programs, and serve as a resource for EPIC staff, municipalities, utilities, and community-based organizations.
- Together with EPIC staff and 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, engaging with community, and ultimately developing robust applications for funding and financing.
- Identify and help advance leading practices such as innovative contracting, partnerships with community-based organizations, local ordinances, easement policies, and other approaches that create efficiencies, economies of scale, and frameworks that result in fast, equitable replacement of the nation's lead service lines, working closely with policy analysts on EPIC's team to distill and articulate best practices.
- Provide frequent, sustained, proactive outreach and follow-up to communities, utilities, and others to build and actively maintain networks that are critical to EPIC's success with technical assistance and expanding lead service line replacement work.
- Help report on technical assistance outcomes. Provide support to the Funding Navigator team, with a special focus on lead service line inventory development and replacement.
- Coordinate collaboration between partners. Provide communication on and assist with management of EPIC's program consultant and partner contracts and MOUs.
- Work with EPIC's water policy team to document, publicize, and advocate for programs, policies, and processes that make it easier for municipalities and utilities serving overburdened, underserved communities to successfully apply for public funds and replace lead service lines faster and equitably.
- Work with partners to provide thought leadership based on lessons learned, and contribute to case studies, blogs, best practices, and grant reports.
- Identify and participate in working groups, associations, and nonprofit collaborations.
- Participate in webinars, convenings, and public events to highlight prominent issues and solutions.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree required, with a preference for degrees in engineering, environmental science, or public administration. Applicants should note certificates in management, water or wastewater operations, or environmental sampling and compliance if relevant.
- At least 5 years of experience in one or more of the following areas: water infrastructure design or finance, water utility operations, utility or municipal finance, project management. Time pursuing a graduate degree and other relevant experience may serve for portions, but not all, of this experience requirement.
- Experience with lead service line inventory development and replacement.
- Experience providing leadership or coordinating teams to keep projects on track.
- 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 and programs.
- Strong people and program management skills. This position will work with peers, contractors, and stakeholders, especially with municipal staff and elected officials.
- A track record of proactive communication, collaboration and networking that builds and grows the one-on-one and group relationships that are critical to initiating and continuing work with the individual communities that are the heart of our technical assistance and lead service line work.
- Experience with community-based participatory projects. This experience may include activities such as facilitating municipal or community meetings.
- 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 or utilities in the Midwest, Northeast, or Mid-Atlantic.
- 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.
- Business development skills.
- 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 or municipal associations, and local or state government agencies.

Location

The Manager will preferably be based in the Midwest, Northeast, or Mid-Atlantic and will also support our work outside these regions. We anticipate that this position will require travel 1-2 times per month for project meetings and regional convenings but possibly more often depending on the candidate's interest and the way in-person engagement is working for the candidate and potential partner

communities. Travel for other national events will occur approximately 1 - 3 times per year. Work other than travel is done at the candidate's home office.

Salary Range

\$80,000-\$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 Lilly Slaughter at lslaughter@policyinnovation.org with "Manager, Funding Navigator" in the subject line. Please include a resume and a cover letter labeled with your last name, followed by the document type (e.g. "Ibrahim_Resume").

We believe that including more people from a broad diversity of backgrounds, including people of color, people from working class backgrounds, women, and LGBTQ people, is essential for achieving our vision. We strongly encourage applications from people with these identities or who are members of other marginalized communities.

We know there is not one ideal candidate who has all the traits listed in this job post. If you have a mix of interests, skills, and related experience - and a passion for this work - please do not let a gap in your strengths stop you from applying for this role or reaching out.

Thank you for your interest in working with EPIC!