



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Territorial Domestic Water Supply Projects Financial Assistance Request for Proposals

Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, Section 50231

Native American and International Affairs Office



Mission Statements

The U.S. Department of the Interior protects and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated Island Communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

Territorial Domestic Water Supply Projects Financial Assistance Request for Proposals

A. Program Description

A.1 Background and Authority

With the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act (Act) of 2022, Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) Native American and International Affairs Office (NAIAO) will carry out a Domestic Water Supplies Program to assist the U.S. Territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands (Territories) for the construction of water projects to provide domestic water supplies to communities or households that do not have reliable access to domestic water supplies.

Sec. 50231. Domestic Water Supply Projects

Bureau of Reclamation Domestic Water Supply Projects. In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, for fiscal year 2022, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$550,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2031, for grants, contracts, or financial assistance agreements for disadvantaged communities (identified according to criteria adopted by the Commissioner of Reclamation) in a manner as determined by the Commissioner of Reclamation for up to 100 percent of the cost of the planning, design, or construction of water projects the primary purpose of which is to provide domestic water supplies to communities or households that do not have reliable access to domestic water supplies in a State or territory described in the first section of the Act of June 17, 1902 (43 U.S.C. 391; 32 Stat. 388, chapter 1093).

The Territorial Domestic Water Supply Program demonstrably advances Trump administration priorities, such as those identified in Presidential Executive Order 14154 (January 20, 2025): Unleashing American Energy (E.O. 14154) and Secretarial Order 3418, and aligns with other priorities and requirements, such as those identified in Presidential Executive Order 14332 (August 7, 2025): Improving Oversight in Federal Grantmaking (E.O. 14332).

Certified Local Governments are encouraged to prioritize projects in support of the celebration of America's 250th birthday (Freedom 250). This may include, but is not limited to, preservation planning, interpretation, public engagement, and rehabilitation projects that recognize and honor the nation's founding, history, and cultural heritage.

A.2 Program Purpose

The primary purpose of the Territorial Domestic Water Supplies Projects program is to fund construction projects for domestic water supplies to existing households or communities in the Territories that do not have reliable access to domestic water supplies. Domestic water supplies are for human use and consumption. Domestic water supplies for communities include a communal benefit (e.g., school, hospital, nursing home, etc.).

B. Federal Award Information

B.1 Total Funding

Of the funds authorized by the Act, \$11 million will be made available for construction projects in the Territories. The \$11 million is intended to be distributed equally among the Territories. Each Territory will be allotted a maximum of \$2.75 million, which will be provided as a financial assistance grant(s). If a Territory received funding in the form of financial or technical assistance in phase one of this program, those amounts will count towards the \$2.75 million total for phase one and this phase two (see below for exact amounts). These funds will remain available until September 30, 2031.

U.S. Virgin Islands - \$2.75M available

Guam - \$2.75M available

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands - \$2.36M available (\$390K from phase one)

American Samoa - \$1,154,969 available (\$1,595,031 from phase one)

Financial Assistance: Funding is provided for up to 100% of the cost of construction of a domestic water supply project (see Section D Eligible Projects). Project proposals for construction activities must show that planning and design have been completed.

Cost Sharing or Matching: No cost sharing or matching is required under this Request for Proposals. Although cost sharing/matching is not required as a condition of eligibility, applicants that demonstrate that they have leveraged or plan to leverage additional external funds in order to support the proposed project activities should include leveraged funds in their application, so they can be included in the evaluation process.

B.2 Assistance Listing Number

Awards made through this Request for Proposals will be made under Assistance Listing Number 15.577- Domestic Water Supply Projects.

B.3 Number of Awards

Approximately 4 to 12 awards, depending on the amount requested by each applicant and the amount of Federal funding available under this Request for Proposals. More awards may be made if additional funding becomes available.

B.4 Expected Award and Anticipated Dates

Anticipated Award Date: Summer/Fall 2026

Reclamation expects to contact all applicants regarding application status for funding spring/summer 2026 (or later if necessary).

B.5 Instrument to Fund Selected Projects

Project awards will be made through Federal Financial Assistance grants or cooperative agreements, as defined by 2 CFR 200, as applicable to each project. If a cooperative agreement is awarded, the Territory should expect Reclamation to have substantial involvement in the project, as follows:

- Collaboration and participation with the successful applicant in the management of the project and close oversight of the successful applicant's activities to ensure that the program objectives are being achieved.
- Oversight may include review, input, and approval at key interim stages of the project.

B.6 Duration of Projects

Project must be completed as follows:

1. Construction – 3 years from date of award

C. Eligibility Information

C.1 Eligible Applicants

The eligible applicants are:

Territorial government entities with water delivery authority in Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the U.S. Virgin Islands.

C.2 Ineligible Applicants

Ineligible applicants are:

- Non-Territorial government entities

C.3 Eligible Projects

A project owned by a Territorial government that is designed to serve Territorial communities where the primary purpose is to provide or enhance reliable access to domestic water supplies. Domestic water supplies are for human use and consumption. Domestic water supplies for communities include a communal benefit (e.g., school, hospital, nursing home, etc.).

Eligible project applications must meet the two objectives below:

1. At least 80% of the average annual deliveries of project water must be for domestic water purposes.
2. Proposals must show that projects can be completed within the allotted timeframes outlined in Section B.4. Duration of Projects.

This Request for Proposals will only fund projects, or portions of projects, where the scope of work and activities are discrete and identified and do not already have funding from a separate source. Funds requested through this Request for Proposals cannot be duplicative of any other Federal, Territorial, or local award.

Types of eligible projects include, but are not limited to construction of:

- The installation of new Territory-owned domestic water supply infrastructure facilities.
- An improvement, upgrade, or inter-connection of existing Territory-owned domestic water supply infrastructure and facilities.
- The extension of existing Territory-owned domestic water supply infrastructure and facilities to reach an existing unserved or underserved service area.
- Projects that address urgent and compelling domestic water supply or quality needs.

Projects may include, but are not limited to, the following types of infrastructure and facilities:

- Pumps, pipes, wells, surface water intakes and other diversion, transmission, or distribution systems.
- Storage tanks and small impoundments.
- Water treatment facilities for potable water supplies, including desalination facilities.
- Buildings necessary to house equipment and serve as a center for operations.
- Power transmission and related facilities required for the project.
- Associated features to mitigate adverse environmental consequences of a project.

The following portions of a project will not be funded through this Request for Proposals:

- Water for commercial, industrial, and irrigation uses (e.g. golf course).
- Water for future development (e.g. future neighborhoods).
- Water required for fire flow protection.
- Operations and maintenance of constructed infrastructure.

C.4 Ineligible Projects

Ineligible projects under this Request for Proposals include:

- Projects in direct support of litigation of any kind.
- Projects with domestic water supply deliveries less than 80% of the total water deliveries (defined as at least 80% of the average annual deliveries).
- Projects that will not be completed in the timeframe given in this section above.
- Projects that are normal and routine (recurring) Operation, Maintenance, and Replacement (OM&R). OM&R is described as replacing or repairing existing infrastructure or function without providing increased efficiency or effectiveness of water distribution over the expected life of the improvement. Examples of ineligible OM&R projects include:
 - Replacing malfunctioning components of an existing facility with the same

components.

- Performing an activity on a recurring basis, even if that period is extended (e.g., 10-year interval).
- Sealing expansion joints of concrete lining because the original sealer or the water stops have failed.
- Sealing cracks in canals and/or pipes, including those sealant projects intended to improve facilities with inherent design and construction flaws.
- Replacing broken meters with new meters of the same type.
- Replacing leaky pipes with new pipes of the same type.
- Completion of one-time leak detection surveys.

Note: Applicants that have questions regarding OM&R are encouraged to contact the Program Coordinator (see Section G. Agency Contacts) prior to the application deadline for further information.

- Projects providing domestic water supplies solely for future development.
- Projects using Federal funding to purchase water.
- Projects using Federal funding for the purchase of land, or with the primary purpose to secure a permanent easement.

D. Application and Submission Information

D.1 Address to Request Application Package

This document contains all information, forms, and electronic addresses required to obtain the information required to submit an application. If you are unable to access this information electronically, you can request paper copies of any of the documents referenced in this Request for Proposals by emailing the NAIAO staff at TerritorialDomesticWaterProgram@usbr.gov.

D.2 Content and Form of Application Submission

All applications will conform to the requirements described in this document. Applications will be screened for completeness and compliance with the provisions of this notice.

Prior to applying, applicants should review presidential actions found at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/> and DOI Secretary's Orders found at: <https://www.doi.gov/document-library/secretary-order>. By applying in response to this Request for Proposals, the applicant certifies awareness and compliance with all currently effective and applicable executive orders and secretary's orders, including but not limited to the Executive Order titled Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing as well as the Executive Order and Secretary's order titled Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History. Applicants are responsible for ensuring their proposed activities are consistent with the intent and requirements of these directives.

D.2.1 Application Format and Length.

The total technical proposal section (defined below) will be limited to a maximum of 25 consecutively numbered pages. The font shall be at least 12 points in size and easily readable. Page size shall be 8½ by 11 inches, including charts, maps, and drawings. Margins should be standard 1-inch margins. Oversized pages will not be accepted.

D.2.2 Required Forms and other Application Content.

The application must include the following elements to be considered complete:

- SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance. A completed SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance signed by a person legally authorized to commit the Territory to performance of the project must be submitted with the application. Applications must include a valid UEI. See section F for additional information.
- Applicants requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funding must certify to the statements in [43 CFR §18, Appendix A](#). If this application requests more than \$100,000 in Federal funds, the authorized official's signature on the appropriate SF-424 form also represents the applicant's certification of the statements in 43 CFR § 18, Appendix A.
- If the applicant has made, or agreed to make, payment to any lobbying entity in an attempt to influence, or attempt to influence, an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with a covered Federal action, Reclamation will require applicants to complete and sign an SF-LLL, *Disclosure of Lobbying Activities* form. Note— a contractor or other entity cannot submit this form on an applicant's behalf.
- SF-424A is required for construction and non-construction programs. The SF-424A should be fully filled out, including both the costs that will be paid with Federal funds and, if applicable, those that will be paid with the non-Federal funds. In Section D of the SF-424A – Forecasted Cash Needs, applicants do not have to project cash needs by quarter. Instead include all costs in the first quarter of the first year and enter “0” in all other fields of Section E – Budget Estimates of Federal Funds Needed for Balance of the Project. A SF-424B Assurances for Non-Construction Programs signed by a person legally authorized to commit the Territory to performance of the project must be submitted with the application.
- Technical Proposal (see Section D.2.4), Budget Proposal (see Section D.2.5), Budget Narrative (see Section D.2.6)

Restrictions on Lobbying Non-Federal entities are strictly prohibited from using funds under a grant or cooperative agreement for lobbying activities and must provide the required certifications and disclosures pursuant to 43 CFR §18 and 31 U.S.C. §1352.

D.2.3 Unique Entity Identifier, System for Award Management (SAM), and Uniform Audit Reporting Statement

Before applying, all Territorial applicants must be registered in SAM.gov. During the SAM.gov registration the entity will obtain their Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

The SAM.gov registration process can take several months. If your organization is not already registered in SAM.gov, begin the registration process as soon as possible.

To register in SAM.gov, go to the SAM.gov website and use the available resources to complete registration.

- Financial assistance registrants must review and certify compliance with the SAM.gov “Financial Assistance General Representations and Certifications”.
- Already registered? You already have a Unique Entity ID. Before applying, check that your “Financial Assistance General Representations and Certifications” on SAM.gov is complete. Remember to renew your registration every year to keep it active while you have an award or application in progress. You can update your registration whenever you need, including during renewal.
- Need help? For additional information and contact information on the SAM.gov Help page.

D.2.4 Technical Proposal Content

Submission of a technical proposal is required. While an application will not be removed from consideration if the technical proposal does not address each of the following, it is highly recommended that Territorial applicants address each component listed below to ensure that your proposal is complete. An incomplete proposal may affect the likelihood of awarding a grant/cooperative agreement under this Request for Proposals. *It is suggested that applicants copy and paste the Key Project Priorities and appropriate Detailed Project Description considerations in this section into their applications to ensure that all necessary information is adequately addressed.*

Title Page Provide a brief, informative, and descriptive title for the proposed work that indicates the nature of the domestic water supply project. Include the name and address of the applicant, and the name and address, e-mail address, and telephone number of the Project Manager.

Table of Contents List all major sections of the proposal in the table of contents.

Executive Summary The executive summary should include:

1. *Applicant Information:* date, applicant name, city, Territory.
2. *General Description:* Provide a general description of the project as it relates to domestic water supplies for the Territory and any affected parties.

Example – Construction: Territory X will build a water delivery system to provide clean drinking water to a portion of their residents in the eastern villages of Island Y. This project includes construction of a water treatment plant and 3 miles of pipeline, creating reliable access to clean drinking water and improving water quality. Residents in the area to be served by the project currently rely on well water of variable quality and unreliable availability.

3. *Need for Project:* Describe the specific need to be addressed by the proposed project including the current or historic domestic water supply conditions in the Territory or project area. Clearly indicate how the proposal addresses the Program Purpose in Section A.2 above.
4. *Anticipated Results/Benefits:* Briefly describe the expected benefits of the proposed project related to enhanced access to reliable domestic water supplies, as well as any other direct

benefits associated with the proposed project's implementation.

5. *Project Timeline*: State the length of time and estimated completion date for the proposed project (month/year).
6. *Project Cost Estimate*: Total cost of the proposed project, other funding sources (federal and non-federal), and the funding amount being requested from Reclamation.

Proposed Project Location Provide specific information on the proposed project area, including a map showing the geographic location and a brief narrative. Provide at least one map in PDF format with sufficient project details to understand the location of all elements of the proposal. Multiple maps may be necessary to accurately depict the proposal in its entirety. *If you are selected for funding, Reclamation may request additional detail regarding your project location.*

Key Project Priorities Proposals submitted for consideration will be evaluated based upon project eligibility and considerations of the responses to the following. Projects may be prioritized to best meet the program purposes as outlined above. Proposals should clearly demonstrate how the project will accomplish the program purpose described in Section A.2. Please describe the extent to which the proposal demonstrates a compelling need to implement the project based on the following points below.

The key project priorities description portion of your application should thoroughly address 1 and 2 below to assist in the complete and accurate evaluation of your proposal. It is suggested that applicants copy and paste the evaluation considerations in this section into their applications to ensure that all necessary information is adequately addressed.

1. Current Domestic Water Supplies:

- a. Please provide a detailed description of the community(ies) that the proposed project will serve.
- b. Indicate the total service area population.
- c. Describe the number of households and number of community facilities (e.g. hospital, school, etc.) within the service area that may benefit from implementation of the proposed project.
- d. Within the identified service area, please indicate whether there are existing community water systems, and whether those systems are regulated. Describe the households and community facilities with reliable water access.
- e. Describe the current average annual domestic water supplies (consistent with the definition provided in A.2 Program Purpose) delivered to the service area (in acre-feet). Please provide support for how this is quantified.

2. Urgent and Compelling Need for the Project:

- a. Describe the need for the new domestic water supply project including any prominent public health and safety concerns, interruptions in supply, or other reasons that the community does not currently have reliable access to domestic water supplies.
- b. Indicate the total population of those in the service area currently not served by an existing

- (and/or regulated) community water system?
 - For the potential project service area, describe any shortages of water supply.
 - For the potential project service area, describe water supplies that do not currently meet drinking water standards.
- c. Identify any reported violations of drinking water standards within the past 10 years. Consider including data provided by the EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Information System (<https://enviro.epa.gov/envirofacts/sdwis/search>), that tracks the number of health-based violations per 1,000 people, as reported by regulated community water systems in the past 10 years.
- d. Describe any inadequacies in the existing infrastructure to distribute water for domestic uses in sufficient quantities and pressures to protect public health and safety.
- e. Describe the negative impacts should the proposed project not be funded (e.g., access to water, regulatory, and social risk etc.). Discuss how immediate and/or urgent the need is for the proposed project.

Construction Detailed Project Description

Provide a more comprehensive description of the technical aspects of your project, including the specific activities to be accomplished and the approach to complete the work. Proposals should address all project-specific requirements (e.g., completed planning and design, project components, required permits, right-of-way acquisition, compliance with NEPA and NHPA, etc.). This section provides an opportunity for the applicant to provide a clear description of the technical nature of the project and any additional information needed to help reviewers understand the project.

After application submission, Reclamation may reach out for additional information related to the project description in order to make a final selection decision.

1. *Proposed Scope of Project:* Describe the proposed activities to address the need for the project. The level of detail should:
 - a. Support the commitment of resources (including training to operate and maintain new systems) to be applied to the project to accomplish the desired results, and
 - b. Permit a comprehensive evaluation of the proposal. List significant challenges to be addressed and/or opportunities to be realized during the proposed project.
2. *Milestones of Project:* Provide a milestone schedule with estimated start and end dates, and responsible party for each task. For each task, describe planned activities and expected outcomes. Milestones may include, but are not limited to, the following: complete environmental and cultural compliance; mobilization; begin construction/installation; construction/installation (50% complete); and construction/installation (100% complete). *The maximum project duration should not exceed three years.*
3. *Project Needs:* Please describe the extent to which the proposed project can proceed upon receiving an award.
 - a. Indicate whether your project can be phased or scaled depending on available funding.

- b. Describe the Territory's capacity to operate and maintain constructed assets upon project completion.
4. *Project Design Information:* Identify and describe any engineering or design work performed specifically in support of the proposed project. Projects reviewed professionally and that provide comprehensive documentation will receive greater consideration for construction funding. *Note: Reclamation's review of construction documents is only for the purpose of ensuring that program requirements were met – not to ensure technical viability and adequacy.*

Products for submission generally include, but are not limited to:

- Alternatives Analysis.
 - Design criteria and standards
 - Alternatives analysis and decision matrix (including a justification for why the proposed project was chosen over other alternatives)
 - Stakeholder outreach activities
 - Value Engineering/Value Planning/Value Analysis
- Selected Alternative Evaluation.
 - Conducting monitoring, measurement, or other fieldwork needed to inform project design
 - System loss field investigations and estimates
 - Site surveying and field exploration
 - Geologic field exploration
 - Drilling of pilot wells

Note: Ground disturbing activities will require environmental and cultural compliance.

- Final design drawings and specifications.
 - Modeling activities such as hydrologic, groundwater, etc.
 - Basis of design documentation
 - Site-specific design and engineering associated with the project
 - Construction plans and specifications
- Economic conditions and project cost estimates.
 - Analysis of markets and materials (including domestic water supply sources)
 - Detailed project cost estimate
 - Annual operation, maintenance, and replacement (OM&R) cost estimate and an assessment of the Territory's capability to fund these costs (please note Reclamation may require subsequent financial analysis).

Note: Construction plans and specifications must be reviewed and approved by a professional engineer registered in the appropriate engineering and architectural discipline. Reclamation's reviews of design documents are only for the purpose of ensuring that program requirements were met – not to ensure technical viability and adequacy.

5. *Anticipated Benefits:* Briefly describe the expected benefits of the proposed project related to

enhanced access to reliable domestic water supplies.

Projects that are a phase or portion of a larger project should provide distinct and demonstrable benefits upon completion that are not dependent upon any other phases or any larger project.

- a. Explain how the proposed project will increase the reliability of access to domestic and/or community water supplies. Describe the number of households and number of community facilities (e.g. hospital, school, etc.) within the service area that will benefit from implementation of the proposed project.
 - b. Describe if the potential project is bringing in piped water to a community, and if so, how.
 - c. Indicate what percentage of average annual water supply deliveries of the potential project will be for domestic water supply purposes.
 - d. Describe how this project may assist in complying with regulatory requirements related to domestic water resources.
 - e. Is this project a component of a broader strategy or plan to replace aging facilities with alternate facilities providing similar benefits? Describe how this project fits within the strategy or plan and how it will continue to provide benefits.
 - f. How does the project improve water system efficiencies and promote water conservation?
6. *Legal and Institutional Requirements.* Please identify any legal or institutional requirements, or barriers to implementing the proposed project.
- a. Analysis of any water rights issues potentially resulting from implementation of the proposed project. All proposed projects must comply with Territorial water law.
 - b. Discussion of legal and institutional requirements (e.g., contractual water supply obligations), local requirements with the potential to affect implementation of the project.
 - c. Discussion of the need for multi-jurisdictional or interagency agreements, any coordination undertaken, and any planned coordination activities.
 - d. Discussion of permitting procedures required for the implementation of the proposed project in the study area, and any measures that the non-Federal project sponsor can implement that could speed the permitting process.
 - e. Discussion of any unresolved issues associated with implementing the project, how and when such issues will be resolved, and how the project would be affected if such issues are not resolved.
7. *Environmental and Cultural Resources Considerations:* Environmental and cultural resources issues will be considered when evaluating the feasibility of the proposal. To facilitate this evaluation, and to allow Reclamation to assess the potential costs of environmental and cultural resource compliance, please provide, to the best of your ability, answers to the following questions in your application; if any question is not applicable to the project, please explain why:
- a. Has the applicant previously received federal funding for this project or a project(s) adjacent to the proposed project? If so, provide environmental compliance and permitting documentation.

- b. Have previous environmental analyses been completed for this project? If so, attach reports or summaries of findings.
- c. Have biological studies, inventories, or literature searches been conducted (wildlife, fish, vegetation, soils, habitat, noxious weeds, invasive species, etc.)? If so, please provide reports.
- d. What measures will be taken to minimize potential for spread of invasive plant species and/or noxious weeds?
- e. What measures will be taken to minimize potential for spread of aquatic invasive species?
- f. Is the project area located in/on, crosses or is adjacent to a lake, river, stream, wetland, or other waterbody? If so, describe or show on map and describe if the project would modify or impact the waterbody in any way (e.g. dredge or fill within the ordinary high water mark of a waterbody or wetland or discharge of materials into a waterbody).
- g. Does the project contain or is it adjacent to existing facilities (e.g. irrigation system or other works), buildings, or other structures? If so, please list and provide estimated age of facilities or structures if known (county assessors property records are a good source).
- h. Describe if the proposed project would result in any modification of or changes to the existing facilities, buildings, and/or structures (e.g. would the project modify individual features of an irrigation system; would a building or pipeline need to be moved, etc.)
- i. Provide a brief history, if applicable, of the facilities or structures being modified or changed (e.g. irrigation system or other works) and approximate age. Include dates if possible and note age of any features/structural elements (such as headgates, check dams, flumes, etc.) that could be affected by your proposed project that may have been replaced or modified since the system was built.
- j. Have archaeological or cultural resources surveys been conducted yet for the project area? If so, were any concerns or sites identified? (Due to sensitivity of data, please do not send reports or locations).

D.2.5. Budget Proposal and Narrative

Submission of a budget proposal is required. The total project cost is the sum of all allowable items of costs, including all voluntary Territorial contributions, third-party contributions, and indirect costs, that are necessary to complete the project. The budget proposal should include detailed information on the categories listed below and must clearly identify *all* items of cost, including voluntary contributions by the Territory, third-party in-kind contributions costs that will be covered using the funding requested from Reclamation.

- Costs to be reimbursed with the requested federal funding.
- Voluntary Costs to be paid by the Territory, though not required by legislation.
- Value of third-party contributions.

Budget items must be:

- Reasonable, allowable, allocable, and necessary
- Compliant with 2 CFR §200 Subpart E cost principles

Indirect Costs: Territorial Applicants must indicate in their budget narrative how they will charge indirect costs, including the rate to be applied:

- **De Minimis Rate:** If eligible, state if your organization is opting to use the de minimis rate of up to 15% of total modified direct costs. Entities that do not have a current Federal negotiated indirect cost rate (including provisional rate) may propose to use the de minimis rate. For more information, refer to 2 CFR 200.414(f).

- **Negotiated Rate:** State if you will negotiate with your cognizant agency. If your organization has previously negotiated a rate, attach a copy of the most recently negotiated rate agreement (active or expired).

Environmental and cultural resource compliance costs are considered project costs, including those costs incurred by Reclamation, and will need to be included as a separate line item. You may include indirect costs that will be incurred during the project, which will not otherwise be recovered, as part of your project budget. Show the proposed rate, cost base, and proposed amount for allowable indirect costs based on the applicable cost principles for your organization as a separate line item.

Project Partners/Participants

List significant participants and the contribution(s) they will make or tasks for which they will be responsible (to the extent that these details are yet known). Include support or opposition to the project from significant stakeholders.

Letters of commitment from sources outside the applicant are required for construction projects that have the following: 1) Portions of the project other than domestic water supply use, and/or 2) projects exceeding the maximum per project funding limit.

Letters of commitment must be submitted addressing the following items:

- The amount of funding commitment,
- The date the funds will be available to the applicant,
- Any time constraints on the availability of funds,
- Any other contingencies associated with the funding commitment.

If a proposal exceeds the funding limit under this Request for Proposals and requires additional funding from a non-federal source to complete the proposed work, Reclamation will not execute a financial assistance agreement until non-Federal funding has been secured or Reclamation determines that there is enough evidence and likelihood that non-Federal funds will be available to the applicant after executing the agreement. Reclamation may require subsequent financial analysis prior to executing an agreement.

D.3 Application Submission Date and Time

Due Date of Application

Applications/proposals are due by 5:00 pm local time on February 27th to be included in the first review cycle. Applications are due by 5:00 pm local time on March 20th to be included in the second review cycle.

Late applications will not be considered unless it is determined that a delay was caused by Reclamation mishandling.

Application Delivery Instructions

Applications can be submitted electronically via email to:

TerritorialDomesticWaterProgram@usbr.gov

Email submission is preferred, however hard copies can be sent by U.S. Mail or express delivery to the address below by the specified date and time.

Bureau of Reclamation
Attn: Native American and International Affairs Office
1849 C Street, NW
MS 7069-MIB; MC 96-43100
Washington, DC 20240

Acknowledgement of Application Receipt

For mail-in and email application submission, applicants will receive an e-mail acknowledging receipt from Reclamation.

E. Application Review Information

Eligibility Review

Projects will be reviewed for applicant and Program eligibility based on threshold criteria in Section C. Eligibility Information. Reclamation may reach out for additional information related to the completeness of the proposal. An incomplete proposal may affect the likelihood of awarding a grant/cooperative agreement under this Request for Proposals.

Merit Review of Applications

Projects will not be ranked or scored; however, a merit review of proposals will be conducted to evaluate the completeness of responses to the Technical Proposal contents in Section D.2.4 Technical Proposal, D.2.5 Budget Proposal, and D.2.6. Budget Narrative. The merit review will also identify any reasons why a proposed project would not be feasible or otherwise advisable.

Merit Review Criteria:

- Application completeness. Reclamation's Review Team will evaluate applications based on the extent and quality of the applicant's project proposal and overall approach.

Specifically, the Review Team will evaluate the cohesiveness of the applicant's project approach described throughout the application and how the overall strategy fits together to meet the goals and objectives of this program.

- Program Priority Alignment. The extent to which the project, if successfully carried out, will make an important and/or original contribution to increasing reliable access to domestic water supplies.
- Project Approach and Feasibility.
 - The extent to which the concept, design, methods, analyses, and technologies are properly developed, well-integrated, and appropriate to the aims of the project.
 - The likelihood that the proposed work can be accomplished within the proposed time and budget by the investigators or the technical staff, given their experience and expertise, past progress, available resources, institutional/organizational commitment.

Red-Flag and Programmatic Review

The review of applications will follow the requirements of E.O. 14332, such as ensuring review by senior appointees, and that selections demonstrably advance the President's policy priorities consistent with applicable law. Geographic dispersion, project types, applicant types, previous award history, and applicant success in implementing Gold Standard Science (E.O. 14303) may be considered during the review.

The red-flag and programmatic review of all eligible applications will identify any reasons why a proposed project would not be feasible or otherwise advisable, including environmental or cultural resources compliance issues, permitting issues, legal issues, or financial position. Positive or negative past performance by the applicant and any partners in previous working relationships with Reclamation may be considered, including whether the applicant is making significant progress toward the completion of outstanding financial assistance agreements and whether the applicant is in compliance with all reporting requirements associated with previously funded projects. All eligible projects will also be sent to the appropriate offices in Reclamation and the Department (e.g., DOI Office of Insular Affairs) for review.

In addition, during this review, Reclamation will address any specific concerns or questions raised by executive sponsors/leadership and conduct a preliminary budget review.

Managerial Review & Selection

Reclamation management will ensure the total amount of all awards does not exceed available funding levels. In addition, during this review, Reclamation will address any specific concerns or questions raised by executive sponsors/leadership and conduct a preliminary budget review.

Selections will be made by Reclamation leadership based on the merit review of the proposal and alignment with the program purpose as evaluated, and Administration and Agency/Commissioner priorities (such as geographical diversity). After completion of the Managerial Review and selection process, Reclamation will notify applicants whose proposals have been selected for award consideration.

F. Federal Award Notice

F.1 Federal Award Notification

Upon approval, the NAIAO Program Manager or his/her designated appointee will notify the Territory and Grants Officer (GO). This notice outlines the terms, conditions, and payment instructions per 2 CFR 200.211. The Notice of Federal Award signed by an authorized Grants Officer is the legal instrument obligating financial assistance to a recipient. Any other prior notice is not an authorization to begin work. If the program allows pre-award costs per 2 CFR 200.458, beginning performance before receiving a Notice of Federal Award is at the applicant's own risk.

F.1.1 Risk Review

Prior to making an award, the program assesses the risk posed by the applicant per 2 CFR 200.206. If an award will be made, the program may apply special conditions corresponding to the risk assessed. For awards over the simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$350,000), the program reviews eligibility and financial integrity information in the applicant's SAM.gov records per 2 CFR 200.206(a). The program also assesses financial management capabilities, project delivery experience, staffing resources, past performance, administration and reporting compliance records, and overall project complexity and potential challenges.

A Reclamation Grants Officer conducts a detailed budget analysis and a business evaluation and responsibility determination. During this evaluation, the Reclamation Grants Officer will consider several factors, such as:

- Allowability, allocability, and reasonableness of proposed costs
- Financial strength and stability of the applicant
- Past performance, including satisfactory compliance with all terms and conditions of previous awards, such as environmental compliance, reporting requirements, and audit compliance
- Adequacy of personnel practices, procurement procedures, and accounting policies and procedures.

Environmental Review Reclamation will forward the proposal to the Reclamation Natural and Cultural Resources Division (formerly known as the Environmental Compliance Division) for completion of environmental compliance, if applicable. Environmental compliance may be completed before a financial assistance agreement is signed by the parties. However, in most cases, the award can be completed with the release of funds contingent on completion of environmental compliance and receipt of a written Notice to Proceed from the Reclamation GO. Ground-disturbing activities may not occur until environmental compliance is complete and a notice to proceed is issued by the awarding Reclamation GO.

F.2 Administrative and National Policy Requirements

See the “[DOI Standard Terms and Conditions](#)” for the administrative and national policy requirements applicable to Reclamation and Department awards.

F.2.1. Automated Standard Application for Payments Registration

All Territorial Applicants must also be registered with and willing to process all payments through the Department of Treasury Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) system. All recipients with active financial assistance agreements with Reclamation must be enrolled in ASAP under the appropriate Agency Location Code(s) and the UEI Number prior to the award of funds. If a recipient has multiple UEI numbers, they must separately enroll within ASAP for each unique UEI Number and/or bureau. Note that if the Territorial applicant’s entity is currently enrolled in the ASAP system with a bureau *other* than Reclamation, they must enroll specifically with Reclamation in order to process payments. All of the information on the enrollment process for recipients, including the enrollment initiation form, will be sent to you by ASAP staff if selected for award.

F.2.2. Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance

The recipient must comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local environmental, cultural, and paleontological resource laws and regulations. Data collections supporting compliance efforts must follow separate compliance procedures. All projects will require compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) before any ground-disturbing activity may begin.

Recipients are prohibited from any ground-disturbing activities (e.g., biological or water quality surveys, grading, clearing, excavation, and other preliminary or construction activities) on a project before environmental and cultural resources compliance is complete. A recipient that proceeds before environmental and cultural resources compliance is complete risks forfeiting funding. The Grant Officer will issue a Notice to Proceed that explicitly authorizes work to proceed once environmental and cultural resource compliance is complete.

F.2.3. Approvals and Permits

Territories shall adhere to federal and local laws, regulations, and codes, as applicable, and shall obtain all required approvals and permits. Recipients shall also coordinate and obtain approvals from site owners and operators.

F.2.4. Geospatial Data and Data Tools

If you receive financial assistance from the Department of the Interior (DOI), you must follow these rules for geospatial data:

- Follow Federal Standards: All geospatial data you collect or create must meet the standards set by the Federal Geospatial Data Committee (FGDC) or the Department of the Interior. This is required by the Geospatial Data Act of 2018, which is part of Public Law 115-254, specifically in Subtitle F (Geospatial Data), sections 751-759C (codified at 43 U.S.C. §§ 2801–2811).
- Include Metadata: Your Geographic Information Systems (GIS) files must include complete

metadata. Metadata is information that describes the data, such as where it came from, how accurate it is, and how it should be used. This is to ensure that anyone using the data understands its context and quality.

- **Check for Existing Data:** Before you start collecting new geospatial data, you need to check GeoPlatform.gov. This is to see if there is already existing geospatial data from federal, state, local, or private sources that can meet your needs and is available for free. If such data is available, you should use it instead of gathering new data.

These rules help ensure that geospatial data is reliable, high-quality, and that resources are used efficiently.

F.2.5. Intangible Property (2 CFR Section 200.315)

Title to intangible property acquired under a federal award vests upon acquisition in the non-federal entity (see Section 200.1 Intangible Property). The non-federal entity must use that property for the originally authorized purpose and must not encumber the property without approval of the federal awarding agency. When no longer needed for the originally authorized purpose, disposition of the intangible property must occur in accordance with the provisions in Section 200.313(e) Equipment (of this CFR).

F.2.6. Real Property (2 CFR Section 200.311)

Real property, equipment, and intangible property, that are acquired or improved with a federal award must be held in trust by the non-federal entity as trustee for the beneficiaries of the project or program under which the property was acquired or improved (2 CFR Section 200.316 *Property trust relationship*). Title to real property acquired or improved under a federal award will vest upon acquisition in the non-federal entity. Except as otherwise provided by federal statutes or by Reclamation, real property will be used for the originally authorized purpose as long as needed for that purpose, during which time the non-federal entity must not dispose of or encumber its title or other interests. When real property is no longer needed for the originally authorized purpose, the non-federal entity must obtain disposition instructions from Reclamation. As required by 2 CFR Section 200.330 *Reporting on real property*, recipients will be required to submit reports on the status of real property acquired or improved under a financial assistance agreement issued under this Request for Proposals.

F.2.8. Buy America Domestic Procurement Preference

As required by Section 70914 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, P.L. 117-58, on or after May 14, 2022, none of the funds under a federal award that are part of federal financial assistance program for infrastructure may be obligated for a project unless all of the iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States, unless subject to an approved waiver. The requirements of this section must be included in all subawards, including all contracts and purchase orders for work or products under this program.

Recipients of an award of federal financial assistance are hereby notified that none of the funds provided under this award may be used for a project for infrastructure unless:

1. all iron and steel used in the project are produced in the United States--this means all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States.
2. all manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States—this means the manufactured product was manufactured in the United States; and the cost of the components of the manufactured product that are mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States is greater than 55 percent of the total cost of all components of the manufactured product, unless another standard for determining the minimum amount of domestic content of the manufactured product has been established under applicable law or regulation; and
3. all construction materials are manufactured in the United States—this means that all manufacturing processes for the construction material occurred in the United States.

The Buy America preference only applies to articles, materials, and supplies that are consumed in, incorporated into, or affixed to an infrastructure project. As such, it does not apply to tools, equipment, and supplies, such as temporary scaffolding, brought to the construction site and removed at or before the completion of the infrastructure project. Nor does a Buy America preference apply to equipment and furnishings, such as movable chairs, desks, and portable computer equipment, that are used at or within the finished infrastructure project but are not an integral part of the structure or permanently affixed to the infrastructure project.

For further information on the Buy America preference, please visit www.doi.gov/grants/BuyAmerica. Additional information can also be found at the White House Made in America Office website: www.whitehouse.gov/omb/management/made-in-america/.

F.3 Reporting Requirements and Distribution

If the applicant is awarded an agreement as a result of this Request for Proposals, the applicant will be required to submit the following reports during the term of the agreement. Recipients will also be required to have a system in place to comply with these reporting requirements (see 2 CFR Section 170.210 for additional information).

F.3.1. Interim Financial Reports

Territories will be required to submit a fully completed form SF-425 Federal Financial Report in the frequency outlined in the financial assistance agreement. The SF-425 must be signed by a person legally authorized to obligate the Territory.

F.3.2. Interim Performance Reports

The specific terms and conditions pertaining to the reporting requirements will be included in the financial assistance agreement. Interim performance reports will be submitted in the frequency outlined in the financial assistance agreement, which include:

- A comparison of actual accomplishments to the milestones established by the financial assistance agreement for the period;
- The reasons why established milestones were not met, if applicable;

- The status of milestones from the previous reporting period that were not met, if applicable;
- Whether the project is on schedule and within the original cost estimate; and
- Any additional pertinent information or issues related to the status of the project.

F.3.3. Additional Program Specific Reports

Program specific performance reporting will be required to address the following:

- On an annual basis: program goals, indicators, targets, baseline data, data collection, significant developments or expected outcomes (such as outputs, or services performance or public impacts of any of these) with an expected timeline for completion, and computation of costs.

F.3.4. Final Reports

Territories will be required to submit a final performance report encompassing the entire period of performance. The final performance report must include, but is not limited to, the following information:

- Whether the stated project objectives and goals for planning and design or construction were met.
- Discussion of the benefits achieved by the project, including information and/or calculations supporting the benefits.
- How the project improves reliable access to domestic water supplies for the Territorial community served.
- Photographs documenting the project are also appreciated.
- Territories will be required to submit a Final SF-425 Federal Financial Report.

G. Federal Awarding Agency Contacts

Organizations or individuals interested in submitting applications in response to this Request for Proposals may direct questions to the Reclamation personnel identified below.

Reclamation Program Coordinator Contact

Questions regarding applicant and project eligibility and application review may be submitted to the attention of:

Email: TerritorialDomesticWaterProgram@usbr.gov

Phone: Omero Martinez, International and Insular Affairs Specialist, +1 202-725-6690

Kyle Kramer, International and Insular Affairs Specialist, +1 303-242-9281

H.Other Information

H.1 Disclosures

H.1.1. Conflict of Interest Disclosures

Territorial recipients must notify the program immediately in writing of any conflict of interest that arise during the life of their federal award, including those reported to them by any subrecipient under the award. Territorial recipients must notify the program in writing if any employees, including subrecipient and contractor personnel, are related to, married to, or have a close personal relationship with any federal employee in the federal funding program or who otherwise may have been involved in the review and selection of the award.

Per the Financial Assistance Interior Regulation, [2 CFR §1402.112](#), all applications must state if any actual or potential conflict of interest exists at the time of submission.

Applicability

- (1) This section intends to ensure that non-Federal entities and their employees take appropriate steps to avoid conflicts of interest in their responsibilities under, or with respect to, Federal financial assistance agreements.
- (2) In the procurement of supplies, equipment, construction, and services by recipients and by subrecipients, the conflict-of-interest provisions in [2 CFR §200.318](#) applies.

Notification

- (1) Non-Federal entities, including applicants for financial assistance awards, must disclose, in writing, any conflict of interest to the Department of the Interior awarding agency or pass-through entity in accordance with [2 CFR §200.112](#).
- (2) Recipients must establish internal controls that include, at a minimum, procedures to identify, disclose, and mitigate or eliminate identified conflicts of interest. The recipient is responsible for notifying the Reclamation financial assistance officer in writing of any conflicts of interest that may arise during the life of the award, including those reported by subrecipients.

Restrictions on Lobbying

Non-Federal entities are strictly prohibited from using funds under a grant or cooperative agreement for lobbying activities and must provide the required certifications and disclosures pursuant to [43 CFR §18](#) and [31 U.S.C. §1352](#).

Review Procedures

The financial assistance officer will examine each conflict-of-interest disclosure based on its particular facts and the nature of the proposed grant or cooperative agreement and will determine whether a significant potential conflict exists and, if it does, develop an appropriate means for resolving it.

Enforcement

Failure to resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the Government may be cause for termination of the award. Failure to make required disclosures may result in any of the remedies

described in 2 CFR §200.339, [Remedies for noncompliance](#), including suspension or debarment (see also [2 CFR §180](#)).

H.1.2. Other Mandatory Disclosures

The non-federal entity or Territorial applicant for a federal award must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity all violations of federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the federal award. Non-federal entities that receive a federal award including the terms and conditions outlined in 2 CFR Section 200, *Appendix XII—Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters* are required to report certain civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings to SAM. Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR Section 200.338 *Remedies for noncompliance*, including suspension or debarment.

H.2 Data Availability (2 CFR Section 1402.315)

All data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, valuation products or other scientific assessments in any medium or form, including textual, numerical, graphic, cartographic, narrative, or audiovisual, resulting from a financial assistance agreement is available for use by the Department, including being available in a manner that is sufficient for independent verification. The Federal Government has the right to:

1. Obtain, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, or other scientific assessments, produced under a federal award; and
2. Authorize others to receive, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use such data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, or other scientific assessments, for federal purposes, including to allow for meaningful third-party evaluation.

H.2.1. Freedom of Information Act

Please note that any application submitted for funding under this Request for Proposals may be subjected to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request (5 U.S.C. Section 552, as amended by P.L. No. 110-175), and as a result, may be made publicly available. In response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for research data relating to published research findings produced under a federal award that were used by the federal government in developing an agency action that has the force and effect of law, the federal awarding agency must request, and the non-federal entity must provide, within a reasonable time, the research data so that they can be made available to the public through the procedures established under the FOIA. If the federal awarding agency obtains the research data solely in response to a FOIA request, the federal awarding agency may charge the requester a reasonable fee equaling the full incremental cost of obtaining the research data. This fee should reflect costs incurred by the federal agency and the non-federal entity. This fee is in addition to any fees the federal awarding agency may assess under the FOIA (5 U.S.C. Section 552(a)(4)(A)).

H.3 Compliance with Federal Laws

The following is a brief overview of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and Endangered Species Act (ESA). This information is only relevant to proposals that include measurement, monitoring and field work. While these statutes are not the only environmental laws that may apply, they are the federal laws that most frequently do apply. Compliance with all applicable environmental laws will be initiated by Reclamation concurrently, immediately following the initial recommendation to award a financial assistance agreement under this Request for Proposals.

H.3.1. National Environmental Policy Act

NEPA requires federal agencies such as Reclamation to evaluate, during the decision-making process, the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and any reasonable mitigation measures. Before Reclamation can make a decision to fund an award under this Request for Proposals, Reclamation must comply with NEPA. Compliance with NEPA can be accomplished in several ways, depending upon the degree and significance of environmental impacts associated with the proposal.

H.3.2. National Historic Preservation Act

To comply with Section 106 of the NHPA, Reclamation must consider whether a proposed project has the **potential to cause effects to historic properties**, before it can complete an award under this Request for Proposals. Historic properties are cultural resources (historic or prehistoric districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects) that qualify for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. In some cases, water delivery infrastructure that is over 50 years old can be considered a historic property that is subject to review.

H.3.3 Endangered Species Act

Pursuant to Section 7 of the ESA, each federal agency is required to consult with the USFWS or the NOAA Fisheries Service to ensure any action it authorizes, funds, or carries out is not likely to **jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or destroy or adversely modify any designated critical habitat.**