



GRANT INSIGHTS

The purpose of the **WaterSMART: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects** program is to invest in small-scale on-the-ground projects that seek to conserve, better manage, or otherwise make more efficient use of water supplies. The Department of the Interior (DOI) seeks to fund projects that advance the Departmental and Presidential Administration's priorities of combating the climate crisis and environmental justice, water supply reliability, investment equity in disadvantaged or underserved communities, and strengthening Tribal sovereignty. Program funds are authorized through Section 9504(A) of the Secure Water Act.

Federal Agency Name	U.S. Department of the Interior - Bureau of Reclamation
Funding Opportunity	WaterSMART: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects
NOFO Release Date	11/02/2023
Application Due Date	07/09/2024 by 4:00 p.m. MDT via www.Grants.gov
# of Programs:	1. Small-Scale On-the-Ground Water Efficiency Projects
Total Funding Available	\$12,000,000
Award Minimum	N/A
Award Maximum	\$100,000 (Total Federal funds awarded; does not include cost-share funds)
Recipient Cost-Share/ Match Requirements:	Applicants are required to provide a minimum cost-share of 50% via cash, applicant contributions, or third-party in-kind contributions. *Cost-sharing requirement is not applicable to American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands.
Summary	<p>Eligible Projects: (include, but are not limited to)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Canal Lining/Piping: Installing new proven lining materials or technology; converting open canals to pipeline; and improving existing conveyance and delivery infrastructure. · Municipal Metering: Installing or upgrading meters, such as end-user water services meters, e.g., for a residential or commercial building unit; and one-time purchase of software, equipment, and training for meter monitoring can be included. · Irrigation Flow Measurement: Improving measurement accuracy and reducing spills and over-deliveries to irrigators; installing wires, flumes, ramps, etc. in open channels; and installing meters in pressurized pipes. · Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition and Automation (SCADA): Installing SCADA and/or automation components that provide water savings when irrigation delivery system operational efficiency is improved to reduce spills, over-deliveries, and seepage. · Landscape Irrigation Measures: Reducing outdoor water usage by removing turf; installing drought tolerant landscaping, Smart irrigation controllers, and high-efficiency sprinkler heads. · High-Efficiency Indoor Appliances and Fixtures: Installing high-efficiency indoor appliances and fixtures to provide water savings. · Commercial Cooling Systems: retrofit or replace large evaporative cooling units, such as air-cooled units or high-efficiency cooling towers.



<p>Eligible Applicants</p>	<p>Category A Applicants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · States, Tribes, Irrigation Districts, and Water Districts; · State, Regional, or Local Authorities (the members of which include on or more organizations with water or power delivery authority); and · Other organizations with water or power delivery authority. <p>Category B Applicants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Nonprofit conservation organizations acting in partnership with, and with the agreement of, an entity described in Category A. <p>*Multiple applications for funding may be submitted for consideration under this funding opportunity, provided that the project scopes are not duplicative. **See "Section C: Eligibility Information" of NOFO for specific project location requirements.</p>
<p>Special Considerations</p>	<p>All applicants and projects must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), and Clean Water Act (CWA).</p> <p>Projects with total project costs greater than \$225,000 should be submitted under the WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants NOFO.</p> <p>Proposed projects should not have an estimated construction start date that is prior to 12 months after the submission deadline for the application period.</p> <p>The costs for the purchase of water or land, or to secure an easement other than a construction easement are not eligible project costs under this funding opportunity.</p> <p>An agreement will not be awarded for an improvement to conserve irrigation water unless the applicant agrees to both of the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Not to use any associated water savings to increase the total irrigated acreage of the applicant; and · Not to otherwise increase the consumptive use of water in the operation of the applicant, as determined pursuant to the law of the state in which the operation of the applicant is located.
<p>Notes</p>	<p>Application Evaluation Criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project Benefits - 35 points 2. Planning Efforts Supporting the Project - 25 points 3. Project Implementation - 20 points 4. Nexus to Reclamation - 5 points 5. Presidential and Department of the Interior Priorities - 15 points <p>Proposed projects that are supported by an existing water management and conservation plan, System Optimization Review, or other planning efforts led by the applicant are prioritized.</p> <p>By request, Reclamation can provide technical assistance after the award of a project; technical assistance should be discussed with Reclamation staff prior to applying.</p>
<p>Contact Information</p>	<p>Title: Reclamation Financial Assistance Contact - USBR Name: Christina Munoz (application, submission, and award administration) Email/Phone: bor-sha-fafoa@usbr.gov; and (720) 614-2192</p> <p>Title: Reclamation Program Coordinator Contact - USBR Name: Nickie McCann (applicant and project eligibility; and application review) Email/Phone: nmccann@usbr.gov; and (303) 445-3733</p>

