



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

WaterSMART Program

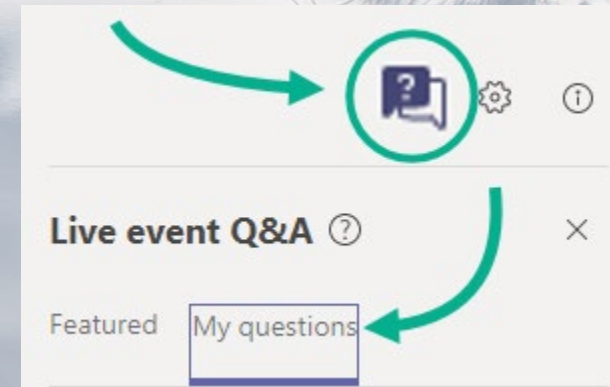
Water Resources and Planning Office

August 27, 2021

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:
<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/>

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



Agenda Overview

- WaterSMART Overview
- WaterSMART WEEG NOFO
- WaterSMART DRP NOFO
- WaterSMART EWRP NOFO
- Application Tips
- Preparing to apply – required systems
- Useful Program Links
- Questions



Today's Presenters

Water Resources and Planning Office

- Josh German
- Sheri Looper
- Robin Graber



WaterSMART Program



Provides a framework for Interior to support water supply reliability for multiple water users.



WaterSMART Program Overview

- 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



Growing Populations



Restoration Needs



Drought

WaterSMART Grants

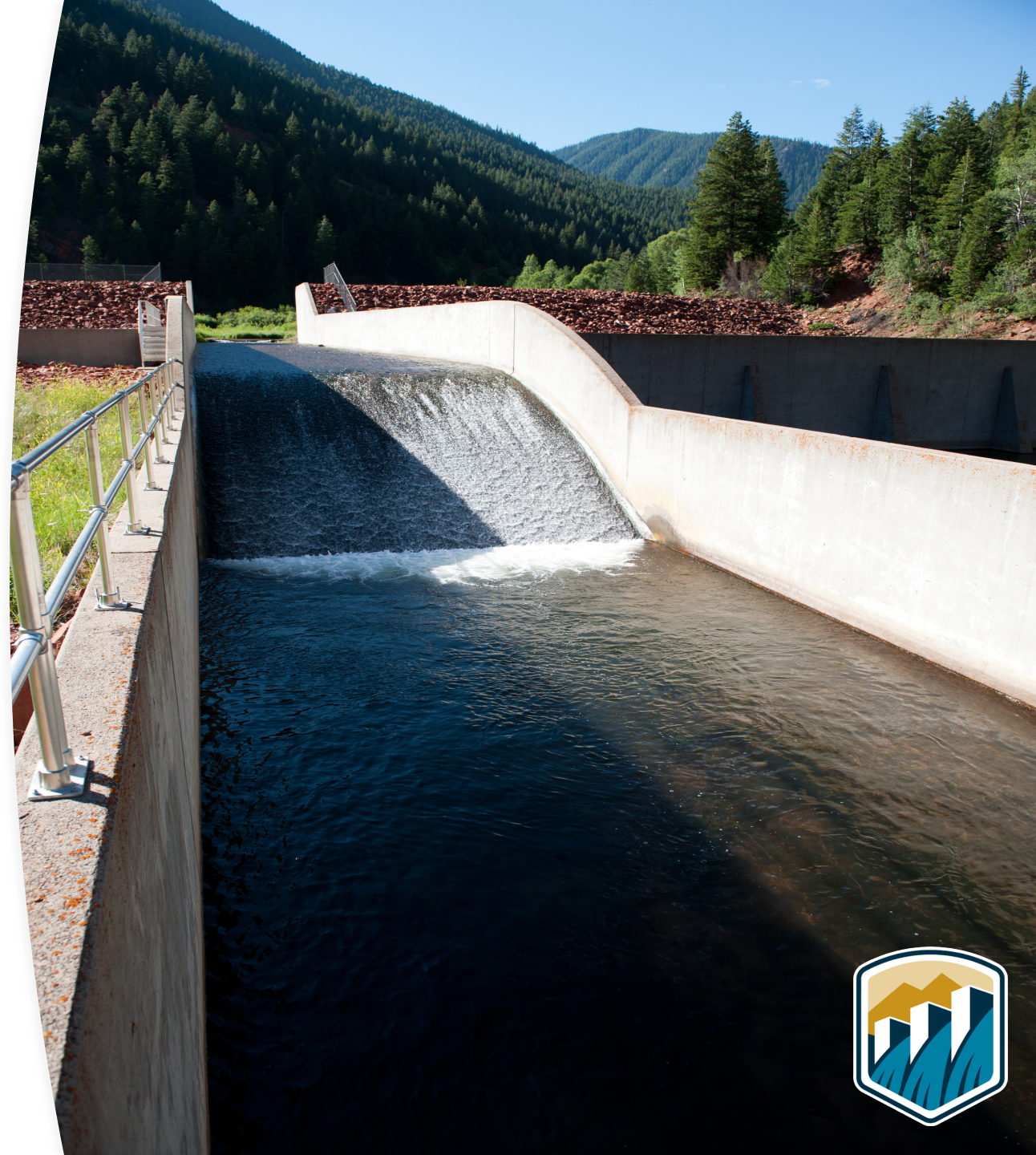
Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

Eligible Project Types

- Water Conservation Projects
 - Canal lining/piping
 - Municipal metering
 - Irrigation flow measurement
 - Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition and Automation (SCADA)
 - Landscape irrigation measures
 - High-Efficiency Indoor Appliances and Fixtures
 - Commercial Cooling Systems
- Renewable Energy Projects
 - Hydropower
 - Solar, wind energy

Funding

- Funding Group I: Up to \$500k in 2 years
- Funding Group II: Up to \$2 million in 3 years
- Non-Federal Cost Share: 50% or greater



Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

Eligible Applicants

Category A:

- 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; and
- Other organizations with water or power delivery authority.

Category B:

Nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership with and 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 that they are acting in partnership with the applicant and agree to the submittal and content of the proposal.

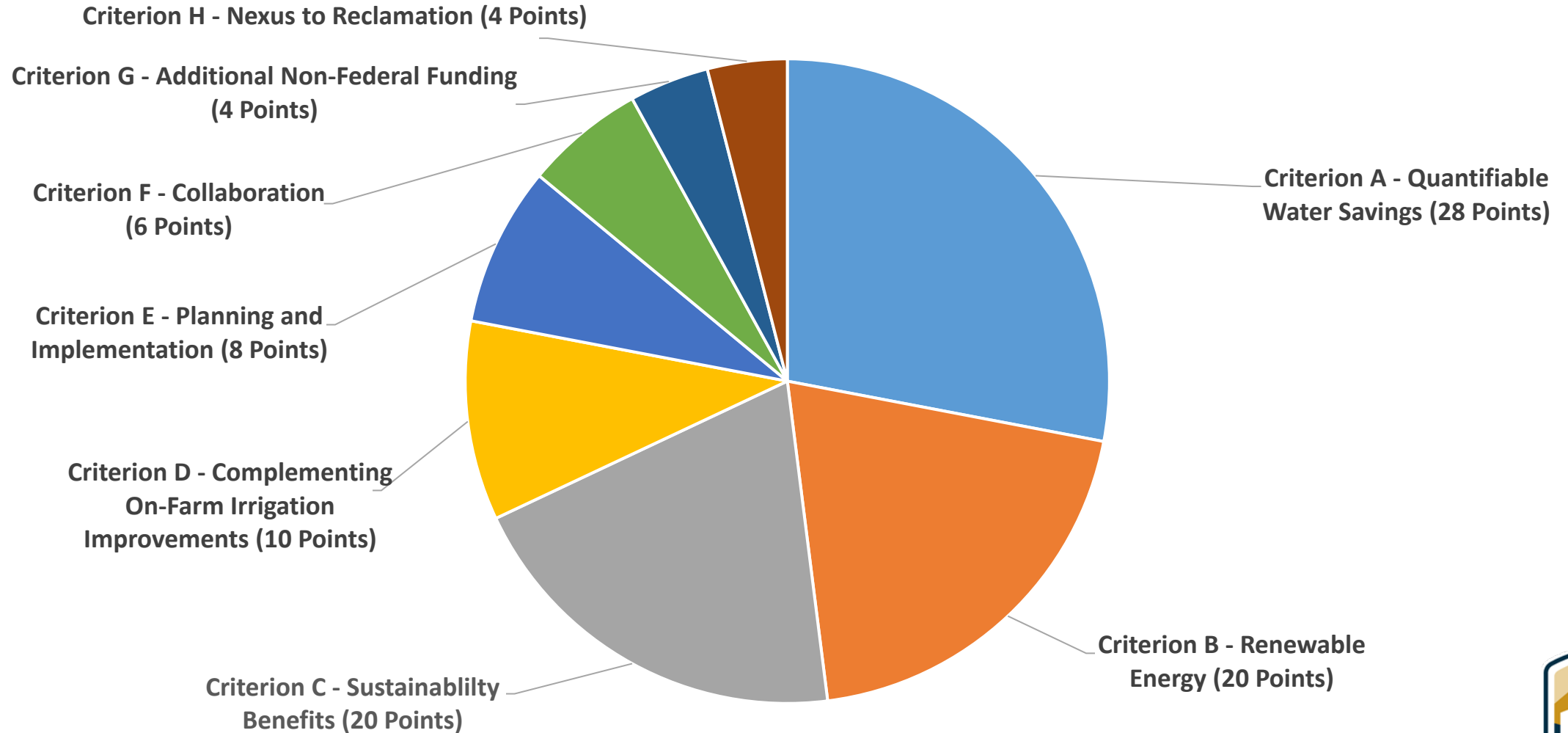
To be eligible, applicants must also be located in one of the following States or Territories: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

****Revised Applicant Eligibility Requirement****



Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

Evaluation Criteria



Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

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

Up to \$2,00,000 in Federal funds for projects

Cost Share

50% non-Federal cost share required

Evaluation Criteria

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

Important Dates

Pre-award costs date: July 1, 2021
Construction start date limitation (includes installation): July 2022

Deadline: Wednesday, November 3rd, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. MDT



Drought Response Program

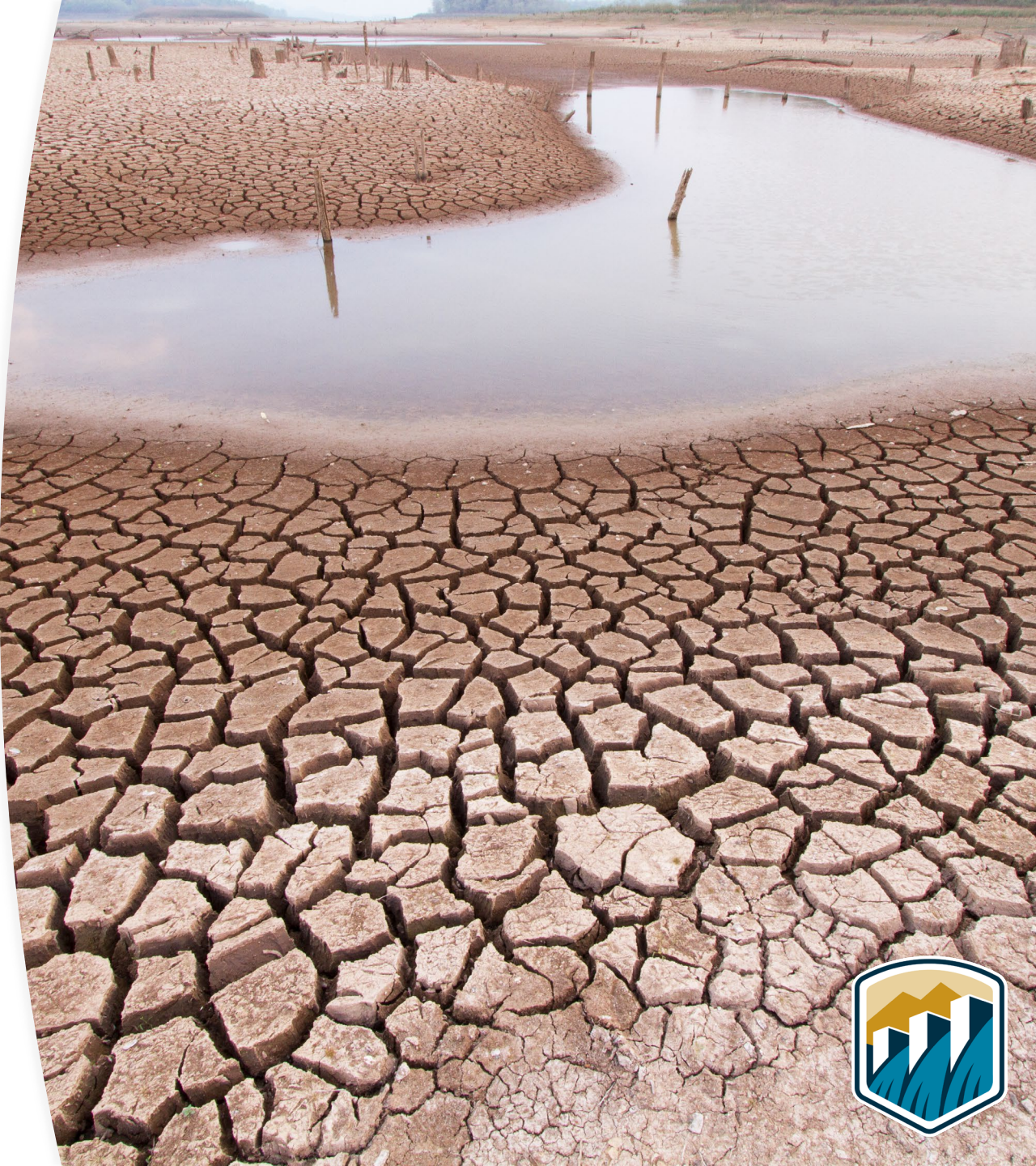
Drought Resiliency Projects

Eligible Project Types

- Infrastructure Improvements
- New conveyance systems or components
- Additional water storage
- Recharge facilities
- Capture and treat alternative supplies
- Decision Support Tools & Modeling

Funding

- Funding Level I: \$500k 2 years
- Funding Level II: \$2 million 3 years
- Non-Federal Cost Share: 50% or greater.



Drought Resiliency Projects

Eligible Applicants

Category A:

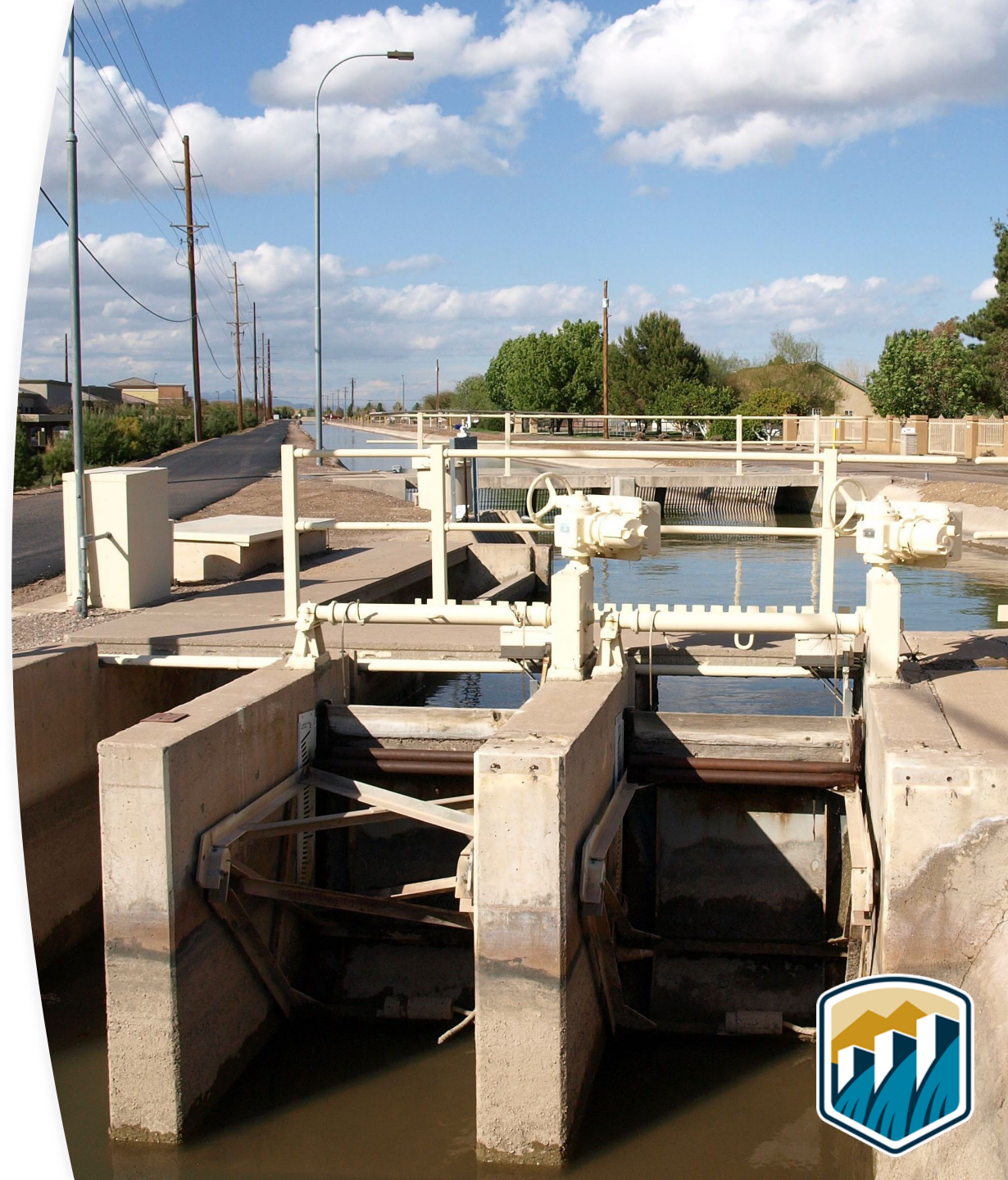
- States, Indian Tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts;
- State, regional, or local authorities, whose members include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; and
- Other organizations with water or power delivery authority.

Category B:

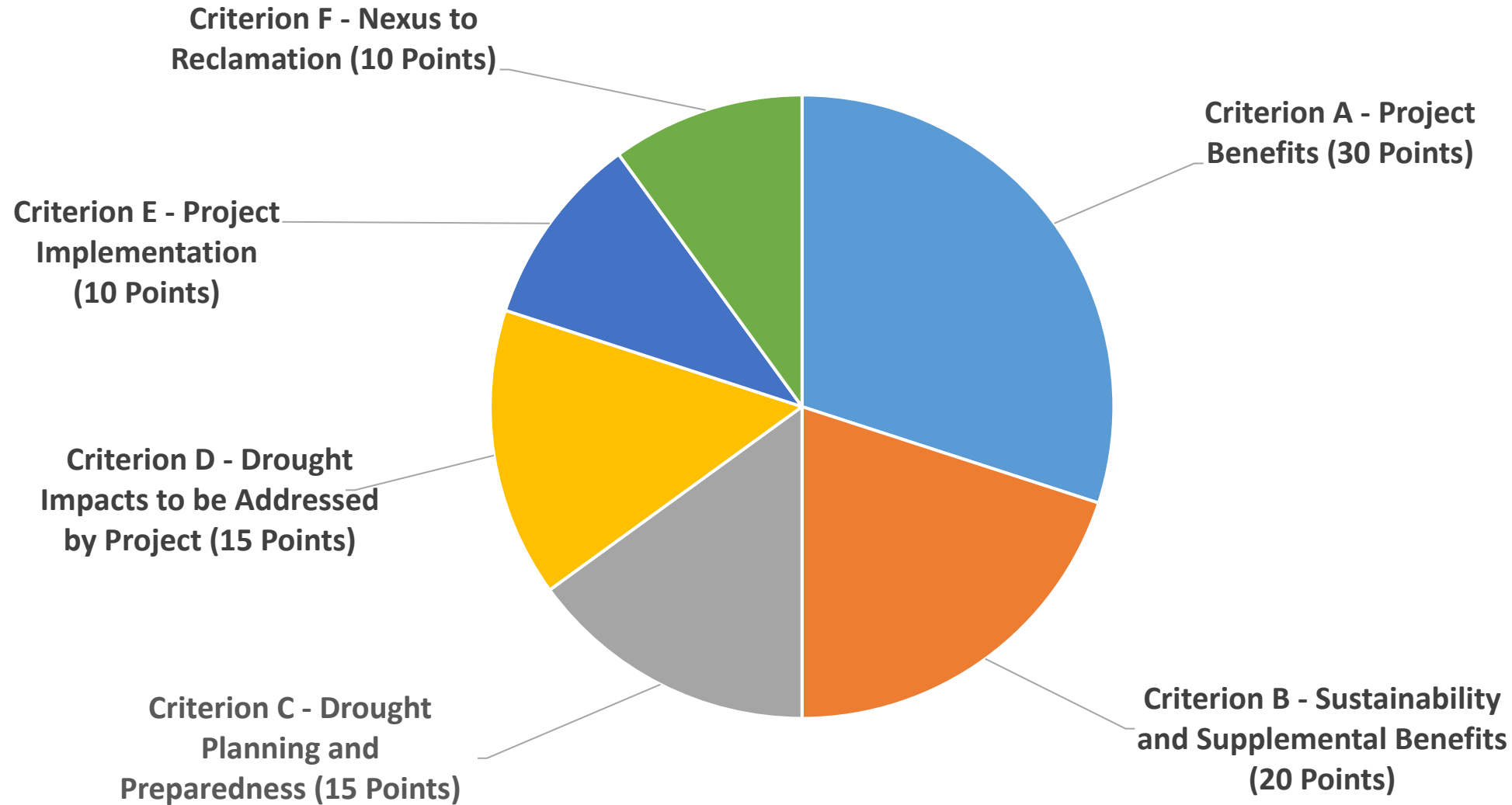
Nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership with and with the agreement of an entity described in Category A. Category B applicants must include with their application a letter from the Category A partner, stating that they are acting in partnership with the applicant and agree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

To be eligible, applicants must also be located in one of the following States or Territories: 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, and Puerto Rico.

****Revised Applicant Eligibility Requirement****



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?
- Quantitative and Qualitative description
- Provide detailed support for benefits

Criterion B – Sustainability and Supplemental Benefits (20 points)

- Climate Change
- Disadvantaged/Underserved Communities
- Tribal Benefits
- Environmental Benefits
- Sustainability

Criterion C – Drought Planning and Preparedness (15 points)

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

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

- Severity of Impacts
- Existing or Potential Drought Conditions

Criterion E – Project Implementation (10 points)

- Detailed schedule, milestones, tasks, permitting, and design

Criterion F – Nexus to Reclamation (10 points)

- Relation to Reclamation project or activity



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

Up to \$2,00,000 in Federal funds for projects

Cost Share

50% non-Federal cost share required

Evaluation Criteria

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

Important Dates

Pre-award costs date: July 1, 2021
Construction start date limitation (includes installation): July 2022

Deadline: Tuesday, October 5th, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. MDT



New in 2022

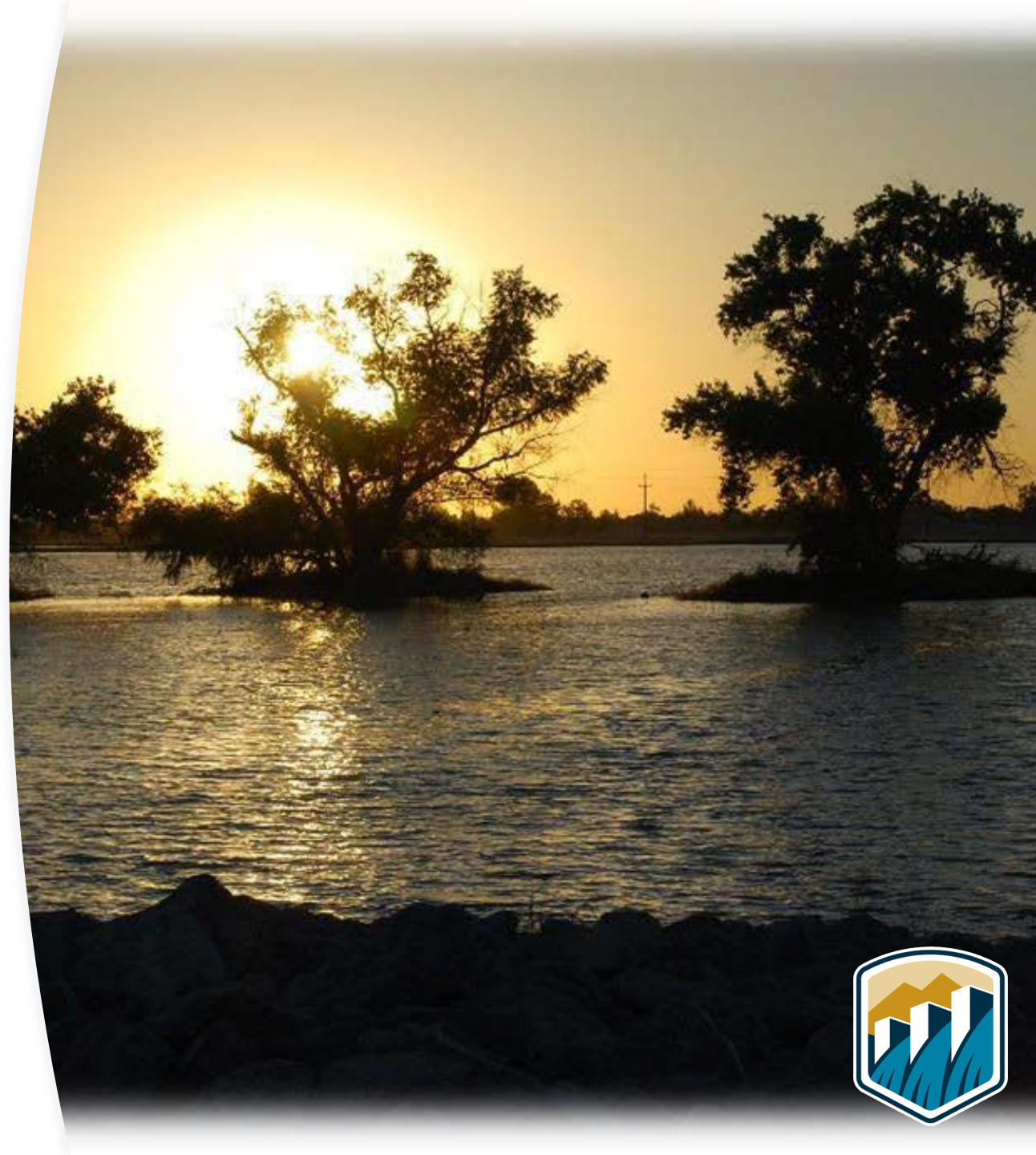
Environmental Water Resources Projects

Eligible Project Types

1. Water Conservation and Efficiency Projects that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings and benefit ecological values
2. Water management or infrastructure improvements to mitigate drought-related impacts to ecological values
3. Watershed management or restoration projects benefitting ecological values that have a nexus to water resources or water resources management

Funding

- Non-Federal Cost Share: 25% or greater.
- Funding Level: Up to \$2 million 3 years



Environmental Water Resources Projects

Eligible Applicants

Category A:

- 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; and
- Other organizations with water or power delivery authority.

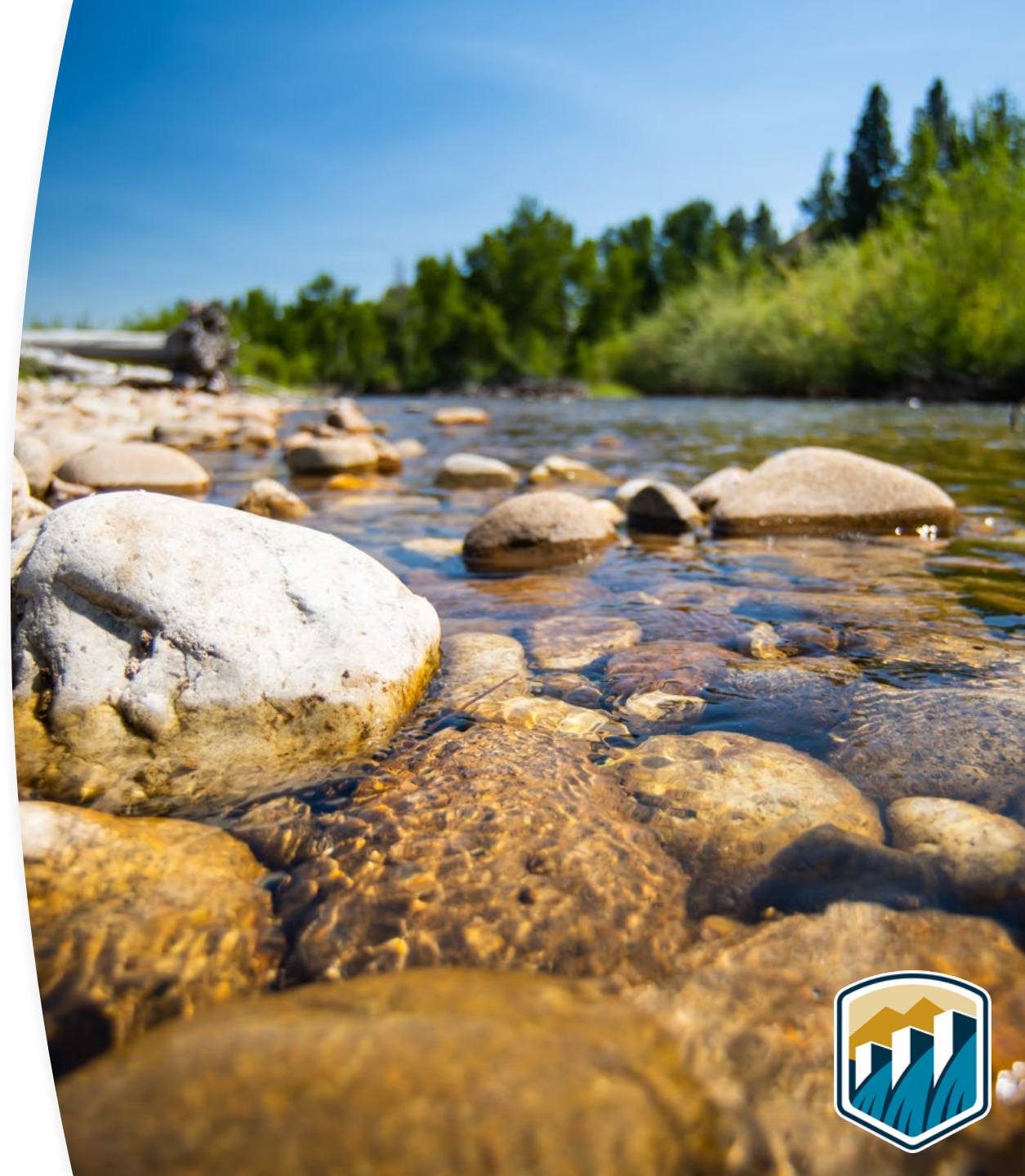
Category B:

Nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership with and 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 that they are acting in partnership with the applicant and agree to the submittal and content of the proposal.

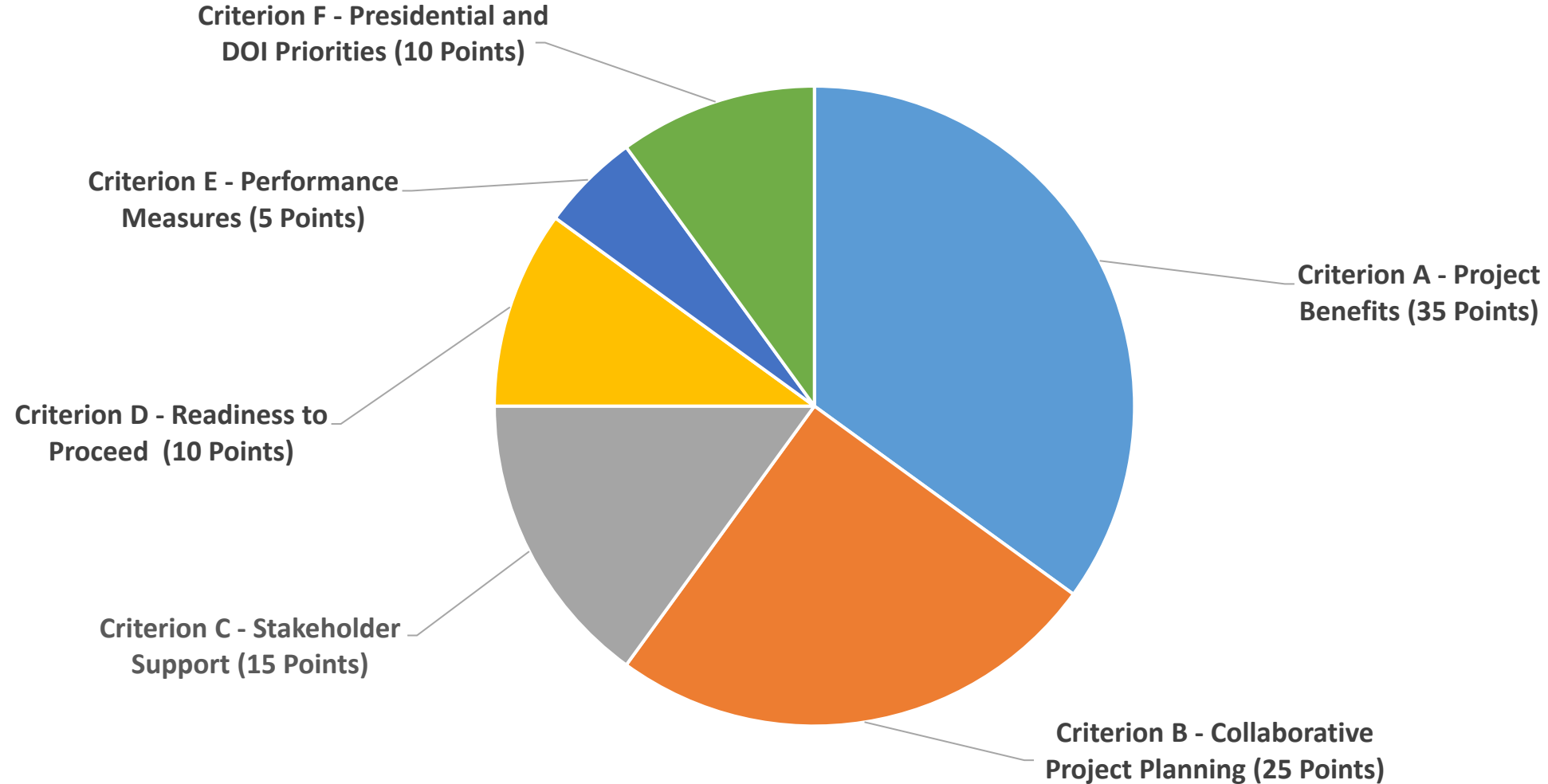
Category C:

Nonprofit conservation organizations submitting an application for a project to improve the condition of a natural feature such as wetlands on Federal land without a Category A partner must demonstrate that entities described in Category A from the applicable service area have been notified and do not object to the project.

To be eligible, applicants must also be located in one of the following States or Territories: 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, and Puerto Rico.



Environmental Water Resources Projects



Environmental Water Resources Projects

Evaluation Criteria

Criterion A – Project Benefits (35 points)

*Only answer those questions applicable to your project

- Describe the benefits to Ecological Values – Tell a story
- Quantification of Project Benefits
 - Quantification of Specific Project Benefits by Project Type
 - Describe extent to which project will benefit multiple water uses

Criterion B – Collaborative Project Planning (25 points)

- Description of plan, the issues addressed, and the players involved in plan development
- Description of how the plan supports the project



Environmental Water Resources Projects

Evaluation Criteria

Criterion C – Stakeholder Support (15 points)

- Description of who supports the project and letters of support
- Does support come from a diverse group of stakeholders?
- Will the project complement other water management activities?
- Is it on Federal land? If so, does the agency support the project?
- Is there opposition to the project?

Criterion D – Readiness to Proceed (10 points)

- Major tasks, milestones, dates (or timeframes). It is helpful to link this schedule to costs/budget.
- Describe required permits and approvals and discuss timeline for receiving.
- Describe design and engineering work that has been done for project.
- Discussion of environmental and cultural resource compliance.



Environmental Water Resources Projects

Evaluation Criteria

Criterion E – Performance Measures (5 Points)

- Description of performance measures that will be used to assess project benefits (e.g., continued monitoring of water quality and aquatic organisms)
- Describe plan to monitor the benefits over a five-year period once the project has been completed

Criterion F – Presidential and DOI Priorities (10 points)

- Questions related to three priorities
 - Climate Change
 - Disadvantaged or Underserved Communities
 - Tribal Benefits



Environmental Water Resources 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. OR a nonprofit conservation organization completing a natural feature project with support from entities previously described.

Funding Groups

Up to \$2,000,000 in Federal funds for projects

Cost Share

25% non-Federal cost share required

Evaluation Criteria

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

Important Dates

Pre-award costs date: July 1, 2021

Construction start date limitation (includes installation): September 2022

Deadline: Thursday, December 9th, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. MST



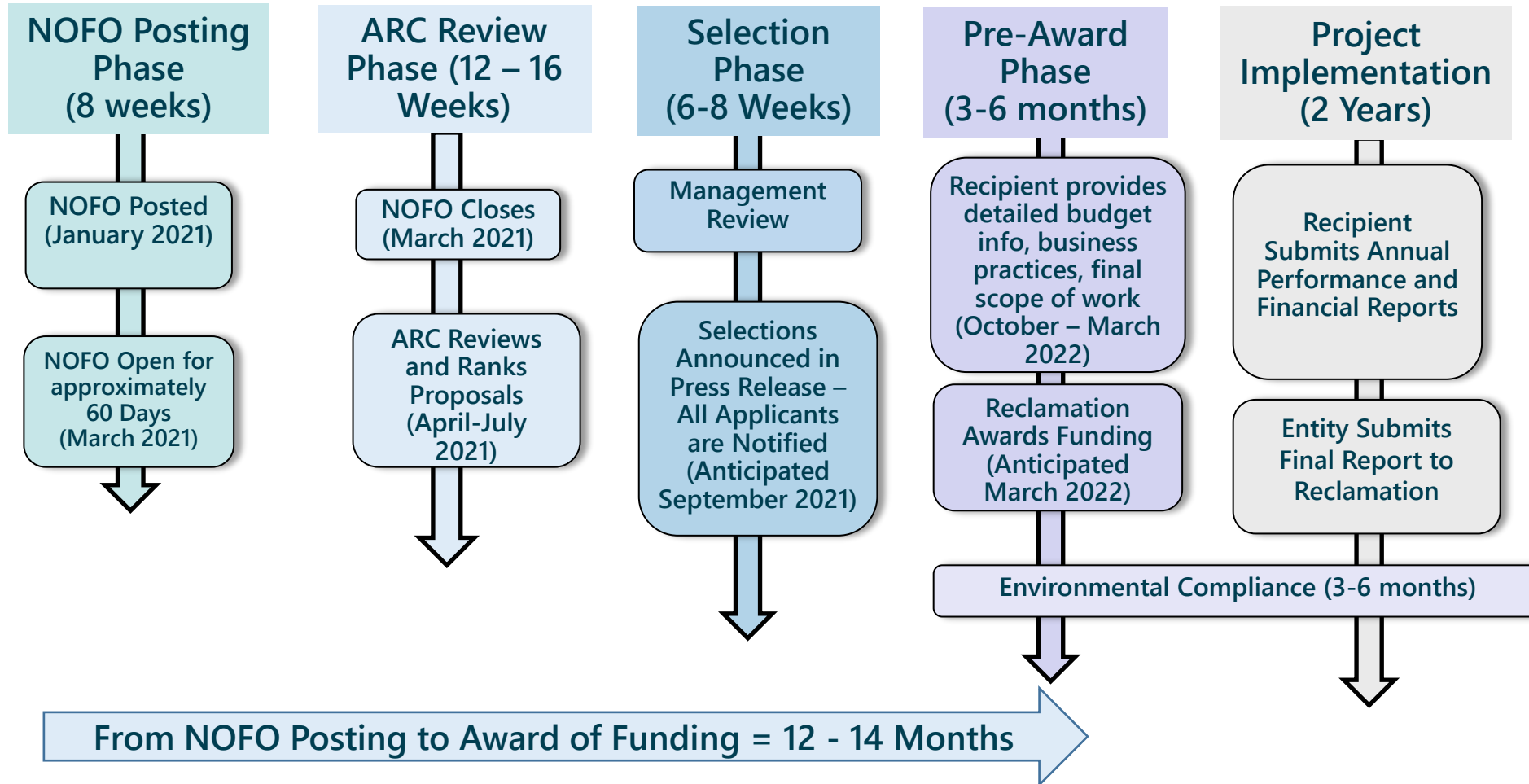
2022 WaterSMART Funding Opportunities Released

Funding Opportunity	Maximum Federal Funding Levels per Project	Deadline	Project Types
Drought Resiliency Projects	FGI: \$500k FGII: \$2M	October 5, 2021	Projects that focus on building long-term resilience to drought
Water and Energy Efficiency Grants	FGI: \$500k FGII: \$2M	November 3, 2021	Water conservation and renewable energy projects
Environmental Water Resources Projects	Up to \$2M	December 9, 2021	Broad project eligibility, but focus is on water management projects with environmental and ecological benefits and multi-benefit projects



WaterSMART Selection Process

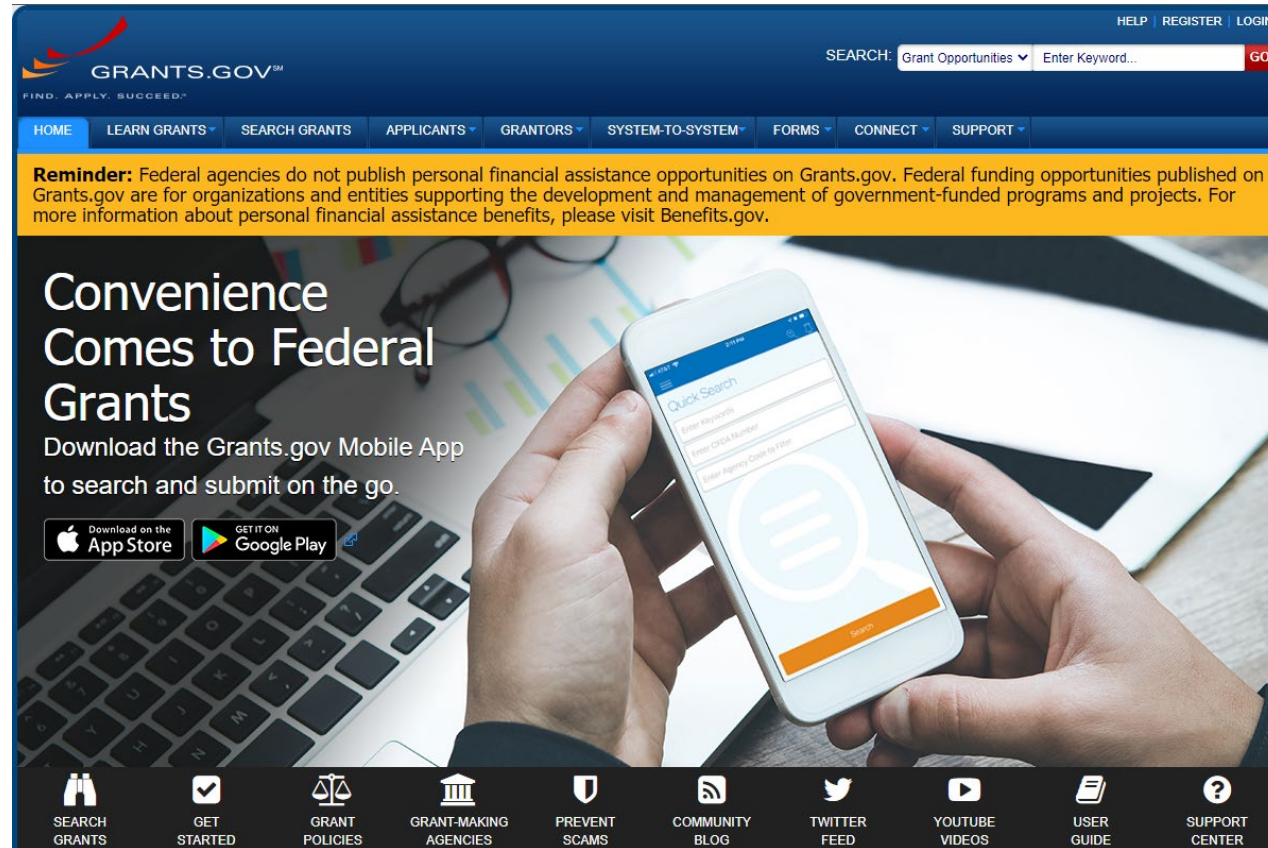
Sample schedule



Application Tips

How do I get a grant?

Start at
www.grants.gov



The screenshot shows the Grants.gov website homepage. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the Grants.gov logo and a search bar. Below the navigation bar, there's a yellow banner with a reminder about federal agencies not publishing personal financial assistance opportunities. The main content area features a large image of a hand holding a smartphone displaying the Grants.gov mobile app interface. Below the image, there's a section titled "Convenience Comes to Federal Grants" with a subheading "Download the Grants.gov Mobile App to search and submit on the go." and buttons for downloading the app from the App Store and Google Play. At the bottom, there's a footer with various icons and links for different sections of the website.

GRANTS.GOV™
FIND. APPLY. SUCCEED.®

SEARCH: Grant Opportunities ▾ Enter Keyword... GO

HOME LEARN GRANTS ▾ SEARCH GRANTS APPLICANTS ▾ GRANTORS ▾ SYSTEM-TO-SYSTEM ▾ FORMS ▾ CONNECT ▾ SUPPORT ▾

Reminder: Federal agencies do not publish personal financial assistance opportunities on Grants.gov. Federal funding opportunities published on Grants.gov are for organizations and entities supporting the development and management of government-funded programs and projects. For more information about personal financial assistance benefits, please visit Benefits.gov.

Convenience Comes to Federal Grants

Download the Grants.gov Mobile App to search and submit on the go.

Download on the App Store GET IT ON Google Play

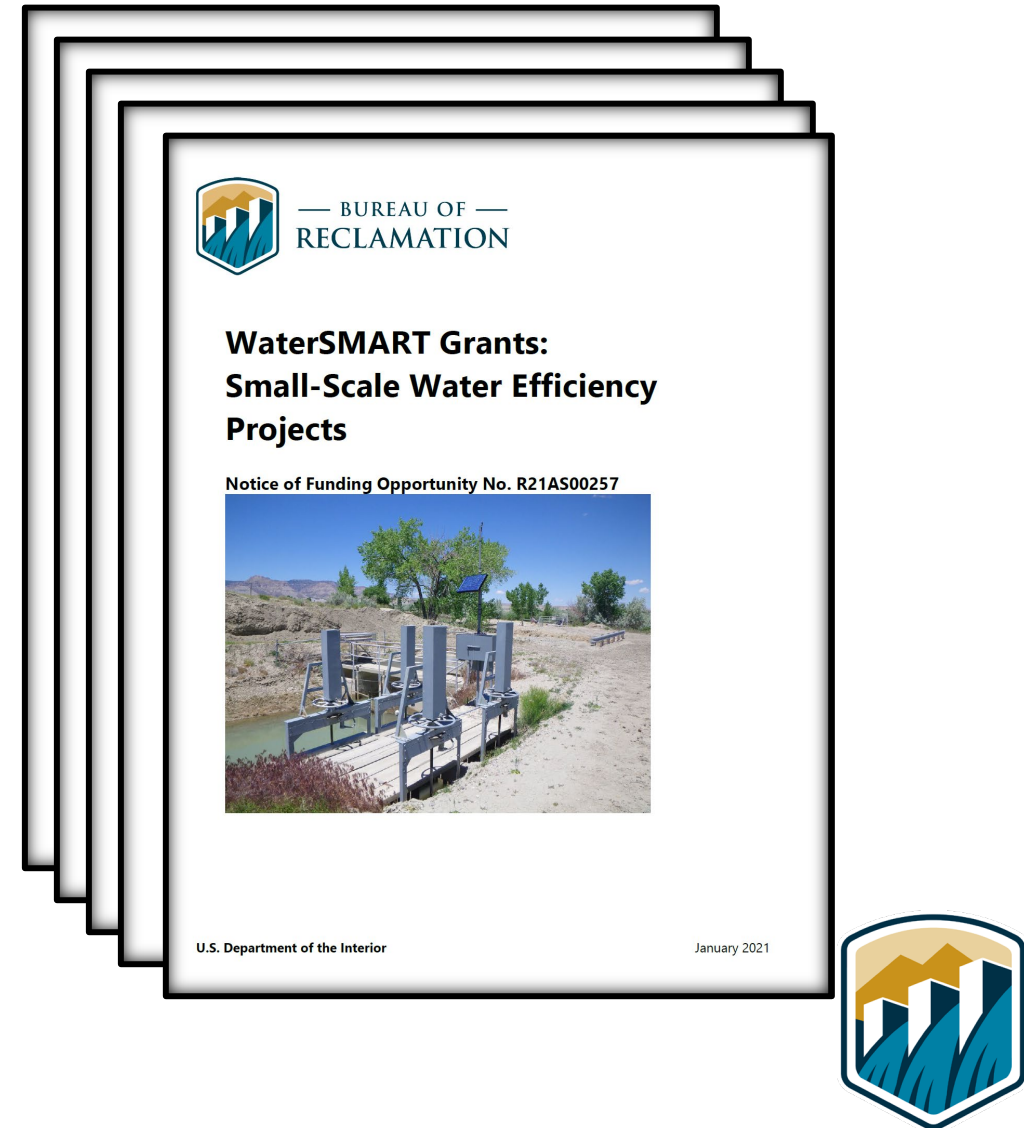
SEARCH GRANTS GET STARTED GRANT POLICIES GRANT-MAKING AGENCIES PREVENT SCAMS COMMUNITY BLOG TWITTER FEED YOUTUBE VIDEOS USER GUIDE SUPPORT CENTER



Application Tips

Which WaterSMART NOFO is right for me?

- 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.
- Make sure you present your project in a way that aligns with the NOFO. You may want to make minor revisions. E.g., if you will conserve more water by piping over lining, maybe your project could be revised.
- Application Tip:
 - Contact the Program Coordinator to discuss which NOFO your project fits best under.
 - Look at past successful applications at www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART



Application Tips

General Tips

- Important: Read everything in the NOFO!
 - Ask questions if something does not make sense.
- Give yourself plenty of time to write and submit the proposal.
- Copy and paste evaluation criteria into your application.
- Answer all parts of multipart questions.
- Do not assume the Application Review Committee knows you.
- Committee is comprised of Reclamation staff from throughout the Western states.



Application Tips

Additional General Tips

- For large projects, consider doing it in phases and applying for funding in sequential years.
- Previously successful applications are on our website.
- If your application is not awarded, ask for a debriefing to help prepare better proposal next year.



Application Tips

What do I have to include in my application?

- Every WaterSMART NOFO includes a section describing the application content
- Page iii of every NOFO includes Application Checklist
- All of the bulleted items must be included with your application by the application deadline, except those identified with a * may be submitted by the alternate deadline indicated in the NOFO
- Application Tip: Structure your proposal in the order identified in the NOFO

D.2.2. Application Content: The application must include the following elements to be considered complete:

- Mandatory Federal Forms
 - SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance
 - SF-424 Budget Information (A or C Form, as applicable to the project)
 - SF-424 Assurances (B or D Form, as applicable to the project)
 - SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if applicable)

These forms may be obtained at www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html

- Title page
- Table of contents
- Technical proposal and evaluation criteria (limited to X pages)
 - Executive summary
 - Project location
 - Project description
 - Evaluation criteria
- Project budget
 - Funding plan and letters of commitment
 - Budget proposal
 - Budget narrative
- Environmental and cultural resources compliance
- Required permits or approvals
- Letters of funding commitment
- Letters of project support
- Official resolution*

It is highly recommended that application packages be structured in the order identified above.



Application Tips

Evaluation Criteria

- Make sure you respond to every criterion and every sub-criterion
- Your responses should:
 - Directly respond to the criterion – 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 links to reference documents
 - Make the case for how your project meets the criterion – general statements without explanation or support will not score well
 - Don't assume that the reviewers know about the issues in your area, or the benefits of your project
- Application Tip: Well-supported responses to the evaluation criteria are the key to writing a competitive proposal

D.2.2. Application Content: The application must include the following elements to be considered complete:

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 - Executive summary
 - Background data
 - Project location
 - Technical project description
 - **Evaluation Criteria**
- Project budget
 - Funding plan Budget proposal
 - Budget narrative
- Environmental and cultural resources compliance
- Required permits or approvals
- Letters of funding commitment
- Letters of project support
- Official resolution*
- Unique Early Identifier and System for Award Management*

It is highly recommended that application packages be structured in the order identified above.



Application Tips

Preparing your budget

- The Application Review Committee uses the budget to confirm their understanding of the project's scope and intended benefits
- Should represent all project costs, including those to be paid with Federal funds and non-Federal cost share.
- Must not include costs for work that is being funded under another Federal financial assistance agreement or contract
- Application Tip: Email SHA-DRO-FAFOA@usbr.gov if you have questions about your budget as you are preparing your proposal.

D.2.2. Application Content: The application must include the following elements to be considered complete:

- Mandatory Federal Forms
 - SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance
 - SF-424 Budget Information (A or C Form, as applicable to the project)
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 - Project location
 - Technical project description

• Project Budget

- Funding plan Budget proposal
- Budget narrative
- Environmental and cultural resources compliance
- Required permits or approvals
- Letters of funding commitment
- Letters of project support
- Official resolution*
- Unique Early Identifier and System for Award Management*

It is highly recommended that application packages be structured in the order identified above.



Pre-award Documentation

What to expect after being selected for funding

You may be asked to provide:

- Invoices, quotes, bid tabs or other documentation to support unit prices
- Pre-award system survey
- Single audit
- Letters of commitment
- Pre-award costs

D.2.2. Application Content: The application must include the following elements to be considered complete:

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- Letters of funding commitment
- Letters of project support
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It is highly recommended that application packages be structured in the order identified above.



Application Tips

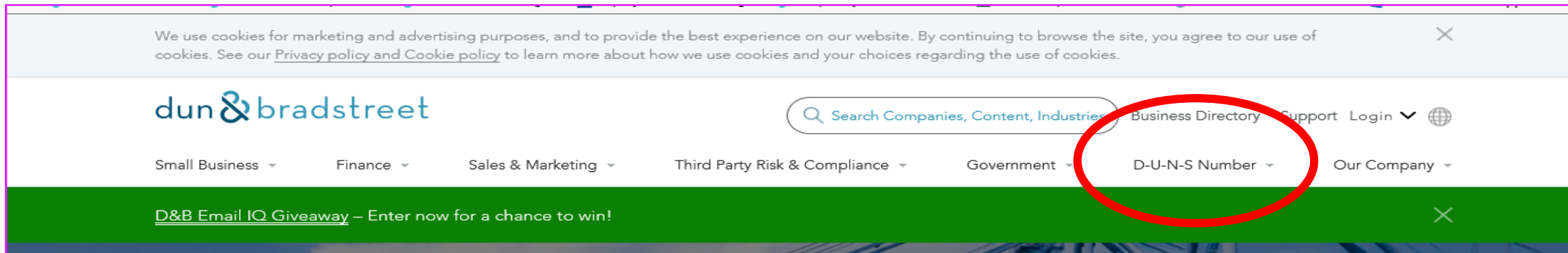
Environmental and Cultural Resource Compliance

- All projects funded through this opportunity must comply with Federal environmental and cultural resource laws. Reclamation regional and area office staff will ensure this compliance. This compliance must occur prior to any ground disturbing activities can take place, including installation of meters and similar devices and monitoring activities.



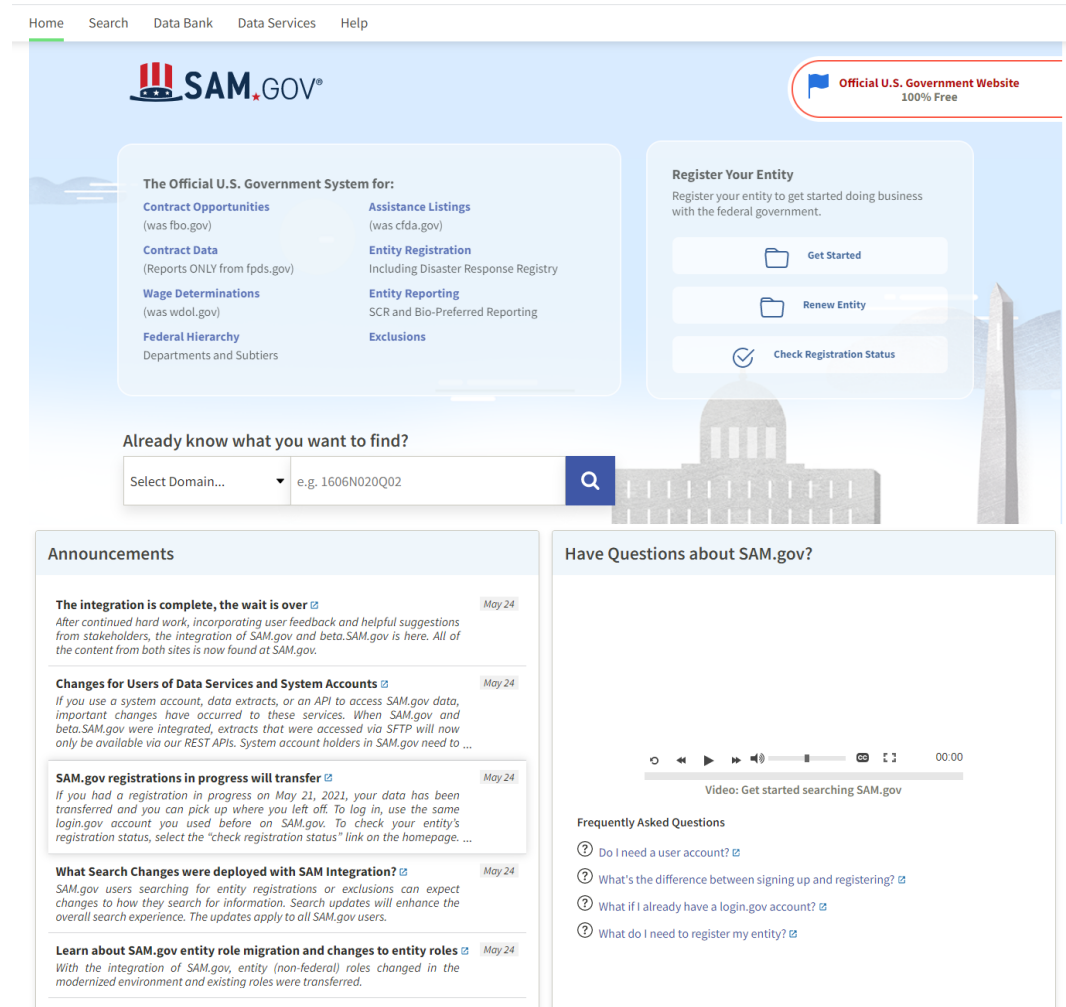
System Requirements for Applicants

- DUNS number - <https://www.dnb.com/>
 - Must have a DUNS number for the applicant organization



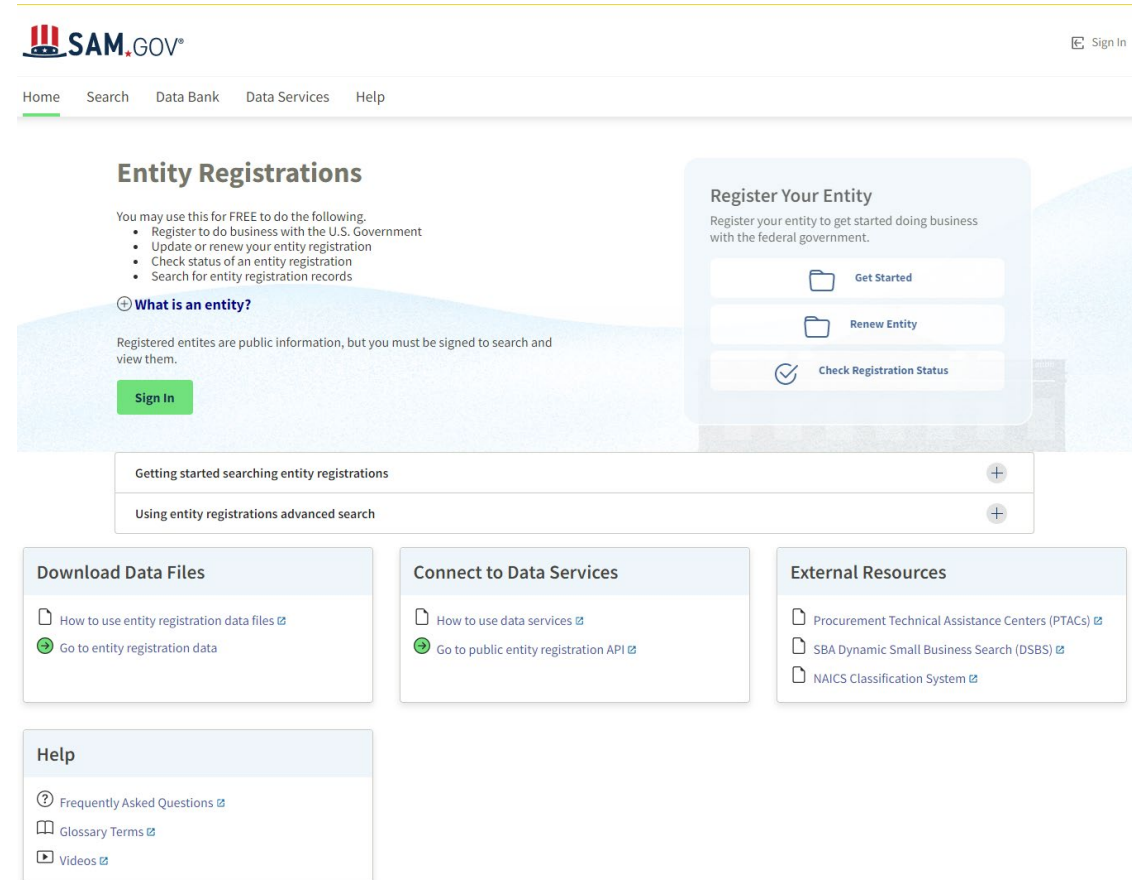
Sam.gov registration (System for Award Management)

- Begin registration process *prior to or no later than* when you are starting to prepare your application
- Sam.gov required at the time of submission of application
- See NOFO
 - Meeting the requirements set forth above is mandatory. If the applicant is unable to complete registration by the application deadline, the unique entity identifier must be obtained, and SAM registration must be initiated within 30 days after the application deadline in order to be considered for selection and award. You can find additional information on how to complete a SAM registration here: <https://sam.gov/content/home>.



Sam.gov registration, cont.

- If you have a sam.gov registration
- Verify that it is active (not expired)
- Verify that POCs are current and update if needed
- If sam.gov is not active at time of selection the award process will be delayed
- [Link: www.sam.gov](https://www.sam.gov)



The screenshot displays the SAM.GOV website interface. At the top, the SAM.GOV logo is on the left, and a 'Sign In' link is on the right. Below the logo is a navigation bar with links for Home, Search, Data Bank, Data Services, and Help. The main content area is titled 'Entity Registrations'. It includes a list of actions users can perform for free: Register to do business with the U.S. Government, Update or renew your entity registration, Check status of an entity registration, and Search for entity registration records. A 'What is an entity?' section explains that registered entities are public information but require a sign-in to search and view. A 'Sign In' button is provided. To the right, a 'Register Your Entity' box offers three options: 'Get Started', 'Renew Entity', and 'Check Registration Status'. Below this, there are expandable sections for 'Getting started searching entity registrations' and 'Using entity registrations advanced search'. At the bottom, there are three columns of links: 'Download Data Files' (How to use entity registration data files, Go to entity registration data), 'Connect to Data Services' (How to use data services, Go to public entity registration API), and 'External Resources' (Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTACs), SBA Dynamic Small Business Search (DSBS), NAICS Classification System). A 'Help' section at the bottom left contains links for Frequently Asked Questions, Glossary Terms, and Videos.



Sam.gov User Guide

How to Register Your Entity:

https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp?id=gsa_index

Federal Service Desk

This site is for people who make, receive, and manage federal awards. It provides support for government-wide systems required by federal policy.

Need help? Get an answer fast!

Easily find all you need to know about SAM.gov, FPDS.gov, eSRS.gov, and FSRG.gov.

Search Here for Help (User Guides, FAQs, Videos, Definitions)



Learn How to Register Your Entity

Get Started with Your
Registration

Check Registration Status

Update Your Registration

Become an Entity
Administrator

Search Entities and Exclusions

Access User Guides



If selected applicants must register in ASAP (Automated Standard Application for Payments)

- If selected for an award, Recipient is required to registering with ASAP
 - If selected, ASAP registration must be completed and active before proceeding with the grant award process
- System used by Recipient to drawdown funds, track grant award account balances
- To begin process of registering with Reclamation, send email to: sha-dro-ASAP_ENR@usbr.gov
 - If already registered – you still must register specifically with Reclamation to be awarded funds
 - Failure to register in a timely manner will delay the awarding of your grant
- This is a multi-step process with specific deadlines to complete each step
 - Failure to complete a step by the stated due date will stop the process and it has to be started again from the beginning



ASAP – Already registered?

- If you have an active/existing ASAP registration
 - Verify the POCS are current/updated
 - Verify that someone from your organization is able to login and access your ASAP account
- Questions about the registration process can be submitted via email to: sha-dro-ASAP_ENR@usbr.gov

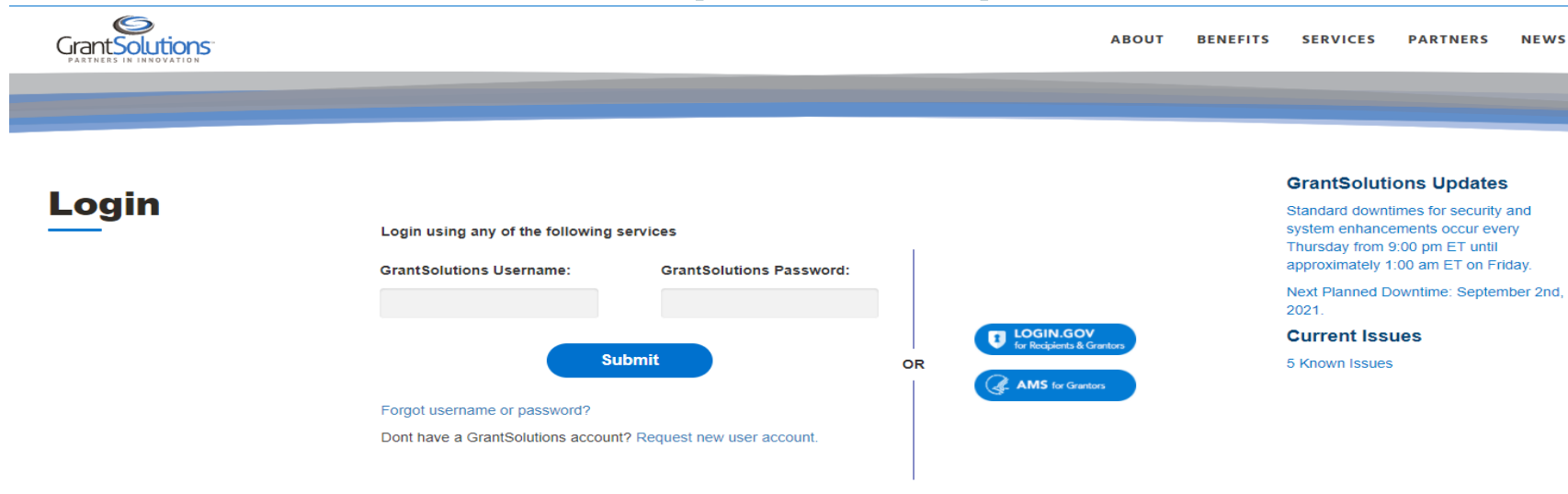


Automated
Standard Application for Payments - on the Web



Grants Solutions

- System used by Reclamation to accept applications submitted through grants.gov, to award and administer grants
- Applicants continue to submit applications through grants.gov
- If selected, applicants must register in system required to receive and view awards, submit reports, request amendments



The screenshot shows the Grants Solutions login interface. At the top left is the Grants Solutions logo with the tagline 'PARTNERS IN INNOVATION'. To the right is a navigation menu with links: ABOUT, BENEFITS, SERVICES, PARTNERS, and NEWS. Below the navigation bar is a blue decorative wave graphic. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column features a 'Login' heading, followed by the text 'Login using any of the following services'. Below this are two input fields: 'Grantsolutions Username:' and 'Grantsolutions Password:'. A blue 'Submit' button is positioned below the password field. Below the button are two links: 'Forgot username or password?' and 'Don't have a Grantsolutions account? Request new user account.' The right column contains a section titled 'Grantsolutions Updates' with text about standard downtimes and the next planned downtime (September 2nd, 2021). Below this is a 'Current Issues' section with the text '5 Known Issues'. At the bottom of the right column are two blue buttons: 'LOGIN.GOV for Recipients & Grantors' and 'AMS for Grantors'. A vertical line with the word 'OR' separates the login fields from the right-hand content.

Grantsolutions Username:

Grantsolutions Password:

[Submit](#)

[Forgot username or password?](#)

[Don't have a Grantsolutions account? Request new user account.](#)

OR

[LOGIN.GOV for Recipients & Grantors](#)

[AMS for Grantors](#)

Grantsolutions Updates

Standard downtimes for security and system enhancements occur every Thursday from 9:00 pm ET until approximately 1:00 am ET on Friday.

Next Planned Downtime: September 2nd, 2021.

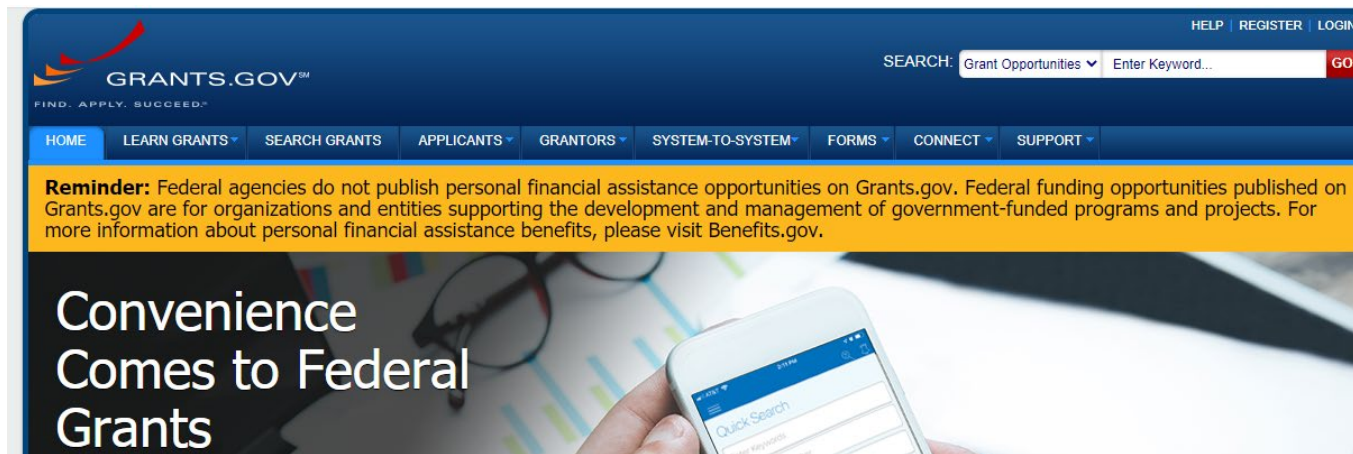
Current Issues

5 Known Issues



How to use Grants.gov

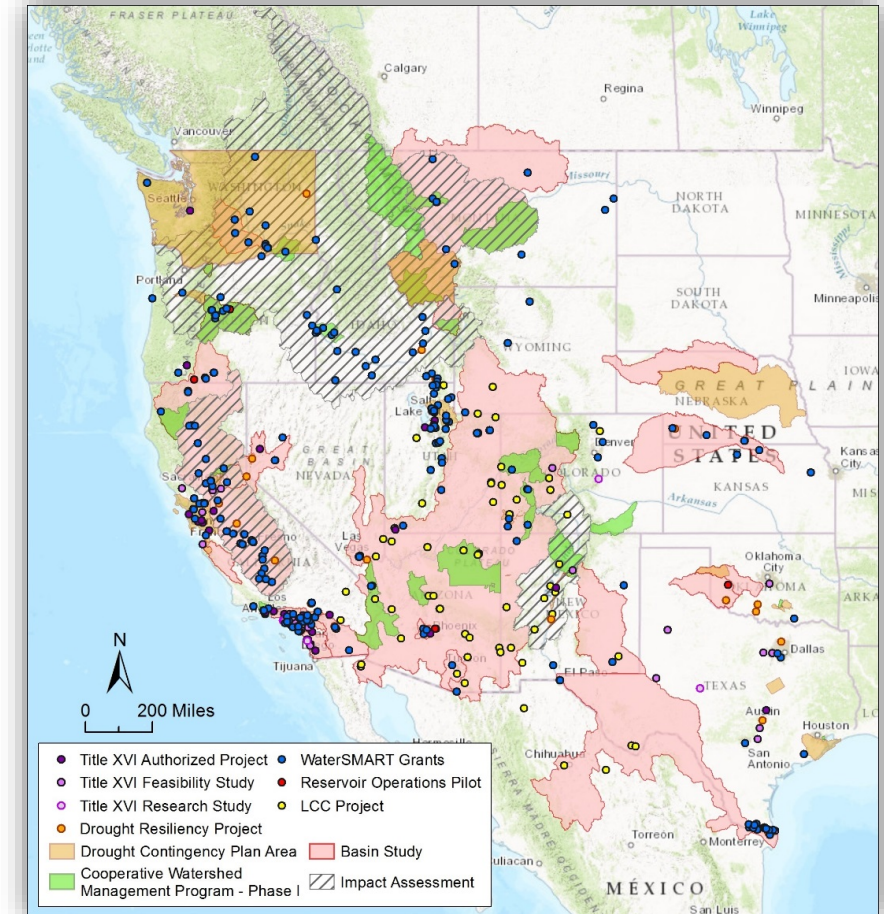
- Register for grants.gov early
- A correct DUNS number is needed to register
- Reclamation partnered with grants.gov to provide a webinar about how to submit a grant application.
 - The [webinar](#) and [PowerPoint](#) can be found on the WaterSMART program website, or
 - <https://youtu.be/uhETFM21HM4>



WaterSMART Data Visualization Tool

- Data Visualization Tool is an interactive website with program information including:
 - Interactive maps
 - Featured project tours
 - Program growth over time

<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/>



WaterSMART Program Resources

- WaterSMART Program Website:
<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/index.html>
 - Note: Successful proposals are available on the website for each program
- For information about upcoming WaterSMART Funding Opportunities, send an email to watersmart@usbr.gov with your name and email address
- Funding Opportunities can be found at: www.grants.gov





— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Questions?

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