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When $20 Billion Isn't Enough: Water Infrastructure

States are spending about $20 billion of the flexible funding from the American Rescue Plan Act on water infrastructure. Demand is expected to grow in coming years.

In Brief:

- States are spending $20 billion of the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds included in the American Rescue Plan Act on water infrastructure.
- Overall federal funding for clean drinking water systems has shrunk dramatically, from 63 percent of capital improvements in 1977 to 9 percent 40 years later.
- States in the West and the Southeast are spending the most ARPA money on water, anticipating population growth and climate change, while seeking to address inequities.

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