

WaterSMART Grants and Drought Program Webinar

Josh German, Darion Mayhorn, and Cassie Wagner Water Resources and Planning Office June 25, 2020

WaterSMART Program

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.





WaterSMART Program

- Increases water supply reliability through investments and attention to local water conflicts
- Supports water conservation and water management improvements to help meet competing demands for water
- Leverages Federal and non-Federal funding
- Relies on collaboration with stakeholders to develop local solutions to water supply issues



WaterSMART Funding Opportunities

Eligible Applicants

• States, Indian Tribes, Irrigation Districts, Water Districts, and Other organizations with water and power delivery authority.

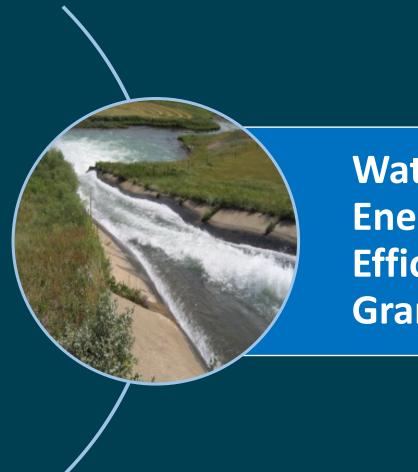
Cost Share

• 50% non-Federal cost-share requirement (in-kind contributions are allowed)

Time Frame for Completion

2-3 years depending on the program and funding group



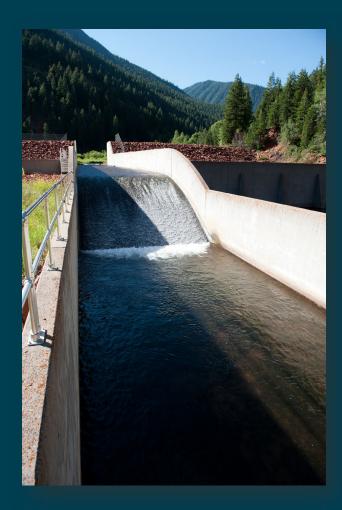


Water and Energy Efficiency Grants



Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

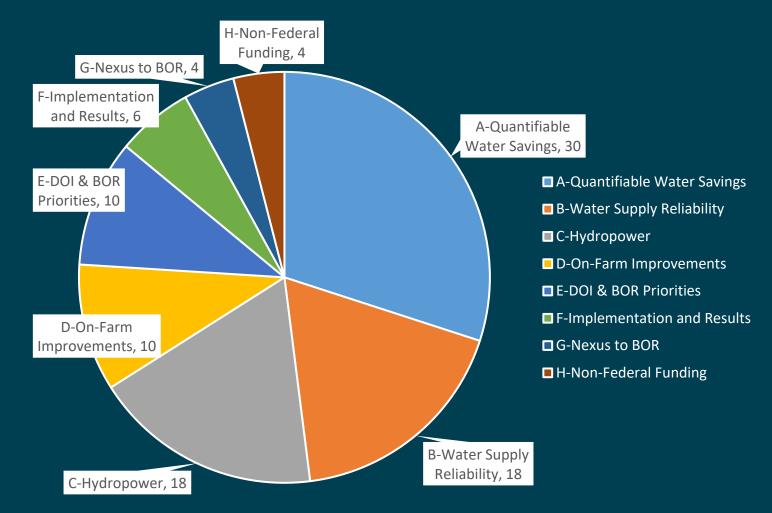
- Project types:
 - Canal lining/piping
 - Municipal metering
 - Irrigation flow measurement
 - SCADA
 - Landscape irrigation measures
 - Hydropower
- Funding Group I: Up to \$500k (2 year project)
- Funding Group II: Up to \$2 million (3 year project)





Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

Evaluation Criteria





Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

Evaluation Criterion A—Quantifiable Water Savings (30 points)

- Quantifiable water savings expected to result.
- Greater consideration for greater water savings.

Evaluation Criterion B—Water Supply Reliability (18 points)

 Addressing water reliability concerns, including making water available for multiple beneficial uses and resolving water related conflicts in the region.

Evaluation Criterion C—Implementing Hydropower (18 points)

Projects that will install new hydropower capacity

Evaluation Criterion D—Complementing On-Farm Irrigation Improvements (10 points)

• Complement on-farm irrigation improvements eligible for NRCS financial or technical assistance.

Evaluation Criterion E—Department of the Interior and Bureau of Reclamation Priorities (10 points)

 Demonstrate that the project supports the Department of the Interior and Bureau of Reclamation priorities.

Evaluation Criterion F—Implementation and Results (6 points)

 Planning efforts; performance measures to quantify project benefits; and readiness to proceed.

Evaluation Criterion G— Nexus to Reclamation Project Activities (4 Points)

Connection to Reclamation project activities.

Evaluation Criterion H— Additional Non-Federal Funding (4 points)

Non-Federal funding in excess of 50 percent.

Drought Response Program





Drought Resiliency Projects



Drought Resiliency Projects

Eligible Projects Include:

- Infrastructure Improvements
 - Modifying surface water intakes
 - New conveyance system components
 - Additional water storage
 - Recharge facilities
 - Capture and treat alternative supplies
- Decision Support Tools & Modeling
 - Tools to support water marketing
 - Tools to convey water supply information
 - Measurement
- Environmental Protection
 - Improve habitat
 - · Install fish screens and ladders



Projects build resilience to drought



Projects supported by a drought plan are more competitive



Funding Level I: \$500k 2 years

Funding Level II: \$1.5M 3 years



Drought Response Program-Drought Resiliency Projects

Evaluation Criteria

Project Benefits – 40 points

- How does your project build long-term resilience to drought?
- Quantitative and Qualitative description

Drought Planning and Preparedness – 15 points

 Projects specifically identified in a drought plan* with a high importance/priority are prioritized

Severity of Actual or Potential Drought Impacts to be addressed by the Project – 15 points

- Severity of Impacts
- Existing or Potential Drought Conditions

*Drought plan is not an eligibility requirement.

Project Implementation – 10 points

- Well-supported budget table and narrative
- Identification of necessary permits and regulatory compliance
- Detailed, thorough schedule

Nexus to Reclamation – 10 points

 Consider support of Reclamation activities such as a Basin Study if there is no direct nexus to a water delivery project.

Department of the Interior and Bureau of Reclamation Priorities – 10 points



WaterSMART Schedule

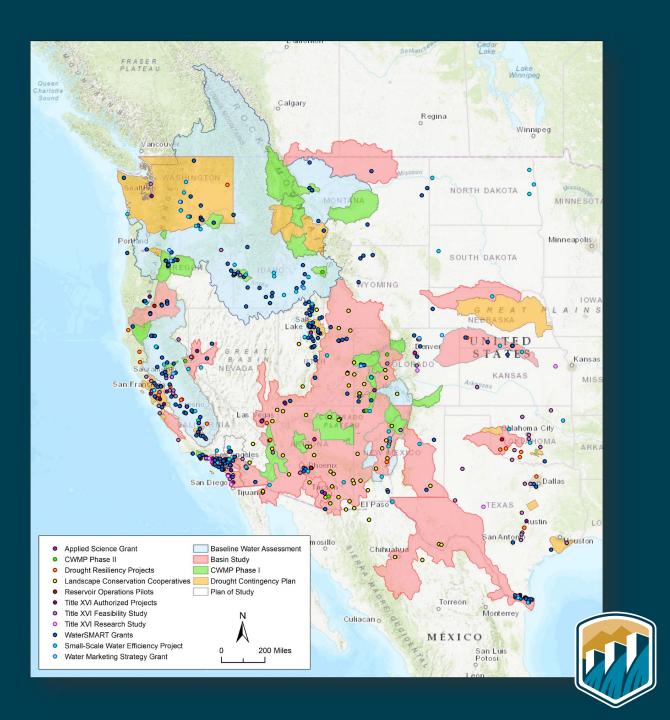
| Program | Opportunity | Post Date | Close Date |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| WaterSMART Grants | Water and Energy Efficiency Grants | June 16, 2020 | Sept 17, 2020 |
| Drought Response Program | Drought Resiliency Projects | May 1, 2020 | Aug 5, 2020 |



WaterSMART Data Visualization Tool

- Provides users with interactive maps of each WaterSMART Program and project
- Includes Featured Project tours
- Shows program growth since 2010
- Recently updated with new application features

WaterSMART Data Visualization Tool



WaterSMART Program Links

Basin Studies

Basin Studies - https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/bsp/index.html
WWRA - https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/wcra/index.html

Reservoir Operations - https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/wcra/reservoirpilot.html

Applied Science Tools - https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/lcc/index.html

Title XVI

https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/title/index.html

WaterSMART Grants Water and Energy Efficiency Grants - https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/weeg/index.html
Small-Scale Water Efficiency Grants - https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/weeg/ssweg.html
Water Marketing Strategy Grants - https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/weeg/watermarketing.html

Water Conservation Field Services

https://www.usbr.gov/waterconservation/

Drought

https://www.usbr.gov/drought/

CWMP

https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/cwmp/index.html



