



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Native American Affairs Tribal Webinar

Applying for Bureau of Reclamation Funding Opportunities
March 8, 2024

NAA Tribal Webinar Overview

March 8, 2024

- **Introductions**
Kelly Titensor, Native American Affairs (NAA) Advisor
- **NAA Technical Assistance Program Opportunities**
Kelly Titensor, NAA Technical Assistance Program Lead
- **Open WaterSMART Opportunities, Application Tips**
Irene Hoiby, Program Coordinator, Water Resources and Planning Office
- **Application Requirements**
Randy Filbert, Financial Assistance
- **Build America Buy America Waiver & Exemptions**
Ned Weakland, Acting Chief of Grants Office
- **Questions & Connections**



Native American Affairs Program

Ensure federally recognized Indian Tribes have the opportunity to participate in Reclamation programs in a way that:

- Respects Tribal sovereignty,
- Fulfills the Federal responsibility toward Tribes, and
- Strengthens the unique government-to-government relationship.





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Technical Assistance Program

Native American Affairs

Technical Assistance Program

Provide technical assistance to increase opportunities for Indian Tribes to develop, manage, and protect their water and related resources.

<https://www.usbr.gov/native/programs/TAPprogram.html>



The screenshot displays the Bureau of Reclamation website. At the top, the logo and name "BUREAU OF RECLAMATION" are visible. Below the logo is a navigation menu with items: "Water & Power", "Resources & Research", "About Us", "Recreation & Public Use", and "News & Multimedia". A search bar is located to the right of the navigation menu. The main content area features a large background image of a mountain landscape. The heading "Native American Affairs Program" is prominently displayed. Below this, a breadcrumb trail reads: "Reclamation / Native American Affairs / Programs and Activities to Assist Indian Tribes / Technical Assistance Program (and Program Criteria)". A sidebar on the left contains a "NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS PROGRAM" header and a list of links: "Native American Affairs Program Home", "Program Description", "Program Support", "Programs & Activities to Assist Tribes", "Indian Water Rights Settlements Program", "Native American Affairs Technical Assistance Program", and "Public Law 93-638 Program (Indian Self-Determination)". The main content area includes the title "Native American Affairs Program" and "Native American Affairs Technical Assistance Program (and Program Criteria)", followed by the subtitle "Providing Technical Assistance to Federally Recognized Indian Tribes". A "Featured Resources" section lists: "Technical Assistance Program", "Current and Prior Year Funding Opportunity Announcements", "Successful Proposals Approved for Funding", and "Program Criteria (Current as of 2022)". A yellow banner at the bottom of the page reads "Technical Assistance Program".



Technical Assistance Program

- 43 USC 373d: Increase opportunities for Tribes to develop, manage, and protect their water and related resources.
 - Funding limited by total funds available. Typically, \$400k-\$500k/award.
 - Project duration: 2 years
- Federally-recognized Tribe or Tribal organization located in one of the 17 Western States
- Congress or the Administration may emphasize certain water resource issues in any given year (i.e. drought).
- Occasional additional requests for projects – keep running list of unmet needs
- Potential Funding mechanisms: Grants/Cooperative Agreements, PL 93-638, Direct Funding for Reclamation staff, Interagency Agreements



Technical Assistance Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

- Proposals submitted through Notice of Funding Opportunity Announcement www.grants.gov
- Grants and Cooperative Agreement Awards:
FY23 funding ~\$4M
<https://www.usbr.gov/newsroom/news-release/4587?filterBy=topic&topic=Supporting%20Tribal%20Nations>
- Anticipated 2024 funding level depends on appropriations



Technical Assistance to Tribes

Examples of Eligible Projects

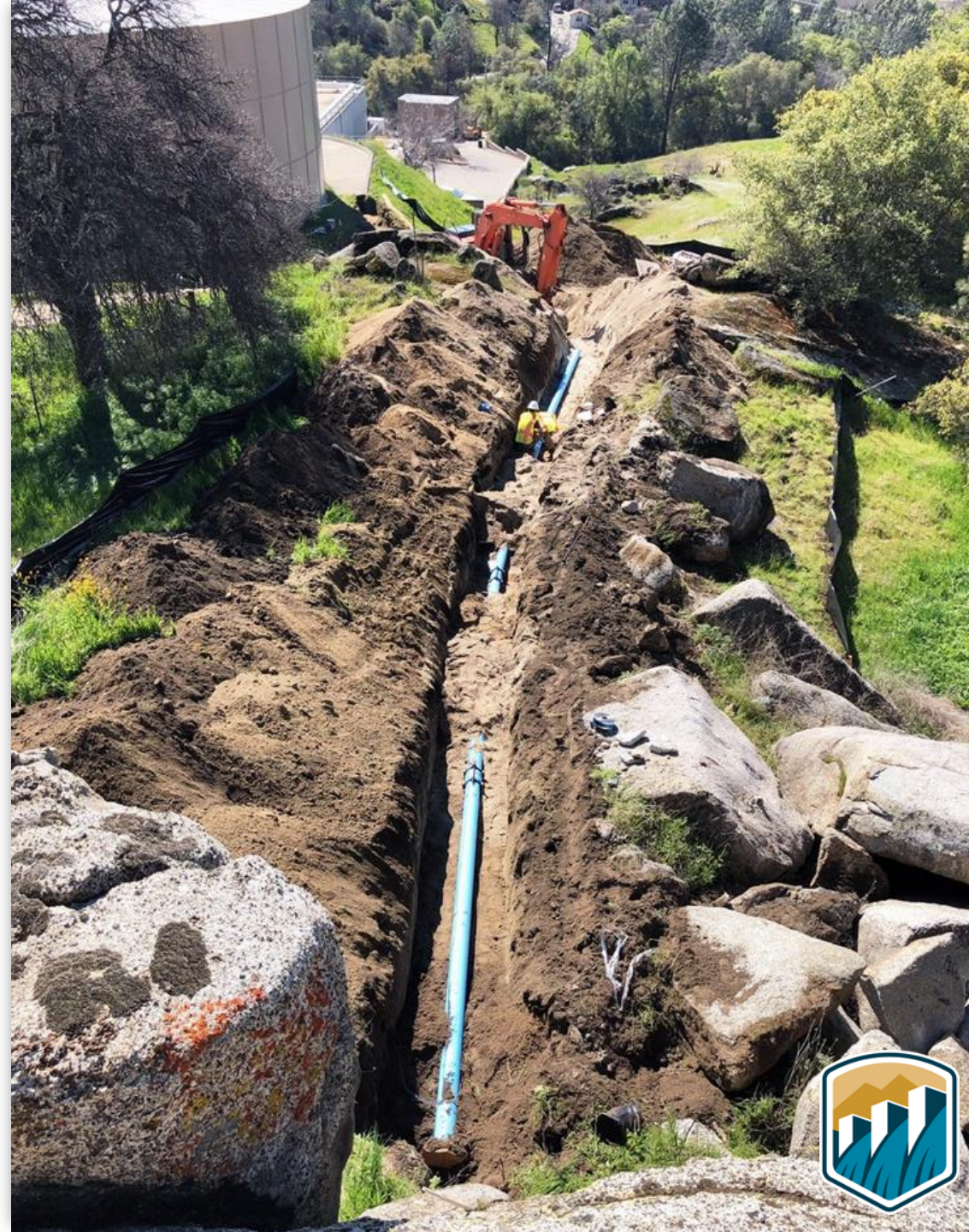
- Water needs assessments
- Water planning and management studies (drought response, conservation, efficiency improvements, etc.)
- Water quality/quantity data collection and assessments in support of project planning or water resource management
- Training for Tribal staff and managers in areas of water resources development, management and protection
- Emergency response to natural or man-made disasters affecting water related resources



Technical Assistance to Tribes Examples of Eligible Projects

continued

- Minor rehabilitation or replacement of existing Tribally-owned, water-related structures and facilities
- Water source development/enhancement/improvement
- Preliminary Engineering Reports
- Irrigation system restoration/rehabilitation/repair
- Stock watering infrastructure improvements
- Stabilizing stream banks-erosion control



Technical Assistance to Tribes

Examples of *Ineligible* Projects

- Projects that lack definable products or deliverables
- Specific employment positions within an Indian tribe
- Projects related to water rights negotiations/litigation
- Projects related to non-federal or non-Tribal dams and associated structures
- Purchase of equipment as the sole purpose of the project
- Projects in direct support of litigation of any kind
- Projects that will obligate Reclamation to provide perpetual funding
- Biological activities (other funding opportunities available for these)



Recent Project Funding FY 2019-2023

Funding Source	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	Total
NAAP	\$5,441,614	\$3,642,548	\$4,534,313	\$8,648,683	\$7,114,134	\$29,381,292
Supplement			\$10,351,756	\$10,576,000		\$20,927,756
Transfer		\$2,580,000				\$2,580,000
Other				\$1,916,125		\$1,916,125
Total	\$5,441,614	\$6,222,548	\$14,886,069	\$21,140,808	\$7,114,134	\$54,805,173

Number of Awards	Number of Tribes
220	103



Technical Assistance to Tribes

Contact Regional Native American Program Manager for assistance:

- Ernie Rheume – UCB – Salt Lake City, UT erheume@usbr.gov
- KayLee Nelson - LCB – Boulder City, NV kdnelson@usbr.gov
- Kevin Clancy – CGB – Sacramento, CA kclancy@usbr.gov
- Doug Davis – MB – Billings, MT douglasdavis@usbr.gov
- Melinda Hernandez Burke – CPN – Boise, ID mhernandezburke@usbr.gov



NAA Funding Opportunities

NAA Technical Assistance Program, Fiscal Year 2024

- Funding: Up to \$400,000 per project.
- Eligibility: Includes Tribes in 17 Western States*
- Purpose: To provide funding for projects that support Tribes in their efforts to develop, manage, and protect Tribal water and related resources.
- Application due date: **March 12, 2024**, 4 p.m. MST
- Application: Tribes can apply for this funding opportunity through [ww.grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), under funding announcement R24AS00013, <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/351454>.

*Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming



NAA Funding Opportunities *continued*

NAA Program, Inflation Reduction Act: Section 80004 Emergency Drought Relief for Tribes

- Funding: Up to \$500,000 per project, limit \$1,000,000 per Tribe. No cost share requirement.
- Eligibility: Includes Tribes in 17 Western States
- Purpose: To provide funding for Tribes and Tribal organizations in the 17 Western States impacted by Reclamation water projects who seek near-term drought relief. Project proposals are sought that mitigate drought impacts, increase drought resiliency, reduce reliance on declining water sources, increase the efficiency of water deliveries, mitigate the loss of water and related Tribal trust resources, or address drinking water shortages.
- Application due date: **April 11, 2024**, 4 p.m. MST
- Application: Tribes can either submit proposals by email bor-sha-fafoa@usbr.gov, or can mail or deliver paper copies of proposals, or apply through www.grants.gov, under funding announcement R24AS00051, <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/351456>.





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WaterSMART

Water Resources and Planning Office

WaterSMART Program

General Program Information

- Most WaterSMART activities are grant programs
- Eligible applicants include entities such as states, Tribes, cities, water districts, irrigation districts, watershed groups, non-profits, and flood control districts within the 17 Western United States, Alaska, Hawaii, the Insular Areas, and Puerto Rico.
- Applications are solicited through Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) and projects are selected through a competitive selection process.
- Generally, a 25-75% non-Federal cost share is required



WaterSMART Program Grants

Building a Foundation

Planning

- Drought Contingency Plans
- Cooperative Watershed Management Program
- Water Strategy Grants
- Project Design Grants
- Basin Studies
- Aquatic Ecosystems Restoration Projects
- Water Recycling and Desalination Planning

Science and Tools

- Applied Science Tools
- Drought Resiliency Projects
- Basin Studies

On-the-Ground Projects

- Drought Resiliency Projects
- Water and Energy Efficiency Grants
- Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects
- Environmental Water Resources Projects
- Title XVI
- Large Scale Water Recycling
- Water Desalination
- Aquatic Ecosystems Restoration Projects



Planning & Project Design

Eligible Projects

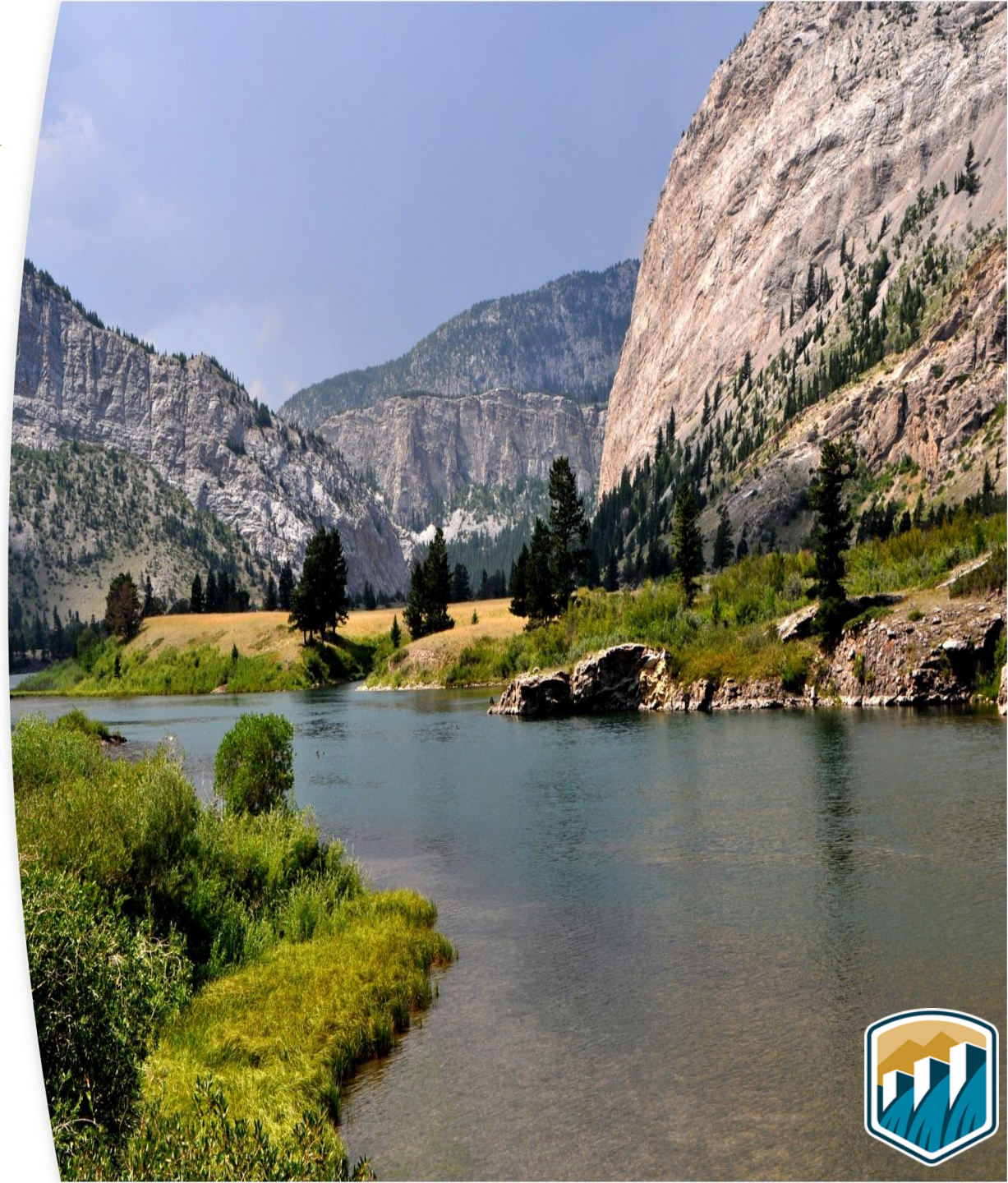
- **Water Strategy Grants**
Initial or early-stage planning activities, including outreach and collaboration, technical analyses and assessments, project scoping activities to develop a strategy that identifies and prioritizes potential water supply projects, water conservation projects, water marketing, drought resiliency, and/or river restoration activities.
- **Project Design Grants**
Final design of water supply, water conservation, water management, and river restoration projects. Should result in a 60% final design package that could be used to apply for construction funding under other WaterSMART programs.
- **Drought Contingency Planning**
Develop or update comprehensive drought plans that when implemented, will increase water reliability and improve water management through the use of expanded technologies and improved modeling capabilities.

Funding

- Up to \$400,000 for projects that can be completed in 2-3 years
- Non-Federal Cost Share: 0%, 25% to 50%, dependent on project type

Funding Opportunity Closes May 21, 2024

Application: grants.gov/search-results-detail/349785



WaterSMART Grants

Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

Eligible Project Types

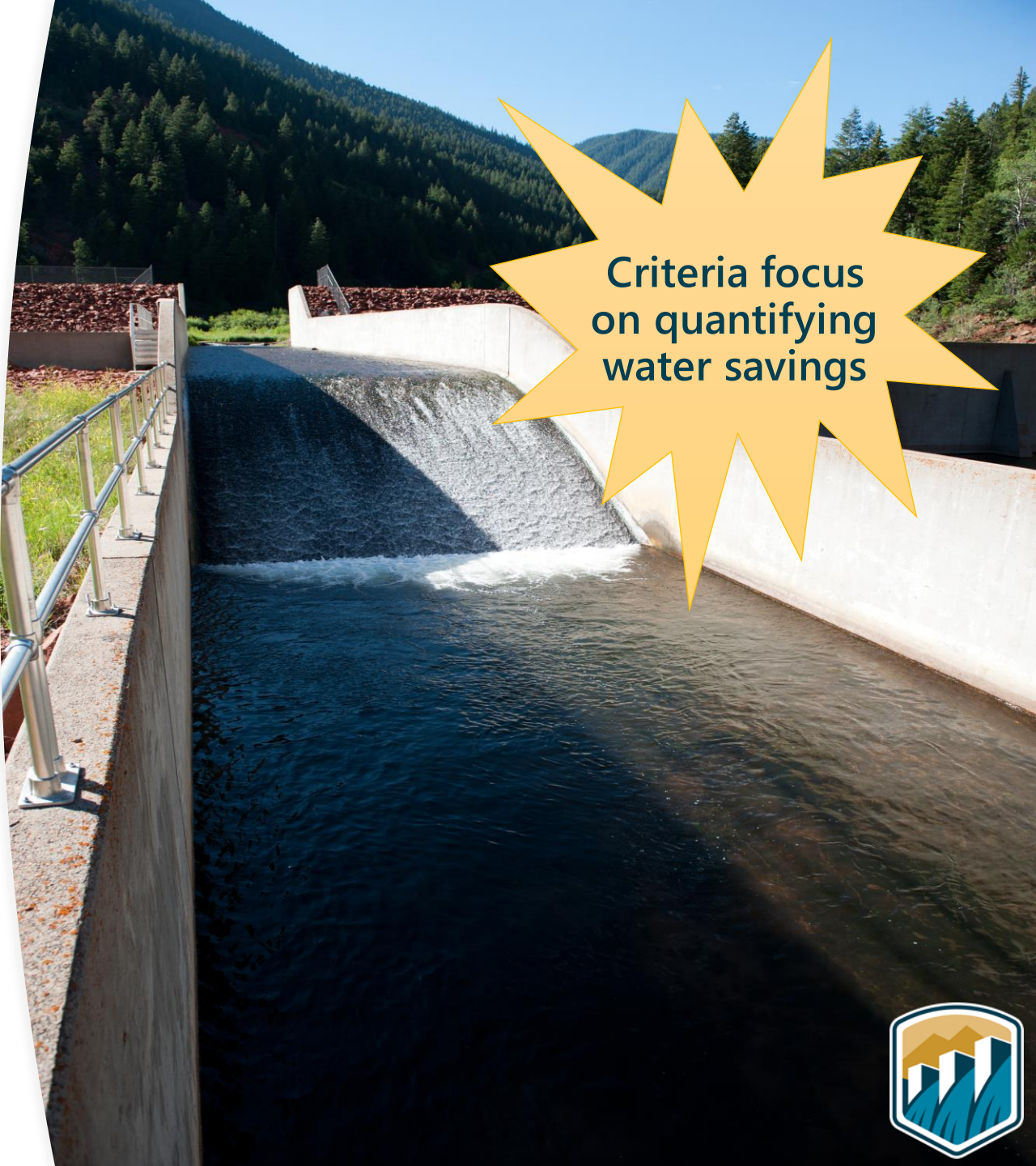
- Water Conservation Projects
 - Canal lining/piping
 - Municipal metering
 - Irrigation flow measurement
 - Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition and Automation (SCADA)
 - Landscape irrigation measures
 - High-Efficiency Indoor Appliances and Fixtures
 - Commercial Cooling Systems
- Renewable Energy Projects
 - Hydropower
 - Solar, wind energy

Funding

- Funding Group I: Up to \$500k in 2 years
- Funding Group II: Up to \$2 million in 3 years
- Funding Group III: Up to \$5 million in 3 years
- Non-Federal Cost Share: 50% or greater

Funding Opportunity closes October 30, 2024

Application: grants.gov/search-results-detail/350982



Criteria focus
on quantifying
water savings



WaterSMART Grants

Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

Eligible Project Types

- Canal lining/piping
- Municipal metering
- Irrigation flow measurement
- Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition and Automation (SCADA)
- Landscape irrigation measures
- High-Efficiency Indoor Appliances and Fixtures
- Commercial Cooling Systems

Funding

- Up to \$100k in Reclamation funds
- Maximum total project costs of \$225k per project
- Non-Federal Cost Share: 50% or greater

Evaluation Criteria

- Simplified evaluation criteria
- Benefits to applicant
- Previous planning efforts supporting the project

Second application period closes July 9, 2024

Application: grants.gov/search-results-detail/350845



WaterSMART Grants

Cooperative Watershed Management Program – Phase 1

Eligible Project Types

- Watershed Group Development
 - Develop mission statement and bylaws
 - Outreach
 - Gathering information about restoration needs in the watershed
- Watershed restoration planning
 - Studies, mapping, monitoring
 - Creating or updating a watershed restoration plan
- Watershed management project design
 - Site-specific project design and engineering

Funding

- Up to \$300k in Reclamation funds
- Cost share is not required

Funding Opportunity closes September 3, 2024

Application: www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/349783



Environmental Water Resources Projects (EWRP)

Eligible Project Types

- Water conservation and efficiency projects that increase reliability for ecological values or watershed health
- Water management and Infrastructure Improvements to benefit ecological values and watershed health
- Watershed management or restoration projects benefitting ecological values or watershed health
- Projects to improve the condition of a natural feature or nature-based feature

Funding

- Non-Federal Cost Share: 25% to 50%
- Funding Level: Up to \$3 million 3 years

Funding Opportunity Coming in April 2024



Drought Response Program

Drought Resiliency Projects

Eligible Project Types

Tasks A-C

- Infrastructure Improvements
- New conveyance system components
- Additional water storage
- Recharge facilities
- Capture and treat alternative supplies
- Water treatment
- Decision Support Tools & Modeling

Funding for Tasks A-C

- Non-Federal Cost Share: 50% or greater.
- Funding Level I: \$500k 2 years
- Funding Level II: \$2 million 3 years
- Funding Level III: \$5 million in 3 years

Task D

- Domestic Water Supply Projects for Tribes or disadvantaged communities that do not currently have reliable water supplies
- 5% non-Federal cost share (can request waiver)
- Up to \$10 million in Federal funds and must be completed within 3 years.

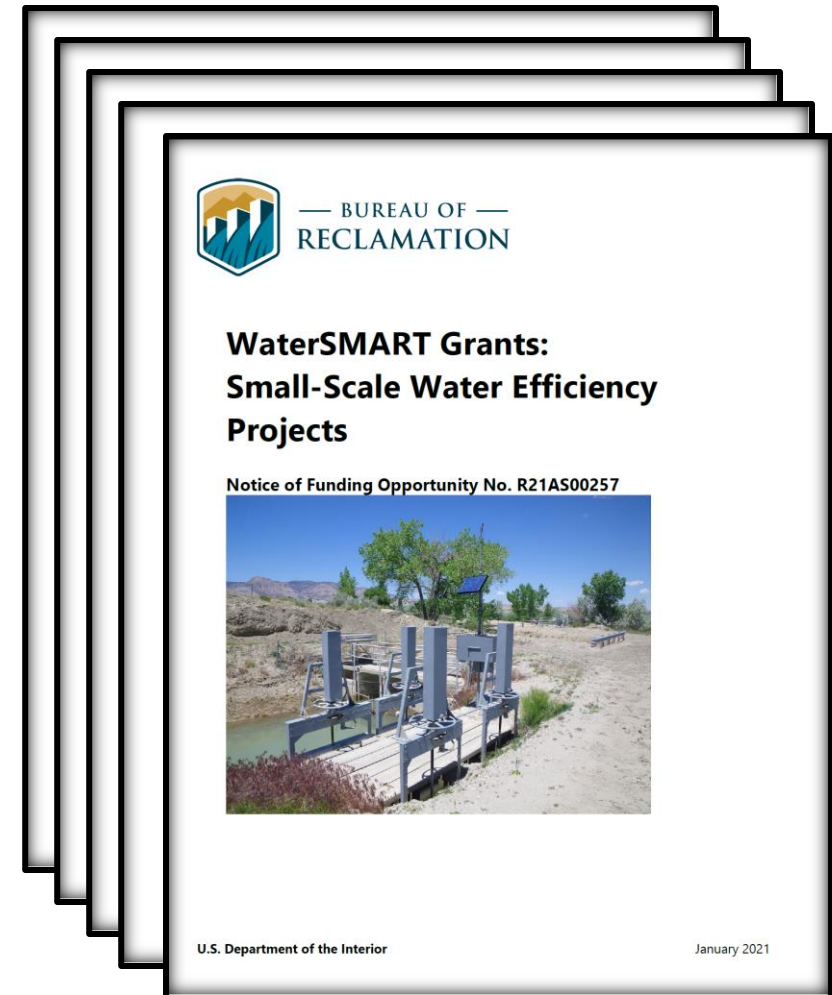
Funding Opportunity Coming in June 2024



Application Tips

Which WaterSMART NOFO is right for me?

- The most successful projects are those that fit well with the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).
- Review the objective of the NOFO, the eligible project types and the evaluation criteria carefully to choose the right NOFO.
- Make sure you present your project in a way that aligns with the NOFO. You may want to make minor revisions. E.g., if you will conserve more water by piping over lining, maybe your project could be revised.
- **Application Tip:**
 - Schedule a meeting with the Program Coordinator to discuss your project – <https://outlook.office365.com/book/ReclamationWaterSMARTProgram@doimspp.onmicrosoft.com/>
 - Look at past successful applications at www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART



Application Tips

General Tips

- **Important: Read everything in the NOFO!**
 - Ask questions if something does not make sense.
 - Check to see if there are any mandatory project components or ineligible activities
 - Review Section D.6 for information on pre-award costs and any limitations on costs that can be included in the budget
- **Give yourself plenty of time to write and submit the proposal.**
- **Do not assume the Application Review Committee (ARC) knows about the issues in your area or the benefits of your project**
 - The ARC is comprised of Reclamation staff from throughout the Western states.
 - The ARC only evaluates the information in the proposal



Application Tips

Additional General Tips

- For large projects, consider doing it in phases and applying for funding in sequential years.
- Previously successful applications are on our website.
- If your application is not awarded, ask for a debriefing to help prepare better proposal next year.

Application Tip: If you are having difficulty with Grants.gov, you can submit a paper application – mailing addresses are in Section D of the funding opportunity



Application Tips

What do I have to include in my application?

- Every WaterSMART NOFO includes a section describing the application content
- Page iii of every NOFO includes Application Checklist
- All of the Mandatory Application Components must be included with your application by the application deadline

Application Tip: Structure your proposal in the order identified in the NOFO

Application Checklist

The following table contains a summary of the information that you are required to submit with your application.

✓	Mandatory Application Components:	Page
	Mandatory Federal forms: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SF-424: Application for Federal Assistance (Office of Management and Budget (OMB))• SF-424C: Budget Information – Construction Programs (OMB)• SF-424D Assurances - Construction Programs	20
	Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM) registration	26
	Technical Proposal (Use Project Narrative Attachment Form to upload in Grants.gov)	20
	Budget Narrative (Use Budget Narrative Attachment Form to upload in Grants.gov)	23
✓	Recommended Application Components:	Page
	Environmental and cultural resources compliance	23
	Required permits or approvals	23
	Overlap or duplication of effort statement	23
	Conflict of interest disclosure statement	24
	Uniform audit reporting statement	25
	SF-LLL: Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (required, if applicable) (OMB)	25
	Letters of Support	25
	Letter of partnership (Category B Applicants)	25



Application Tips

Technical Proposal

- **Clearly describe the technical aspects of your project, including the specific activities to be accomplished and the approach to complete the work**
- **Copy and paste evaluation criteria into your application.**
- **Answer all parts of multipart questions.**

Project Description

The Kawuneeche Valley Ecosystem Restoration Collaborative (KVERC) is undertaking a multiphase ecosystem restoration initiative to benefit 464 acres of wetland and riparian habitats in the North Fork Colorado River basin. The restoration will help reverse historical impacts and restore ecological processes, retain sediment and nutrients, improve water quality and wildlife habitat, and reconnect streams to floodplains.

This Task A: Study and Design WaterSMART AERP proposal is for the design of restoration project activities at three locations (Lower Baker, Upper Baker, and Onahu Creeks). Tasks include design and engineering, permitting and compliance work, development of a project construction budget and plan, continued outreach, and the development of a post-project monitoring plan. The Steering Committee anticipates restoration activities to include process-based instream restoration structures, ungulate exclosure fencing, exotic plant removal, revegetation, and removal of abandoned infrastructure (ditches, levees, and a dam).



Application Tips

Evaluation Criteria

- Make sure you respond to every criterion and every sub-criterion
- Your responses should:
 - Directly respond to the criterion – copy and paste the criteria directly into your proposal and place your response immediately below each criterion/sub-criterion
 - Provide support in the form of quantification or links to reference documents
 - Make the case for how your project meets the criterion – general statements without explanation or support will not score well

Application Tip: Well-supported responses to the evaluation criteria are the key to writing a competitive proposal

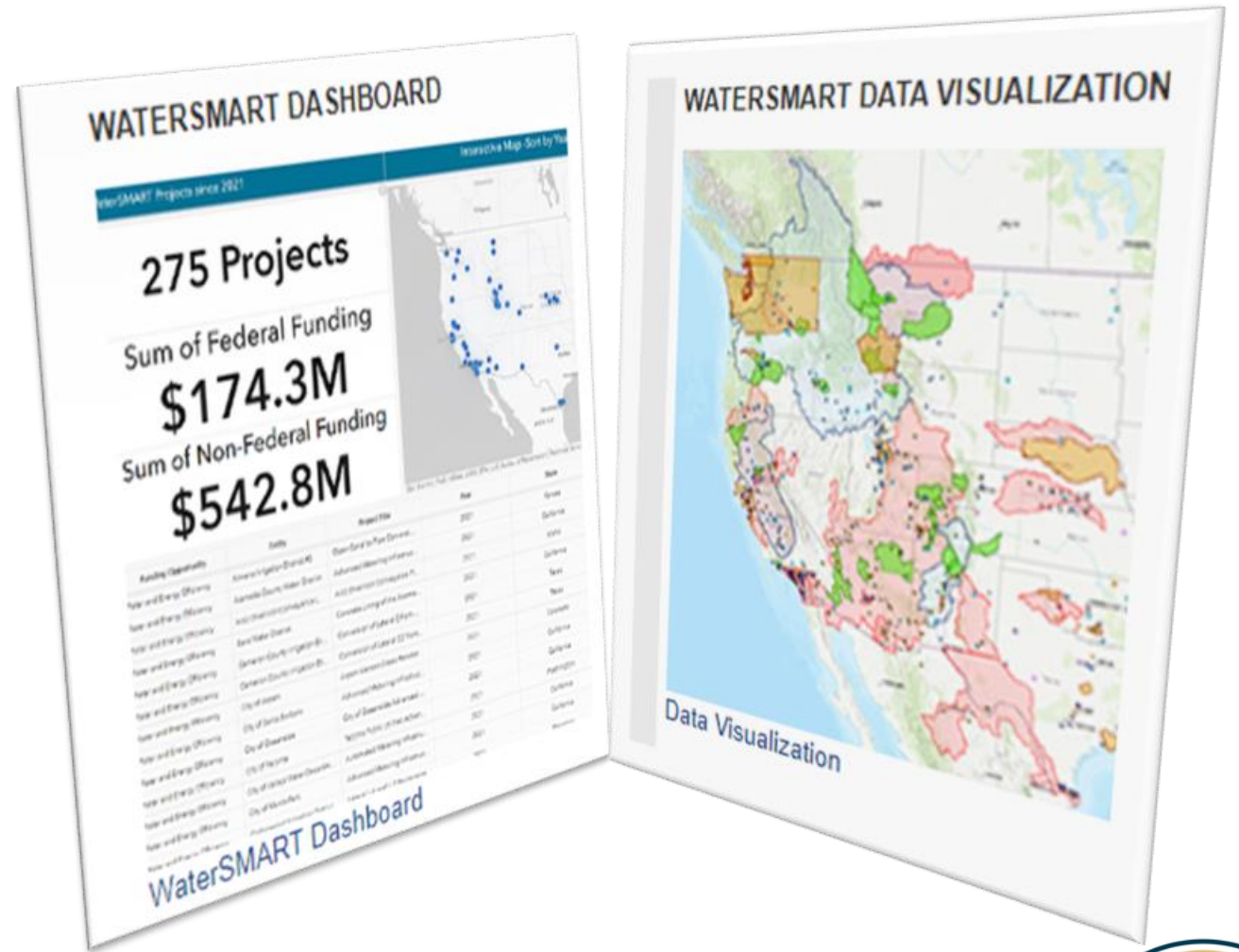
Evaluation criteria scoring summary	Points:
A. Project benefits	35
B. Inclusion of stakeholders, stakeholder support, and previous planning efforts	25
C. Ability to meet program requirements	20
D. Presidential and Department of the Interior priorities	15
E. Nexus to Reclamation	5
Total	100

- Will the project benefit species (e.g., federally threatened or endangered, a federally recognized candidate species, a state listed species, or a species of particular recreational, or economic importance)? Please describe the relationship of the species to the water supply, and whether the species is adversely affected by a Reclamation project or is subject to a recovery plan or conservation plan under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- Will water remain in the system for longer periods of time? If so, provide details on current/future durations and any expected resulting benefits (e.g., maintaining water temperatures or water levels, recreational benefits, etc.).
- Will the proposed project reduce the likelihood of a species listing or otherwise improve the species status?
- Please describe any other ecosystem benefits as a direct result of the project.



WaterSMART Program Resources

- WaterSMART Program Website:
<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart>
- Previously funded applications for all programs
- Interactive Data Visualization Tool
- WaterSMART Dashboard
- Funding opportunity calendar
- WaterSMART mailing list
- Recent announcements



WATERSMART

WaterSMART

Contacts

Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

Water Marketing Strategy Grants

Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

Environmental Water Resources Projects

Title XVI

Desalination

Basin Studies

Baseline Assessments and Pilots

Reservoir Operation Pilots

Applied Science Grants

Cooperative Watershed Management Program

WaterSMART

The American West faces serious water challenges. Wide-spread drought, increased populations, aging infrastructure, and environmental requirements all strain existing water and hydropower resources. Adequate and safe water supplies are fundamental to the health, economy, and security of the country. Through WaterSMART, Reclamation will continue to work cooperatively with states, tribes, and local entities as they plan for and implement actions to increase water supply through investments to modernize existing infrastructure and avoid potential water conflicts.

Join the WaterSMART Mailing List

You may complete this [form](#) to receive WaterSMART program notification from the Bureau of Reclamation.

WaterSMART Project Selections Overview

Since January 2021, Reclamation has selected 255 projects to be funded with \$93 million in WaterSMART funding, in conjunction with \$314.3 million in non-Federal funding, across the western states.



OPEN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

None at this time

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY CALENDAR



Click [here](#) to view a detailed status of all current and upcoming WaterSMART funding opportunities.



Reclamation partnered with grants.gov to bring you [this webinar](#) to help familiarize yourself with the site and to provide an overview of how to submit a grant application. [View the Powerpoint](#)



WATERSMART

WaterSMART

Cooperative Watershed Management Program

Selected Applications

Example Restoration Plans

Previous Grant Selections

Previous Funding Opportunity Announcements

Contacts

Applied Science Grants

Schedule Tracker

Last Updated 2/07/2024

Cooperative Watershed Management Program – Phase 1

Schedule tracker shows anticipated dates for Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and will be updated regularly



For questions about the status of your application, please contact Robin Graber, rgraber@usbr.gov



CURRENT STATUS

The FY23/24 Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I funding opportunity posted August 7, 2023. First round of applications were due by

December 5, 2023; second round of applications are due by September 3, 2024.

QUESTIONS?

Have a question regarding the funding opportunity or project eligibility questions?

Request a meeting through our bookings site.

Cooperative Watershed Management Program





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Application Requirements

Financial Assistance

Common Reasons for Ineligible Applications

- Budget narrative not complete

√ Complete budget template and narratives, assure they speak to requirements in NOFO

- Last minute technical issues

√ Get your materials in early, reach out to us to ask for help

- Application documents in incomplete status

√ Assure documents are completed and uploaded



Application Tips

Where to Start

Reference: R23AS00362 CWMP Phase I
R23AS00106 AERP

Search for opportunity

R24AS00013

OR R24AS00051

Start at www.grants.gov

GRANTS.GOV™
FIND. APPLY. SUCCEED.™

SEARCH: Grant Opportunities ▾ Enter Keyword... **GO**

HOME | LEARN GRANTS | SEARCH GRANTS | APPLICANTS | GRANTORS | SYSTEM-TO-SYSTEM | FORMS | CONNECT | SUPPORT

Reminder: Federal agencies do not publish personal financial assistance opportunities on Grants.gov. Federal funding opportunities published on Grants.gov are for organizations and entities supporting the development and management of government-funded programs and projects. For more information about personal financial assistance benefits, please visit Benefits.gov.

Convenience Comes to Federal Grants

Download the Grants.gov Mobile App to search and submit on the go.

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

SEARCH GRANTS | GET STARTED | GRANT POLICIES | GRANT-MAKING AGENCIES | PREVENT SCAMS | COMMUNITY BLOG | TWITTER FEED | YOUTUBE VIDEOS | USER GUIDE | SUPPORT CENTER

How to use Grants.gov



Reclamation partnered with grants.gov to bring you this webinar to help familiarize yourself with the site and to provide an overview of how to submit a grant application. [View the Powerpoint](#)



VIEW GRANT OPPORTUNITY

R24AS00013
Native American Affairs Technical Assistance to Tribes for Fiscal Year 2024
Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

[Apply](#) [Subscribe](#)

- [SYNOPSIS](#)
- [VERSION HISTORY](#)
- [RELATED DOCUMENTS](#)**
- [PACKAGE](#)

Click on the following file link(s) to download the related document(s):

File Description	File Name	Last Updated Date/Time	File Size
▼ Folder: Full Announcement - Full Announcement	R24AS00013-Full Announcement - Full Announcement.zip	Dec 12, 2023 04:09:03 PM EST	817.9 KB
▼ Folder: Revised Full Announcement - Revised Full Announcement	R24AS00013-Revised Full Announcement - Revised Full Announcement.zip		NaN MB
▼ Folder: Other Supporting Documents - Other Supporting Docs	R24AS00013-Other Supporting Documents - Other Supporting Docs.zip	Jan 16, 2024 10:37:19 AM EST	322.6 KB

[Return to top](#)



Opportunity Package(s) Currently Available for this Funding Opportunity:

CFDA	Competition ID	Competition Title	Opportunity Package ID	Opening Date	Closing Date	Actions
15.519	R24AS00013	Native American Affairs Technical Assistance to Tribes for Fiscal Year 2024	PKG00284145	Dec 12, 2023	Mar 12, 2024	Preview Apply

Opportunity Package Details

Agency Contact Information: Christina Munoz
Who Can Apply: Organization Applicants

Mandatory forms are SF 424 then either Construction C & D or Non-Construction A & B, technical proposal and budget narrative

PACKAGE FORMS:		Download Instructions
Mandatory Forms (Click to Preview)	Optional Forms (Click to Preview)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) [V4.0] Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A) [V1.0] Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B) [V1.1] Project Narrative Attachment Form [V1.2] Budget Narrative Attachment Form [V1.2] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attachments [V1.2] Project Abstract Summary [V2.0] Grants.gov Lobbying Form [V1.1] Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL) [V2.0] 	

[Close](#)



Financial Assistance Staff

- Answer questions about financial assistance requirements during the application process
- Conduct Initial Screening and remove applications that do not meet the completeness, eligibility and timeliness requirements of the NOFO.
- Notify Applicants of Application status based on the contact information provided on the SF-424 Form



Getting Started Application Tips

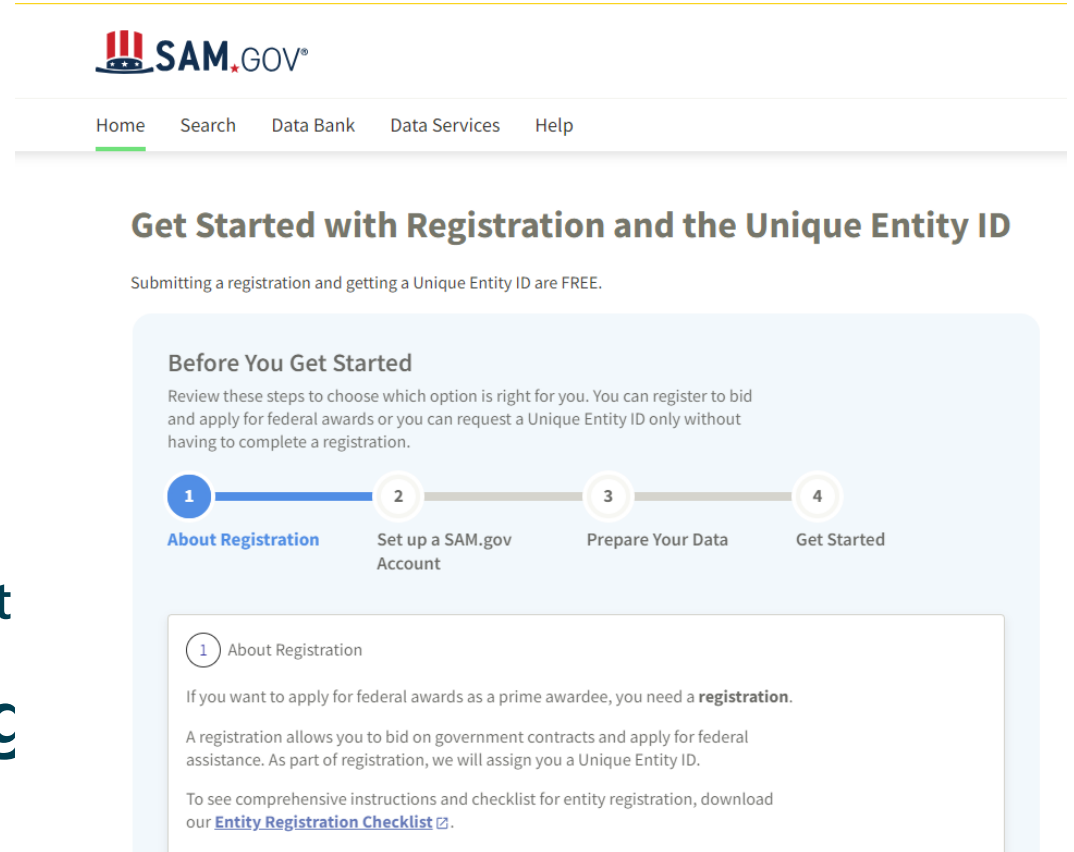
Register in SAM.gov and obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) *before closing date of application*

- [SAM.gov | Entity Registrations](#)
- If you have difficulties – document communications with help desk.
- Include communications with your applicat

Register in Grants.gov (need SAM.gov registration)

- [Applicant Registration | GRANTS.GOV](#)

Recommended lead time 6 weeks



The screenshot shows the SAM.gov website header with the logo and navigation links: Home, Search, Data Bank, Data Services, and Help. Below the header is a section titled "Get Started with Registration and the Unique Entity ID" with the text "Submitting a registration and getting a Unique Entity ID are FREE." A progress bar shows four steps: 1. About Registration (highlighted), 2. Set up a SAM.gov Account, 3. Prepare Your Data, and 4. Get Started. Below the progress bar is a detailed view of the "About Registration" step, which includes the text: "If you want to apply for federal awards as a prime awardee, you need a **registration**. A registration allows you to bid on government contracts and apply for federal assistance. As part of registration, we will assign you a Unique Entity ID. To see comprehensive instructions and checklist for entity registration, download our [Entity Registration Checklist](#)."



Essential Application Content

Verify you have a completed mandatory forms:



SF-424



SF-424A



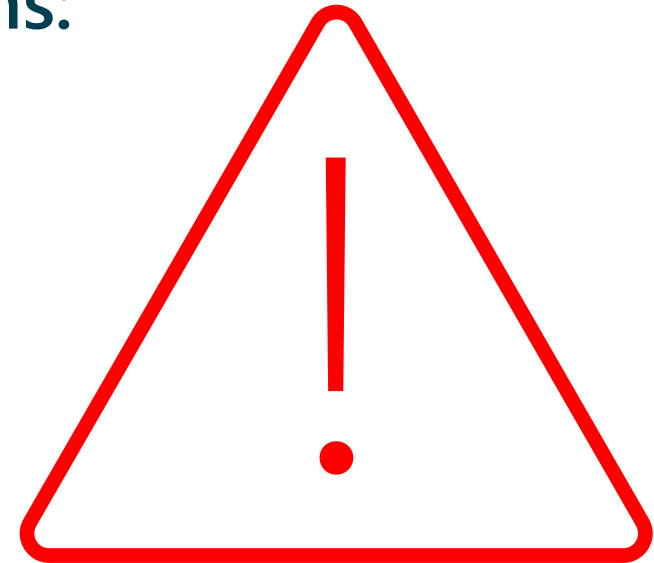
SF424B



Technical Proposal (use Project Narrative form to upload in Grants.gov)



Budget Narrative (use Budget Narrative form to upload in Grants.gov)



Financial Assistance – First Level Screening

All application packages will be screened to ensure:

- The applicant meets the completeness, eligibility, and timeliness requirements
- The applicant meets the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and SAM registration requirements
- The application meets the content requirements
- The application contains completed mandatory forms



Financial Assistance – Selection Notification

- *Once Initial screening is complete,*
 - *Ineligible applicants will be notified by Grants Officer, and*
 - *Eligible applicants will move on to the Merit Review*
- *All successful applications will be notified by Grants Officer of selection.*
- *The Financial Assistance Office will reach out to the applicant regarding next steps for entering into a Financial Assistance award.*



Budget Information

- The budget should align with technical proposal
- Budget costs represent total project costs (Federal and Non-Federal)
- Recommend using Attachment A-Descriptive Budget
- Budget Narrative - **REQUIRED**

6a. Personnel
 This category includes salaries and wages of employees of the applicant organization that will be working directly on the project. Generally, salaries of administrative and/or clerical personnel are classified as indirect or overhead costs in your organization's accounting system included as a portion of the stated indirect costs. If these salaries can be adequately documented as direct costs, they can be included in this section; however, a justification must be included in the narrative. Recommend reviewing **§ 200.430 Compensation - personal services** for more information on the specific requirements regarding compensation costs, including the *Standards for Documentation of Personnel Expenses at §200.430(i)*.

Narrative: For key personnel such as the project manager or principal investigator, identify the name individual and position/title. Other personnel should be identified by position only. For all positions, identify the project tasks that will be performed. Compensation rates can be expressed as hourly rates and number of hours or annual salary and percentage effort that will be contributed to each task, but must be consistent with your organization's accounting and timekeeping policies. Include estimated hours for compliance with reporting requirements, including the final project report and evaluation. For multi-year projects, identify the level of effort anticipated for each budget year and any estimates increases in compensation rates. Within the budget narrative, provide a certification that the labor rates included in the budget proposal represent the actual labor rates of the identified personnel/positions and are consistently applied to Federal and non-Federal activities. *Note: The annual/hourly labor rate must not include fringe benefits.*

Links: [§ 200.430 Compensation - personal services.](#)

Personnel					
Position Title	Time (Hrs or %)	Rate (Hr or Salary)	Total Cost	Rate Basis	Comments (as needed)
EXAMPLE!!! Sr. Engineer Y1	400	\$46	\$18,400	Current Salary	hourly rate based on average rate for all personnel occupying this position
EXAMPLE!!! Sr. Engineer Y2	400	\$48	\$19,000	Current Salary + 3% increase	Increase based on the average annual increase for all personnel occupying this position
			\$0		
			\$0		
			\$0		
			\$0		
			\$0		
			\$0		
			\$0		
			\$0		
			\$0		
Total			\$0		





BUREAU OF
RECLAMATION

Build America, Buy America Waivers & Exemptions

Buy America: Covered Reclamation Programs

Covered:

- WaterSMART:
 - Title XVI Projects
 - Desalination Construction Projects
 - Large-Scale Recycling
 - Drought Resiliency Projects
 - Water and Energy Efficiency Grants
 - Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects
 - Environmental Water Resources Projects
- Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration
- Aging Infrastructure / XM
- Rural Water
- Other programs that include funding for infrastructure

Exempt:

- PL 93-638 Agreements
- 2021 Conservation Service Corps
- Fishing Events
- WaterSMART planning activities (Drought Contingency Planning, CWMP Phase I, Applied Science Grants, Water Strategies, Project Design)
- Research & Development/Science & Technology



Buy America: BOR waivers to date

Approved General Applicability Waivers

- Tribal Consultation Waiver, approved through 9/1/2024
- DOI Small Grants Waiver (\$250,000), approved through 2/20/2028
- DOI De Minimus Purchases Waiver (5% of BABA applicable project costs, max of \$1 million) approved through 2/20/28
- WaterSMART (15.504,15.507 & 15.514) approved on 2/15/2024 with coverage for previously planned projects and awards/amendments obligated on or after 2/14/25.

Approved Project/Product Specific Waivers

- AMI Capable Water Meters – Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
- AMI Capable Water Meters – City of Rialto



What to Expect After Submitting your Application

- Confirmation application submitted
- Financial Assistance first level review
- Complete applications submitted for review to NAA or WaterSMART
 - Application Review Committee (ARC)
 - Red Flag review
- Applications Recommended for Award
- Commissioner and Assistant Secretary of Water and Science approves Awards
- Tribes are notified of awards – NAA/WaterSMART send letters
- Confirmation of Award – Financial Assistance
- Sign agreement
- Project Funded – NAA/WaterSMART coordinates with Regional Program Managers and Grants Officers
- Debrief available for projects not funded



Contacts

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Financial Assistance

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Supervisory Grants Management Specialist

WaterSMART

<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/>



Thank you



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RECLAMATION