



Office of Drinking Water

December 2016

The mission of the Office of Drinking Water is to protect the health of the people of Washington State by ensuring safe and reliable drinking water. We regulate public water systems under state law, and a formal agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to carry out the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, which establishes minimum standards for drinking water quality.

About 5.75 million Washington residents get their drinking water from about 17,500 regulated public water systems. Most of these water systems have less than 15 service connections and are regulated under the State Board of Health rules. The remaining systems – about 4,100 – are subject to both state law and the federal Safe Drinking Water Act requirements. Another million residents get their drinking water from sources such as wells, which are not subject to state or federal drinking water regulations. We work with water systems to prevent potential health risks by preventing contamination of their water, monitoring water quality, and making improvements to their infrastructure. We provide training, technical and financial assistance, and when necessary enforce standards and take action to get a water system back into compliance. The following services are key to helping water systems, especially smaller systems, maintain safe, reliable water supplies.

Services

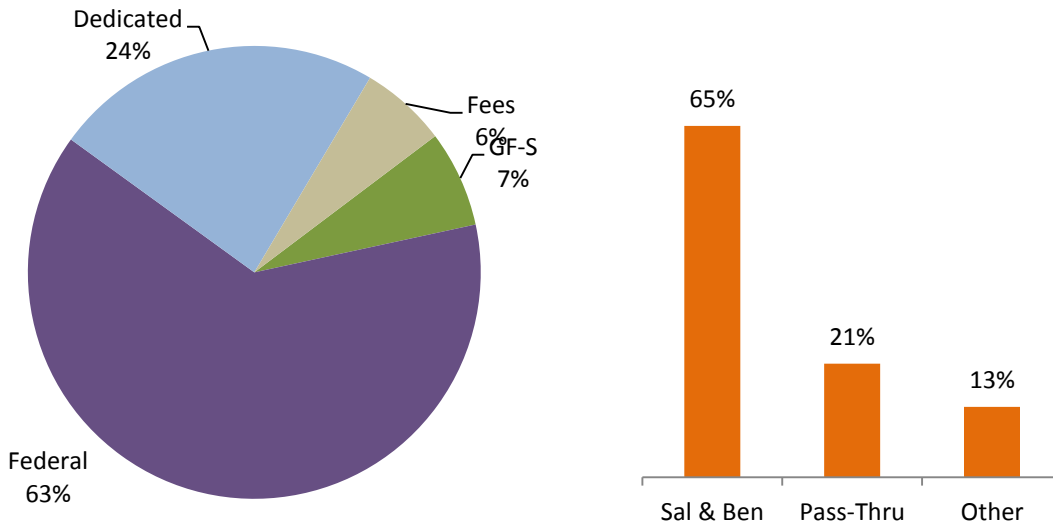
- **Respond to health threats from drinking water emergencies** - We are prepared to respond 24-7 to any drinking water emergency or threat – whether a natural disaster, security breach, or a waterborne disease risk.
- **Provide accurate, easily accessible drinking water data and information to all** - We smartly invest in our technologies and services to meet our internal needs and share key drinking water information with the public.
- **Know how water is being provided by public water systems** - We collect, update and communicate accurate system information, inspect facilities, certify operators, and approve plans, designs and construction projects.
- **Know the quality of water being provided by public water systems** - We promote good water quality at the source and track samples from all public water systems to protect people from microbial and chemical contaminants.
- **Make it clear to public water systems what responsibilities are** - We promote water system sustainability and adopt rules, and provide tools, funding, and assistance to help water systems achieve technical, managerial, and financial capacity.
- **Take appropriate compliance actions and help systems return to compliance** - We use our enforcement tools when needed and first take on high priority violations and clear cases of fraud.
- **Stay ahead of the curve** - We have the staff expertise and leadership to meet current needs and the vision to create the drinking water program of the future, exploring new ways to meet our mission.

Stakeholders

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Local health jurisdictions
- Interest groups such as:
 - Washington Water Utility Council
 - Washington State Public Utility District Association
 - Association of Washington Cities
 - Washington Association of Water and Sewer Districts

Office of Drinking Water Fiscal Information

2015-17 biennium



	GF-S	Federal	Dedicated	Fees	Total	Sal & Ben	Investments	Other
Total	2,207,575	20,315,424	7,553,026	1,981,382	32,057,407	20,964,194	6,877,379	4,215,834

Recent Funding History

- Since the 2007-09 biennium we've seen our federal funds decline slightly. The most significant changes to any of our sources have been General Fund-State.
- During the 2007-09 biennium the Group B water systems program was reduced by \$270,000 GF-S
- In the 2009-11 biennium the remainder of the GF-S Group B water systems funding of \$1,160,000 was reduced. Other ongoing cuts to GF-S during the 2009-11 biennium were consultant costs, drinking water rules dissemination, IT source water protection, public water system adequacy, and various administrative efficiencies totaling \$616,000.
- In the 2011-13 biennial budget the Drinking Water program was reduced \$120,000 as a part of the Operating Permit fee request, as well as \$618,000 for water technical support provided to public water systems throughout the state, both of which are ongoing.
- In the 2013-15 biennial budget the GF-S appropriation was further reduced by \$100,000. Over the last four years, the Office of Drinking Water's GF-S has seen a 26% reduction.
- For 2015-2017 the legislature enacted a one-time fund shift of \$1.5 million, reducing GFS and increasing appropriation authority for a dedicated account.

In addition, Washington State receives approximately \$20 million of the Congressional Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) appropriation each year. The DWSRF program provides loans to community and nonprofit non-community water systems for capital improvements that increase public health protection and compliance with drinking water regulations. The dollars associated with the DWSRF are not included in the Office of Drinking Water Fiscal Information above.