



Overview

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is calling on its members to urge their federal representatives in Congress to provide support for critical water restoration priorities in upcoming economic stimulus legislation. Our key message is that our federal governments must make every effort to accelerate the pace of recovery, and that the investments we are calling for will put residents to work and generate economic activity while addressing urgent needs in our communities. Specifically, the Cities Initiative is seeking investments that:

- Safeguard drinking water and modernize clean water infrastructure
- Help communities respond to coastal erosion and impacts from extreme weather events

Staff have prepared background information and sample materials for mayors and other municipal leaders to use in this campaign. Our efforts will include communications from the Cities Initiative; individual communications from mayors; and meetings for mayors with federal representatives to be coordinated by Cities Initiative staff. The campaign will begin with a June 25 webinar for members followed by focused actions in July and continuing on an ongoing basis as needed.

How to Take Action

The Cities Initiative asks you and your council to take the following actions to build support for investments in water infrastructure and coastal resilience:

- Complete the online survey** of water infrastructure and coastal protection projects in your community that are awaiting funding and are ready for implementation in 2020-2021. The survey and instructions are online at [Click Here for Survey](#)
- Send a letter to your federal representatives.** Use the attached sample and customize it with additional details on specific projects in your community. Consider copying this letter to your governor or premier, and be sure to share a copy with the Cities Initiative staff.
- Ask your city council to adopt a resolution** calling for federal investments in water infrastructure and coastal resilience and share this with your federal representatives. Use the attached sample and customize it to reflect your community's unique needs.
- Engage with fellow municipal leaders** in your area to encourage them to call on their federal representatives to support investments in water infrastructure and coastal resilience.
- Meet with your federal representatives** to convey your needs. Cities Initiative staff will be coordinating meetings for our members. You can expect to hear from us soon!
- Talk with the media** about how investments will create jobs, accelerate economic recovery and meet urgent needs in your community. Cities Initiative staff can help with talking points and media outreach.

Let us know how we can help with your outreach and if there are other actions we can take!

