



Status of WaterSMART Program Funding Opportunities

Program	Eligible Applicants	Federal/Non-Federal Cost Share	Funding	Current Status
Water and Energy Efficiency Grants On-the-ground water management improvement projects, including projects that address water losses and improve water supply reliability. Program Contact: Josh German jgerman@usbr.gov Brandi Worthington broseworthington@usbr.gov	Category A Applicants: States, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, or other organizations with water or power delivery authority. Category B Applicants: Nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership and with the agreement of an entity described above. Applicants must be located in the Western United States or United States Territories	Non-Federal cost share: 50% or greater.	To be determined.	This funding opportunity is currently under development.
Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects Small water efficiency improvements that have been identified through previous planning efforts. Program Contact: Nickie McCann nmccann@usbr.gov	specifically: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming (the “17 Western States”), Alaska, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, or Puerto Rico.	Up to \$125,000 for projects to be completed within two years. Total project costs cannot exceed \$250,000. Non-Federal cost share: 50% or greater.	Reclamation anticipates allocating up to \$4 million for this funding opportunity.	FY26 NOFO closed June 2, 2026. Applications are currently under review.
Drought Response Program Funding for on-the-ground projects and modeling tools, and drought contingency planning, that will increase water reliability and improve water management. Program Contact: Shelbie Neff sneff@usbr.gov	Drought Contingency Planning is limited to Category A applicants located in the 17 Western States, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands.	Up to \$500,000 for projects to be completed within two years; up to \$1.5 million for projects to be completed within three years. Non-Federal cost share: 50% or greater.	Reclamation anticipates allocating up to \$13.5 million for this funding opportunity.	The funding opportunity was posted on grants.gov on March 5, 2026. Applications are due July 28, 2026. An informational webinar was hosted April 21, 2026. A link to the webinar is available on the WaterSMART website (https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/).
Enhancing Water Resources Projects Water conservation and efficiency projects that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings and benefit ecological values; water management or infrastructure improvements to mitigate drought-related impacts to ecological values; and watershed management or restoration projects benefitting ecological values that have a nexus to water resources or water resources management. Program Contact: Katherine Tucker ktucker@usbr.gov	Applicant eligibility is as described above, consistent with Water and Energy Efficiency Grants, Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects and Drought Response Grants. Additionally, eligible watershed groups, as defined in the Cooperative Watershed Management Act, may apply under Category C.	Up to \$3,000,000 for projects to be completed within three years and with total project costs no greater than \$6,000,000. Non-Federal cost share: 25-50% of total project costs.	Reclamation will allocate up \$60 million for this funding opportunity.	The funding opportunity was posted on grants.gov on May 14th, 2026. First round applications are due September 9th, 2026, and second round applications are due September 8th, 2027. An informational webinar was hosted June 16, 2026. A link to the webinar will be available on the WaterSMART website (https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/).

Program	Eligible Applicants	Federal/Non-Federal Cost Share	Funding	Current Status
Applied Science Grants Projects to develop hydrologic information and water management tools, improve modeling and forecasting capabilities, and nature based solutions. Program Contact: Stephanie Hellekson shellekson@usbr.gov	States, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, universities, non-profit research institutions, organizations with water or power delivery authority, or non-profit organizations located in the 17 Western States, Alaska, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, or Puerto Rico.	Up to \$400,000 per agreement for a project that can be completed within two years. Non-Federal cost share: 50% or greater.	Reclamation anticipates allocating up to \$6 million for this funding opportunity.	The funding opportunity was posted on Grants.gov on March 5, 2026. First round applications are due July 8, 2026, and second round applications are due April 13, 2027. An informational webinar was hosted April 28, 2026. A link to the webinar is available on the WaterSMART website (https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/).
Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program Funding for the study, design and construction of aquatic ecosystem restoration projects that are collaboratively developed, have widespread regional benefits, and are for the purpose of improving the health of fisheries, wildlife, and aquatic habitat through restoration and improved fish passage. Program Contact: Katherine Tucker ktucker@usbr.gov	Category A Applicants: States, Tribes, irrigation or water districts, state, regional, or local authorities, agencies established under State law for the joint exercise of powers, and other entities or organizations that own a dam that is eligible for upgrade or modification located in the 17 Western States, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands. Category B Applicants: Nonprofit conservation organizations acting in partnership with an entity above, with respect to a project involving land or infrastructure owned by the Category A entity.	Applicants may apply for funding for either study and design (Task A,) or construction (Task B). Non-Federal cost share: 35%.	To be determined.	To be determined.
Cooperative Watershed Management Program Watershed group development, watershed restoration planning, and watershed management project design. Program Contact: Irene Hoiby ihoiby@usbr.gov	States, Indian tribes, local and special districts (e.g., irrigation and water districts), local governmental entities, and non-profit organizations that are located in the 17 Western States, Alaska, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, or Puerto Rico.	Up to \$300,000 may be awarded over a three-year period, with no more than \$100,000 to be available per year. Non-Federal cost share: not required.	Reclamation anticipates allocating up to \$25 million for this funding opportunity.	The funding opportunity was posted on Grants.gov on June 10, 2026. First round applications are due October 7, 2026, second round applications are due February 24, 2027, third round applications are due September 1, 2027, and fourth round applications are due February 15, 2028. An informational webinar will be hosted July 21, 2026. A link to the webinar is available on the WaterSMART website (https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/).

Program	Eligible Applicants	Federal/Non-Federal Cost Share	Funding	Current Status
Planning and Project Design Grants Collaborative planning and design projects to support water management improvements, include the following activities: 1) Planning projects to support water management solutions, such as water marketing, water conservation, drought resilience, and water management. 2) The development of final designs for on-the-ground water management construction and restoration projects. Program Contact: Irene Hoiby ihoiby@usbr.gov Brandi Worthington broseworthington@usbr.gov	Category A Applicants: States, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, or other organizations with water or power delivery authority. Category B Applicants: Nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership and an entity described above. Applicants must be located in the 17 Western States, Alaska, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, or Puerto Rico.	Non-Federal cost share: 25 - 50%.	To be determined.	The funding opportunity is under development.
Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects Funding for planning, design, and/or construction of water reclamation and reuse projects. Program Contact: Maribeth Menendez mmenendez@usbr.gov	Sponsors of water reclamation and reuse projects specifically authorized for funding under Title XVI of P.L. 102-575, as amended, or with completed feasibility studies that have been submitted to Reclamation for review. Applicants must be located in the 17 Western States, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands.	Federal funding is limited to 25% of the total project cost, not to exceed any applicable per project Federal funding cap identified in the funding opportunity. Non-Federal cost share: 75% or greater.	Reclamation anticipates allocating up to \$40 million for this funding opportunity.	The funding opportunity was posted on Grants.gov on May 14, 2026. First round applications are due August 26, 2026, and second round applications are due August 26, 2027.
Desalination Construction Funding for planning, design, and/or construction of facilities to desalinate seawater or brackish surface water or groundwater. Program Contact: Maribeth Menendez mmenendez@usbr.gov	Sponsors of desalination projects with completed feasibility studies that have been submitted to Reclamation for review. Entities must be located in the 17 western states.	Federal funding is limited to 25% of the total project cost, not to exceed any applicable per project Federal funding cap identified in the funding opportunity. Non-Federal cost share: 75% or greater.	Reclamation anticipates allocating up to \$120 million for this funding opportunity.	The funding opportunity was posted on grants.gov on May 14, 2026. First round applications are due August 26, 2026, and second round applications are due August 26, 2027.
Large-Scale Water Recycling Projects Funding for planning, design, and/or construction of Large-Scale Water Recycling Projects with a total project cost greater than or equal to \$500 million. Program Contact: Maribeth Menendez mmenendez@usbr.gov	Sponsors of water recycling projects with a total project cost greater than or equal to \$500 million with completed feasibility studies that have been submitted to Reclamation for review. Entities must be located in the 17 Western States.	Federal funding is limited to 25% of the total project cost. Non-Federal cost share: 75% or greater.	Reclamation anticipates allocating up to \$130 million for this funding opportunity.	FY26 NOFO closed on May 13, 2026. Applications are currently under review.

This table is intended as a summary of programs including some basic program requirements.

Refer to each Notice of Funding Opportunity for details on program requirements, eligible projects, eligible applicants, and cost share.

For the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, all non-federal cost-share requirements are waived per Public Law 96-205, title VI, section 601, as amended, in conjunction with 48 U.S.C. § 1469a(d).