



# ARPA Clean Water Funding in Virginia

*River Network / December 2021*

Anna Killius  
Government Affairs and Policy Manager  
*[akillius@thejamesriver.org](mailto:akillius@thejamesriver.org)*

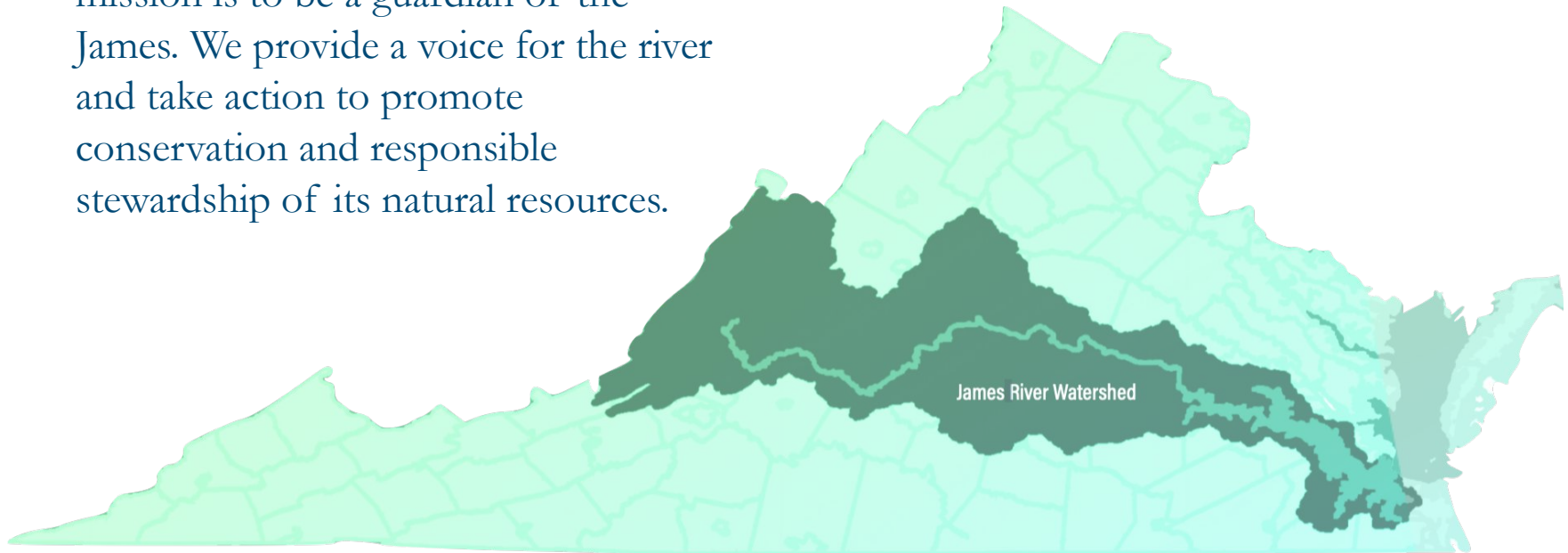
Who Are We?



# About the James River Association

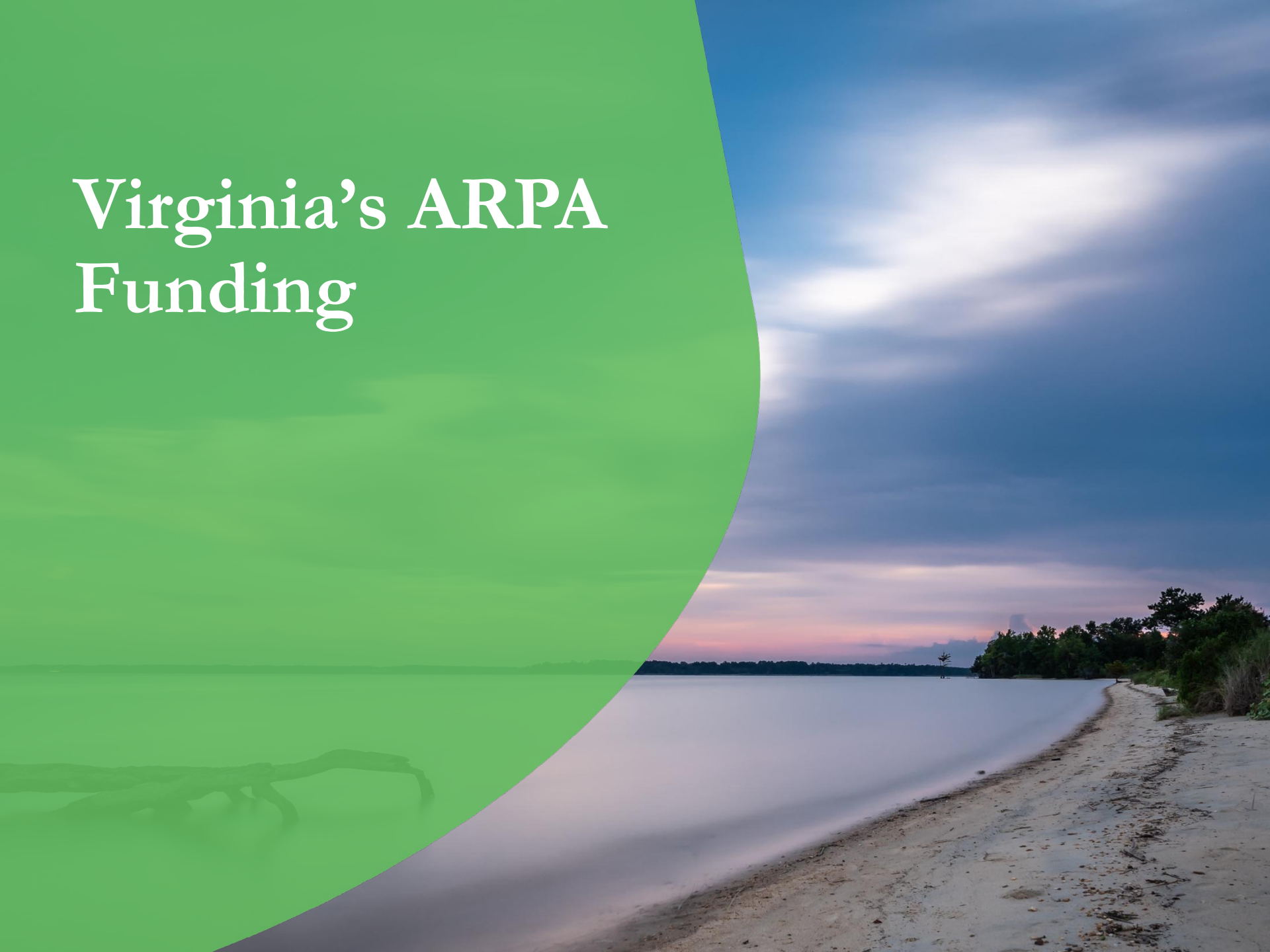
## Our Mission

At the James River Association, our mission is to be a guardian of the James. We provide a voice for the river and take action to promote conservation and responsible stewardship of its natural resources.





# Virginia's ARPA Funding



# Background

- \$4.3 billion in state ARPA funding
- August Special Session of the General Assembly
- State elections in November
- Over \$200 million in water quality investments already made in 2021, and multiple clean water policies passed over the past two years.



# Primed for Success

- Chesapeake Bay Agreement to meet pollution reductions by 2025.
- Strong support from Northam Administration with proven commitment to Bay cleanup.
- Resilient Commonwealth with state revenues exceeding projections.
- Clear assessments of financial need for state-mandated infrastructure improvements.



# ARPA Clean Water Priorities

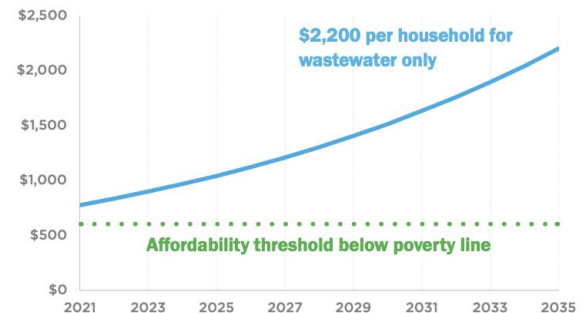
One-time infrastructure projects that will provide equitable access to clean water across the Commonwealth:

- Fixing Virginia's 3 Combined Sewer Systems
- Wastewater treatment plant upgrades within the James and York River Basins
- Eliminating straight pipes, repairing and replacing failed septic systems
- Access to clean, reliable drinking water at small and disadvantaged community waterworks

## An Opportunity for Justice

The City of Richmond, which is an environmental justice community under the Virginia Environmental Justice Act, currently has some of the highest wastewater rates in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

### Annual Wastewater Bill Without Funding



The James River contributes an estimated \$19 billion of economic value to Central Virginia every year. A cleaner river could significantly increase this value, sending a surge of new economic opportunities throughout the region.

Source: RVAH20



# Takeaways





# Takeaways from Virginia

1. Identify available needs assessments for planned or prospective projects.
2. Leverage recent legislative mandates and policies.
3. Create a list of shared priorities that reaches communities in need state-wide.
4. Communicate early.
5. Stay involved in the implementation.





**Anna Killius**

Government Affairs and Policy Manager  
*[AKillius@thejamesriver.org](mailto:AKillius@thejamesriver.org) |*

**JAMES RIVER ASSOCIATION**

211 Rocketts Way Suite 200  
Richmond, VA 23231  
*[TheJamesRiver.org](http://TheJamesRiver.org)*  
804.788.8811