Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects FOA
Robin Graber
Water Resources and Planning Office
January 30, 2020
Agenda Overview

• WaterSMART SWEP FOA
  • Eligible Applicants
  • Eligible Projects
  • Evaluation Criteria

• Application Tips
• Useful Program Links
• Questions
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.
WaterSMART Program Overview

Provides a framework for Interior to support water supply reliability for multiple water users.
WaterSMART Grants
3 sub-activities

• Water and Energy Efficiency Grants (WEEG)

• Small-Scale Efficiency Projects (SWEP)

• Water Marketing Strategy Grants (WMSG)
WaterSMART Grants
Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects
($3 – 4 million)

- Eligible Project Types
  - Canal lining/piping
  - Meter and flow measurement (Municipal or Ag)
  - Landscape irrigation measures
  - SCADA and Automation

- Eligible Applicants
  - An eligible applicant is a state, tribe, irrigation district, water district, or other organization with water or power delivery authority
  - 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, and the Virgin Islands.
WaterSMART Grants
Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects ($3 – 4 million)

• Funding
  • Up to $75k in Reclamation funds for 2-year projects
  • Maximum total project costs of $200k per project
  • 50% non-Federal cost share

• Evaluation Criteria
  • Simplified evaluation criteria
  • Benefits to applicant
  • Previous planning efforts supporting the project

Applications Due March 4, 2020, 4pm MST
WaterSMART Grants
Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

Evaluation Criteria

A - Project Benefits
B - Planning Efforts
C - Project Implementation
D - Nexus to Reclamation
E - DOI and Reclamation Priorities

WaterSMART Grants
Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

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Evaluation Criteria

Criterion A – Project Benefits (35 points)
• Address all bullets and sub-bullets that are applicable
• Discuss
  • Benefits to applicant’s water supply delivery system
  • Other benefits (e.g., broader benefits to supply reliability, increasing collaboration, benefits to other sectors, collaboration with NRCS)

Criterion B – Planning Efforts Supporting the Project (35 points)
• Prioritizes projects that are identified through local planning efforts and meet local needs
Evaluation Criteria

Criterion C – Project Implementation
(10 points)
- Describe implementation plan including schedule and milestones
- Discuss required permits and compliance, describe any engineering and design work that has been performed

Criterion D – Nexus to Reclamation
(10 points)
- Describe the connection to Reclamation project activities and facilities if applicable.

WaterSMART Grants
Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects
Evaluation Criteria

Criterion E – Department of the Interior and Reclamation Priorities (10 points)

DOI Priorities

1. Creating a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt
2. Utilizing our Natural Resources
3. Restoring Trust with Local Communities
4. Striking a Regulatory Balance
5. Modernizing our Infrastructure
Evaluation Criteria

Criterion E – Department of the Interior and Reclamation Priorities (10 points)

Reclamation Priorities

1. Increase Water Supplies, Storage, and Reliability under WIIN and other Authorities
2. Streamline Regulatory Processes and Remove Unnecessary Burdens to Provide More Water and Power Supply Reliability
3. Leverage Science and Technology to Improve Water Supply Reliability to Communities
4. Address Ongoing Drought
5. Improve the Value of Hydropower to Reclamation Power Customers
6. Improve Water Supplies for Tribal and Rural Communities
7. Implementation of new Title Transfer authority pursuant to P.L. 116-9
Application Tips
Application Tips
Which WaterSMART FOA is right for me?

• The most successful projects are those that fit well with the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA).

• Review the objective of the FOA, the eligible project types and the evaluation criteria carefully to choose the right FOA.

• Make sure you present your project in a way that aligns with the FOA. 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: Call the Program Coordinator to discuss which FOA your project fits best under
Application Tips

What do I have to include in my application?

- Every WaterSMART FOA includes a section describing the application content
- Page iii of every FOA 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 FOA
- Application Tip: Structure your proposal in the order identified in the FOA

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](http://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
  - 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 Entity Identifier and System for Award Management*

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

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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: Call the Grants Management Specialist in the FOA if you have questions about your budget as you are preparing your proposal.

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Environmental Compliance

• Reclamation must comply with environmental requirements when awarding financial assistance

• This includes compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), among others

• All projects – whether they have on-the-ground impacts or not – will require some level of review by Reclamation environmental staff to satisfy applicable environmental requirements

• Check with your local Reclamation office when you are preparing your proposal to determine how much to include in your project budget for environmental compliance.

• **Application Tip:** Environmental compliance costs are part of the total project costs to be cost shared by Reclamation and the applicant and, therefore, must be included in the project budget.
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WaterSMART Data Visualization

• Online interactive maps of each WaterSMART Program
• Learn more about each funded project
• Shows program growth since 2010

WaterSMART Data Visualization Tool
## WaterSMART Program Web Links

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Thank you!
Robin Graber
303-445-2764
rgraber@usbr.gov