

# Reclamation Cost-share programs

There are multiple Reclamation projects and programs with cost share requirements. Most commonly of interest to stakeholders are financial assistance, including competitive grant programs (i.e., Notices of Funding Opportunity [NOFOs]). NOFO cost-share requirements vary across programs, from discretionary scoring criteria that incentivize non-federal participation to those mandated by program authorities. Programs include those under the WaterSMART umbrella; Small Storage; those administered by the Research and Development Office; and those administered by Native American Affairs. All NOFOs accord with Executive Order 14332, “Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking” (August 7, 2025), and undergo leadership review prior to posting, to adhere to administration priorities for cost-sharing programs.

All Reclamation NOFOs being prepared for publication during 2026 were reviewed by leadership during 2025 and early 2026 to assure conformity with Administration policy. Eligibility and Merit Review criteria were updated to emphasize construction priority, cost share priority, and/or the extent to which candidate projects advance the Trump Administration’s priorities, as appropriate to the program. Several Reclamation NOFOs under review at the leadership level are pending re-publication since January 2025, and include the new criteria described above.

Programs administered under the WaterSMART umbrella include multiple competitive financial assistance opportunities with cost share requirements established by program authority. Most WaterSMART grant programs require a non-Federal cost share, commonly 50 percent of eligible costs. Programs also include evaluation criteria that emphasize readiness to proceed, prior planning and design efforts, and the magnitude of project benefits. Projects demonstrating advanced planning, advanced or completed design work, and secured non-Federal funding receive higher merit-based scores. Cost share requirements, merit review criteria, and any allowable flexibilities are explicitly defined in each NOFO and are fully outlined to leadership as part of the NOFO approval process and management review of proposed selections.

As of spring 2026 Reclamation has six open funding opportunities, all accessible on grants.gov, or through Reclamation’s web pages. They are:

- [R25AS00322](#) Large-Scale Water Recycling Projects - Closing May 13, 2026
- [R25AS00279](#) Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects (SWEP) - Closing June 2, 2026
- [R25AS00280](#) Applied Science Grants (ASG) - Closing July 8, 2026
- [R26AS00016](#) Drought Response Program (DRP) - Closing July 28, 2026
- [R25AS00270](#) Small Surface Water and Groundwater Storage Projects – Closing April 17, 2026
- [R25AS00210](#) Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program – Closing May 5, 2026