



# Status of WaterSMART Program Funding Opportunities

Program	Eligible Applicants	Federal/Non-Federal Cost Share	Funding	Current Status
<b>Water and Energy Efficiency Grants</b> On-the-ground water management improvement projects, including projects that conserve water and address water supply reliability.  Program Contact: Josh German jgerman@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.	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.  Non-Federal Cost Share: 50% or greater.	Reclamation will allocate WaterSMART Grants Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) under this funding opportunity. Approximately \$50 million is anticipated to be available under the FY24 funding opportunity.	The FY24 and FY25 Funding Opportunity was posted November 12, 2023. The first round of applications were due February 22, 2024 and selections are expected July 2024.  The second round of applications are due November 13, 2024.
<b>Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects</b> Small water efficiency improvements that have been identified through previous planning efforts.  Program Contact: Nickie McCann nmccann@usbr.gov	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.	Up to \$100,000 for projects to be completed within two years. Total project costs should generally be less than \$225,000.  Non-Federal Cost Share: 50% or greater.	Reclamation will distribute WaterSMART Grants Congressional appropriations under this funding opportunity. Approximately \$12 million in is anticipated to be available under the funding opportunity.	Selections from the first round of applications were announced May 23, 2024. 41 projects were selected to receive \$3.7 million in appropriated funds.  The second round of applications are due July 9, 2024, third round of applications are due January 14, 2025, and fourth round of applications are due July 8, 2025.
<b>Drought Resiliency Projects</b> 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		Up to \$500,000 for projects to be completed within two years; up to \$5 million for projects to be completed within three years.  Non-Federal Cost Share: 50% or greater.  Up to \$10 million for domestic water supply projects for Tribes or disadvantaged communities that do not have reliable access to water supplies. To be completed within three years. 5% Non-Federal cost share with possible waiver available.	The FY24 Funding Opportunity will be used to allocated \$30 million FY23 and available FY24 appropriations. In addition, Reclamation will allocate funds from the BIL and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).  The FY25 Funding Opportunity will allocate up to \$40 million in FY24/25 appropriations. In addition, Reclamation will allocate funds from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)	FY24 Funding Opportunity selections were announced May 6, 2024. 42 projects were selected to receive \$147 million in BIL, IRA, and appropriated funds.  Reclamation expects to post the FY25 Funding Opportunity in July 2024.

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<b>Environmental Water Resources</b> 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 rgrabr@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 funds 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 funds 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 FY24/25 Funding Opportunity was posted on April 18, 2024. Applications received by June 25, 2024 are currently under review for FY24 funding. Selections are expected November 2024.</p> <p>The second round of applications are due March 11, 2025.</p>
<b>Applied Science Grants</b> 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 Avra Morgan aomorgan@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 \$10 million in FY23 and available FY24 appropriations.</p>	<p>FY23 Funding Opportunity selections were announced on April 17, 2024. 51 projects were selected to receive \$13.3 million in BIL and appropriated funds.</p> <p>Reclamation expects to post the FY24 Funding Opportunity in September 2024.</p>
<b>Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration</b> 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: Avra Morgan aomorgan@usbr.gov Irene Hoiby ihoiby@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 FY23 and FY24 Funding Opportunity was posted March 14, 2023. Applications for FY23 funding were due June 1, 2023, and selections were announced December 19, 2023. 18 projects were selected to receive \$51 million in appropriated funds</p> <p>Applications received by January 24, 2024 are currently under review for FY24 funding. Selections are expected July 2024.</p>

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<b>Cooperative Watershed Management Program - Phase I</b> Watershed group development, watershed restoration planning, and watershed management project design.  Program Contact: Robin Graber   rgrabber@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.	FY23 Funding Opportunity Selections were announced on July 2nd, 2024. 31 projects were selected to receive \$8.9 million in BIL funds.  The second round of applications are due by September 3, 2024.
<b>Planning and Project Design Grants</b> 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 Irene Hoiby   ihoiby@usbr.gov PDG Nickie McCann   nmccann@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%.  Proposals for the planning or design of projects to provide domestic water supplies to disadvantaged communities may be eligible for 0% non-Federal cost share.	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.	The FY23 and FY24 Funding Opportunity was posted August 7, 2023. Selections from the first round of applications were announced April 23, 2024. 34 projects were selected to receive \$11.1 million in BIL and appropriated funds.  Applications received by May 23, 2024 are currently under review for FY24 funding. Selections are expected October 2024.

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<b>Title XVI Authorized Projects</b> 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 up to \$179 million in BIL funding and \$60 million in annual appropriations.	FY23 Funding Opportunity Selections were announced on June 13th, 2024. 2 projects were selected to receive \$23 million in appropriated funds.  The second application submission deadline is September 30, 2024.
<b>Title XVI WIIN Act Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects</b> 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.		FY23 Funding Opportunity Selections were announced on June 13th, 2024. 4 projects were announced on June 13, 2024 to receive \$61.8 million in BIL funding.  7 additional projects were recommended to receive \$44.7 million in annual appropriations, and project selections were transmitted to Congress on May 23, 2024. Funding will be awarded to these projects once they are named in enacted appropriations legislation.
<b>Desalination Construction</b> Funding for planning, design, and construction of WIIN Act brackish groundwater and ocean desalination projects.  Program Contact: Maribeth Menendez mmenendez@usbr.gov and 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.	\$70 million in FY25 BIL funding and \$12 million in annual appropriations for this program, along with other available program funding will be available through the second application period.	FY23 Funding Opportunity Selections were announced on June 13th, 2024. 4 projects were selected to receive \$57.5 million in BIL funds.  The second application submission deadline is September 30, 2024.
<b>Large-Scale Water Recycling Projects</b> 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.	\$129 million in FY25 BIL funding total will be allocated through the second and third application periods together.	FY23 Funding Opportunity selections were announced on May 28, 2024. 4 projects were selected to receive \$179 million in BIL funds.  The second round of applications were due May 31, 2024, and selections are expected in October 2024. The third application submission deadline is November 26, 2024.

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<b>Water Recycling and Desalination Planning</b> 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 and 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 Title XVI and Desalination Construction projects.  Non-Federal Cost Share: 75% or greater for planning and pre-construction activities for Large-Scale Water Recycling Projects with an anticipated total project cost greater than \$500 million.	Approximately \$30 million in available program funds will be provided through this Funding Opportunity	FY23 Funding Opportunity selections were announced on September 27, 2023. 31 projects were selected to receive \$29 million in appropriated funds.  FY24 Funding Opportunity is expected in December 2024 with applications due March 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).