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WaterSMART

Planning and Project Design Grants, & Drought Resiliency Projects

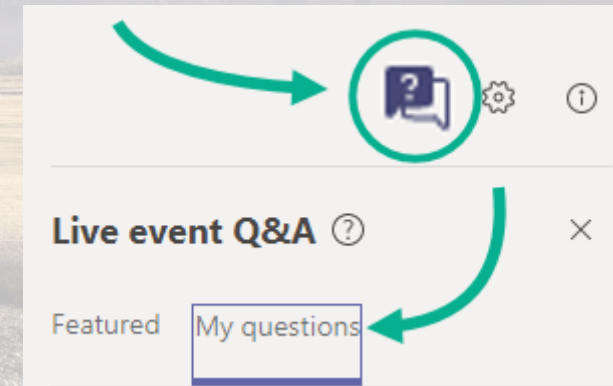
Funding Opportunities

August 24th, 2023

Getting Started

- To watch the recording, use the same link: [Join Live Teams Event](https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/)
- Attendees' cameras and microphones are muted
- A copy of the slides will be available on our website after the webinar:
<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/>

- Questions and comments can be posted in the Q&A icon on the bottom of the menu bar





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Today's Agenda:

- Overview of the Planning and Project Design Funding Opportunity
- Overview of the Drought Resiliency Projects Funding Opportunity
- **IMPORTANT** Application Tips and Selection Process
- WaterSMART Financial Assistance Requirements
- Additional Tools and Resources
- Question and Answer Period



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Planning and Project Design



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Topics

- Purpose
- Objective of funding opportunity
- NOFO Requirements Summary
- Water Strategy Grants
- Project Design Grants
- Drought Contingency Planning
- Evaluation Criteria

Planning and Project Design

Purpose

Streamline the WaterSMART application process by combining three funding opportunities into one.

Eligible funding categories include:

- **Water Strategy Grants** for water management planning activities (e.g., planning for water marketing, water conservation, drought resilience, and ecological resilience);
- **Project Design Grants** to conduct site-specific final design for water management improvement projects; and,
- **Drought Contingency Planning** to develop a new or update an existing Drought Contingency Plan



Planning and Project Design

Requirements Summary

Eligible Applicants

States, Tribes, Insular Areas, irrigation districts, and water districts; State, regional, or local authorities, whose members include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; other organizations with water or power delivery authority. OR a nonprofit conservation organization partnering with a previously described entity.

Applicants must be located in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, or Puerto Rico.

Note: Puerto Rico and Alaska and non-profits are not eligible for Drought Contingency Planning

Funding

Water Strategy Grants and Project Design Grants: \$100,000 up to \$400,000

Drought Contingency Planning: \$25,000 up to \$400,000

Non-Federal* Cost Share

Water Strategy Grants and Project Design Grants: 50%, 25%, 0% depending on project type

Drought Contingency Planning: 50% (can request waiver)

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated against the evaluation criteria which comprise a total of 100 points.

Important Dates

Pre-award costs cannot pre-date August 7, 2023

First application submission deadline: October 17, 2023

Second application submission deadline: April 2, 2024

*Cost-sharing requirements not applicable to American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands



Water Strategy Grants

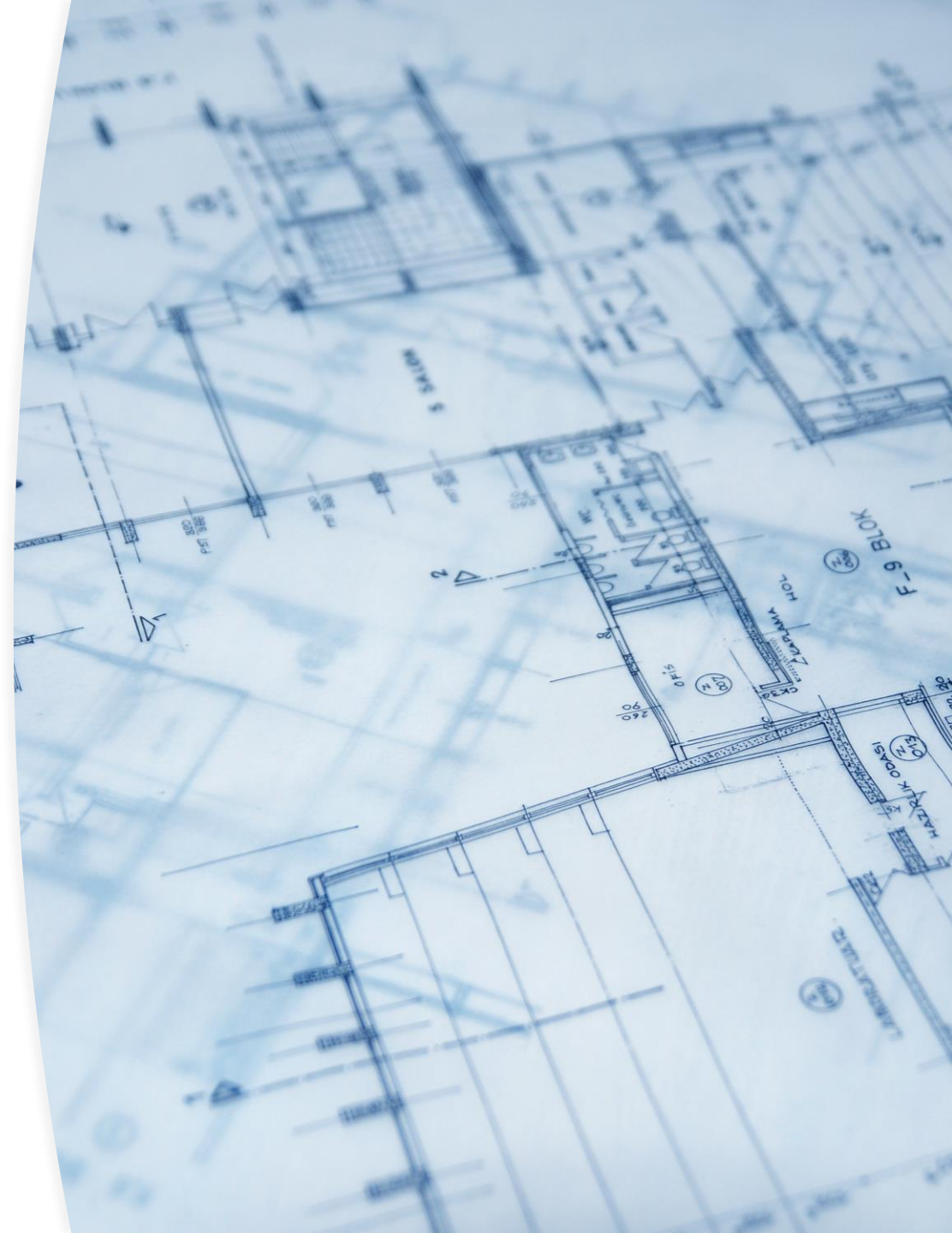
Objective

To support initial, or early-stage planning for

- Water marketing activities
- Water supply projects
- Water management projects
- River restoration projects and activities
- Domestic water supply projects for disadvantaged and Tribal communities

These projects can include

- Restoration or use of a nature-based feature to reduce water supply and demand imbalances or the risk of drought or flooding
- Projects that benefit multiple sectors, including projects that will benefit ecological values or watershed health AND agricultural, municipal, Tribal, or recreation water users



Water Strategy Grants

Required Project Components

All proposed projects must include:

1. Outreach and Partnership Building

- ✓ Public Engagement Plan
- ✓ Conduct Outreach
- ✓ Make draft strategy available for review and comment

2. Analyses, Scoping and Planning Activities

- ✓ Analysis of problems and needs
- ✓ Identification of potential opportunities and comparison of alternatives, prioritization of concepts
- ✓ Development of strategy for implementation of project concepts

3. Development of a Water Strategy Document

Must address the following topics:

- ✓ Outreach Summary
- ✓ Statement of Problems and Needs
- ✓ Project Opportunities and Comparison of Alternatives
- ✓ Implementation Strategy
- ✓ Discussion of Lessons Learned

**Additional Information in
Attachment 1 to the NOFO**



Water Strategy Grants

Eligible Scoping and Planning Activities

- **Technical Analyses to Identify Problems, Needs and Opportunities**
 - Hydrologic, engineering, environmental analyses
 - Assessment of existing infrastructure
 - Assessment of options for infrastructure improvements
 - Assessment of river-based ecosystem or watershed restoration needs
- **Water Marketing and Water Rights Analyses**
 - Financial and economic analyses
 - Researching different approaches and requirements to support implementation
 - Analyzing and quantifying water rights and water availability and existing constraints
 - Analyzing economic, environmental, and community impacts
- **Research of Legal and Institutional Requirements**
 - Permits and environmental compliance; land ownership and necessary easements; and state and/or local requirements with the potential to affect implementation of the project.
 - Impacts of any proposed projects on contractual water and power supply obligations, water rights, Tribes, and other area stakeholders.
- **Analysis of Needs for Decision Support Tools**
 - Software programs, databases, registries, dashboards, and models
- **Development and Comparison of Project Alternatives**
 - Formulate alternatives and create decision matrix
 - Compare alternatives
 - Solicit stakeholder input
 - Create a list of prioritized projects



Water Strategy Grants

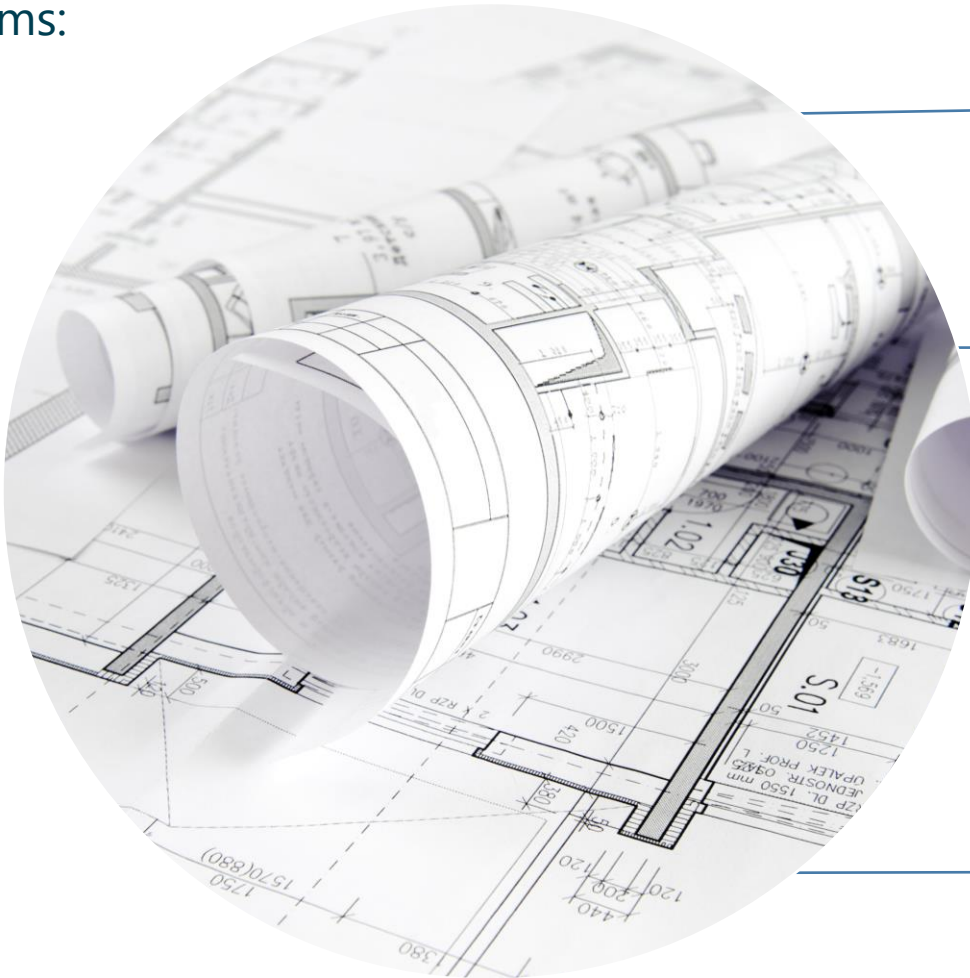
Ineligible Projects

- Feasibility studies necessary to seek Congressional authorization
- Program specific appraisal and feasibility studies, such as:
 - Title XVI Water Recycling and Reuse Program studies
 - Rural Water Program studies
 - Small Storage Program studies
 - Basin Study Program studies
- Studies for the operation or maintenance of facilities



Project Design Grants

Conduct project-specific design and develop a final design package for medium to large scale on-the-ground water management projects, including construction projects eligible under the following WaterSMART programs:



Water and Energy
Efficiency Grants



Drought Resiliency
Projects



Domestic Water Supply for
Disadvantaged
Communities



Environmental
Water Resources
Projects



Project Design Grants

Eligible activities for the development of a design package

✓ Development of project requirements and evaluation of design alternatives

📋 Evaluation of site alternatives and selection of project site.

✎ Preparation of final design drawings and specifications for the construction of the project.

\$ Evaluation of economic conditions, preparation of project cost estimates, and development of project implementation plan.

⚖️ Legal and Institutional Requirements Research.

Project products: 60% level final design package

Basis of Design
identifying project,
requirements, design
criteria, design codes,
operating
descriptions, and
assumptions.

Site-specific
design drawings

Details and
specifications for
fabrication,
materials, and
construction

Cost estimate
and schedule



Project activities leading to construction plans and specifications must be reviewed and approved by a professional registered in the appropriate engineering/architectural discipline.

Project Design Grants

- It is assumed you have done some level planning before applying for Project Design Grants
- Completion of a Project Design Grant is a great foundation for additional WaterSMART applications.
- The completion of a Project Design Grant does not guaranteed you will be selected for additional WaterSMART funding.
- You do not have to apply for WaterSMART construction of the project
- Some WaterSMART programs have specific planning and design funding opportunities. See the Title XVI and AERP programs for additional information.
- Projects selected under this funding opportunity will have to comply with environmental and cultural compliance.
- Funding can not be used to complete environmental and cultural compliance for a future construction project.



Drought Contingency Planning



- Eligible Applicants: States, Indian Tribes, Irrigation Districts, Water Districts, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority
- Up to \$400K in Reclamation funds
- 50% non-Federal cost share can be reduced or waived in limited circumstances (financial need and significant Federal interest)



Planning Steps (Phase 1)

Phase 1:

Establishment of a Drought Planning Task Force

- Task Force must be made up of diverse stakeholders within the planning area that want to actively participate in developing the Plan.
- Reclamation reviews the Task Force membership and provides feedback as necessary.

Development of a Detailed Work Plan

- Describes how the various tasks will be accomplished, along with a detailed work schedule, and an outreach plan explaining how stakeholders and the public will be involved in the planning process.
- Reclamation must review and accept the detailed work plan before substantive work on the Plan begins.



Planning Steps (Phase 2)

Phase 2:

Development of Plan

- Develop Drought Monitoring Framework
- Conduct Vulnerability Assessment
- Identify and Prioritize Mitigation Actions
- Develop Response Actions
- Develop Operational and Administrative Framework
- Identify Plan Update Process

Plan Acceptance

- Reclamation reviews in accordance with requirements outlined in the WaterSMART Drought Response Framework
 - <https://www.usbr.gov/drought/>



Drought Contingency Planning Steps

Technical
Consultation

Submission of
Application and
Selection of
Project

Phase I –
Establishment of
Drought Planning
Task Force and
Development of
Detailed Work
Plan

Detailed Work Plan
reviewed and
accepted by
Reclamation

Phase II - Plan
Development
and Acceptance



Evaluation Criteria

This criteria is used for Project Design, Water Strategy, and Drought Contingency

Criterion A – Project Benefits (35 points)

- Severity of the risks to water supplies
 - Impacts and benefits to water users and geographic areas
 - Does the project involve nature-based features or meet existing environmental mitigation or compliance obligations?
-

Criterion B – Inclusion of Stakeholders (25 points)

- Level of commitment
 - Diversity of stakeholders
-

Criterion C – Ability to Meet Program Requirements (20 points)

- Well-supported budget – table and narrative
 - Existing Data
 - Staff Expertise
-

Criterion D – Presidential & DOI Priorities (15 points)

- Climate Change
 - Any Tribal benefits or if applicant is a Tribe
 - Any benefits to disadvantaged or underserved communities
-

• **Criterion E** – Nexus to Reclamation (5 points)





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Drought Resiliency Projects

Presented by Shelbie Neff

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

- 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.



Drought Resiliency Projects

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible Applicants

Category A:

- States, Tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts;
- State, regional, or local authorities, whose members include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; and
- Other organizations with water or power delivery authority.

Category A applicants must be located in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, or Puerto Rico.

Category B:

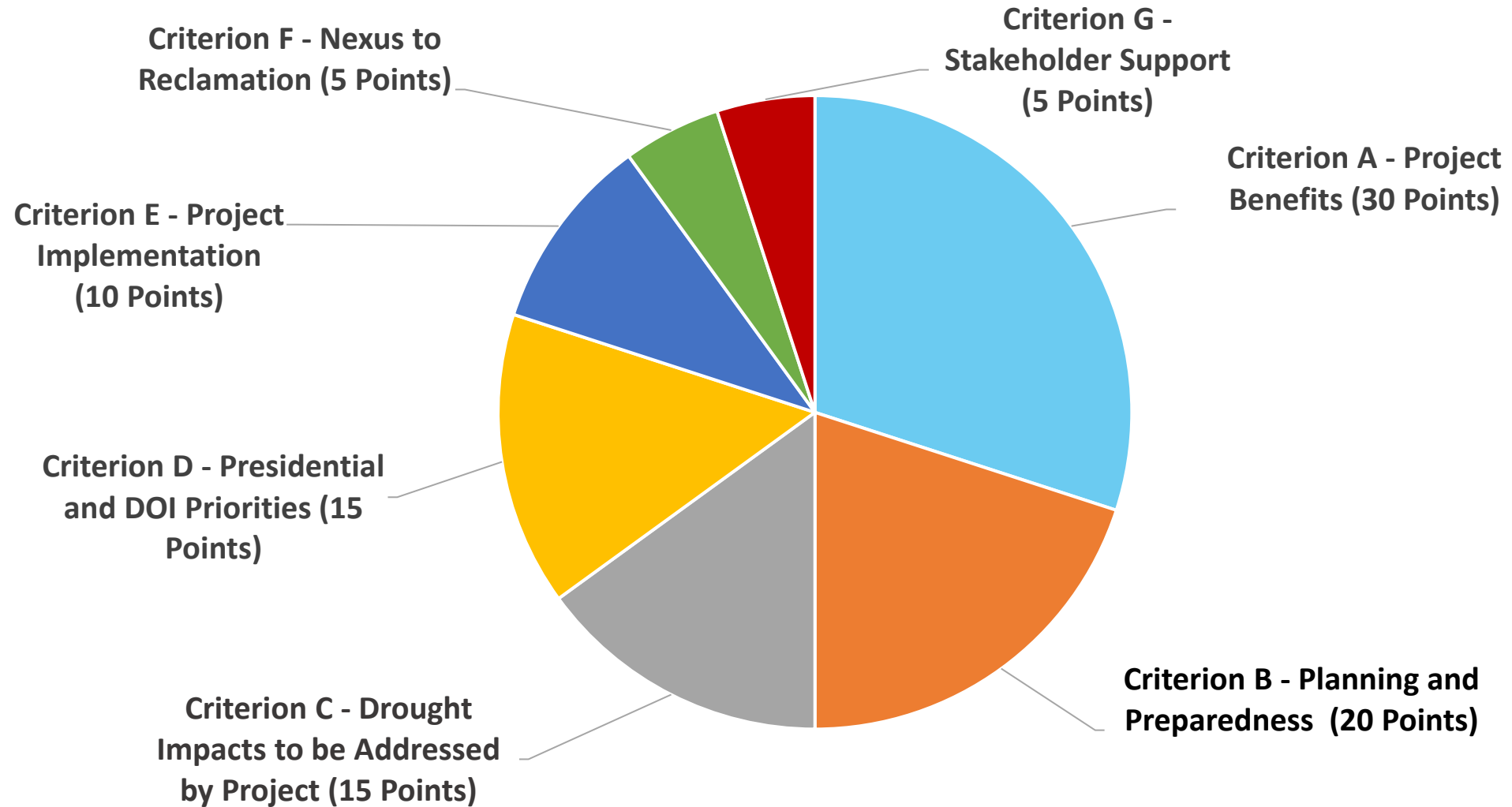
- Nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership with the agreement of an entity described in Category A.
- Category B applicants must include with their application a letter from the Category A partner, stating they are acting in partnership with the applicant and agree to the submittal and content of the proposal.

Category B applicants must be located in the United States or a territory listed above.



Drought Resiliency Projects

Evaluation Criteria



Drought Resiliency Projects

Evaluation Criteria

Criterion A – Project Benefits (30 points)

- How does your project build long-term resilience to drought?
- Does the project provide additional water supplies or improve water management?
- Quantitative and Qualitative description
- Provide detailed support for benefits
- Any direct environmental or climate change benefits.

*** Additional information required if the project has any of the following components**

- Saltwater Barriers
- Wells
- New Water Marketing Tool or Program
- Metering/Water Measurement Projects

Criterion B – Drought Planning and Preparedness (20 points)

- Explain how the plan addresses drought
- Explain the plan process, collaborative stakeholder involvement
- Projects specifically identified in a drought plan with a high importance/priority are prioritized

***A Drought-specific plan is not required but plans that contain drought elements will improve the score.**



Drought Resiliency Projects

Evaluation Criteria

Criterion C – Drought Impacts to be addressed by project (15 points)

- Severity of Impacts, such as:
 - Public health, environmental, economic, and any conflicts over limited water resources
 - Existing or Potential Drought Conditions in the project area
 - How will the project address or mediate these impacts?
-

Criterion D – Presidential and DOI Priorities (15 points)

- Disadvantaged/Underserved communities, including insular areas
- Tribal benefits

Criterion E – Project Implementation (10 points)

- Well-supported budget – table and narrative
 - Identification of necessary permits and regulatory compliance, including consideration for compliance costs
 - Engineering and design work
 - Detailed, thorough schedule
-

Criterion F – Nexus to Reclamation (5 points)

- Relation to Reclamation project or activity
-

Criterion G – Stakeholder Support (5 points)

- Letters of support for the project
- Any in-kind contributions from stakeholders



Drought Resiliency Projects

Program Requirements Summary

Eligible Applicants

States, Indian Tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts; State, regional, or local authorities, whose members include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; other organizations with water or power delivery authority. OR a nonprofit conservation organization partnering with a previously described entity.

Funding Groups

FG I: Up to \$500,000 in Federal funds for projects completed within 2 years
FG II: Up to \$2,000,000 in Federal funds for projects completed within 3 years
FG III: Up to \$5,00,000 in Federal funds for projects completed within 3 years

Cost Share

50% non-Federal cost share required for Task A-C projects
5% non-Federal cost share for Task D projects (can request waiver)

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated against the evaluation criteria which comprise a total of 100 points.

Important Dates

Pre-award costs cannot pre-date August 7, 2023

Application Deadline: Tuesday, October 31st, 2023



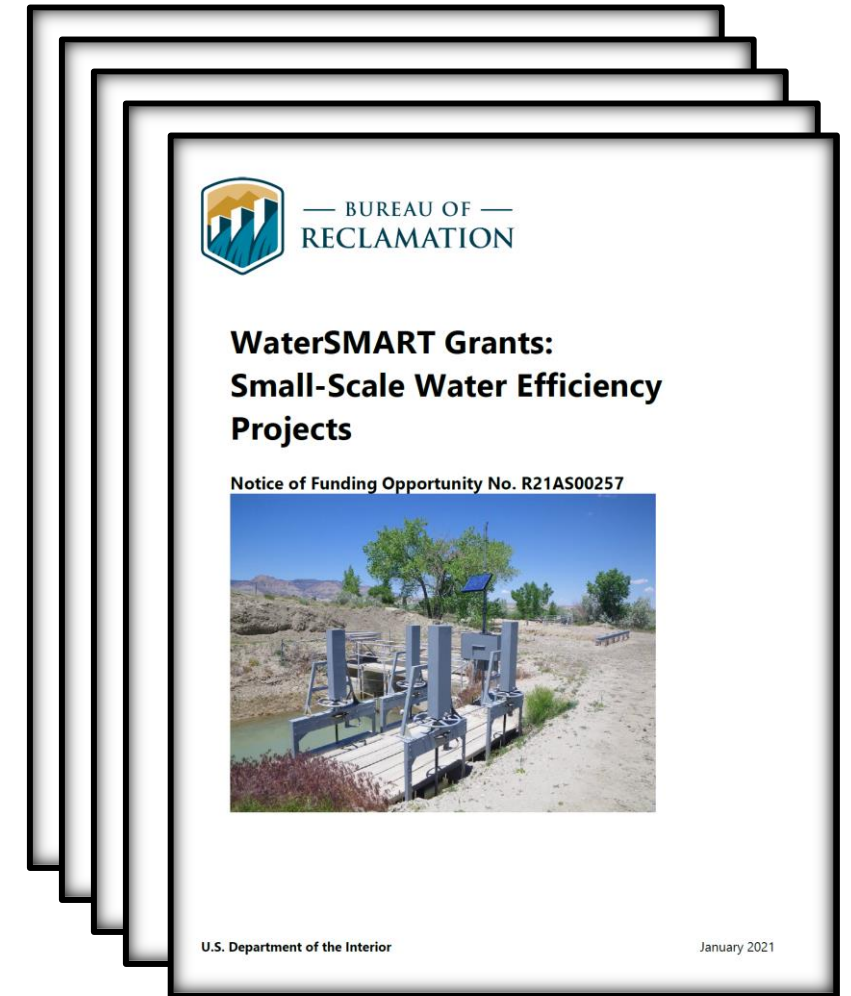


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WaterSMART Application Tips

General Application Tips

- 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.
- Suggested Pre-Application Actions:
 - Contact the Program Coordinator to discuss any questions about your project fit or applicant eligibility.
 - Look at past successful applications at www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART



Application Tips

Evaluation Criteria

- Make sure you respond to every criterion and every sub-criterion
- Your responses should:
 - Directly respond to the criterion – We recommend you 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 citations 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



Application Tips

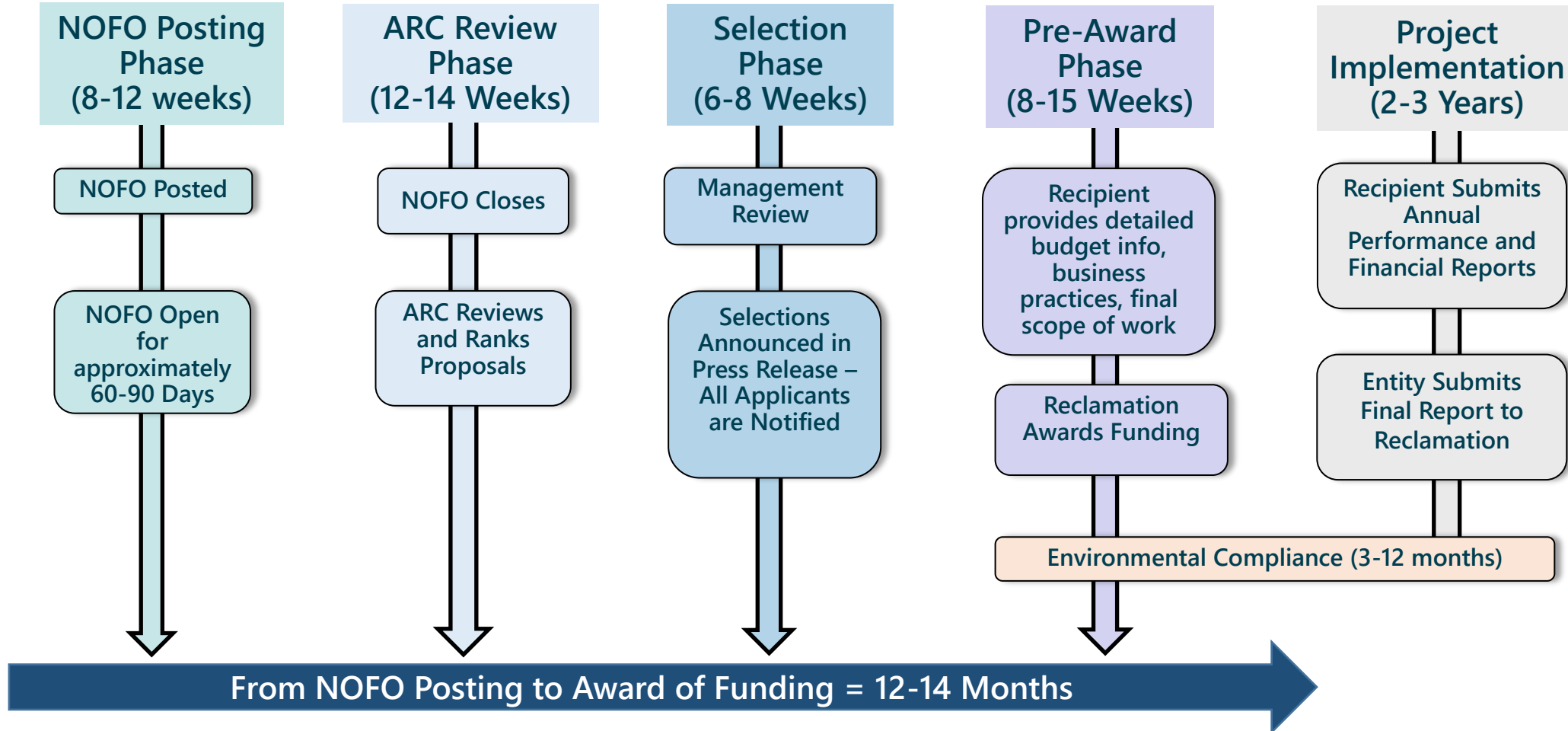
Environmental and Cultural Resource Compliance

- All projects funded through this opportunity must comply with Federal environmental and cultural resources laws and regulations. Reclamation regional and area office staff will ensure compliance. This compliance must occur prior to any ground-disturbing activities taking place.



WaterSMART Selection Process

Sample schedule





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WaterSMART Financial Assistance Requirements

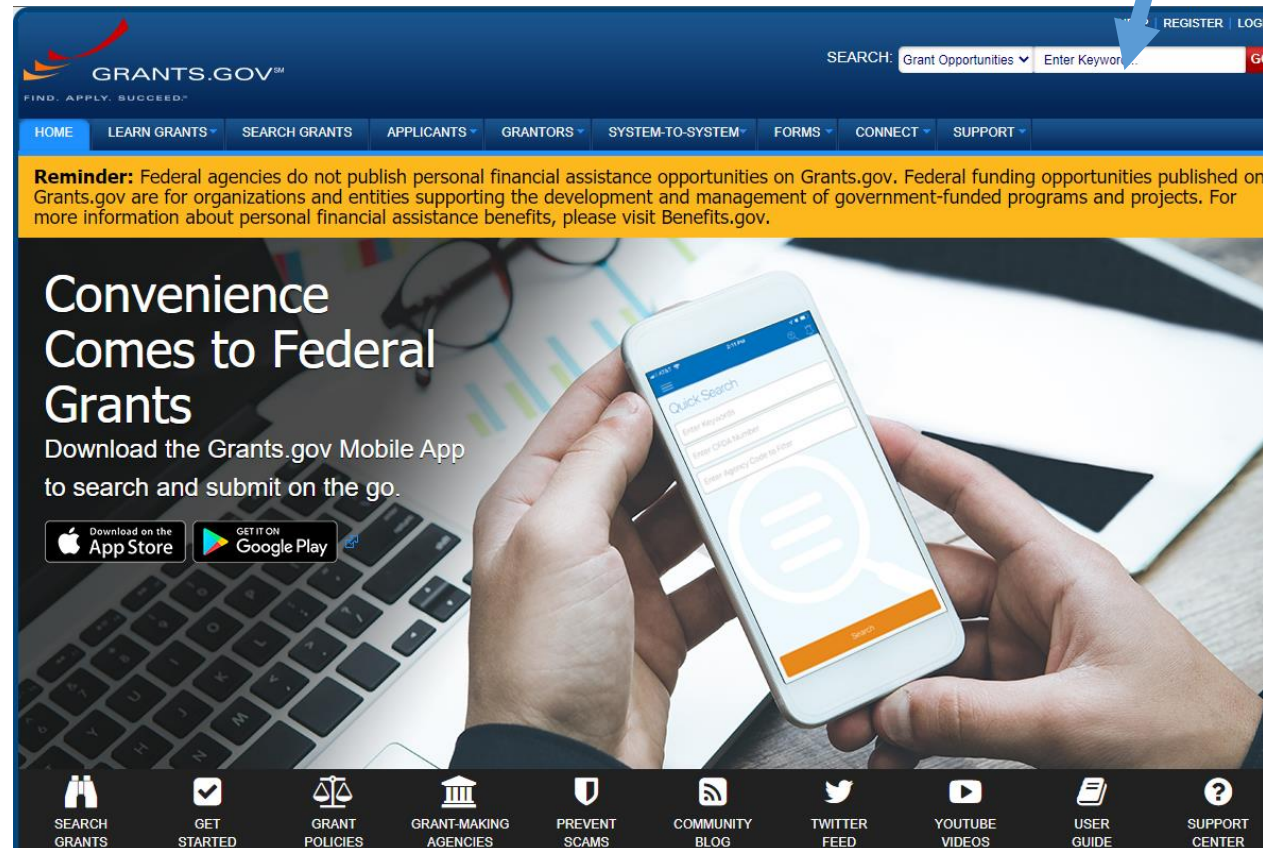
Application Tips

Where to Start

Reference: R24AS00007 Drought Resiliency Projects
R23AS00109 Planning & Project Design

Search for opportunity
R24AS00007

Start at
www.grants.gov



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



R24AS00007

WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects for Fiscal Year 2024
Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

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SYNOPSIS

VERSION HISTORY

RELATED DOCUMENTS

PACKAGE

Print Related Documents List



Notification History:

Type	Date	Modification Description
Related Documents	Aug 07, 2023	Added attachments

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	R24AS00007-Full Announcement - Full Announcement.zip	Aug 07, 2023 02:40:40 PM EDT	1.1 MB
WaterSMART_FY24 DRP NOFO_508_8-7-2023.pdf	WaterSMART_FY24 DRP NOFO_508_8-7-2023.pdf	Aug 07, 2023 02:40:40 PM EDT	1.1 MB
Folder: Other Supporting Documents - Other Supporting Documents	R24AS00007-Other Supporting Documents - Other Supporting Documents.zip	Aug 07, 2023 03:42:56 PM EDT	168.9 KB
Attachment A Budget Narrative	Attachment A -Budget_Narrative_Guidance.docx	Aug 07, 2023 03:42:11 PM EDT	77.2 KB
Attachment B- Optional Budget Detail and Narrative	Attachment B - Optional Budget_Detail_and_Narrative.xlsx	Aug 07, 2023 03:42:56 PM EDT	119.4 KB



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R24AS00007

WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects for Fiscal Year 2024
Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

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VERSION HISTORY

RELATED DOCUMENTS

PACKAGE

Print Package List



Select Grant Opportunity Package

PLEASE READ BEFORE APPLYING!

If you view and complete your application package using Grants.gov downloadable PDF forms, you MUST have Adobe Reader installed. You may receive a validation error using incompatible versions of Adobe Reader. To prevent a validation error, it is now recommended you uninstall any earlier versions of Adobe Reader and install the latest compatible version of Adobe Reader. If more than one person is working on the PDF forms, ALL applicants must be using the same Adobe Reader version. [Click for more information on Adobe Reader Compatibility.](#)

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

CFDA	Competition ID	Competition Title	Opportunity Package ID	Opening Date	Closing Date	Actions
15.514	R24AS00007	WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects for Fiscal Year 2024	PKG00282792	08/07/2023	10/31/2023	Preview Apply

Preview Opportunity Package Details



Opportunity Package Details:

Agency Contact Information: Karen Shubert

Who Can Apply: Organization Applicants

Although these forms show under optional, they are MANDATORY. You will need to pick the one that applies for your application either construction or non-construction - We had to enter it this way otherwise the system would make you fill them all out

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 Narrative Attachment Form [V1.2]» Project Narrative Attachment Form [V1.2]	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A) [V1.0]» Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B) [V1.1]» Budget Information for Construction Programs (SF-424C) [V2.0]» Assurances for Construction Programs (SF-424D) [V1.1]» Project Abstract Summary [V2.0]» Grants.gov Lobbying Form [V1.1]» Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL) [V2.0]



Financial Assistance – Role

Role of Financial Assistance staff

- Answer questions about financial assistance requirements during the application process (e.g., registration in ASAP, UEI and SAM.GOV, budget requirements, etc.)
- Conduct Initial Screening and remove applications that do not meet the objective of this NOFO.
- Notify Applicants of Application status based on the contact information provided on the SF-424



Financial Assistance – Initial Screening

Per the NOFO Initial Screening requirements in Section E.2.1, all application packages will be screened to ensure that:

- The applicant meets the completeness and eligibility requirements stated in this NOFO.
- The applicant meets the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and SAM registration requirements stated in this NOFO.
- The application meets the content requirements of the NOFO package, including submission of a technical proposal, responses to the evaluation criteria, budget proposal, and budget narrative.
- The application contains properly executed mandatory forms
 - SF-424, Application for Financial Assistance (All)
 - SF424 A & B = Non-Construction Programs Budget and Assurances
 - SF424 C & D = Construction Programs Budget and Assurance



Financial Assistance – Selection Notification

- *Once Initial screening is complete, Ineligible applicants will be notified and Eligible applicants will move on to the Merit Review*
 - An applicant that has submitted an application that is determined to be ineligible for funding will be notified along with other applicants, or sooner, if possible.
- *After the applicant is informed of being selected, Reclamation and the applicant will enter into a financial assistance agreement*
 - The financial assistance agreement (Grant or Cooperative) will document the project scope of work, budget, milestones, and reporting requirements.



Budgets

- Project scope and budget should align! Reviewers will consider whether the budget is reasonable to complete the scope described in the technical project description.
- A Descriptive Budget Narrative must also be submitted with application showing both Federal and non-Federal Costs.
- Consider inflation when developing your budget.



Intellectual Property, Intangible Property, and Data Availability References

- Intellectual Property, Intangible Property, and Data Availability are possible factors in projects selected for Grants
- Software, models, and other products developed within a Federal Agreement retain a Federal interest in those products
- Data Availability is that data produced with a Federal Agreement requires the data to be available to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the data produced under a Federal award as well as authorize others to receive, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use such data for Federal purposes

- ❖ Intangible Property and Data Availability 2 CFR 200.315
- ❖ 35 USC Ch. 18 Patent Rights in Inventions made with Federal Assistance
- ❖ Intellectual Property 2 CFR 200.448



Pre-award Documentation

What to expect if selected for funding

You may be asked to provide:

- Additional budget clarifications
- Pre-award system survey (if no audit is required) or single audit if not available on the Federal Audit Clearinghouse
- Cost-share documentation
- Explanation of requested pre-award costs
- All reports up to date on other Reclamation awards



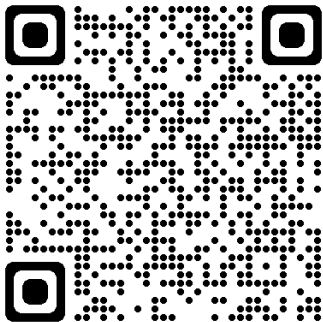


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Additional Tools and Resources

WaterSMART Program Resources

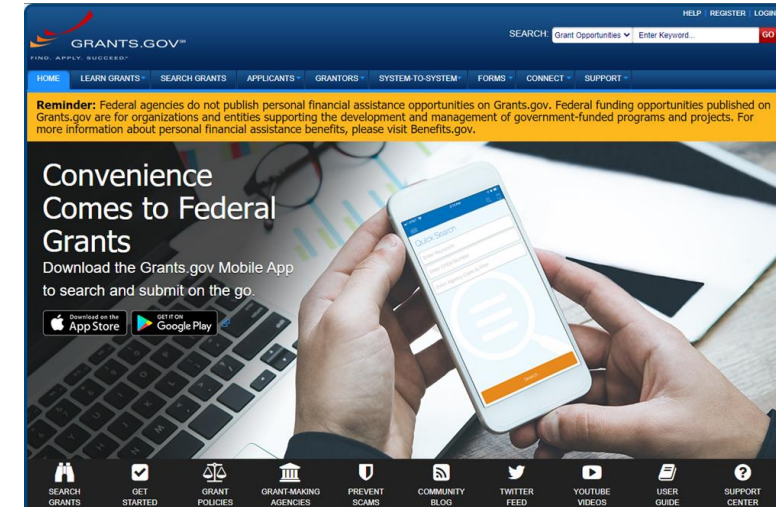
- WaterSMART Program Website:
<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart>
 - Previously funded applications for all programs
 - Interactive Data Visualization Tool
 - WaterSMART Dashboard
 - WaterSMART mailing list
 - Recent announcements
 - Funding opportunity calendar



WaterSMART Program Resources

Additional Resources

- All open Funding Opportunities can be found at:
www.grants.gov
 - General guide on how to submit a grant application on Grants.Gov located on WaterSMART website.
- Climate Mapping and Resilience and Adaptation:
<https://resilience.climate.gov/>
- Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool:
<https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5>



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](#)





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For questions relating to SF-424 forms, Grants.gov, and SAM Registration, please reach out to the Reclamation Financial Assistance Contact:

Ms. Karen Shubert
kshubert@usbr.gov
801-524-3663

Please copy the Program Coordinator when reaching out to the Financial Assistance Office.



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Water Resources & Planning Office

PLANNING AND PROJECT DESIGN

Water Strategy Grants

Ms. Irene Hoiby
303-445-3575 or ihoiby@usbr.gov

Project Design Grants

Ms. Nickie McCann
303-445-3733 or nmccann@usbr.gov

Drought Contingency Planning

Ms. Sheri Looper
916-978-5556 or slooper@usbr.gov

DROUGHT RESILIENCY PROJECTS

Ms. Sheri Looper
Drought Coordinator
916-978-5556 or slooper@usbr.gov

Ms. Shelbie Neff
303-445-2881 or sneff@usbr.gov



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Questions?

Please utilize the Q&A Function to ask questions.