

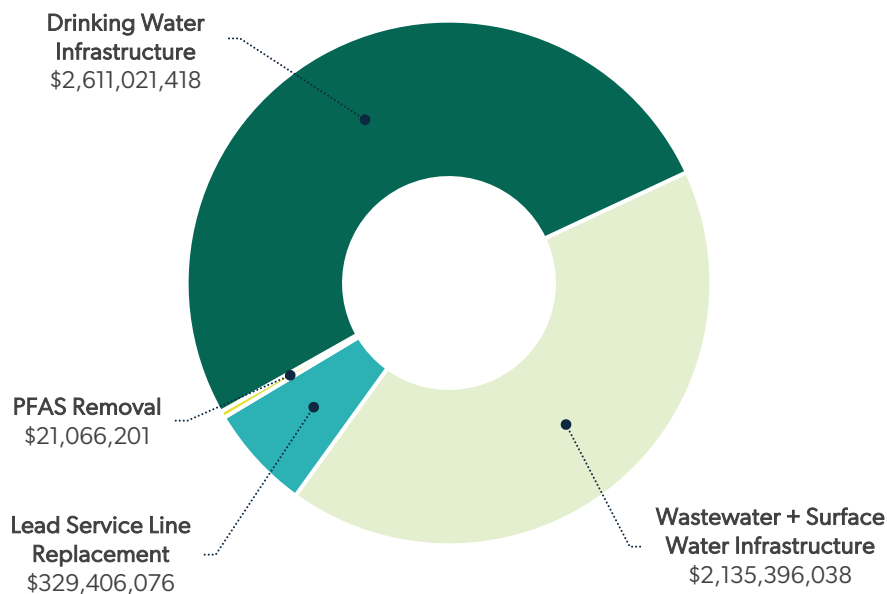
Investing in Water Infrastructure, Investing in *Illinois's* Future

Water shapes every facet of our daily lives, but the infrastructure we depend on to make safe, reliable water for people and the environment possible is under mounting stress.

Funding vs. Need—A Growing Gap

In 2025, Illinois received only 6% (about \$553.7 million in federal funding) of the annual funding it needs for its water infrastructure, leaving many capital needs unmet. The costs of inaction compound over time: every year that needed investments are deferred, the price tag grows, and what isn't covered by federal or state funding ultimately falls on local ratepayers.

Annual Water Infrastructure Needs



— Over the next 20 years, the state requires \$102 billion in investment to bring its water and wastewater infrastructure to a state of good repair. This equals roughly \$5 billion each year—or \$402 per resident per year.

Consequences of Inaction

When water infrastructure fails, it disrupts basic needs—safe homes, clean drinking water, and healthy ecosystems—and can stall growth and the economy. Just a 24-hour disruption in water and wastewater services would mean significant losses to key industries in Illinois.

Sector	Daily Losses – Millions of Dollars
Accommodation and food service	\$-136.9
Food and beverage	\$-147.7
Chemical and pharmaceutical	\$-66.1
Human health activities	\$-196.6
Real estate activities	\$-226.7
Arts entertainment and recreation	\$-42.1

Water's Economic Potential

These aren't just unavoidable costs for an essential service—closing the nation's water infrastructure investment gap represents a major opportunity to strengthen Illinois' economy, workforce, and communities for the long term.

Every \$1 invested in water infrastructure in Illinois supports \$1.98 in economic output nationally. Meeting the national funding need over a 20-year period would support \$860 per capita in economic output, contribute \$6.23 billion to state GDP, create 47,900 jobs, and generate \$3.30 billion in wages for Illinois annually.

Sectors that are key to Illinois' economy would also stand to gain.

Sector	Annual Economic Output – Millions of Dollars
Direct Impacts	
Construction	\$3,920
Prof/Tech Services	\$602
Real Estate & Leasing	\$300
Government Enterprises	\$170
Utilities	\$30
Indirect and Induced Impacts	
Manufacturing	\$1,018
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	\$658
Wholesale Trade	\$629
Finance and Insurance	\$520
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	\$475



Shared Prosperity

Water infrastructure investments rely on national supply chains for materials, equipment, and specialized services. When other states invest in water, Illinois benefits—and vice versa. Closing the national gap also means other states' water infrastructure investments benefit Illinois. The top three indirect sources of GDP growth would be:

- **Wisconsin:** \$184 million in GDP gains from investment in Wisconsin, largely to Illinois's Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services industry (\$28.1 million GDP impact).
- **Indiana:** \$136 million in GDP gains from investment in Indiana, largely to Illinois's Wholesale Trade industry (\$25.5 million GDP impact).
- **Iowa:** \$113 million in GDP gains from investment in Iowa, largely to Illinois's Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services industry (\$18.0 million GDP impact).

Likewise, investment in Illinois benefits other states' GDPs. The top three beneficiaries by state GDP growth would be:

- **Indiana:** \$83 million in GDP gains to Indiana, led by Illinois's connections to Indiana's Petroleum and Coal Products Manufacturing industry (\$10.8 million GDP impact).
- **Wisconsin:** \$59 million in GDP gains to Wisconsin, led by Illinois's connections to Wisconsin's Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing industry (\$5.5 million GDP impact).
- **Missouri:** \$51 million in GDP gains to Missouri, led by Illinois's connections to Missouri's Wholesale Trade industry (\$8.5 million GDP impact).

Read the full report, *The Economic Benefits of Investing in Water Infrastructure*, at www.thevalueofwater.org.

