



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Washington, DC 20240



IN REPLY REFER TO:

96-43200
ADM 1.10

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AND USPS

Subject: Funding Announcement for Tribal Domestic Water Supply Projects

Dear Tribal Leaders:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has funding available under the *Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of August 16, 2022. Public Law 117-169, 136 Stat. 2053 Part 3- Drought Response and Preparedness, Sec 50231 Bureau of Reclamation Domestic Water Supply Projects* provides \$550 million specifically to provide domestic water supplies to communities or households that do not have reliable access to domestic water supplies in disadvantaged communities. This announcement is open to Federally recognized Tribes or Tribal Organizations, as defined by 25 U.S.C. 5304(e), in the 17 western states including: Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona.

This program will be implemented in two phases. Under Phase One, funding will be available for Planning and/or Design, or Construction in FY 2024. Under Phase Two funding will be made available for Construction only in the FY 2027/2028 timeframe. Receiving Phase One Planning and/or Design funding is not a prerequisite for receiving Phase Two funding for Construction; however, all project proposals for Construction must show that the planning and design has been successfully completed, and priority will be given to those funded under Phase One.

Federally recognized Tribes and Tribal Organizations interested in obtaining assistance under this program must submit a proposal to Reclamation's Native American Affairs Office, as reflected below. Funding may be provided for up to 100% of the cost of planning, design, or construction of the project with the following maximum funding limits:

1. Planning studies, including environmental compliance (e.g., appraisal, feasibility); up to \$3 million and or,
2. Design projects, including environmental compliance (e.g., 30%, 60%, 90%, 100% design) (including environmental compliance); up to \$5 million or,
3. Construction projects; up to \$50 million.

Applicants must state which of the three categories of funding listed above is being sought. An applicant can submit one project proposal for both planning and design. Project proposals for construction activities must show that planning and design has been completed.

To be eligible for an award under this announcement, applicants must be:

1. A Federally recognized Tribes or Tribal Organizations, as defined by 25 U.S.C. 5304(e), in the 17 western states.
2. Proposed projects must meet all of the objectives below:
 - a. At least 80% of the annual average deliveries of project water must be for domestic water purposes. The primary purpose of the project must be for domestic water supplies to existing households or communities 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. Project should be completed as follows:
 - i. Planning – 1 years from date of award
 - ii. Design – 2 years from date of award
 - iii. Construction – 5 years from date of award

Proposals will be accepted until August 4, 2024; however, we encourage you to submit your proposals as early as possible.

Reclamation will not provide funding for any portion of a project that is outside of the primary domestic water supply purpose (e.g., commercial, industrial, and irrigation).

Proposals will then be prioritized based on the following urgent and compelling needs (in order of priority):

1. Cost per household receiving new piped water to the house (e.g., households that currently do not have piped water).
2. Cost per household receiving new piped water to a nearby community watering station.
3. Cost per household where the water supply is increased to drinking water standards.

The Tribal Domestic Water Supply Projects Funding Announcement, containing the program objectives, priorities, and additional information for eligible projects, as well as all related forms are attached to this letter.

Funding is contingent upon completion of the evaluation process by Reclamation. ***Projects will not be ranked or scored. Final selections will be made by the Commissioner based on the merit review of the proposal consisting of: Application Completeness, Program Priority Alignment, and Project Approach and Feasibility; alignment with the program purpose as evaluated; and Administration and Agency/Commissioner priorities (such as geographical diversity).***

Project awards will be made through Federal Financial Assistance grants or cooperative agreements as defined by 2 CFR 200.

For more details on the applicable nature of projects or evaluation considerations for this announcement please email TribalDomesticWaterProgram@usbr.gov.

We invite you to contact the following Reclamation office for more information: Nathalie Washington, Native American and International Affairs Office, Native American Affairs Advisor by telephone at 702-308-7391 or by email at nwashington@usbr.gov.

Sincerely,

JEFFREY
MORRIS

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Jeffrey Morris
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Attachments:

1. *Tribal Domestic Water Supply Projects Funding Announcement, April 2024*
2. *Application package- SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance, SF-424A Budget Information Form, SF-424B or SF-424D Assurances Form*
3. *Budget Detail and Narrative Template 01.2022*