



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 conserve water and address water supply reliability. Program Contact: Josh German jgerman@usbr.gov	<p>Category A Applicants: States, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, or other organizations with water or power delivery authority.</p> <p>Category B Applicants: Nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership and with the agreement of an entity described above.</p>	<p>Up to \$500,000 for projects to be completed within two years; up to \$5 million for large projects to be completed within three years.</p> <p>Non-Federal Cost Share: 50% or greater.</p>	<p>Reclamation will allocate WaterSMART Grants Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) under this funding opportunity. Approximately \$50 million is anticipated to be available under the funding opportunity.</p>	<p>Selections from the first round of applications were announced August 5, 2024. 69 projects were selected to receive \$107 million in appropriated and BIL funding.</p> <p>The second round of applications were due November 13, 2024, and are currently under review. Selections are expected in May 2025.</p>
Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects Small water efficiency improvements that have been identified through previous planning efforts. Program Contact: Nickie McCann nmccann@usbr.gov	<p>Applicants must be located in the Western United States or United States Territories 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.</p>	<p>Up to \$125,000 for projects to be completed within two years. Total project costs cannot exceed \$250,000.</p> <p>Non-Federal Cost Share: 50% or greater.</p>	<p>Reclamation will distribute WaterSMART Grants Congressional appropriations under this funding opportunity. Approximately \$12 million in is anticipated to be available under the funding opportunity.</p>	<p>Selections from the second round of applications were announced November 21, 2024. 37 projects were selected to receive \$3.3 million in funding.</p> <p>The third round of applications were due January 14, 2025, and are currently under review. Selections are expected May 2025.</p> <p>The fourth round of applications are due July 8, 2025.</p>
Drought Resiliency Projects Funding for on-the-ground projects and modeling tools that will increase water reliability and improve water management. Program Contact: Sheri Looper slooper@usbr.gov		<p>Up to \$750,000 for projects to be completed within two years; up to \$3 million for projects to be completed within three years.</p> <p>Non-Federal Cost Share: 50% or greater.</p>	<p>The FY25 Funding Opportunity will allocate up to \$40 million in FY24/25 appropriations. In addition, Reclamation will allocate Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding.</p>	<p>Applications for the FY25 Funding Opportunity were due October 7, 2024, and are currently under review. Selections are expected in late March 2025.</p> <p>The FY26 Funding Opportunity is expected to post in the summer of 2025.</p>

Program	Eligible Applicants	Federal/Non-Federal Cost Share	Funding	Current Status
Environmental Water Resources 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: Robin Graber rgrab@usbr.gov	<p>Applicant eligibility is as described above with the addition of Category C Applicants as described below.</p> <p>Category C Applicants: Non-profit conservation organizations submitting an application for a project to implement a nature-based solution on Federal land may submit an application without a Category A partner, if they demonstrate that entities described in Category A from the applicable service area have been notified and do not object to the project.</p>	<p>In general, up to \$3,000,000 in Federal funding may be awarded for projects to be completed within three years and with total project costs no greater than \$6,000,000. Up to \$5,000,000 in Federal funding may be awarded to a watershed group, which meets the definition in Section 6001(6) of the Cooperative Watershed Management Act, to be completed within five years, with no total project cost limitation. Non-Federal Cost Share: 25% of total project costs</p>	<p>This funding opportunity will be used to allocate several sources of BIL funding. Approximately \$50 million for the June 25, 2024, deadline and approximately \$45 million for the March 11, 2025, deadline.</p>	<p>The first round of FY24/25 Funding Opportunity selections were announced January 7, 2025. 21 projects were selected to receive \$41 million in funding.</p> <p>The second round of applications are due March 11, 2025 and selections are expected in August 2025.</p>
Applied Science Grants Projects to develop hydrologic information and water management tools, improve modeling and forecasting capabilities, and nature based solutions. Program Contacts: Stephanie Micek smicek@usbr.gov	<p>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.</p>	<p>Up to \$400,000 per agreement for a project that can be completed within two years.</p> <p>Non-Federal Cost Share: 25 - 50% or greater.</p>	<p>This funding opportunity will be used to allocate approximately \$7 -10 million in FY24 appropriations and BIL funding.</p>	<p>The FY25/26 Funding Opportunity was posted December 17, 2024. The first round of applications are due March 11, 2025, and the second round of applications are due February 10, 2026.</p>
Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration 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 Contacts: Katherine Tucker ktucker@usbr.gov	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Non-Federal Cost Share: 35%</p>	<p>Approximately \$95 million available for aquatic ecosystem restoration projects under BIL in FY23 and FY24 (including funding for Section 40904 Multi-Benefit Projects To Improve Watershed Health) will be provided through this Funding Opportunity.</p>	<p>The FY25/26 Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program funding opportunity was posted December 10, 2024. The first round of applications are due April 15, 2025. The second round of applications are due February 17, 2026.</p>

Program	Eligible Applicants	Federal/Non-Federal Cost Share	Funding	Current Status
Cooperative Watershed Management Program - Phase I Watershed group development, watershed restoration planning, and watershed management project design. Program Contact: Robin Graber rgrab@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 to an applicant per year, for a period of up to three years. Non-Federal Cost Share: No non-Federal cost-share required.	Reclamation will allocate Congressional appropriations and BIL funding under this funding opportunity. Up to \$20 million is anticipated to be available.	FY24 Funding Opportunity selections were announced on January 17, 2025. 27 projects were selected to receive \$7 million in funding. The FY25 Funding Opportunity was posted January 8, 2025. Applications are due March 20, 2025, with selections expected in October, 2025.
Planning and Project Design Grants Collaborative planning and design projects to support water management improvements, include the following activities: Water Strategy Grants (WSG): Planning projects to support water management solutions, such as water marketing, water conservation, drought resilience, and ecological resilience Project Design Grants (PDG): Projects to develop the final design of on-the-ground water management construction and restoration projects. Drought Contingency Planning (DCP): Projects to develop a new or update an existing Drought Contingency Plan. Program Contacts: WSG/PDG Sam Haskett shaskett@usbr.gov DCP Sheri Looper slooper@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. Note: Drought Contingency Planning funding is limited to Category A and applicants located in the 17 Western States, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands.	Up to \$400,000 for projects that can be completed within 3 years. Non-Federal Cost Share: 25 - 50%.	Approximately \$35 million in available program funds, including BIL funding (including funding for Section 40904 Multi-Benefit Projects To Improve Watershed Health) will be provided through this Funding Opportunity.	FY24 Funding Opportunity Selections were announced on December 19, 2024. 43 projects were selected to receive \$12.1 million in funding. The FY25 Funding Opportunity is expected to be posted in the summer of 2025.

Program	Eligible Applicants	Federal/Non-Federal Cost Share	Funding	Current Status
Title XVI Authorized Projects Funding for planning, design, and construction of specific congressionally authorized water recycling 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. 	Federal funding is limited to 25% of the total project cost, up to \$20 million, unless otherwise specified by Congress. Non-Federal Cost Share: 75% or greater.	Funding opportunities will be used to allocate approximately \$22.5 million in BIL funding, in addition to annual appropriations for this program.	FY24 Funding Opportunity selections were announced January 14, 2025. Two projects were selected to received \$30.9 million in funding. The next funding opportunity is expected to be posted in the summer of 2025.
Title XVI WIIN Act Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects Funding for planning, design, and construction of WIIN Act water recycling and reuse projects. Program Contact: Maribeth Menendez mmenendez@usbr.gov	Sponsors of water reclamation and reuse projects with completed feasibility studies that have been submitted to Reclamation for review. Entities 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, up to \$30 million. Non-Federal Cost Share: 75% or greater.		FY24 Funding Opportunity selections were announced on January 14, 2025. Eleven projects were selected to receive \$131.5 million in BIL funding. The next funding opportunity is expected to be posted in the summer of 2025.
Desalination Construction Funding for planning, design, and construction of WIIN Act brackish groundwater and ocean desalination projects. Program Contact: Maribeth Menendez mmenendez@usbr.gov Amanda Erath aerath@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, up to \$30 million. Non-Federal Cost Share: 75% or greater.	This funding opportunity will be used to allocate approximately \$100 million in BIL funding, in addition to annual appropriations for this program.	FY24 Funding Opportunity selections were announced on January 14, 2025. Five projects were selected to receive \$60.7 million in BIL funding. The next funding opportunity is expected to be posted the summer of 2025.
Large-Scale Water Recycling Projects Funding for planning, design, and construction of Large-Scale Water Recycling Projects with a total project cost greater than \$500 million. Program Contact: Amanda Erath aerath@usbr.gov	Sponsors of water recycling projects with a total project cost greater than \$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.	\$128.25 million in FY25 BIL funding was allocated through the second application period. \$132.75 million in FY26 BIL funding will be allocated through the third application period.	Selections from the second round of applications were announced November 18, 2024. 5 projects were selected to receive \$125 million in BIL funding. The third round of applications are due April 7, 2025 and selections are expected in September 2025.

Program	Eligible Applicants	Federal/Non-Federal Cost Share	Funding	Current Status
Water Recycling and Desalination Planning Funding for planning and pre-construction activities, including the development of water recycling and desalination feasibility studies, to facilitate project development under the Title XVI Program, the Desalination Construction Program, and the Large-Scale Water Recycling Program. Program Contact: Maribeth Menendez mmenendez@usbr.gov Amanda Erath aerath@usbr.gov	States, Indian Tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts; and any state, regional, or local authority located in the 17 Western States, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands.	Non-Federal Cost Share: 50% or greater for planning and pre-construction activities for Water Recycling and Desalination Construction projects.	This funding opportunity will be used to allocate approximately \$10 million in available program funds, in addition to annual appropriations for this program.	FY25 Funding Opportunity is expected in March 2025 with applications due May 2025.

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).