

**Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Access Data Collection Act of 2024  
(WASH Access Data Collection Act)**

Today, **more than two million Americans live without running water and basic indoor plumbing, and many more without sanitation.** Access to reliable water and safe sanitation remains out of reach for some of the most vulnerable people in the United States: people of color, lower-income people in rural areas, and Tribal communities, among others. Communities that did not benefit from past federal investments in water and sanitation infrastructure have a hard time catching up, and some communities even report that they are losing access to services they once had.

Closing the water access gap in the United States is difficult because no one entity collects comprehensive data on the scope of the problem. Current federal data does not accurately measure the water access gap; it undercounts vulnerable communities, it does not include wastewater services, and it is inconsistent. Additionally, there are not sufficient financial assistance options to install water service and delivery infrastructure for communities in need of decentralized water and sanitation infrastructure. Access to water and sanitation is a fundamental necessity, yet for far too long, impacted and disadvantaged communities have disproportionately suffered from water insecurity, poverty, and health disparities. **To be able to address and eliminate the water access gap once and for all, there is a pressing need to prioritize the collection of data on water access needs across the U.S.**

The WASH Access Data Collection Act takes critical action to improve both data on water and sanitation access, and expand interagency coordination to close the gap, forever.

**WASH Access Data Collection Act of 2024:**

- Creates dedicated federal data collection on water access needs across the United States to understand the impacts of the growing water access gap in each state and territory.
- Establishes an interagency Water and Sanitation Needs Working Group to more accurately survey households in the United States that do not have complete access to water and sanitation services. Requires the Working Group to develop a report on water and sanitation needs not less frequently than once every 5 years.
- Mandates a report on the cost estimate for capital improvements needed to ensure that all households in the United States have access to reliable drinking water and adequate sanitation, with cost estimates aggregated by Congressional district.
- Authorizes appropriations for fiscal years 2025 through 2029 at \$10,000,000 each year, with sums for fiscal year 2030 and each fiscal year after to carry out the above activities.