



Congresswoman
RASHIDA TLAIB
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The Water Access and Affordability Act

Water is a basic necessity. Safe, accessible, and affordable drinking water is essential to public health. Millions of Americans cannot afford their water bills, and many water utilities cannot afford to maintain their infrastructure. The federal government must increase water assistance to households and public water utilities so that every low-income household is able to access water assistance.

The Water Access and Affordability Act amends Part E of the Safe Drinking Water Act to establish the **Low-Income Drinking Water Assistance Program** within the EPA. Within 12 months of enactment, the EPA Administrator must establish this federal program, which will include drinking water access programs that provide financial assistance to low-income households, the provision of technical assistance to community water systems, and data collection and reporting. **\$20 billion is appropriated annually** for the next 10 years to carry out the program.

- The Administrator shall establish a drinking water access program in each EPA region.
 - o Community Advisory Committees comprised of low-income residents, nonprofit organizations, water utilities, and other relevant stakeholders will be established in each EPA region to advise the EPA on implementation of the drinking water access program in their region.
 - o The Administrator shall establish minimum requirements, including:
 - **Provisions to promote universal access to drinking water assistance** for low-income households, including automatic enrollment and requirements minimizing enrollment burdens.
 - **Assistance to low-income households**, including direct financial assistance, debt relief, water crisis and disconnection assistance, and water efficiency assistance including plumbing repairs.
 - **A prohibition on water service disconnections and associated fees.**
 - **Equitable treatment of owner-occupant households and renter households.**
- The Administrator shall provide funding to **technical assistance** providers to facilitate enrollment by low-income households and to assist small and mid-sized water systems in participating in water access programs. The Administrator will establish annual **data disclosure and reporting** requirements and make this data easily accessible to promote transparency and accountability.
- The bill promotes transparency by adding public review and comment procedures and establishing new reporting requirements for States utilizing State Revolving Loan Funds and Water Pollution Control Revolving Loan Funds. It also allows water and wastewater systems serving disadvantaged communities to more easily apply for funding.

119th Congress Cosponsors (as of 4/1/26): Tlaib, Dingell, DeLuzio, Lee (PA), Norton, Ramirez, Thanedar

118th Congress Cosponsors: Tlaib, Dingell, Barragan, Brownley, Bush, Carson, Cleaver, Garcia (IL), Gomez, Huffman, Jacobs, Jayapal, Lee (PA), Moore (WI), Mullin, Norton, Ocasio-Cortez, Ruiz, Sewell, Thanedar, Tokuda, Velazquez

Endorsers (partial): Congressional Progressive Caucus, PolicyLink, Earthjustice, Natural Resources Defense Council, Mothering Justice, Clean Water Action, National Wildlife Federation, Freshwater Future, Green Latinos, Community Water Center, Elevate, River Network, Center for Water Security and Cooperation, We The People of Detroit, Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition, Michigan Faith in Action, Michigan United, Detroit People's Platform, Water Equals Life Coalition, Alliance for the Great Lakes, Detroit Hamtramck Coalition for Advancing Health Environments

Reach out to Andrew.Goddeeris@mail.house.gov in Rep. Tlaib's office to cosponsor or ask any questions!