



Office of Drinking Water June 2014

The mission of the Office of Drinking Water is to protect the health of the people of Washington State by ensuring safe and reliable drinking water. We regulate public water systems under state law, and a formal agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to carry out the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, which establishes minimum standards for drinking water quality.

About 5.75 million Washington residents get their drinking water from about 17,500 regulated public water systems. Most of these water systems have less than 15 service connections and are regulated under the State Board of Health rules. The remaining systems – about 4,100 – are subject to both state law and the federal Safe Drinking Water Act requirements. Another million residents get their drinking water from sources such as wells, which are not subject to state or federal drinking water regulations. We work with water systems to prevent potential health risks by preventing contamination of their water, monitoring water quality, and making improvements to their infrastructure. We provide training, technical and financial assistance, and when necessary enforce standards and take action to get a water system back into compliance. The following services are key to helping water systems, especially smaller systems, maintain safe, reliable water supplies.

Services

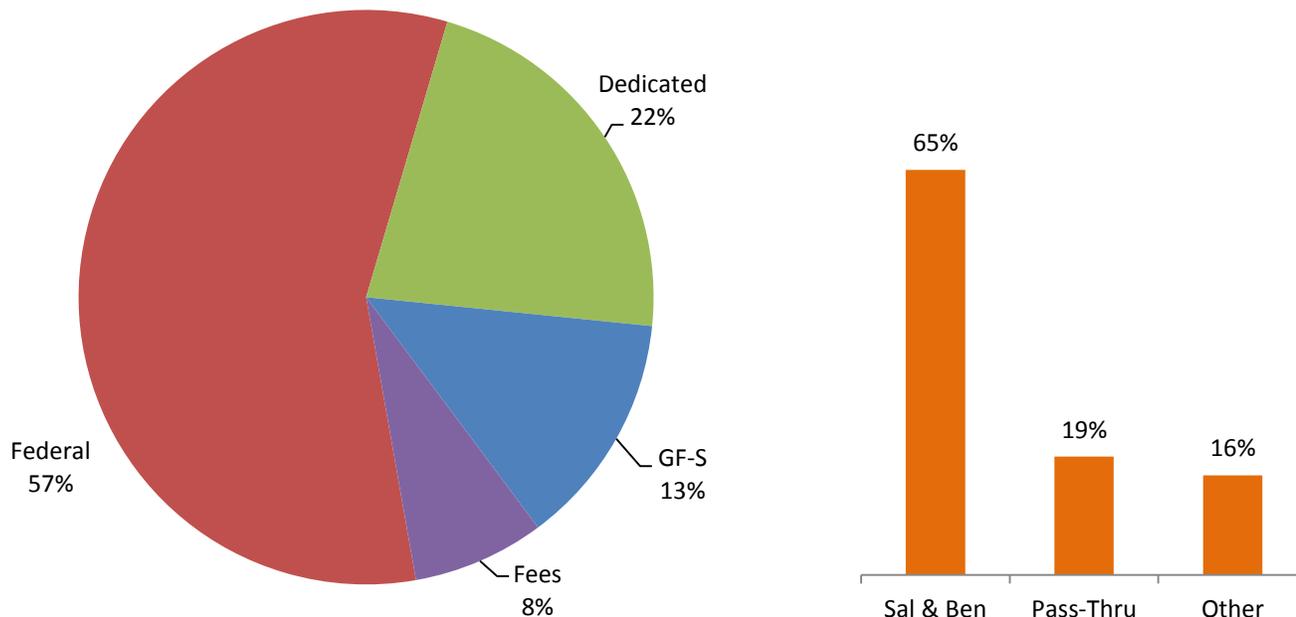
- **Respond to health threats from drinking water emergencies** - We are prepared to respond 24-7 to any drinking water emergency or threat – whether a natural disaster, security breach, or a waterborne disease risk.
- **Provide accurate, easily accessible drinking water data and information** - We invest in technologies and services to meet our internal needs and share key drinking water information with the public.
- **Know how water is being provided by public water systems** - We collect, update and communicate accurate system information, inspect facilities, certify operators, and approve plans, designs and construction projects.
- **Know the quality of water being provided by public water systems** - We promote good water quality at the source and track samples from all public water systems to protect people from microbial and chemical contaminants.
- **Make it clear to public water systems what their responsibilities are** - We promote water system sustainability and adopt rules, and provide tools, funding, and assistance to help water systems achieve technical, managerial, and financial capacity.
- **Take appropriate compliance actions and help systems return to compliance** - We use our enforcement tools when needed and first take on high priority violations and clear cases of fraud.
- **Stay ahead of the curve** - We have the staff expertise and leadership to meet current needs and the vision to create the drinking water program of the future, exploring new ways to meet our mission.

Stakeholders

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Local health jurisdictions
- Interest groups such as: Washington Water Utility Council; Washington State Public Utility District Association; Association of Washington Cities; Washington Association of Water and Sewer Districts

2013-15 Biennium

Office of Drinking Water Fiscal Information



	GF-S	Federal	Dedicated	Fees	Total	Sal & Ben	Pass-Thru	Other
Total	3,855,504	16,759,807	6,441,226	2,170,690	29,227,227	19,013,918	5,519,144	4,694,165

Recent Funding History

The General Fund-State is the match for our federal funding, so it is used to cover a variety of activities associated with implementing the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. The most significant changes to any of our sources have been General Fund-State.

2007-09 biennium:

- The Group B water systems program was reduced by \$270,000 GF-S.

2009-11 biennium

- The remainder of the GF-S funding for Group B water systems, totaling \$1,160,000, was reduced.
- Other ongoing cuts to GF-S totaled \$616,000 including: consultant costs, drinking water rules dissemination, IT source water protection, public water system adequacy, and various administrative efficiencies totaling

2011-13 biennium:

- Ongoing reductions of \$120,000 for the Drinking Water program as a part of the Operating Permit fee request, and \$618,000 for water technical support provided to public water systems

Washington State receives approximately \$20 million of the Congressional Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) appropriation each year. The DWSRF program provides loans to community and nonprofit non-community water systems for capital improvements. The dollars associated with the DWSRF are not included in the Office of Drinking Water Fiscal Information above.