



Subject Specific Grant Guide

Grants to Support Water and Water Supply Projects

This guide identifies funding opportunities released in Fiscal Year 2023 which support water and water supply projects. These opportunities prioritize evidence-based, cost-effective programs for pressing water supply and water infrastructure issues.

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FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

FY 2023 Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG): Classic Program

Grant Overview

This program aims to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies in conjunction with agricultural production. This program funds the development and field testing, on-farm research and demonstration, evaluation, or implementation of approaches to incentivizing conservation adoption, including market-based and conservation finance approaches, as well as conservation technologies, practices, and systems. Eligible applicants are all nonfederal entities and individuals based in the United States for projects carried out in the United States.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2022	\$15 million	18

Key Information and Tips

- Total Funding:** \$15 million
- Award Range:** \$250,000 to \$2,000,000
- Match:** 50 percent
- Solicitation Date:** August 31, 2023
- Proposal Due:** October 30, 2023

More information is available [here](#).



Awardee Profile

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

YEAR: 2022

AMOUNT: \$1,998,583

Funding will be used for a project which focuses on getting silvopasture established on farms through incentive payments and entry to carbon markets. The project will work to better understand producer motivation and provide producer and technical service provider training to expand knowledge and speed adoption.

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agency: Natural Resources Conservation Service

FY 2023 Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG): Classic Program

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies in conjunction with agricultural production. This program funds the development and field testing, on-farm research and demonstration, evaluation, or implementation of approaches to incentivizing conservation adoption, including market-based and conservation finance approaches, as well as conservation technologies, practices, and systems. Projects are expected to lead to the transfer of conservation technologies, management systems, and innovative approaches to agricultural producers, into technical manuals and guides, or to the private sector. Projects must meet the following requirements:

- Comply with all applicable federal, tribal, state, and local laws and regulations throughout the duration of the project
- Use a technology or approach that has been studied sufficiently to indicate a high probability for success
- Demonstrate, evaluate, and verify the effectiveness, utility, affordability, and usability of natural resource conservation technologies and approaches in the field
- Adapt and transfer conservation technologies, management, practices, systems, approaches, and incentive systems to improve performance and encourage adoption
- Introduce proven conservation technologies and approaches to a geographic area or agricultural sector where that technology or approach is not currently in use

NRCS is only accepting proposals that address one or more of the priorities listed in this section. Each proposal must clearly identify a primary priority on the proposal cover page:

Forestry: This priority area will accept proposals for climate smart forestry and agroforestry in one of the following two areas:

- **Agroforestry:** Agroforestry (alley cropping, silvopasture, forest farming or multistory cropping, riparian forest buffers, and windbreaks shelterbelts) integrates trees into crop and livestock systems to address conservation needs, increase carbon storage, and build sustainable agricultural systems. Agroforestry systems can be expensive to implement, and it may take several years before the producer benefits financially from the conservation practice. Projects will be given higher priority that develop innovative tools for landowners that include:
 - Economic tools to help producers determine the financial benefits of adopting agroforestry. Tools should integrate entry costs, return on investment (such as improved production, income diversification, energy reduction), and conservation benefits (wildlife habitat, moisture management, soil health, odor mitigation, or reduced heat stress in livestock)

- Conservation practices and intermediate activities to help offset implementation and transition costs.
- **Climate smart Forestry:** Forests face increasing stress from extreme weather including longer and warmer seasons, drought, and precipitation intensity. To support forest landowners with maintaining healthy forests, assistance is needed in selecting native tree species adapted to climate shifts. Projects will be given higher priority that include both of the following:
 - A regionally specific guide (or guides) that helps private forest landowners and forest managers incorporate climate change considerations into forest management and climate adaptation efforts
 - Databases of suitable native tree and shrub species for seed zones within the specific region of the guide

Habitat Conservation and Restoration for Wildlife and Invertebrates: This priority area is focused on innovations to identify, improve, and expand habitats for wildlife and native beneficial invertebrate populations critical for ecosystems, agriculture, or other natural resource services. Higher priority will be given to projects that have a large impact on invertebrate conservation or can leverage other resource opportunities that have stackable conservation benefits. The following are examples of projects, but accepted proposals are not limited to these examples:

- Grassland management, including innovative ways to manage grasslands to increase wildlife or invertebrate food abundance
- Agroforestry, such as managing native tree and shrub communities that improve stream rehabilitation and increase riparian wildlife or invertebrate populations
- Cover crop systems that help manage beneficial invertebrates, such as systems that maximize beneficial invertebrate production for wildlife or to provide ecosystem services, and formulation of seed mixes for cover crops that support native invertebrate populations or specific species beneficial for crop pollination and plant health.
- Replanting with native plants, including economic studies on the costs and benefits of using native plants for habitat restoration, and identifying native or non-invasive non-native host plants that support insect populations that feed wildlife where native plant species can replace invasive species.
- Climate resilience through improved techniques to establish support for invertebrates and wildlife and climate-resilient plants that address drought and water retention aspects.
- Urban Agriculture, such as using beneficial insects for pest control, and substituting native varieties for urban vegetation to support native beneficial invertebrates and improve socio-ecological benefits (e.g., shade, pollinator habitat, privacy, stormwater management)

All projects should include some level of economic assessment that shows the cost of innovation and should be related to agricultural systems.

Managing Agricultural Lands to Improve Local Water Quality: This priority seeks creative, integrated solutions to address specific water quality improvement or protection goals at a local water resource level (e.g., locality, soil and water conservation district, sub-watershed, or groundwater recharge area). Proposals submitted under this priority area will apply strategies, operational processes, and decision support tools to identify and address nutrient reduction goals at a local water resource level and tie those reduction goals to conservation and management at the field level (and vice versa), and provide comprehensive, site-specific nutrient loss risk assessments and management plans for specific water quality improvements or the desired

outcomes at the local water resource level. The following are examples of projects, but acceptable proposals are not limited to these:

- A water body consistently experiences harmful algae bloom outbreaks that impact the quality of livestock water. A decision support tool is developed for producers to connect their nutrient management plan to the downstream goal of reducing harmful algae blooms, which may be more stringent than the current recommendations.
- Drinking water wells in a rural community are experiencing excess nitrate, which is leading to cases of 'blue baby' syndrome. Data show that the excess nitrate is likely coming from intense dairy operations in the groundwater recharge area of the drinking water wells. The project develops a conservation strategy to mitigate the excess nitrate loss from the dairies while maintaining their economic viability.
- Agricultural production is increasing or shifting in a watershed that contributes to a waterbody with high ecological, recreational, and tourism value for the local community. A decision support tool is developed to avoid excess nutrient contributions from the watershed to protect the waterbody, incorporating local agricultural businesses such as agrichemical dealers and crop consultants.

Energy Conservation: This priority seeks proposals for approaches to conserve energy for agricultural producers that help them achieve (or get closer to) energy self-sufficiency (i.e., net zero energy). Successful applicants will demonstrate merit in one or more of the following sub-priorities:

- Holistic approaches to improve energy efficiency and enhance the use of renewable energy resources tested at multiple producer operations
- Significant gains (compared to standard practice) in one or more of the following areas:
 - Energy efficiency for one or more energy-using systems (e.g., irrigation, field operations, poultry ventilation, grain drying, or parlor operations), use of onsite renewable resources to meet onsite energy needs, and use of advanced control systems to maximize the benefits of energy-efficient equipment and systems with onsite renewable resource systems.

Economics: This priority area will find synergies with practices that already exist and assess the financial and environmental benefits to those synergies. The innovation will be in the compounding of practices that are not currently combined. The following are examples of projects, but applications are not limited to these examples:

- A range planting to further improve erosion control immediately after a biomass project took trees from a range site
- Inter-organization collaborations to better use economic dollars. These projects will combine projects that are normally performed separately and assess the economic and conservation benefits of this combination

Strengthening Conservation through Indigenous Knowledge: This priority areas seeks innovative ideas that can increase conservation in the United States based on indigenous knowledge, priorities, and perspectives. Priority will be given to projects that address conservation needs for tribal and other indigenous lands. Proposals must address one or more of the following sub-priorities:

- Innovatively translating existing conservation practices (i.e., conservation practices currently represented in agricultural or forestry landscapes) to meet the needs of tribal nations or indigenous peoples using indigenous knowledge
- Introducing indigenous cropping systems or cultural crops (e.g., perennial plantings or rotations such as agroforestry, systems that integrate perennial grains into rotation, or transition to xeric farming);
- Fostering the conservation of culturally relevant species (e.g., bison, sugar maple, camas, river cane, salmon) or promoting tribal food sovereignty
- Employing innovative or repurposed planning tools, guidance documents, or climate smart agriculture and forestry adaptation practices that use traditional ecological knowledge in a dynamic response to a changing climate
- Demonstrating the conservation benefits of indigenous forestry management with the implementation of agroforestry and multistory cropping systems (also known as forest farming)
- Improving livestock and ecosystem management through indigenous uses of silvopasture and grazing management systems.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are all domestic nonfederal entities and individuals based in the United States for projects carried out in the United States.

“Based in the United States” includes all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Caribbean Area (Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands), and the Pacific Islands Area (Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands).

Funding

In FY 2023, approximately \$15 million is available to support an estimated 15 and 20 awards ranging from \$250,000 to \$2 million through this program.

At least 10 percent of the total funding available for this program will be set aside for projects from historically underserved producers or community-based organizations comprised of, or representing, these entities.

The project period is between one and three years and the estimated project start date is May 31, 2024.

Matching and Cost Sharing

Applicants must provide at least 50 percent of the total project costs via nonfederal cash and/or in-kind contributions.

Contact Information

CIG Staff

nrcscig@usda.gov

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/cig/>

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Rural Development

FY 2023 Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants (ECWAG)

Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to help rural communities prepare for or recover from an emergency that threatens the availability of safe, reliable drinking water. Eligible projects may take place in communities that have experienced a significant decline in quantity or quality of drinking water due to an emergency, or in which such decline is considered imminent. Funding is intended to maintain the standards prescribed by the Safe Drinking Water Act. Eligible applicants are local governments, state governments, Native American tribes, and non-profits.

Program History

Program history is unavailable for this program.

Key Information

Total Funding: Unspecified

Award Range: Unspecified

Match: Recommended

Solicitation Date: Rolling

Proposal due: Rolling

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs/emergency-community-water-assistance-grants>



Tips:

- Partnerships with other federal, state, local, private and nonprofit entities are encouraged
- Priority consideration will be given to smaller rural communities and communities with a lower percentage of the state's median household income

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agency: Rural Development

FY 2023 Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants (ECWAG)

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to help rural communities prepare for or recover from an emergency that threatens the availability of safe, reliable drinking water. Eligible projects may take place in communities that have experienced a significant decline in quantity or quality of drinking water due to an emergency, or in which such decline is considered imminent. Funding is intended to maintain the standards prescribed by the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Qualifying emergencies may include droughts, floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, disease outbreaks, chemical spills/leaks/seepage, and other disasters. A federal disaster declaration is not required.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are local governments, state governments, Native American tribes, and non-profits.

Projects must serve rural areas and towns with a population no greater than 10,000, tribal lands in rural areas, or colonias.

The project area must have a median household income no greater than the state's non-metropolitan median household income.

All applicants must clearly show that they have had a significant decline in the quantity or quality of potable water or an acute shortage of potable water, or that such a decline or shortage is imminent, and that the proposed project would eliminate or alleviate the problem.

Funding

In FY 2023, an unspecified amount of funding is available to support awards through this program. However, awards will be distributed as follows:

- Awards of up to \$150,000 for water transmission line projects to construct waterline extensions, repair breaks or leaks in existing water distribution lines, and address related maintenance necessary to replenish that water supply
- Awards of up to \$1 million for water source projects for the construction of new wells, reservoirs, transmission lines, treatment plants, and/or other sources of water, including treatment plants

At least 70 percent of all awards will be for projects that alleviate a significant decline in quantity or quality of water available to a rural area that occurred within two years, or to attempt to avoid a significant decline that is expected to occur during the next 12 months; such awards may be for up to \$500,000.

At least 50 percent of all funds will be allocated to rural areas with populations of fewer than 3,000.

Pre-award costs incurred within six months or less of application submission that are eligible project costs may be eligible for funding.

Matching and Cost Sharing

There are no stated matching requirements for this program; however, partnerships with other federal, state, local, private, and nonprofit entities are encouraged.

Contact Information

Questions should be directed to the appropriate contact listed online at www.rd.usda.gov.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs/emergency-community-water-assistance-grants>

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Office of Rural Development

FY 2023 Rural Decentralized Water Systems Grant Program

Grant Overview

This program helps qualified nonprofits and tribes create a revolving loan fund to increase access to clean, reliable water and septic systems for households in eligible rural areas. Eligible applicants are nonprofit organizations that have experience and expertise promoting the safe, productive use of individually-owned household water wells systems, legal authority to act as a lender, sufficient expertise and experience in lending activities, and the financial, technical and managerial capacity to comply with relevant federal and state laws and regulations.

Program History

Table with 3 columns: Year, Total Funding, # of Awards. Row 1: 2020, 6.2 million, 5

Key Information

Total Funding: \$8,984,405
Match: 10 percent
Solicitation Date: May 10, 2023
Proposal due: June 10, 2023

https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs/rural-decentralized-water-systems-grant-program



Tips

- Applicants that advance the funding agency's defined key priorities are especially encouraged to apply
Applicants are encouraged to contact their individual state office contact and speak to a program specialist prior to completing the application and required forms

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agency: Office of Rural Development

FY 2023 Rural Decentralized Water Systems Grant Program

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support projects in establishing a revolving loan fund that will help individuals with low-to-moderate incomes finance the costs of household water well systems (HWWS) and individually owned decentralized wastewater systems that they own or will own. Applicants should consider energy efficiency, resiliency, and water reuse technologies. Loans may be used to construct, refurbish, and service a HWWS or decentralized wastewater system up to the point of entry to the residence. Award recipients may make loans of up to \$15,000 that will have a term of up to 20 years at a 1 percent annual interest rate. Where necessary, up to 25 percent of the awarded funds may be used as a grant.

Eligible loan recipients must meet the following criteria:

- Be individuals that are members of a household in which the combined household income of all members does not exceed 60 percent of the median non-metropolitan household income for the state or territory in which the individual resides
- Own and occupy the home being improved or be purchasing the home to occupy under a legally enforceable land purchase contract that is not in default by either the seller or the purchaser

Priorities for this program include:

- Assisting rural communities recover economically through more and better market opportunities and through improved infrastructure
- Ensuring all rural residents have equitable access to Rural Development (RD) programs and benefits from RD funded projects
- Reducing climate pollution and increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are nonprofit organizations that have experience and expertise promoting the safe, productive use of individually-owned household water wells systems, the legal authority to act as a lender, sufficient expertise and experience in lending activities, and the financial, technical and managerial capacity to comply with relevant federal and state laws and regulations.

Projects must be located in rural areas and towns with populations of 50,000 or less, tribal lands in rural areas, or colonias.

Prior awards cannot be renewed; however, previous award recipients are eligible to apply for new projects.

Funding

In FY 2023 up to \$8,984,405 will be available to support approximately ten awards through this program. Funding will be provided on a reimbursement basis. Awards are anticipated to be announced on September 30, 2023.

The project period will begin on October 1, 2023, and end on September 30, 2024.

Administrative expenses incurred in any calendar year are limited to 10 percent of the total amount of the DWS loans made by the applicant during the same period. Applicants that propose lower ratios of project administrative expenses to loans advanced will be awarded additional points during the application evaluation process.

Matching and Cost Sharing

Applicants must provide at least 10 percent of the award amount via cash contributions. Applicants that provide more than the minimum required match will be awarded additional points based on the match percentage during the application evaluation process.

Contact Information

Lola Maratita
Community Programs Specialist
(615) 714-8883

Dolores.Maratita@usda.gov

[Applicants may also contact their state Rural Development Office.](#)

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs/rural-decentralized-water-systems-grant-program>

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Rural Development

FY 2022 Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program

Grant Overview

This program provides funding for clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage disposal, sanitary solid waste disposal, and storm water drainage to households and businesses in eligible rural areas. Eligible applicants include most state and local government entities, private non-profit organizations, and federally recognized Indian tribes.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2021	\$580 million	171
2018	\$783 million	266

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: Unspecified

Match: Not required

Proposal Due: Rolling

- Projects must serve rural areas and towns with fewer than 10,000 people. Eligible rural areas may be searched online [here](#)
- All facilities receiving federal financing must be used for a public purpose

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-waste-disposal-loan-grant-program>



Awardee Profile

City of Wood Lake
Wood Lake, MN

AMOUNT: \$1.2 million

YEAR: 2021

This project received funding to improve the water, wastewater, and storm sewer. Project funds were also used to drill and connect a new pitless well near the existing water treatment plant. Existing wells one and two will be sealed and corresponding well houses will be demolished.

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agency: Rural Development

FY 2022 Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support the provision of clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage disposal, sanitary solid waste disposal, and stormwater drainage for households and businesses in eligible rural areas. All facilities receiving funding must be used for a public purpose. Funding may be provided as a loan or as a combination of a loan and a grant.

Partnerships with other federal, state, local, private, and nonprofit entities that offer financial assistance are encouraged. Funding may be used to finance the acquisition, construction, or improvement of:

- Drinking water sourcing, treatment, storage, and distribution
- Sewer collection, transmission, treatment, and disposal
- Solid waste collection, disposal, and closure
- Stormwater collection, transmission, and disposal

In some cases, funding may also be available for related activities, such as:

- Legal and engineering fees
- Land acquisition, water and land rights, permits, and equipment
- Start-up operations and maintenance
- Interest incurred during construction
- Purchase of existing facilities to improve service or prevent loss of service
- Other costs determined to be necessary for completion of the project

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants include most state and local government entities, private nonprofit organizations, and federally recognized Indian tribes. Applicants must have the legal authority to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed services or facilities, and must be otherwise unable to obtain commercial credit on reasonable terms.

Eligible areas include:

- Rural areas and towns with fewer than 10,000 people
- Tribal lands in rural areas
- Colonias

Eligible rural areas may be searched online at eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov.

Funding

In FY 2022, there is an unspecified amount of funding available to support loans through this program. If funds are available, grants may be combined with loans, if necessary, to keep applicant costs reasonable.

There are no stated matching requirements for this program; however, partnerships with other entities that offer financial assistance are encouraged. In addition, projects must be financially sustainable.

The loan payback period may be for up to 40 years, based on the useful life of the facilities, financed with a fixed interest rate. The interest rate is based on the need for the project and the median household income of the area to be served. Applicants should contact their local Rural Development office, using the information provided in the Contact section, for details and current interest rates applicable to their project. Information about interest rates is also available online at www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services.

Contact Information

Questions should be directed to the appropriate local office listed online at <https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices>.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-waste-disposal-loan-grant-program>

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agency: Office of Rural Development

FY 2024 Water and Waste Disposal Technical Assistance and Training Grants

Grant Overview

This program helps qualified, private nonprofits provide technical assistance and training to identify and evaluate solutions to water and waste problems; helps applicants prepare applications for water and waste disposal loans/grants; and helps associations improve the operation and maintenance of water and waste facilities in eligible rural areas. Eligible applicants are qualified private, tax-exempt, nonprofit organizations.

Program History

	# of Awards
2022	23
2021	23

Key Information

Total Funding: \$37.5 million

Match: Not required

Solicitation Date: October 2, 2023

Proposal due: January 2, 2024

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs/water-waste-disposal-technical-assistance-training-grants>



Tips

- Projects must take place in rural areas with populations of 10,000 or fewer and/or tribal lands in rural areas
- Applicants will receive priority points if the project is located in or serving a rural community whose economic well-being ranks in the most distressed tier of the Distressed Communities Index using the Distressed Communities Look-Up Map available online at www.rd.usda.gov

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agency: Office of Rural Development

FY 2024 Water and Waste Disposal Technical Assistance and Training Grants

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support nonprofit organizations that provide technical assistance and training to identify and evaluate solutions to water and waste problems; help communities prepare applications for water and waste disposal loans and grants; assist with improving the management, operation, maintenance, and sustainability of water and waste facilities in eligible rural areas; address contamination of drinking and surface water supplies by emerging contaminants; and pay certain expenses associated with the provision of such services. Projects must take place in areas and towns with populations of fewer than 10,000, and/or in tribal lands in rural areas.

The funding agency encourages projects that address the following priorities:

- Assisting rural communities to recover economically through more and better market opportunities and through improved infrastructure
- Ensuring all rural residents have equitable access to rural development programs and benefits from projects
- Reducing climate pollution and increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities

Additional points will be provided in the evaluation process to projects that serve areas with populations of under 2,500 or that have median household incomes (MHIs) of less than 80 percent of the state non-metropolitan MHI.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are qualified private, tax-exempt, nonprofit organizations. Eligible applicants must be incorporated by December 31 of the year the application period occurs to be eligible for funds.

Projects must take place in rural areas, which are areas and towns with populations of 10,000 or fewer, as well as tribal lands in rural areas. Applicants may check the eligibility of an area online at eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov.

In the evaluation process, national organizations will receive additional points relative to multistate organizations, which will receive additional points relative to single-state/area organizations. Applicant experience will also be evaluated, with the most points awarded to entities with more than ten years of experience.

With the submission of a new application, existing projects are eligible to compete with applications for new awards.

Funding

In FY 2024, approximately \$37.5 million is anticipated to be available to support awards through this program. Of the total amount of funding available, at least \$1 million may be set aside for applications to support water and waste services related to manufactured homes.

Funding will be provided on a reimbursement basis. Awards are anticipated to be provided in June 2024.

Project periods are limited to 12 months. Project periods will begin on October 1, 2024, and end on September 30, 2025.

Contracts with non-affiliated organizations to provide the proposed assistance are limited to 49 percent of the award amount.

Matching and Cost Sharing

There are no matching requirements for this program; however, applicants that demonstrate a commitment of in-kind support derived from nonfederal resources will receive additional points in the evaluation process. The greatest number of additional points will be given to applicants that provide contributions of more than 25 percent of the total project budget.

In addition, applicants that demonstrate the ability to sustain the project via cash on hand, projected revenues, outside-source contributions, and a steady increase to sustainability within five years will receive additional points in the evaluation process.

Contact Information

Lorrie Davis
Community Programs Specialist
(202) 720-1938
Water-RD@usda.gov

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs/water-waste-disposal-technical-assistance-training-grants>

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agency: Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

FY 2024 Watershed Rehabilitation Program

Grant Overview

This program provides assistance to local project sponsors to:

- 1) Rehabilitate aging dams that are reaching the end of their design life and/or no longer meet federal or state standards;
- or 2) Construct or augment existing water supplies based on current and future water supply demands. Eligible applicants are locally-led government agencies, organizations, and conservation districts.

Program History

Since 1948, the Natural Resources Conservation Service has assisted local sponsors in constructing over 11,845 dams.

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: Unspecified

Award Range: Unspecified

Match: 35 percent

Proposal due: Rolling

- The funding agency prioritizes dams for rehabilitation based on the risks to life and property if a dam failure would occur.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/watershed-rehabilitation>



Awardee Profile

Pembina County Water
Resource District, ND

AMOUNT: \$3,117,900

YEAR: 2021

The purpose of the project was to bring Tongue River Dam #M-4, originally constructed in 1962, into compliance with current State and Federal dam design and safety criteria.

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agency: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

FY 2024 Watershed Rehabilitation Program

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to help project sponsors rehabilitate aging dams that are reaching the end of their design life and/or no longer meet federal or state standards. NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to local project sponsors to rehabilitate aging dams that protect lives and property, and infrastructure. The program allows sponsors to construct or augment existing water supplies based on current and future water supply demands. For dams funded for rehabilitation, a watershed plan is developed for each dam. The watershed plan addresses resource concerns including environmental impacts, costs, and benefits, planned conservation practices, and the responsibilities of involved parties. NRCS works with the local sponsors when developing a watershed plan.

Project sponsors are responsible for and agree to carry out specific parts of the project, including:

- Providing their share of project costs
- Assisting NRCS in developing a watershed plan
- Obtaining land rights
- Obtaining required permits
- Operation and maintenance throughout the evaluated life of the project
- Monitoring easement encroachment
- Developing and updating emergency action plans for high-hazard potential dams
- Conducting regular inspections of installed works of improvements

The funding agency prioritizes dams for rehabilitation based on the risks to life and property if a dam failure would occur. Applicants should contact their State Watershed Rehabilitation Program Manager to determine if their project is a good fit for the program.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are locally-led government agencies, organizations, and conservation districts. Watershed projects must include one or more eligible sponsors. An eligible sponsor must be able to perform at least one of the following functions:

- Power of Eminent Domain
- Permitting and Licensing
- Authority to Levy Taxes
- Provide Land Treatment above Reservoirs
- Locally-Led Participation
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Watershed Management
- Municipal and Industrial (M&I) Water
- Operation and Maintenance (O&M)

- Storm and Sanitary Sewers

Funding

In FY 2024, an unspecified amount of funding is available to support awards through this program. In addition to monetary awards, award recipients will receive technical assistance to assist them with the planning, design, and construction of projects. Funding will be provided on a reimbursement basis. Funds may not be used for the operation and maintenance of dams, or new purposes added to the rehabilitation project that do not involve water supply storage.

Matching and Cost Sharing

In general, applicants must provide 35 percent of a project's costs as a cost-share. The cost share requirement for engineering or technical assistance is 0 percent.

Contact Information

For more information contact a local service center provider [here](#).

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/watershed-rehabilitation>

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

FY 2022 Section 219 – Environmental Infrastructure Program

Grant Overview

Section 219 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (P.L. 102-580) authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to assist non-federal interests in carrying out water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects. Such assistance may be in the form of technical, planning, and/or design assistance for water supply and storage, treatment and distribution systems; and wastewater treatment systems including treatment plants. Projects must specifically be authorized by Congress to be eligible for funds under this program. To be eligible to compete for assistance, a project must be within a state, county, city, or region specifically authorized by Congress to be eligible for funds under this program.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2020	\$100 million	32

Key Information

Total Funding: Unspecified

Award Range: Up to \$5 million

Match: 25 percent

Solicitation Date/Proposal Due: Rolling

- An interested project sponsor must first submit a Letter of Intent to the USAEC. When funding is available, the USAEC initiates a preliminary analysis to determine if a potential project meets program requirements and federal participation is justified.

<https://www.usace.army.mil/>

More information on this program can be found [here](#).



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®

Awardee Profile

Atlanta, Georgia

YEAR: 1999–Present

Funds will be used for watershed restoration and development in the regional Atlanta watershed including Big Creek and Rock Creek.

Department: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

FY 2022 Section 219 – Environmental Infrastructure Program

Detailed Summary

Section 219 of the 1992 Water Resources Development Act, as amended, authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to assist authorized non-federal interests in carrying out water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects. Such assistance may be in the form of technical, planning, and/or design assistance for water supply and storage, treatment and distribution systems; and wastewater treatment systems including treatment plants.

Formal assurance in the form of a Project Partnership Agreement must be executed with the project sponsor. The project sponsor must normally agree to the following:

- Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and disposal areas necessary for the construction and subsequent maintenance of the project.
- Maintain and operate the project after completion without cost to the United States.
- Assume responsibility for all costs in excess of the authorized federal cost limitation of (varies by authority).
- If the value of the sponsor's land contribution above does not equal or exceed 35 percent of the project cost, provide cash or work-in-kind contributions to make the sponsor's total contribution equal to 35 percent.

To receive funding under this section eligible entities must follow a four-step process as follows:

- **Letter of Intent:** The non-federal sponsor from an authorized project location contacts the USACE with a proposed project and submits a non-binding Letter of Intention which indicates their willingness to enter into an agreement to cost share the project. Upon receipt of a Letter of Intent, the regional USACE office will contact the applicant by telephone to discuss particulars of the problem and specifics of continuing the process. A sample letter of intent is provided below.
- **Letter Report:** The USACE gathers information from the non-federal sponsor and prepares a Letter Report which includes determination of federal interest, feasibility and estimated implementation cost for a project.
- **Project Partnership Agreement:** After approval of the Letter Report the Project Partnership Agreement is signed with the non-federal sponsor. Depending on the scope of the project the agreement may be for design, construction, or design and construction. After signing the Project Partnership Agreement, the non-federal sponsor is required to provide 25 percent of the funding for the project.
- **Project Implementation:** This includes completion of plans and specifications, construction of the project, or both based on the scope of work in the Project Partnership Agreement. All new design and construction contracts awarded after execution of the Project Partnership Agreement are advertised and administered by the USACE.

Applicant Eligibility

To be eligible to compete for assistance, a project must be within a state, county, city, or region specifically authorized by Congress to be eligible for funds under this program. These “authorities” range from being project-specific to encompassing entire regions or states. An interested applicant should contact their local USACE District office to determine if they are located in an eligible/authorized area. A list of USACE district offices can be found [here](#).

Procurement of design services shall be obtained from private sources unless the services provided require the use of new technologies unavailable from the private sector, or Solicitation or Request for Proposal fails to attract two or more bids.

Funding

An unspecified amount of funding is available through this program. Each project is limited to a federal cost, that varies by authority, and must be economically justified, environmentally sound and engineeringly feasible.

The non-federal sponsor’s share is 25 percent of a project’s total cost. The non-federal sponsor is responsible for providing all lands, easements, rights-of-way, and relocations (LERR) required for the project and for obtaining any necessary permits. The non-federal sponsor will receive credit for the value of such LERRs and the cost of obtaining permits toward its share of total project costs, but not to exceed 25 percent of total project costs. In addition, the non-federal sponsor will receive credit toward its share of total project costs, as applicable, for the reasonable costs of design work it completes prior to entering into an agreement with the Government. The non-federal sponsor will be responsible for 100 percent of the operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, and replacement costs associated with a completed construction project.

Proposed projects can be submitted to the regional USAEC District Office at any time, however, USACE makes decisions on 219 requests in the annual work plan process. Typically, Congress requires the USAEC to submit its recommendations on the expenditure of section 219 and other additional funds provided by Congress within 60 days of enactment of the annual appropriations bill, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill. If the Congress opens the program to new projects, as proposed by the Senate, decisions in FY 2022 will likely be delayed while the USAEC develops and submits to Congress new metrics for the selection of Environmental Infrastructure projects.

Contact Information

An interested application should contact their local USAEC District office to discuss their interest in the program with District staff. Working cooperatively with a District office, an application should submit a Letter of Intent to the USAEC formally requesting assistance. A list of USAEC district offices can be found [here](#).

More information on this program can be found [here](#).

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Interior
Agency: Research and Development Office

FY 2023 Desalination and Water Purification Research Program (DWPR): Pitch to Pilot

Grant Overview

This program addresses the need to reduce the costs, energy requirements, and environmental impacts of treating impaired and unusable water. Funding will support the design, construction, installation, and testing of pilot-scale processes at already known locations using a real water source. Eligible applicants are state governments; county governments, city or township governments; special district governments; Native American tribal governments; institutions of higher education; nonprofits; for-profit organizations; and small businesses.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2022	\$1.6 million	9

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: \$2 million

Award Range: Up to \$300,000

Match: Not Required

Solicitation date: April 19, 2023

Proposal due: June 20, 2023

- To receive additional points during the application evaluation process, applicants must provide at least 1 percent of the total project costs.

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=desalination>



Awardee Profile

Orange County Water District. CA

AMOUNT: \$102,700

YEAR: 2022

Orange County Water District received funding to develop a pilot scale water purification project.

Department: U.S. Department of Interior
Agency: Research and Development Office

FY 2023 Desalination and Water Purification Research Program (DWPR): Pitch to Pilot

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to address the need to reduce the costs, energy requirements, and environmental impacts of treating impaired and unusable water. Funding will support the design, construction, installation, and testing of pilot-scale processes at already known locations using a real water source. The funding agency's Brackish Groundwater National Desalination Research Facility (BGNDRF) in Alamogordo, New Mexico, and Water Quality Improvement Center (WQIC) in Yuma, Arizona, may be available if a location for testing is needed.

The objective of this program is to develop innovative and disruptive new technologies or processes to:

- Reduce the costs, energy requirements, and/or environmental impacts of treating impaired and unusable water to standards necessary for an identified beneficial use
- Improve efficiency of water treatment processes, either by improvements to pre-treatment, post-treatment, monitoring, sensors, or other innovative processes/technologies
- Increase effectiveness of reverse osmosis/nanofiltration concentrate management by reducing cost, energy, and/or environmental impacts
- Treat brackish groundwater in a less energy-intensive way than current processes and technologies
- Address costs, energy usage, and/or environmental impacts of seawater desalination, including intakes and/or outfalls
- Improve the detection, characterization, monitoring, separation, or destruction of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances and other contaminants of concern

Eligible projects are innovative pilot-scale technologies or processes tested at flow rates above one gallon per minute using natural water sources, rather than synthetic or laboratory-made feed water. For the purposes of this program, innovative is defined as an approach, process, and/or technology that is not being implemented at full scale in the United States but shows promise for scaled-up implementation in the field of water treatment. This pilot testing is typically used to determine the technical, practical, and/or economic feasibility of a process or technology.

This program also aligns with Executive Order 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, by investing in development and application of advanced water treatment technologies that expand access to otherwise unusable water resources, thereby increasing water supply flexibility under the risks of long-term climate change and shorter-term drought.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are state governments; county governments, city or township governments; special district governments; Native American tribal governments; institutions of higher education; nonprofits; for-profit organizations; and small businesses.

Funding

In FY 2023, approximately \$2 million is available through this program to support approximately six to eight cooperative agreements of up to \$300,000 each. There is no minimum award amount. At the request of award recipients, the funding agency may also provide technical assistance after award of the project.

Matching funds are not required for this program; however, the provision of nonfederal cash and/or in-kind contributions is highly encouraged. To receive additional points during the application evaluation process, applicants must provide at least 1 percent of the total project costs. Applicants providing more than 50 percent of the total project costs will receive the largest number of points.

The project period is 18 months, and projects must be completed by September 30, 2025.

Contact Information

Christina Munoz

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bor-sha-fafoa@usbr.gov

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=desalination>

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Interior
Agency: Bureau of Reclamation

FY 2023 WaterSMART Applied Science Grants

Grant Overview

This program provides funding for the development of tools and information to support water management for multiple uses. Eligible projects include the development of modeling and forecasting tools, hydrologic data platforms, and new data sets. Eligible applicants are states, tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority located in the Western United States, as well as nonprofit research organizations partnering with eligible water delivery authorities.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2022	\$1.2 million	8
2021	\$3.1 million	20

Key Information

Total Funding: \$4-5 million

Award Range: Up to \$400,000

Match: 25 to 50 percent

Solicitation date: June 29, 2023

Proposal due: October 17, 2023

- Projects which address the climate crisis, disadvantaged communities, and tribal lands will receive additional points in the evaluation process

<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/appliedscience/index.html>



Awardee Profile

The Nature Conservancy with the Yavapai-Apache Nation, Yavapai County, Arizona

AMOUNT: \$64,273

YEAR: 2022

This project received funding to collaborate with watershed stakeholders in the Verde River Basin Integrated Hydrologic Modeling Project. They will seek to refine and improve an existing hydrologic modeling tool for the Upper and Middle Verde River Basins in Yavapai County, Arizona.

Department: U.S. Department of Interior

Agency: Bureau of Reclamation

FY 2023 WaterSMART Applied Science Grants

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to invite eligible non-Federal entities to leverage their money and resources by cost sharing with Reclamation on applied science projects (Project) to improve access to and use of hydrologic data, develop and improve water management tools, improve modeling and forecasting capabilities. Results from these projects will be used by water managers to increase water supply reliability, provide flexibility in water operations, improve water management, and support nature-based solutions. Project results must be readily applicable by managers—resulting in tools and information that can be used to support: water supply reliability, water delivery management, water marketing activities, drought management activities, conjunctive use of ground and surface water, water rights administration, ability to meet endangered species requirements, watershed health, conservation and efficiency, support for nature-based solutions and other water management objectives.

NOTE: Projects that support nature-based solutions are now qualified objectives under this opportunity.

To be eligible, projects must:

- Be designed for use by water managers located in the states or territories of 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, Puerto Rico, or the Virgin Islands
- Be based on known and available ("mature") technologies
- Support one or more of the following water management objectives:
 - Water supply reliability
 - Improved management of water deliveries
 - Water marketing activities
 - Drought management activities
 - Conjunctive use of ground and surface water
 - Water rights administration
 - Ability to meet endangered species requirements
 - Watershed health
 - Restore a natural features or use a nature-based feature to reduce water supply and demand imbalances or the risk of drought or flood
 - Conservation and efficiency
 - Other improvements to water supply reliability

Eligible project types include:

- Projects to enhance modeling capabilities to improve water supply reliability and increase flexibility in water operations: activities may include improvements to the spatial and temporal resolution of a model; improvements to model calibration; enhancements to make a model more interactive and agile; other enhancements to modeling tools; as well as improvements to hydrologic models, reservoir operations models, or other types of water management models
- Projects to improve or adapt forecasting tools and technologies to enhance management of water supplies and reservoir operations: activities involving the development or adaptation of forecasting tools to meet the needs of water managers, as well as the adaptation of existing forecasts to better meet operational needs
- Projects to improve access to and use of water resources data, or to develop new types of data to inform water management decisions: activities that involve improvements to data acquisition, data analysis, and data delivery, as well as development of hydrologic databases or decision support tools that resource managers can use to query or analyze data for the purposes of improving water management.
- Projects to develop, improve, or adapt tools to improve nature-based solution decision making: Activities may include decision support tools to assist in the application of a nature-based solution that supports a range of environment improvements, including but not limited to biodiversity, water quality, and flood mitigation. Projects may also include costs to obtain training on how to use new tools and software

Applicant Eligibility

There are two categories of eligible applicants for this program:

Category A: States, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts; state, regional, or local authorities, which include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority as members; and other organizations with water or power delivery authority. Category A applicants must be located in the western states or territories of 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 or Puerto Rico.

Category B: Universities, nonprofit research institutions, federally funded research and development centers, and non-profit entities (including 501(c)(3) organizations) that are acting in partnership with and with the agreement of an entity described in Category A. Category B applicants may be located anywhere in the United States and territories.

Funding

In FY 2023, an estimated \$4 to \$5 million is available to support 10-15 awards of up to \$400,000 through this program.

Anticipated award date is April 1, 2024.

Anticipated project completion date is September 30, 2026.

Matching and Cost Sharing

Applicants must be capable of cost sharing 25 percent or 50 percent of the total project costs, depending on the project type.

Applied Science Grants with primarily ecological benefits are eligible for up to 75 percent Federal cost-share contribution. To qualify for this cost-share, the application must demonstrate that the project is for the purpose of a) increasing water supply reliability for ecological values (e.g. improving the timing or quantity of water available or improving water quality or temperature); b) is being developed as part of a collaborative planning process that included consideration of ecological values. This does not exclude projects that benefit ecological values AND agricultural, municipal, tribal, or recreational water uses.

For projects that do not meet the requirements necessary to qualify for 75 percent Federal cost share contribution, applicants must be capable of cost sharing 50 percent or more of the total project costs.

In-kind contributions may be in the form of equipment, supplies, and other expendable property, as well as the value of services directly benefiting and specifically identifiable to the proposed project.

Project periods may span up to two years.

Contact Information

Questions regarding application and submission information and award administration may be submitted to the Grants Officer:

Nathan Moeller
Program Analyst
208-378-5211
nmoeller@usbr.gov

Questions regarding applicant and project eligibility and application review may be submitted to:

Bureau of Reclamation Water Resources and Planning Office
Attn: Ms. Avra Morgan Mail Code: 86-63000
P.O. Box 25007 Denver, CO 80225-0007
aomorgan@usbr.gov
303-445-2906

<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/appliedscience/index.html>



Department: U.S. Department of Interior
Agency: Bureau of Reclamation

FY 2023-2024 WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants

Grant Overview

The Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP) provides funding to implement Phase I activities to develop a watershed group, complete watershed restoration planning activities, and design watershed management projects. Eligible applicants are new or existing watershed groups located in the Western United States.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2022	\$2.6 million	27
2021	\$2.6 million	27

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: \$3 million
Award Range: \$10,000 to \$300,000
Match: Not required
Solicitation date: August 7, 2023
Proposal due: December 5, 2023; September 3, 2024

[Cooperative Watershed Management Program | Bureau of Reclamation \(usbr.gov\)](https://www.usbr.gov/water/programs/smart/cwmp/)



Awardee Profile

The Chicksaw Nation
Ada, Oklahoma

AMOUNT: \$193,824

YEAR: 2022

This project received funding to identify ongoing and emerging critical water quality issues, determine high-priority challenges at the community level, and provide a roadmap for future management solutions.

Department: U.S. Department of Interior
Agency: Bureau of Reclamation

FY 2023-2024 WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to provide funding to grassroots, local watershed groups to encourage diverse stakeholders to develop collaborative solutions to address their water management needs. A watershed group is a self-sustaining, non-regulatory group that is composed of a diverse array of stakeholders, which may include, but is not limited to, private property owners, non-profit organizations, Federal, state, or local agencies, and tribes. Funding is provided for the support of watershed groups on a competitive basis for the development of watershed groups, watershed restoration planning, and watershed management project design.

Applicants may apply for funding for one or more of the following task areas supported under Phase I of this program:

Task A: Watershed Group Development: Watershed group development activities include, but are not limited to:

- Developing a mission statement, vision statement, and goals for the watershed group.
- Developing articles of incorporation, bylaws, and business practices
- Conducting outreach activities including, but not limited to, development of informational materials about the watershed and the purpose of the watershed group community (e.g., brochures, advertisements, website, videos), creation of an outreach plan, conducting stakeholder meetings to establish broad-based and diverse membership, hiring a facilitator to assist with outreach and coalition building, tabling at community events, targeted outreach to specific groups and individuals (e.g., attending meetings of other groups, meeting with individual land owners, and tours of past watershed management projects).
- Gathering information about issues and needs related to water quality, water quantity and restoration needs within the watershed (e.g., through literature research and talking to government agencies, local universities, and stakeholders).
- Conducting pre-planning activities, including outlining a watershed restoration plan, reviewing existing plans related to the watershed, and collecting baseline information.

Task B: Watershed Restoration Planning: Watershed restoration planning activities include, but are not limited to:

- Completing a watershed restoration plan, updating an existing restoration plan.
- Developing general watershed management project concepts or performing an analysis of the watershed to identify and prioritize watershed management projects. For example, creating a matrix within the watershed restoration plan that outlines and prioritizes watershed management projects.
- Conducting monitoring activities (e.g., water quality studies, water quantity studies, vegetation surveys, invertebrate surveys) needed to provide baseline information about the current condition

and needs of the watershed to inform a broader watershed planning effort (see Section C.4.2. Eligibility of Monitoring, Measurement, and Field Work for additional information).

- Conducting mapping and other technical analyses, including obtaining data, performing modeling, or developing goals and benchmarks for the watershed restoration plan.
- Obtaining project management services or software technology required to formulate the watershed restoration plan.
- Interviewing watershed group members and stakeholders to gain an idea of projects that would improve the watershed.
- Working with watershed group members, landowners, Federal agencies, and state or local governments to determine how the watershed can be improved.
- Reviewing watershed-specific best management practices established by Federal, state, and local government agencies.

Task C: Watershed Management Project Design: Project design activities can include, but are not limited to:

- Completing an analysis to identify specific project locations.
- Completing site-specific project design and engineering, including but not limited to:
 - o Preparing design drawings and specifications for the construction of the project.
 - o Developing a basis of design document (a report that documents the major design criteria and includes recommended project elements, planning level drawings, preliminary schedules, and cost estimates.)
 - o Analyzing the means and methods for construction at the project site and identify constraints (necessary equipment, site access, etc.)
- Developing project timelines and milestones.
- Researching what type of site-specific environmental compliance will be necessary to implement a project, particularly if the applicant intends to seek Federal funding to implement the project in the future (e.g., under The WaterSMART Environmental Water Resource Projects or Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects).

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are new or existing watershed groups located in the Western United States. For the purposes of this program, a “watershed group” is a grassroots, non-regulatory entity that addresses water availability and quality issues within the relevant watershed, is capable of promoting the sustainable use of water resources in the watershed, makes decisions on a consensus basis, and represents a diverse group of stakeholders, including hydroelectric producers, livestock grazing, timber production, land development, recreation or tourism, irrigated agriculture, the environment, municipal water supplies, private property owners, Federal, state and local governments, Tribes, and disadvantaged communities.

New Watershed Groups Applicants eligible to receive an award as a New Watershed Group include states, Indian Tribes, local and special districts (e.g., irrigation, water districts, water conservation districts), local governmental entities, interstate organizations, and non-profit organizations. To be eligible, applicants must also (1) be sponsoring the development of a New Watershed Group, (2) significantly affect or be affected by the quality or quantity of water in a watershed, and (3) be capable of promoting the sustainable use of water resources.

Existing Watershed Groups Applicants eligible to receive an award as an Existing Watershed Group include states, Indian Tribes, local and special districts (e.g., irrigation, water districts, water conservation districts), local governmental entities, interstate organizations, and non-profit organizations. To be eligible, applicants

must also Be an Existing Watershed Group, which meets the definition of a watershed group as described above in the NOFO and is legally incorporated as a non-profit entity; be a participating entity in an Existing Watershed Group; or be a fiscal sponsor of an Existing Watershed Group.

Applicants (except non-profits organizations) 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, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

Funding

In FY 2023/2024 an unspecified amount of funding is available to support 25-30 awards of \$10,000 - \$300,000. Awards will be made over a three-year period, with no more than \$100,000 available per year. For each year of the grant, Reclamation must determine whether a recipient has made sufficient progress on the project to justify additional funding

Match and Cost Sharing

No match is required under this program, and an application will not receive additional priority under the evaluation criterion

Contact Information

Ms. Robin Graber (Application Assistance)
P.O. Box 25007 Denver, CO 80225
rgraber@usbr.gov
303-445-2764

Christina Munoz (Financial Assistance)
bor-sha-fafoa@usbr.gov
<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/cwmp/>

FEDERAL
GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Interior
Agency: Bureau of Reclamation

FY 2023 WaterSMART Grants: Desalination Construction Projects Under the WIIN Act

Grant Overview

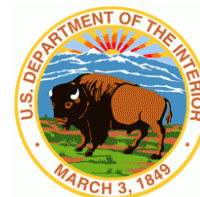
This program supports the planning, design, and construction of desalination projects that will develop and supplement municipal and irrigation water supplies through the treatment of ocean or brackish water, thereby providing a local supply, providing flexibility during water shortages, and diversifying the water supply portfolio. Eligible applicants are sponsors of seawater and brackish water desalination projects located in the Western United States including states, Indian tribes, municipalities, irrigation districts, water districts, and wastewater districts State, regional, or other organizations with water or power delivery authority, that have submitted a feasibility study to Reclamation for review.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2022	\$28.97 million	31

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: \$52 million
Award Range: Up to \$30 million
Match: 75 percent
Solicitation date: September 28, 2023
Proposal due: December 7, 2023 (First Application Deadline),
September 30, 2024 (Second Application Deadline)
<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/desalination/index.html>



Awardee Profile

City of Boise, ID
AMOUNT: \$1 million
YEAR: 2022

Funding will support a feasibility study as well as other planning, preliminary design, and environmental compliance activities for the City’s Recycled Water Program. Planning activities will inform site selection and project development for a recycled water facility, a groundwater recharge facility, and related recycled water conveyance infrastructure. The proposed recycled water facility is expected to treat up to 5 million gallons of used industrial water per day for groundwater recharge that will be stored for later beneficial use.

Department: U.S. Department of Interior

Agency: Bureau of Reclamation

FY 2023 WaterSMART Grants: Desalination Construction Projects Under the WIIN Act

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support desalination projects to develop and supplement municipal and irrigation water supplies through the treatment of ocean or brackish water, thereby providing a local supply, providing flexibility during water shortages, and diversifying the water supply portfolio. These projects provide growing communities with new sources of clean water and increase water management flexibility, making our water supply more reliable.

Projects eligible for funding under this program include planning, design, and construction of facilities to desalinate ocean or brackish water, including groundwater. The project must meet the following requirements:

- Project must be constructed, operated, and maintained by an eligible applicant; or the project must be sponsored by an eligible applicant
- Project must have a completed [feasibility study](#) that has been submitted to Reclamation for review by the date of that this opportunity is posted, and for which the study is found to meet all the requirements of Reclamation
- Project must be located in the Western United States
- Project must be included in a state-approved plan. The plan and documentation of state approval must be included with the proposal or submitted to Reclamation prior to the application deadline.

Lists of approved feasibility studies can be found [here](#).

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Extent to which the project is expected to secure and stretch reliable water supplies
- Extent to which the project will improve surface, groundwater, or effluent discharge quality, will restore or enhance habitat for non-listed species, will address problems caused by invasive species, or will provide water or habitat for federally listed threatened or endangered species
- Cost per acre-foot of water expected to be delivered upon completion of the project
- Extent to which the project serves tribal communities, rural communities, or economically disadvantaged communities in rural or urban areas
- Extent to which the project leverages state funding for research and development of desalination technologies and projects and/or the experience of international partners with expertise in desalination

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are state or local sponsors of seawater or brackish water desalination projects, including states, Indian Tribes, municipalities, irrigation districts, water districts, and wastewater districts, or other organizations with water or power delivery authority.

Applicants and projects must be in the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, or Wyoming.

To be eligible, applicants must have completed a feasibility study. Feasibility studies must be submitted and approved by the funding agency by the following dates:

- Submitted by November 7, 2023, and approved by February 7, 2024, for applications received by December 7, 2023
- Submitted by August 30, 2024, and approved by November 29, 2024, for applications received by September 30, 2024

Projects must be constructed, operated, and maintained by an eligible applicant; or the project must be sponsored by an eligible applicant. To sponsor a project, the eligible applicant must contribute funding for a substantial portion of the project's capital construction costs.

Applicants may submit multiple applications if each project is unique, and projects are not duplicative.

Funding

For FY 2023, \$52 million is available to support up to 10 grants or cooperative agreements through this program. The maximum award amount through this program is 25 percent of a project's total cost up to \$30 million per project.

Award notifications and awards are expected to be issued as follows:

- For applications received by December 7, 2023, award notifications will be issued in May 2024, and awards in September 2024
- For applications received by September 30, 2024, award notifications will be issued in April 2025, and awards in September 2025

Project periods will span up to three years. For applications received by December 7, 2023, project periods will end in December 2026; and for applications received by September 30, 2024, project periods will end in November 2027.

Matching and Cost Sharing

Applicants must provide at least 75 percent of the total project costs via cash or in-kind matching contributions. The federal share of any desalination project shall not exceed 25 percent of the total project cost. Cost-share funding from sources outside the applicant's organization (e.g., loans or state grants) should be secured and available to the applicant prior to award. Projects that leverage state funding for research and development of desalination technologies and projects will be awarded additional points during the application evaluation process.

Contact Information

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Program Coordinator
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mmenendez@usbr.gov

Financial Assistance Administrative Contact
Chandrika Nasstrom
cnasstrom@usbr.gov

<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/desalination/index.html>



Department: U.S. Department of Interior
Agency: Bureau of Reclamation

FY 2024 WaterSMART Grants: Drought Response Program Drought Resiliency Project Grants

Grant Overview

The WaterSMART Drought Response Program supports a proactive approach to drought by providing assistance to water managers to develop and update comprehensive drought plans and implement projects that will build long-term resiliency to drought. Eligible applicants are states, tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, and other state, regional, or local authorities with water or power delivery authority located in the Western United States, as well as nonprofit conservation organizations working in partnership with the entities listed above.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2023	\$84 million	36
2022	\$20.5 million	13
2021	\$15.4 million	18

Key Information

Total Funding: Unspecified
Award Range: Varies by category
Match: 50 percent
Solicitation date: August 7, 2023
Proposal due: October 31, 2023

<https://www.usbr.gov/drought/>



Awardee Profile

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, California

AMOUNT: \$5 million

YEAR: 2023

This project received funding to construct a water treatment and disinfection facility to combat Polyfluoroalkyl Substances.

Department: U.S. Department of Interior

Agency: Bureau of Reclamation

FY 2024 WaterSMART Grants: Drought Response Program Drought Resiliency Project Grants

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support projects that build long-term resilience to drought and reduce the need for emergency response actions. Resiliency projects are intended to increase the reliability of water supplies and improve water management.

Efforts to build resiliency that are eligible for support include the following task areas:

- Task A: Increasing the reliability of water supplies through infrastructure improvements, including:
 - System modifications or improvements
 - Constructing or modifying surface water intakes to access supplies when water levels are low (e.g., at dead pool), or to allow access at different locations.
 - Constructing new conveyance system components (pipelines, canals, pumping plants, etc.) to increase flexibility to deliver water from different sources, to facilitate voluntary water marketing or to deliver water from alternative sources.
 - Constructing interties between water conveyance systems to increase options for water deliveries.
 - Installing barriers or other facilities to prevent saltwater intrusion into surface supplies.
 - Storing water and/or recharging groundwater supplies
 - Developing or expanding small-scale surface water storage facilities such as off-stream storage ponds.
 - Installing water towers and storage tanks to store water for municipal and domestic use.
 - Installing recharge ponds or injection wells to increase recharge of surplus, inactive, or reclaimed water. Recharged water can serve multiple purposes such as sustainable conjunctive use in times of drought, deterring saltwater.
 - Developing alternate sources of water supply including water treatment
 - Constructing or expanding small-scale water treatment facilities to treat impaired groundwater, municipal wastewater, stormwater runoff, for environmental, agricultural, or potable purposes.
 - Constructing stormwater capture and reuse systems, including green stormwater infrastructure solutions such as rain gardens, cisterns, and bioswales
 - Installing residential grey water and rain catchment systems.
- Task B: Increasing the reliability of water supplies through groundwater recovery through:
 - Constructing wells to provide back-up water supplies during times of drought.

- Constructing extraction wells at groundwater banks or other recharge areas to improve extraction and return capabilities during dry years.
- **Task C:** Improving water management through decision support tools, modeling, and measurement, including:
 - Developing water management and modeling tools to help communities evaluate options and implement strategies to address drought.
 - Installing water measurement equipment and monitoring instrumentation devices to accurately track water supply conditions.
- **Task D:** Construction of domestic water supply projects of which the primary purpose is to provide domestic water supplies to Tribal or disadvantaged communities that do not have reliable access to water supplies. This can include the development of new supplies and/or associated infrastructure for treatment and delivery. Projects need to demonstrate that the primary purpose of the proposed project is to provide domestic water supplies to communities or households that do not have reliable access to domestic water supplies and that the project will benefit Tribes or disadvantaged communities.

Proposed projects must include activities beyond routine water management required by state law for conservation and efficiency and must have ongoing benefits to build long-term resilience to drought. In addition, projects should help avoid the need for emergency response actions, such as water hauling programs and temporary infrastructure. Applicants must also demonstrate that the proposed project is supported by an existing drought planning effort.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are states, tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, and other state, regional, or local authorities with water or power delivery authority. Applicants must be located in the western U.S., which includes the states and territories of Arizona, California, Colorado, 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. Additionally, nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership and with the agreement of an entity described above are eligible.

Applicants may seek funding under one application for multiple project components that include one or a combination of tasks if the project components are interrelated or closely related (e.g., a project to construct a new storage and conveyance system [Task A] coupled with a decision support tool for operation of the system [Task C]). However, if the projects are only loosely related, separate applications need to be submitted.

Funding

In FY 2024, an unspecified amount of funding is available to support an estimated 25-40 awards through this program. Awards are provided through three separate funding groups:

- **Group I:** Up to \$500,000 will be available for projects generally completed within two years
- **Group II:** Up to \$2,000,000 will be available for projects completed within three years and funded on an annual basis, contingent upon future appropriations
- **Group III:** Up to \$5,000,000 will be available for larger projects completed within three years and funded on an annual basis, contingent upon future appropriations

- Domestic Water Supply Projects for Tribes or Disadvantaged Communities: Up to \$10,000,000 will be available for the construction of domestic water supply projects for Tribes or disadvantaged communities that do not have reliable access to water supplies and will be completed within three years

The anticipated award date is October 31, 2024.

Matching and Cost-Share

Applicants applying for funding under Tasks A-C must be capable of cost sharing 50 percent or more of the total project costs. Applicants applying for funding through Task D must provide a five percent cost-share of the total project's costs.

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<https://www.usbr.gov/drought/>



Department: U.S. Department of Interior
Agency: Bureau of Reclamation

FY 2023 WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects

Grant Overview

WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects provides funding for projects focused on environmental benefits and that have been developed as part of a collaborative process to help carry out an established strategy to increase the reliability of water resources. Eligible applicants are states, tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority located in the Western United States. Nonprofit conservation organizations working in partnership with the entities listed above or that notify entities listed above are also eligible to apply.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2022	\$36.1 million	27

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: Unspecified

Award Range: Up to \$3 million

Match: 25% or more depending on ability to meet criteria

Solicitation date: January 24, 2023

Proposal due: March 28, 2023

- Projects with multiple benefits to watershed health are encouraged and prioritized.

<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/ewrp/index.html>



Awardee Profile

San Bernadino Valley Municipal Water District, California

AMOUNT: \$2,000,000

YEAR: 2022

The Anza Creek Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project received funding to construct and maintain four tributary restoration sites within the cities of Riverside and Jurupa Valley and the County of Riverside.

Department: U.S. Department of Interior

Agency: Bureau of Reclamation

FY 2023 WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to invite eligible applicants to leverage their money and resources by cost sharing with Reclamation on Environmental Water Resources Projects, including water conservation and efficiency projects that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings and benefit ecological values or watershed health, water management or infrastructure improvements to benefit ecological values or watershed health, and restoration projects benefitting ecological values or watershed health that have a nexus to water resources or water resources management.

Eligible projects through this program include projects that benefit plant and animal species; fish and wildlife habitat; riparian areas; ecosystems; commercial, recreational, subsistence, or Tribal ceremonial fishing; and river-based recreation, which are supported by rivers, streams, or other water sources, or that are directly influenced by water resources management. This may include, but is not limited to, projects that improve the timing or quantity of water available; improve water quality and temperature; improve stream or riparian conditions for the benefit of plant and animal species, fish and wildlife habitat, riparian areas, watershed health, and ecosystems; restore a natural feature or use a nature-based feature to reduce water supply and demand imbalances or the risk of drought or flooding; and projects that otherwise mitigate against the impacts of climate change to fish and wildlife habitats. This includes projects that provide benefits to multiple sectors, including projects that benefit ecological values or watershed health AND agricultural, municipal, Tribal, or recreation water uses.

Applicants can apply for funding for project components in one or more of the following three categories:

- Category A: Water conservation and efficiency projects that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings and benefit ecological values: To be eligible under this category, projects must be for the primary purpose of providing more reliable water supplies to benefit ecological values or watershed health. This could include a formal mechanism to commit conserved water to instream flows or other types of assurances. These projects include:
 - Canal lining or piping
 - Irrigation flow measurements
 - Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition Automation
 - Municipal and industrial water use efficiency improvements
- Category B: Water management or infrastructure improvements to benefit ecological values or watershed health: To be eligible under this category, projects must be for the primary purpose of benefitting ecological values or watershed health. These projects include:

- Improving fish passage, including installation and/or modification of fish screens, ladders, bypasses, or removing small barriers to fish passage (e.g., diversion dams).
- Improving fish hatcheries (e.g., chillers, holding pens, transport, disease control, or prevention).
- Water management changes or infrastructure improvements that will improve water supply reliability and benefit ecological value or watershed health (e.g., upgrading a headgate to improve water supply reliability and ecological value or watershed health, installing a new diversion location downstream from critical temperature control points, treating return flows to improve water quality, water storage to improve streamflow, or improving the timing or volume of available flows at particular locations).
- Salinity or temperature control projects to benefit ecological values or watershed health (e.g., salinity barriers, temperature curtains, dam temperature shutters, powerplant bypass structures) and to aerate ecologically sensitive areas where dissolved oxygen levels are low.
- Category C: Restoration projects benefitting ecological values or watershed health that have a nexus to water resources or water resources management: To be eligible under this category, projects must have a nexus to water resources or water resources management. These projects may include:
 - Improving stream channel structure and complexity.
 - Improving channel/flood plain connectivity.
 - Protecting and stabilizing streams and riverbanks and other restoration projects to reduce erosion.
 - Restoration projects influencing water temperature or improving the timing or volume of available flows at particular locations to improve aquatic conditions.
 - Stream restoration to improve groundwater recharge and riparian habitat.
 - Restoring backwater/flood plain areas (for larval and juvenile fish and other wildlife species) to enhance and maintain rearing as well as feeding and foraging habitats.
 - Restoring a natural feature or use of a nature-based feature to reduce water supply and demand imbalances or the risk of drought or flood, including restoring natural wetlands, construction or improving wetlands for treatment of irrigation water or stormwater flows, or otherwise using or restoring natural features to address water management issues.
 - Restoration projects that enhance commercial, recreational, subsistence, or Tribal ceremonial fishing, and river-based recreation.
 - Removing invasive species, protection against invasive species, and restoration of native species.
 - Forest management activities to protect water resources. Eligible activities include Fuels Management and Post-Wildland Fire Restoration.
 - Other restoration projects that will benefit ecological values or watershed health and have a nexus to water resources or water resources management.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are divided into Categories outlined below.

- Category A applicants: States, Tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts; state, regional, or local authorities, the members of which include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; and other organizations with water or power delivery authority.

- **Category B applicants:** Nonprofit conservation organizations, including watershed groups, 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 the Category A partner:
 - Is acting in partnership with the applicant;
 - Agrees to the submittal and content of the application; and
 - Intends to participate in the project in some way, for example, by providing input, feedback, or other support for the project.
- **Category C applicants:** Nonprofit conservation organizations submitting an application for a project to improve the condition of a natural feature such as wetlands on Federal land without a Category A partner must demonstrate that entities described in Category A from the applicable service area have been notified and do not object to the project.

Applicants must be located in the western U.S., which includes the states and territories of 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, or Puerto Rico.

A “watershed group,” as defined in Section 6001(6) of the Cooperative Watershed Management Act:

- Is a grassroots, non-regulatory entity that addresses water availability and quality issues within the relevant watershed;
- Is capable of promoting the sustainable use of water resources in the watershed;
- Makes decisions on a consensus basis; and
- Represents a diverse group of stakeholders, including hydroelectric producers, livestock grazing, timber production, land development, recreation or tourism, irrigated agriculture, the environment, municipal water supplies, private property owners, Federal, state and local governments, tribes, and disadvantaged communities.

Funding

In FY 2023 an unspecified amount of funding is available to support approximately 20-40 awards of up to \$3 million through this program. Category B applicants may receive up to \$15 million if partnering with multiple category A partners. Category A applicants are limited to a total of \$5,000,000 in Federal funding through this program and the FY 2023 Drought Resiliency Projects, Water and Energy Efficiency Grants, and Environmental Water Resources Projects programs.

Projects are eligible for up to 75 percent Federal cost-share contribution (25% match), if the application meets the following requirements:

- The project must increase water supply reliability for ecological values. This may include projects that improve the timing or quantity of water available; improve water quality or temperature; or that improve stream or riparian conditions for the benefit of plant and animal species, fish and wildlife habitat, riparian areas, or ecosystems. This does not exclude projects expected to result in benefits to multiple sectors, such as projects or project components that benefit ecological values AND agricultural, municipal, tribal, or recreational water uses.
- The project must be developed as part of a collaborative process by a watershed group or by a water user and one or more stakeholders with diverse interests.

- The majority of project benefits must be for the purpose of advancing one or more components of an established strategy or plan to increase the reliability of water supply for consumptive and non-consumptive ecological values.

For projects that do not meet the requirements necessary to qualify for 75 percent Federal cost-share contribution, applicants must be capable of cost sharing 50 percent or more of the total project costs.

Applicants will be notified prior to selection if their project is being considered for award but does not qualify for the 75 percent Federal cost-share contribution. Such applicants will be given an opportunity to commit to a 50 percent non-Federal cost-share contribution or withdraw their application.

Projects may include activities to support monitoring of performance outcomes associated with on-the-ground implementation. Such costs may not exceed 25 percent of total project costs. At an applicant's request, the funding agency may also provide technical assistance, which must be accounted for in the budget.

Project must be completed within three years. Project construction must begin prior to September 30, 2023.

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<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/ewrp/index.html>

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Interior
Agency: Bureau of Reclamation

FY 2024/25 WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Grants

Grant Overview

This program supports small-scale on-the-ground projects that seek to conserve, better manage, or otherwise make more efficient use of water supplies. Eligible applicants are states, tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, local authorities, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority in the Western United States.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2021	\$5.5 million	82
2020	\$3.3 million	52

Key Information

Total Funding: \$12,000,000

Award Range: Up to \$100,000

Match: 50 percent

Solicitation date: November 2, 2023

Proposal due: January 16, 2024; July 9, 2024; January 14, 2025; July 8, 2025

<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/swep/index.html>



Awardee Profile

Cortaro Water Users' Association
Arizona

AMOUNT: \$75,000

YEAR: 2021

This project received funding to install nine automatic, supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) controlled gates within the Cortaro-Marana Irrigation District. These solar powered gates will be connected to an existing SCADA system and allow for constant monitoring and automatic adjustment of flow rates.

Department: U.S. Department of Interior

Agency: Bureau of Reclamation

FY 2024/25 WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Grants

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support small-scale on-the-ground projects that seek to conserve, better manage, or otherwise make more efficient use of water supplies. These projects conserve and use water more efficiently, mitigate conflict risk in areas at a high risk of future water conflict, and accomplish other benefits that contribute to water supply reliability in the Western United States.

Reclamation will provide funding for small-scale on-the-ground water efficiency projects which seek to implement work identified in an applicant's water planning efforts. Example projects include, but are not limited to:

- 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
- Upgrades to Commercial Cooling Systems to Improve Water Use Efficiency

Other projects that are similar to those tasks listed above may be submitted for consideration and will be allowed to the extent that they are consistent with program authorization and goals.

Proposed projects that are supported by an existing water management and conservation plan, System Optimization Review, or other planning effort led by the applicant are prioritized. This prioritization aims to ensure that projects funded under this program are well thought out, have public support, and have been identified as the best way to address water management concerns.

Consideration will be given for proposals that describe on-farm efficiency work that is currently being completed or is anticipated to be completed in collaboration with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in the area (e.g., with a direct connection to the district's water supply).

Additional points will be awarded to projects demonstrate support for the Biden-Harris Administration's priorities, including E.O. 14008: Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, E.O. 13985: Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government, and the President's memorandum, Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to Nation Relationships. Points will be allocated

based on the degree to which the project supports the priorities listed, and whether the connection to the priority(ies) is well supported in the application.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are states, tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, any state, regional, or local authority whose members include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority. Applicants must be located in the western U.S., which includes the states and territories of 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.

Additionally, nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership and with the agreement of an entity described above are eligible.

Funding

In FY 2024 and 2025, approximately \$12 million is available to support an estimated 40 to 50 awards of up to \$100,000 through this program per application period, contingent on appropriations. To be considered a small-scale project, total project costs should generally be \$225,000 or less. Projects that have a total project cost greater than \$225,000 should be submitted under the WaterSMART Grants: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants Program.

In general, proposed projects should be completed within two years of award. Applications for projects requiring more time will be considered for funding only under limited circumstances.

Applicants may submit multiple project proposals, provided the project scopes are not duplicative,

Matching and Cost Share

Applicants must be capable of cost sharing 50 percent (50%) or more of the total project costs at the time of award. Cost share may be made through cash, costs contributed by the applicant, or third-party in-kind contributions.

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<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/swep/index.html>



Department: U.S. Department of Interior
Agency: Bureau of Reclamation

FY 2024/2025 WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

Grant Overview

This program supports projects that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings, implement renewable energy components, and support broader sustainability benefits. Projects will conserve and use water more efficiently, increase the production of renewable energy, mitigate conflict risk in areas at a high risk of future water conflict, and accomplish other benefits that contribute to sustainability in the Western United States. Eligible applicants are states, tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, any state, regional, or local authority whose members include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority located in the Western United States, as well as nonprofit conservation organizations working in partnership with the entities listed above.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2023	\$140 million	84

Key Information

Total Funding: Unspecified

Award Range: Varies by funding type

Match: 50 percent

Solicitation date: November 15, 2023

Proposal due: February 22, 2024 (Application Period 1),
October 30, 2024 (Application Period 2)

<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/weeg/>



Awardee Profile

City of Hemet, CA

AMOUNT: \$100,000

YEAR: 2023

This project received funding to implement a rebate program for residential and commercial water users to convert up to 90,000 square feet of turf lawns to drought tolerant landscaping. The project is expected to result in annual water savings of 8 acre feet, which will reduce the city's need to pump groundwater.

Department: U.S. Department of Interior

Agency: Bureau of Reclamation

FY 2024/2025 WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support projects that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings, implement renewable energy components, and support broader sustainability benefits. Projects should conserve and use water more efficiently; increase the production of hydropower; mitigate conflict risk in areas at a high risk of future water conflict; enable farmers to make additional on-farm improvements; and accomplish other benefits that contribute to water supply reliability in the western United States. Ultimately, the aim of the funding agency is to stretch and secure water supplies for future generations.

Eligible projects under this program include:

- Water conservation projects: projects that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings or improved water management, including:
 - Canal lining/piping projects that line or pipe canals, resulting in conserved water
 - Municipal metering projects that line or pipe canals, resulting in conserved water
 - Irrigation flow measurement projects that line or pipe canals, resulting in conserved water
 - Supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) and automation projects that line or pipe canals, resulting in conserved water
 - Landscape irrigation measures projects that provide water savings by reducing outdoor water usage. These measures include turf removal, smart irrigation controllers (weather or soil-moisture based) and high-efficiency nozzles (sprinkler heads).
 - High-efficiency indoor appliances and fixtures projects that promote installation of high-efficiency indoor appliances and fixtures to provide water savings for municipal water entities where there is significant potential for replacing existing non-efficient indoor appliances and fixtures
 - Commercial cooling systems projects to retrofit or replace large evaporative cooling units (cooling towers) to reduce consumptive water use and energy, such as conversion to air-cooled units or high-efficiency cooling towers
- Renewable energy projects: projects that increase the use of renewable energy sources in managing and delivering water and/or projects that upgrade existing water management facilities resulting in quantifiable and sustained energy savings. Projects include but are not limited to:
 - Developing new hydropower capacity by installing a new hydropower facility or upgrading (i.e., increasing) the capacity of an existing hydropower facility
 - Bringing existing mothballed hydropower capacity back online through facility investment
 - Installing solar-electric, wind energy, or geothermal power systems

Projects that include renewable energy components will typically require additional permitting not needed for water management improvements. Improvement to federal facilities must comply with all additional federal requirements.

This program prioritizes projects that address a specific water and/or energy sustainability concern(s), including enhancing drought resilience, addressing the current and future impacts of climate change, and resolving water related conflicts in the region. Points will be awarded for other project benefits that demonstrate support for the Biden Administration's priorities including combatting the climate crisis, supporting disadvantaged or underserved communities, and providing tribal benefits.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are classified under two categories.

Category A - applicants include states, tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, any state, regional, or local authority whose members include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority.

Category B - applicants include nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership with, and with the agreement of an entity described in Category A.

Applicants must be located in the western U.S., which includes the states and territories of 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.

Funding

In FY 2024 and FY 2025, an unspecified amount of funding is available to support awards through this program. Reclamation will determine the final amount of funding available based on final FY 2024 and FY 2025 appropriations, as well as funding available under the Bipartisan Infrastructure law in FY 2024 and FY 2025. An estimated 40-50 awards will be available in each application period.

Category A applicants are limited to a total of \$5,000,000 in Federal funding per application period while Category B applicants may be considered for multiple awards up to a total of \$15,000,000 per application period, if the Category A partners are different for each project selected.

Awards are provided through three separate funding groups:

- Funding Group I: An unspecified amount of funding is available for awards of up to \$500,000 in funding with a project period of 2 years.
- Funding Group II: An unspecified amount of funding is available for awards of up to up to \$2,000,000 in funding with a project period of 3 years.
- Funding Group III: An unspecified amount of funding is available for awards of up to \$5,000,000 in funding with a project period of 3 years.

The anticipated award date for application period one projects is December 31, 2024 and the anticipated award date for application period two projects is October 31, 2025. Proposed projects for Application Period 1 should not have an estimated construction start date that is prior to December 31, 2024. Proposed projects

for Application Period 2 should not have an estimated construction start date that is prior to October 31, 2025.

Matching and Cost-Share

Applicants must be capable of cost sharing 50 percent or more of the total project costs. Cost share may be made through cash, costs contributed by the applicant, or third-party in-kind contributions. Third-party in-kind contributions include the value of non-cash contributions of property or services that benefit the federally assisted project and are contributed by non-Federal third parties, without charge. Applicants from the American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands are not required to provide a match.

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<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/weeg/>

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Department of Interior
Agency: Bureau of Reclamation

FY 2023/2024 WaterSMART Grants: Title XVI WIIN Act Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects

Grant Overview

This program aims to stretch limited water supplies in the western United States and avoid conflicts over water by providing financial and technical assistance for the planning, design, and construction of water reclamation and reuse projects. Eligible applicants are state, regional, or local authorities, including states; Indian tribes; municipalities; irrigation districts; water districts; wastewater districts; and other organizations with water or power delivery authorities.

Program History & Tips

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2022	\$310 million	25

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: \$179 million

Award Range: Up to \$30 million

Match: 75 percent

Solicitation date: September 28, 2023

Proposal due: December 7, 2023 (First Application Period),
September 30, 2024 (Second Application Period)

- Eligible costs submitted for consideration must be for work conducted after the date of Reclamation's feasibility study review findings for the project.

<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/title/>



Awardee Profile

Big Bear Area Regional
Wastewater Agency, CA

AMOUNT: \$8,267,112

YEAR: 2022

The Replenish Big Bear Project will help protect Big Bear Valley and the Santa Ana Watershed from the impacts of drought, variable precipitation, and climate change. Replenish Big Bear includes construction of advanced treatment facility upgrades at the existing wastewater treatment plant, conveyance pipelines for treated water and concentrate, a groundwater recharge facility, and monitoring wells.

Department: U.S. Department of Interior

Agency: Bureau of Reclamation

FY 2023/2024 WaterSMART Grants: Title XVI WIIN Act Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to stretch limited water supplies in the western United States and avoid conflicts over water by providing financial and technical assistance for the planning, design, and construction of water reclamation and reuse projects. Projects should seek to develop and supplement urban and irrigation water supplies through water reuse, thereby improving efficiency, providing flexibility during water shortages, and diversifying the water supply. These projects will provide growing communities with new sources of clean water, which increases water management flexibility and makes water supplies more reliable.

Eligible costs may include those in the following budget categories:

- Personnel
- Fringe benefits
- Travel
- Equipment
- Supplies
- Contractual
- Construction
- Other direct costs
- Indirect costs

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are state, regional, or local authorities, including states; Indian tribes; municipalities; irrigation districts; water districts; wastewater districts; and other organizations with water or power delivery authorities.

Projects must be located in the Western United States. Eligible areas include the states or territories of American Samoa, Arizona, California, Colorado, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, the Northern Mariana Islands, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Washington, or Wyoming.

Applicants may submit multiple applications provided that the project scopes are not duplicative. In general, if an applicant is seeking funding for multiple project components, and the components are interrelated or closely related, the applicant should combine these in one application. However, if the projects are only loosely related, an applicant should submit them as separate applications.

Funding

In FY 2023 and FY 2024, approximately \$179 million is available to support up to 30 grants or cooperative agreements of up to \$30 million each. By request, the funding agency may also provide technical assistance after award of the project. Applicants planning to receive technical assistance must account for these costs in their budget.

For the first application submittal period, award announcements are expected to be made in May 2024, awards are expected to be issued in September 2024, and projects are expected to be completed in December 2026. For the second application submittal period, award announcements are expected to be made in April 2025, awards are expected to be issued in September 2025, and projects are expected to be completed in November 2027. Costs must be incurred after the date of the funding agency's feasibility determination and within three years from the application deadline for each application submittal period.

Matching and Cost Sharing

In general, applicants must provide at least 75 percent of the total project costs via cash, costs contributed by the applicant, or third-party in-kind contributions. Applicants in American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands are exempt from the matching requirement.

Contact Information

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<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/title/>



Department: U.S. Department of Transportation

Agency: Office of the Secretary for Transportation Policy

FY 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant

Grant Overview

Formerly known as the BUILD and TIGER grant programs, the RAISE Grant program supports surface transportation projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. Eligible applicants are state, local, tribal, and U.S. territorial governments, including special districts and public authorities with a transportation function, transit agencies, port authorities, and multi-state or multijurisdictional groups of eligible entities.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2023	\$1.5 billion	162
2022	\$1.5 billion	166

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: \$1.5 billion

Award Range: \$1 million - \$25 million (rural)
\$5 million - \$25 million (urban)

Match: 20 percent (urban)

Solicitation date: November 30, 2023

Proposal due: February 28, 2024

- Funds must be obligated by September 30, 2028.
- Applications that includes right-of-way acquisition are classified as capital project.
- Awards will be announced by June 27, 2024

<https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/raise-nofo>



Awardee Profile

City and Borough of Juneau, AK

AMOUNT: \$16,454,000

YEAR: 2023

The City and Borough of Juneau received funding to complete final design and document development for the Juneau Douglas North Crossing, a new bridge between Douglas Island and the Alaska mainland.

Department: U.S. Department of Transportation

Agency: Office of the Secretary for Transportation Policy

FY 2024 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant

Detailed Summary

Previously known as the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) and Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants, the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity, or RAISE Grant program, provides funding for surface transportation infrastructure that will have a significant local or regional impact. Supported projects should improve safety, equity, workforce development, job quality, wealth creation, climate and sustainability priorities.

This program seeks to fund projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector; incorporate evidence-based climate resilience measures and features; avoid adverse environmental impacts to air or water quality, wetlands, and endangered species; and address the disproportionate negative environmental impacts of transportation on disadvantaged communities. In addition, the funding agency seeks to award projects that proactively evaluate whether a project will create proportional impacts to all populations in a project area and increase equitable access to project benefits.

Eligible **capital projects** include but are not limited to:

- Highway, bridge, or other road projects eligible under title 23, United States Code
- Public transportation projects eligible under chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code
- Passenger and freight rail transportation projects
- Port infrastructure investments (including inland port infrastructure and land ports of entry)
- Surface transportation components of an airport project eligible for assistance under part B of subtitle VII of title 49, United States Code (see [Airport Improvement Program Handbook Appendix P](#) for details)
- Intermodal projects
- Projects to replace or rehabilitate a culvert or prevent stormwater runoff for the purpose of improving habitat for aquatic species while advancing the goals of the RAISE program
- Projects investing in surface transportation facilities that are located on Tribal land and for which title or maintenance responsibility is vested in the Federal Government
- Other surface transportation infrastructure projects that the Secretary considers to be necessary to advance the goals of RAISE such as public road and non-motorized projects that are not otherwise eligible under title 23, United States Code

The following projects are also eligible: public road and non-motorized projects that are not otherwise eligible under title 23, United States Code; surface transportation components of transit-oriented development

projects; and surface transportation components of mobility on-demand projects that expand access and reduce transportation cost burden. If an application includes right-of-way acquisition, the project will be considered a capital project.

Projects components that are presented together in a single application must ensure each component has independent utility and that there is a demonstrated relationship and connection between them.

Activities eligible for funding under RAISE **planning grants** are related to the planning, preparation, or design—for example environmental analysis, equity analysis, community engagement, feasibility studies, benefit-cost analysis, and other pre-construction activities—of eligible surface transportation capital projects. Eligible activities related to multidisciplinary projects or regional planning may include:

- Development of master plans, comprehensive plans, transportation corridor plans, and integrated economic development, land use, housing, and transportation plans
- Zero emissions plan for transit fleet
- Planning activities related to the development of a multimodal freight corridor, including those that seek to reduce conflicts with residential areas and with passenger and non-motorized traffic
- Planning activities related to zero emissions goods movement
- Development of port and regional port planning grants, including State-wide or multi-port planning within a single jurisdiction or region
- Risk assessments and planning to identify vulnerabilities and address the transportation system’s ability to withstand probable occurrence or recurrence of an emergency or major disaster

Research, demonstration, or pilot projects are only eligible if they will result in long-term, permanent surface transportation infrastructure that has independent utility.

Applicants for the FY 2024 RAISE program that have identical project scope to applications that were submitted and evaluated under the FY 2023 Reconnecting Communities Program and received the designation of Reconnecting Extra, will automatically advance for second-tier analysis if they receive an overall merit rating of “Recommended” and have at least one “High” rating in a priority criterion.

Definitions

Urban / Rural: A project is designated as urban if it is located within (or on the boundary of) a area Census-designated urban that had a population greater than 200,000 in the 2020 Census. A list of urbanized areas can be found [here](#). A project is designated as rural if it is located outside a Census-designated urban area that had a population greater than 200,000 in the 2020 Census. Projects located in both an urban and rural area will be designated as urban if the majority of the project’s costs are spent in urban areas and vice versa. For RAISE planning grants, the location of the project being planned, prepared, or designed will be used for the urban or rural designation.

Areas of Persistent Poverty (APP): A project is located in an Area of Persistent Poverty if:

1. the **County** in which the project is located consistently had greater than or equal to 20 percent of the population living in poverty during the 30-year period preceding November 15, 2021, as measured by the 1990 and 2000 decennial census and the most recent annual Small Area Income Poverty Estimates; **OR**

2. the **Census Tract** in which the project is located has a poverty rate of at least 20 percent as measured by the 2014-2018 5-year data series available from the American Community Survey of the Bureau of the Census; **OR**
3. the project is located in any territory or possession of the United States.

A list of all counties and census tracts that meet this definition can be found [here](#).

Historically Disadvantaged Communities (HDC): Consistent with OMB’s Interim Guidance for the Justice40 Initiative, a project is located in a Historically Disadvantaged Community if:

1. Any census tract or tracts identified as disadvantaged in the [Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool](#); **OR**
2. Any Federally Recognized Tribe or Tribal entity, whether or not they have land.

DOT will list all census tracts that meet this definition for Historically Disadvantaged Communities as well as provide an interactive map on the [RAISE website](#).

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are States and the District of Columbia; any territory or possession of the United States; a unit of local government; a public agency or publicly chartered authority established by one or more States; a special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function, including a port authority; a Federally recognized Indian Tribe or a consortium of such Indian Tribes; a transit agency; and a multi-State or multijurisdictional group of entities that are separately eligible. Recipients of previous RAISE/BUILD/TIGER grants may apply for funding to support additional phases of a project previously awarded funding through this program.

Multiple States or jurisdictions may submit a joint application and should identify a lead applicant as the primary point of contact and identify the primary recipient of the award.

Funding

In FY 2024, a total of \$1.5 billion of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding available to support awards through this program. For capital awards, the minimum award amount is \$5 million for projects located in urban areas and \$1 million for projects located in rural areas. There is no minimum award amount for planning awards. The maximum award amount for both capital and planning grants is \$25 million. Funds are available for obligation only through September 30, 2028. All funds must be expended (the grant obligation must be liquidated or actually paid out to the grantee) by September 30, 2033. Funds will be provided on a reimbursement basis.

Funding will be allocated as follows:

- Up to 50 percent of the total funding available, or up to \$750 million, will be allocated to rural projects
- Up to 50 percent of the total funding available, or up to \$750 million, will be allocated to urban projects, which, for the purposes of this program, are defined as census-designated urbanized areas that had a population greater than 200,000 in the 2010 Census
- At least 5 percent, or \$75 million, will be allocated for planning awards.

- At least 1 percent, or \$15 million, will be allocated to projects located in areas of persistent poverty or historically disadvantaged communities
- Up to 20 percent of the total funding available, or \$300,000, may be allocated to support the subsidy and administrative costs of projects receiving credit assistance under the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) Program, or the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) Program.
- No more than 15 percent of the total BIL funding available, or \$225 million, can be awarded to a single State.

Matching and Cost Sharing

Applicants with projects located in urban areas must provide at least 20 percent of the total project costs non-federal cash match. For projects located in rural areas, historically disadvantaged areas, and areas of persistent poverty the Federal share may be up to 100 percent of the cost. Non-Federal sources include State funds originating from programs funded by State revenue, local funds originating from State or local revenue-funded programs, or private funds. Applicants may also be allowed to use select federal funds as part of matching funds including tribal transportation program funds, TIFIA program funds, and Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing program funds. DOT considers an applicant's cost share during the evaluation and selection process only to confirm eligibility for urban projects that are not located in an APP or HDC.

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Department: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Agency: Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water

FY 2023 Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program

Grant Overview

The Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program provides funding to increase drinking water system resilience to natural hazards in an underserved community and community that is a disadvantaged community or a community with a population of less than 10,000 individuals. Eligible applicants are state, local, and tribal government public water systems.

Program History

This is a *new* program.

Key Information

Total Funding: \$19 million

Award Range: \$285,000-\$6.65 million

Match: Not required

Solicitation date: September 5, 2023

Proposal due: November 6, 2023

<https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/drinking-water-system-infrastructure-resilience-and-sustainability>



Tips

- Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program Fact Sheet can be found [here](#).
- Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program Webinar can be found [here](#).

Department: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Agency: Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water

FY 2023 Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to increase drinking water system resilience to natural hazards in underserved communities that are disadvantaged or serve a population of fewer than 10,000 individuals. For the purposes of this program, resilience is defined as the ability of a community water system or an asset of a community water system, such as the equipment, buildings, land, people, and other components needed to deliver safe and clean water, to adapt to or withstand the effects of a natural hazard without interruption to the corresponding function, or if the function is interrupted, to rapidly return to a normal operating condition. For the purposes of this program, a natural hazard is defined as a natural event, such as earthquake, tornado, flood, hurricane, wildfire, drought, freezing, or hydrologic change that threatens the functioning of a community water system. When considering these natural disaster threats, a public water system may take into account risks associated with climate change to ensure that resilience-building activities address future conditions such as increasing or decreasing temperatures, changes in precipitation, and, where applicable, sea-level rise.

Funding must be used for the planning, design, construction, implementation, operation, or maintenance of a project that increases resilience of public water systems to natural hazards through at least one of the following activities:

- Conservation of water or the enhancement of water use efficiency
- Modification or relocation of existing drinking water system infrastructure significantly impaired by natural hazards, or infrastructure that is at risk of being significantly impaired by natural hazards, including risks to drinking water infrastructure from flooding
- Design or construction of desalination facilities to serve existing communities
- Enhancement of water supply through watershed management and source water protection
- Enhancement of energy efficiency or the use and generation of renewable energy in the conveyance or treatment of drinking water
- Measures to increase the resilience of the drinking water system to natural hazards, including planning for analytical considerations and climate change

To obtain necessary support for the anticipated resiliency projects in a community, public education and outreach about the effects of natural hazards and climate change on the access to and availability of safe drinking water is critical, especially in communities historically in need. It is also important for the award recipient to inform the community members about drinking water resiliency projects prior to the start of the project and provide updates as the project proceeds. All applications should describe the proposed approach to provide public education and conduct outreach, and include the costs required to fulfill these activities.

Examples of eligible activities under various types of natural hazards include the following:

- Multiple threats:
 - Training and exercising an emergency response plan
 - Developing or updating continuity of operations plans
- Flooding:
 - Physical hardening
 - Installation of flap valves on low-lying overflow pipes to protect finished water
- Earthquake:
 - Performing an engineering risk analysis and cost estimates pursuant to established standards for evaluating existing structures
 - Retrofitting occupied utility buildings to prevent collapse
- Drought:
 - Implementing a leak detection and repair program to reduce lost water
 - Adding raw water storage and aquifer recharge
- Wildfire:
 - Instituting high fire danger procedures such as smoking bans and fire bans
 - Installing fire-resilient building materials
- Tornado:
 - Reinforcing water tower legs and welds
 - Securing and anchoring any trailers or temporary structures

Funding will be provided for the following program components:

National Priority Area 1: Small-Scale Investments to Help Drinking Water Systems Implementation

Resilience Measures component is to increase drinking water system resilience by implementing smaller-scale resilience projects informed by drinking water system plans.

National Priority Area 2: Large-Scale Infrastructure Improvements to Enhance Drinking Water System

Resilience component is to improve drinking water system resilience through large-scale infrastructure improvements and/or optimization of mitigation measures at a drinking water system.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are public water systems; water systems located in an area governed by an Indian tribe; and states, on behalf of an underserved community, including the District of Columbia and the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and the Virgin Islands.

Projects must benefit underserved communities. For the purposes of this program, an underserved community is defined by Section 1459A(a) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) as one that does not have access to household drinking water or wastewater services or is served by a public water system that violates or exceeds a requirement of a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR), including a maximum contaminant level, a treatment technique, or an action level.

Projects must also serve disadvantaged communities or communities with a population of fewer than 10,000 individuals. Each state establishes affordability criteria under Section 1452(d)(3) of the SDWA, and for the purposes of this program, a disadvantaged community is defined as the service area of a

public water system that meets affordability criteria established after public review and comment by the state in which the public water system is located.

For applicants that do not have established affordability criteria under Section 1452(d)(3) of the SDWA, such as territories, projects must serve underserved communities, per SDWA Section 1459A(a), that are communities of fewer than 10,000 individuals that lack the capacity to incur debt sufficient to finance a project or activity, per SDWA Section 1459A(c)(2)(B).

For public water systems serving tribes, projects must serve communities that meet the definition of underserved in SDWA Section 1459A(a) and meet the definition of small in SDWA Section 1459A(c)(2)(B). Public water systems serving tribes do not have to serve communities that meet the criteria for disadvantaged communities in Section 1459A(c)(2)(A).

Each application submitted must address only one of this program's two components.

Funding

In FY 2023, approximately \$19 million has been made available for 12-25 awards to be awarded as follows:

National Priority Area 1: Small-Scale Investments to Help Drinking Water Systems Implement Resilience Measures. EPA anticipates awarding approximately \$5.7 million in funding for ten to twenty awards ranging from \$285,000 to \$570,000 with project periods of one to four years, depending on the amount requested and the overall size and scope of the project(s).

National Priority Area 2: Large-Scale Infrastructure Improvements to Enhance Drinking Water System Resilience. EPA anticipates awarding approximately \$13.3 million in funding for two to five awards ranging from \$2.66 million to \$6.65 million with project periods of one to four years, depending on the amount requested and the overall size and scope of the project(s).

The project period will last one to four years, depending on the requested award amount and the overall size and scope of the project.

Matching and Cost Sharing

A non-federal cost share or match is not required.

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<https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/drinking-water-system-infrastructure-resilience-and-sustainability>

FEDERAL GRANT PROFILE



Department: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Agency: Office of Water and Wastewater Management

FY 2023 Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Program

Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to accelerate investment in the nation's water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure by providing long-term, low-cost, supplemental credit assistance under customized terms to creditworthy water infrastructure projects of national and regional significance. Eligible applicants are local, state, tribal, and federal government entities, partnerships and joint ventures, corporations and trusts, and state infrastructure financing authorities.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2022	\$14 billion	42
2021	\$19 billion	40

Key Information

Total Funding: \$6.5 billion

Award Range: Varies

Match: 51%

Solicitation date: September 21, 2023

Proposal due: Rolling

- Prospective borrowers seeking a WIFIA loan must submit an LOI describing the project fundamentals and addressing the WIFIA selection criteria.

<https://www.epa.gov/wifia>



Awardee Profile

New Jersey Infrastructure Bank, NJ

AMOUNT: \$149 million
YEAR: 2019

The purpose of the project is to enable New Jersey Infrastructure Financing Authority to provide additional financing for the construction and improvement of clean water and drinking water facilities and systems that protect the state's natural resources and public health.

Department: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Agency: Office of Water and Wastewater Management

FY 2023 Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Program

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to accelerate investment in the nation's water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure by providing long-term, low-cost, supplemental credit assistance under customized terms to creditworthy water infrastructure projects of national and regional significance. This program is implementing the following five key priorities of the funding agency:

- Increasing Investment in Economically Stressed Communities: the funding agency encourages the submission of projects that address the ever-increasing needs of economically stressed and disadvantaged communities to ensure they benefit from investments in water infrastructure, and therefore improve the health and livability of these communities.
- Making Rapid Progress on Lead Service Line Replacement: the funding agency encourages the submission of drinking water infrastructure projects that will help make rapid progress on replacing lead service lines in order to reduce exposure to lead and improve public health.
- Addressing Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and Emerging Contaminants: the funding agency encourages the submission of projects that focus on reducing people's exposure to PFAS and other emerging contaminants through drinking water and/or projects that help address discharges of emerging contaminants from wastewater and/or stormwater systems.
- Mitigating the Impacts of Drought: EPA supports long-term strategies to conserve water, promote water efficiency and reuse, and protect and diversify communities' sources of water. Taken together, these efforts can help communities address water quantity concerns and reduce their reliance on single sources for drinking water. Due to the WIFIA program's broad range of eligible projects, EPA can finance projects such as aquifer storage and recovery, water reuse, green infrastructure, stormwater diversion and storage, water loss audits, meter replacement, groundwater replenishment, and nature-based solutions.
- Supporting One Water Innovation and Resilience: the funding agency encourages the submission of water infrastructure projects that are new and innovative in regard to energy efficiency, addressing drought, or reducing water pollution and contaminants; in addition, the funding agency encourages the submission of water infrastructure projects that are more resilient to all threats, whether it is natural disasters, climate change, or threats such as bio-terrorism and cyber-attacks.

The WIFIA program can fund development and implementation activities for eligible projects:

- A wide range of wastewater, stormwater, and nonpoint source projects that are eligible under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)

- A wide range of drinking water infrastructure projects – including treatment, transmission and distribution, source, storage, consolidation/partnerships, and the creation of new systems – that are eligible under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)
- Projects for repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of drinking water, wastewater, or stormwater infrastructure
- Energy efficiency enhancements for a public water system or publicly owned treatment works
- Desalination, aquifer storage and recovery, water recycling, or other projects to provide an alternative water supply and reduce aquifer depletion
- Drought prevention, reduction, or mitigation projects
- Acquisition of real property or an interest in real property, in certain circumstances
- A combination of drinking water and wastewater projects submitted by a state infrastructure financing authority
- A combination of eligible projects, secured by a common security pledge, for which a single entity, or a combination of eligible entities, submits a single application

Eligible project costs are costs associated with the following activities:

- Development-phase activities, including planning, feasibility analysis (including any related analysis necessary to carry out an eligible project), revenue forecasting, environmental review, permitting, preliminary engineering and design work, and other preconstruction activities
- Construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, and replacement activities
- The acquisition of real property or an interest in real property (including water rights, land relating to the project, and improvements to land), environmental mitigation, construction contingencies and acquisition of equipment
- Capitalized interest necessary to meet market requirements, reasonably required reserve funds, capital issuance expenses, and other carrying costs during construction. Capitalized interest on WIFIA credit assistance may not be included as an eligible project cost

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are local, state, tribal, and federal government entities, partnerships and joint ventures, corporations and trusts, and state infrastructure financing authorities.

Public sponsorship is required for projects undertaken by an entity that is not a state or local government or agency or instrumentality of a state or local government, or a tribal government or consortium of tribal governments.

Funding

In FY 2023, approximately \$6.5 billion is available to help finance an unspecified number of direct loans or loan guarantees. Projects must have eligible costs that are reasonably anticipated to be equal to or exceed \$20 million, or for small communities (serving not more than 25,000 individuals), project costs that are reasonably anticipated to equal or exceed \$5 million.

Matching and Cost Sharing

In general, applicants must provide 51% of the project costs. The maximum amount of WIFIA credit assistance to a project is 49% of eligible project costs in almost all instances. EPA may offer small community prospective borrowers credit assistance up to 80% of the eligible project costs.

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<https://www.epa.gov/wifia>