

DRAFT AGENDA – SUBJECT TO CHANGE (last updated: May 31st, 2024)

2024 National Capacity Development and Operator Certification Workshop

50 Years of SDWA: Taking Lessons Learned to Build Towards a Sustainable Future

Wednesday, August 7th

7:00-8:00	Registration Begins	
8:00 – 8:30	Welcome / Opening Remarks	
8:30-9:45	Session 1 1 hr 15 min	BIL Breakdown <i>This session will focus on how the capacity development and operator certification programs can use BIL and related federal funding to support States and PWSs in receiving and coordinating technical assistance to build capacity and sustainability.</i>
9:45– 10:45	Technical Assistance Expo	
10:45 - 12:00	Session 2 1 hr 15 min	Making Federal Funding More Attractive <i>Join this session and learn about best practices to encourage systems to apply for federal funding and help support those who have historically struggled to obtain funds.</i>
12:00- 1:30	Lunch	
1:30-2:30	Session 3a 1 hr	Capacity Development Strategy Revisions <i>Attendees will learn from other states on new strategic programs added to their capacity development strategies, specifically with asset management and technical assistance. This session will also provide an opportunity for discussions on challenges faced since the required revisions, how states can leverage the strategies with other drinking water programs, and future implementation of the capacity development strategies.</i>
	Session 3b 1 hr	Operator Training <i>Join this session and learn about best practices to incorporate topics such as PFAS and other emerging contaminants, climate change, and cybersecurity in their operator training programs.</i>
2:30-3:00	Break and Technical Assistance Expo (cont.)	
3:00-5:00	Session 4a 2 hr	Capacity Development Roundtable <i>Join this roundtable to discuss challenges and barriers to implement the capacity development program and hear from attendees who have found creative ways to overcome various drinking water challenges. Discussion questions will be posted ahead of the workshop.</i>
	Session 4b 2 hr	Operator Certification Roundtable <i>Join this roundtable to discuss challenges and barriers to implement the operator certification program and hear from attendees who are leveraging resources to build up the operator certification and workforce development program. Discussion questions will be posted ahead of the workshop.</i>
5:00-6:30	Reception	
Thursday, August 8th		
7:30-8:00	Registration and Networking	
8:00 – 9:15	Session 5 1 hr 15 min	Leveraging Capacity Development to Improve Operator Certification Compliance <i>This session will focus on how capacity development can be used to enhance operator certification compliance. It will explore specific topics</i>

		<i>such as fraud, incompetence, and the lack of operators. The session will also delve into how capacity development can help systems overcome various problems and therefore bring them back into compliance.</i>
9:15 – 10:30	Session 6 1 hr 15 min	Opportunities for New Workforce and Entry Level Jobs <i>Attendees will have an opportunity to share ideas and best practices related to recruitment and career development of the water workforce, from K-12 education programs to supporting new managers.</i>
10:30-10:45	Break	
10:45 – 12:00	Session 7 1 hr 15 min	Succession Planning <i>This session will connect how the transition of knowledge is key to building the technical and managerial capacity of public water systems.</i>
12:00-1:30	Lunch	
1:30-2:30	Session 8 1 hr	Assessing TMF Capacity <i>Learn how States are assessing capacity and identify common indications for systems that have sufficient and sustainable capacity.</i>
2:30-3:30	Session 9 1 hr	Utilizing Baseline Measures and Databases <i>This session will highlight states who are leveraging baseline measures and databases to improve their capacity development and operator certification program strategies and implementation.</i>
3:30-4:00	Break and Networking	
4:00-5:15	Session 10 1 hr 15 min	Emergency Response and Cybersecurity <i>Learn from states who are encouraging public water systems prepare and implement emergency management and response plans for natural disasters, cyber-attacks, and more.</i>
Friday, August 9th		
7:30-8:00	Networking	
8:00 – 9:30	Session 11 1 hr 30 min	Lead Service Line Accelerators Panel <i>Hear from one of the communities in Wisconsin on their experience participating the Lead Service Line Accelerators Pilot Program.</i>
9:30-10:00	Break and Networking	
10:00 – 11:30	Session 12 1 hr 30 min	Engagement Catch-All <i>Join this interactive session to explore communication and engagement challenges and effective strategies across drinking water programs and audiences.</i>
11:30 – 12:00	Closing Remarks	