



## **The Deep End: a Cohort Program on Water Basics**

The program is a series of one-day sessions, twelve sessions in total, that allow up to 12 individuals new to water a chance to acclimate to the industry in a small group setting while learning the fundamentals of working in the water sector. Individuals participating in at least 9 sessions and completing a capstone project will receive a certificate of completion.

1. Introduction to Working in Water
  - a. Human water cycle, where do you fit in?
  - b. Mentor/Mentee match\*
2. One Water – Water Treatment
  - a. SDWA, Treatment processes, lab basics, tour a water plant
3. One Water – Distribution and Field Operations
  - a. Pipes (transmission mains, distribution mains, services) valve selection, pumps, tanks, community water supply permits (EDDY), tour a pump station
4. One Water – Collection and Maintenance
  - a. Pipes (Trunk sewers, force mains, laterals), lift stations, capacity calculations, collection system permits (MIENVIRO)
5. One Water – Wastewater Treatment
  - a. Basic treatment, biosolids, biodigesters, basic lab, Clean Water Act
6. One Water – Stormwater and Source Water Protection
  - a. NPDES and other permits, source water protection plans, Watershed Councils/Orgs (LGROW)
7. Business of Water
  - a. Meter reading, rate setting, customer service and billing, purchasing, budgeting basics, grants and state/federal funding
8. Government Affairs
  - a. How water is regulated at the local, state, and federal levels
9. Career Planning (attend MI-ACE)



- a. Personal 5-year professional development plan, preventing Overwhelmed, executive functioning, organizational skills
- 10. Communicating Effectively
  - a. Engaging with management, networking, presentation skills
- 11. Introduction of Capstone
- 12. Capstone wrap up, reception/celebration/graduation

\*Mentorship – experienced professionals will be matched with individuals in the cohort. Mentor meetings will take place outside the scheduled class time.