WaterSMART Program
Water and Energy Efficiency Grants
Water Resources and Planning Office
Financial Assistance Operations Office
December 12, 2023
Getting Started

- To watch the recording, use the same link at this meeting.
- 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
Today’s Presenters

Water Resources and Planning Office
  • Josh German
  • Michelle de Leon

Financial Assistance Operations
  • Randy Harris
Agenda Overview

• FY24 WEEG
  • Eligible Applicants
  • Eligible Projects
  • Program Funding
  • Evaluation Criteria

• Application Tips
• Financial Assistance Requirements
• Program Resources
• Questions
Water and Energy Efficiency Grants
Applicant Eligibility

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.

All Category A applicants must also be located in the Western United States or Territories as identified in the Reclamation Act of June 17, 1902, as amended and supplemented; specifically: 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.

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.

All Category B applicants must be located in the United States or the specific Territories identified above.
Water and Energy Efficiency Grants
Project Eligibility

Eligible Projects (Section C.4.)

- 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

Ineligible Projects (Section C.5.)
Water and Energy Efficiency Grants
Program Funding

Funding Groups
• Funding Group I: Up to $500k in 2 years
• Funding Group II: Up to $2 million in 3 years
• Funding Group III: Up to $5 million in 3 years

WaterSMART Grants Funding in FY 2024
• Annual Appropriations: TBD
• BIL Funding: $50M
• FY 2025 WaterSMART Grants Funding: TBD

All proposals require a non-Federal cost share of 50% or greater. Note: this cost-sharing requirement is not applicable to American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands.

In general ARPA funding may be counted toward non-Federal cost-share requirements for WaterSMART Grants.
Water and Energy Efficiency Grants
Evaluation Criteria

Criterion A - Quantifiable Water Savings (25 Points)
Criterion B - Renewable Energy (20 Points)
Criterion C - Other Project Benefits (15 Points)
Criterion D - Disadvantaged Communities and Tribal Benefits (15 Points)
Criterion E - Complementing On-Farm Irrigation Improvements (8 Points)
Criterion F - Readiness to Proceed (8 Points)
Criterion G - Collaboration (5 Points)
Criterion H - Nexus to Reclamation (4 Points)
WaterSMART Selection Process

Schedule Tracker

Water and Energy Efficiency Grants
Schedule tracker shows anticipated dates for Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and will be updated regularly.

We are here

- NOFO Under Development
  - November 14, 2023
  - NOFO Posted on Grants.gov

- Accepting Applications
  - February 22, 2024
  - Application Period Closes

- Applications Under Review
  - May 2024
  - Selections Expected to Be Announced

- Agreement Development
  - September 2024
  - Award of Funding

Last Updated 11/14/2023
## Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

### Program Requirements Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible Applicants</th>
<th>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.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funding Groups</td>
<td>Up to $5,000,000 in Federal funds for projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost Share</td>
<td>50% non-Federal cost share required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation Criteria</td>
<td>Applications will be evaluated against the evaluation criteria which comprise a total of 100 points.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Closing Dates:
- Thursday, February 22nd, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. MDT
- Wednesday, October 30th, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. MDT
WaterSMART Application Tips
General Application Tips

• 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.

• Suggested Pre-Application Actions:
  - Contact the Program Coordinator to discuss any questions about your project fit or applicant eligibility.
  - Look at past successful applications at www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART
Application Tips
General Considerations

• **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.

• Do not assume the Application Review Committee knows you.
  - Committee is comprised of Reclamation staff from throughout the Western states.

• If your application is not awarded, ask for a debriefing to help prepare a better proposal next year.
Application Tips

Evaluation Criteria

• Make sure you respond to every criterion and every sub-criterion

• Your responses should:
  • Directly respond to the criterion – We recommend you 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 citations to reference documents
  • Make the case for how your project meets the criterion – general statements without explanation or support will not score well

• Application Tip: Well-supported responses to the evaluation criteria are the key to writing a competitive proposal
Application Tips
Environmental and Cultural Resource Compliance

• All projects funded through WaterSMART funding opportunities must comply with Federal environmental and cultural resources laws and regulations. Reclamation regional and area office staff will ensure compliance.

• This compliance must occur prior to any ground-disturbing activities taking place, including installation of any equipment or monitoring devices.

• We highly recommend you discuss your project with compliance staff at your local Reclamation regional or area office. If you are uncertain who to contact, please contact the Program Coordinator identified in Section G of the funding opportunity.
WaterSMART
Financial Assistance Requirements
Getting Started Application Tips

Register in SAM.gov and obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)

- [SAM.gov](https://www.sam.gov) | Entity Registrations
- If you have difficulties – document communications with help desk.
- Include communications with your application

Register in Grants.gov

- [Applicant Registration](https://www.grants.gov) | GRANTS.GOV
  - If you have difficulties – document communications with help desk.
- Grants.gov Help Desk Information:
  - By e-mail: support@grants.gov
  - By phone: (toll-free) 1-800-518-4726 (1-800-518-GRANTS). The Grants.gov Contact Center is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, excluding federal holidays.
Application Tips

Where to Start

Start at www.grants.gov

Search Grants

Info webinar available at www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART
Application Tips

Where to Start

Search for opportunity R24AS00052

Grants.gov

Search Grants

Basic Search Criteria:

Keyword(s):
Opportunity Number: R24AS00052
CFDA:

Sort by:
Posted Date (Descending)

Update Sort

Date Range:
All Available

Update Date Range

Opportunity Title

Agency

Opportunity Status

Posted Date

Close Date


Forecasted (0)

Posted (1)

Closed (0)

Archived (0)
## Related Documents

Click on the following file link(s) to download the related document(s):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>File Description</th>
<th>File Name</th>
<th>Last Updated Date/Time</th>
<th>File Size</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* Folder: Revised Full Announcement</td>
<td>Revised Full Announcement - Revised Full Announcement.pdf</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>* Folder: Other Supporting Documents - Other Supporting Documents</td>
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<td>Attachment B: Budget Detail and Narrative template.xlsx</td>
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VIEW GRANT OPPORTUNITY

WaterSMART Grants: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for Fiscal Year 2024
Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Select Grant Opportunity Package

PLEASE READ BEFORE APPLYING!
If you view and complete your application package using Grants.gov downloadable PDF forms, you MUST have Adobe Reader installed. You may receive a validation error using incompatible versions of Adobe Reader. To prevent a validation error, it is now recommended you uninstall any earlier versions of Adobe Reader and install the latest compatible version of Adobe Reader. If more than one person is working on the PDF forms, ALL applicants must be using the same Adobe Reader version. Click for more information on Adobe Reader Compatibility.

Opportunity Package(s) Currently Available for this Funding Opportunity:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CFDA</th>
<th>Competition ID</th>
<th>Competition Title</th>
<th>Opportunity Package ID</th>
<th>Opening Date</th>
<th>Closing Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Opportunity Package Details

Agency Contact Information: Christina Munoz
Who Can Apply: Organization Applicants

PACKAGE FORMS:

Mandatory forms are SF-424, SF 424C & D-Construction, Technical Proposal and Budget Narrative

Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) (v4.6)
Assurances for Construction Programs (SF-424C) (v2.0)
Budget Information for Construction Programs (SF-424C) (v2.0)
Budget Narrative Attachment Form (v2.2)
Project Narrative Attachment Form (v2.2)

Optional forms (Click to preview):
Attachments (v1.2)
Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL) (v2.0)
Project Abstract Summary (v2.0)
Grants.gov Lobbying Form (v1.3)
Preparing your budget

- Budget should align with technical proposal
- Budget costs represent total project costs (Federal and Non-Federal)
- Recommend using Attachment A-Budget Narrative Guidance & Attachment B-Budget Detail
  - No required format, but required information listed in the NOFO must be included
- Application Tip: Write budget narrative while preparing the budget estimate

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**Personnel**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position Title</th>
<th>Time (hrs or %)</th>
<th>Rate (# or Salary)</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
<th>Rate Basis</th>
<th>Comments (as needed)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EXAMPLE!!! Sr. Engineer Y1</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>$46</td>
<td>$18,400</td>
<td>Current Salary</td>
<td>hourly rate based on average rate for all personnel occupying this position</td>
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<tr>
<td>EXAMPLE!!! Sr. Engineer Y2</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>$46</td>
<td>$19,000</td>
<td>Current Salary + 3% increase</td>
<td>Increase based on the average annual increase for all personnel occupying this position</td>
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Application Content

Verify you have a completed mandatory forms:

- SF-424
- SF-424C
- SF-424D
- Technical Proposal (use Project Narrative form to upload in Grants.gov)
- Budget Narrative (use Budget Narrative form to upload in Grants.gov)
Financial Assistance Staff

• Answer questions about financial assistance requirements during the application process

• Conduct Initial Screening and remove applications that do not meet the completeness, eligibility and timeliness requirements of the NOFO.

• Notify Applicants of Application status based on the contact information provided on the SF-424 Form
Financial Assistance – First Level Screening

All application packages will be screened to ensure:

- The applicant meets the completeness, eligibility, and timeliness requirements
- The applicant meets the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and SAM registration requirements
- The application meets the content requirements
- The application contains completed mandatory forms
Financial Assistance – Selection Notification

• After Initial screening,
  • Ineligible applicants will be notified by Grants Officer, and
  • Eligible applicants will move on to the Merit Review

• All successful and unsuccessful applications will be notified by Grants Officer.

• The Financial Assistance Office will reach out to the successful applicant regarding next steps for entering into a Financial Assistance award.
Financial Assistance Questions?

Please email the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Team directly at:

bor-sha-fafoa@usbr.gov

**Please include the NOFO number in the subject of your email.**
Additional Resources
WaterSMART Program Resources

- WaterSMART Program Website: https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart
  - Previously funded applications for all programs
  - Interactive Data Visualization Tool
  - WaterSMART Dashboard
  - Funding opportunity calendar and status tracking
  - WaterSMART mailing list
  - Recent announcements

www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART
WaterSMART Program Resources

Additional Resources

• All open Funding Opportunities can be found at: www.grants.gov
  • General guide on how to submit a grant application on Grants.Gov located on WaterSMART website.

• Climate Mapping and Resilience and Adaptation: https://resilience.climate.gov/

• Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool: https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5

• Debriefings for past (unsuccessful) applicants: Bookings website