



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Request for Proposals

Territorial Domestic Water Supply Projects Technical Assistance Announcement

Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, Section 50231

Native American and International Affairs Office



Mission Statements

The U.S. Department of the Interior protects and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated Island Communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

Territorial Domestic Water Supply Projects Technical Assistance Announcement

Background and Authority

With the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act (Act) of 2022, Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) Native American and International Affairs Office (NAIAO) will carry out a Domestic Water Supplies for Disadvantaged Communities Program to assist the U.S. Territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands (Territories) for the planning, design, or construction of water projects to provide domestic water supplies to communities or households that do not have reliable access to domestic water supplies.

Sec. 50231. Domestic Water Supply Projects

Bureau of Reclamation Domestic Water Supply Projects. In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, for fiscal year 2022, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$550,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2031, for grants, contracts, or financial assistance agreements for disadvantaged communities (identified according to criteria adopted by the Commissioner of Reclamation) in a manner as determined by the Commissioner of Reclamation for up to 100 percent of the cost of the planning, design, or construction of water projects the primary purpose of which is to provide domestic water supplies to communities or households that do not have reliable access to domestic water supplies in a State or territory described in the first section of the Act of June 17, 1902 (43 U.S.C. 391; 32 Stat. 388, chapter 1093).

Executive Orders (E.O.) 14008: *Affirms the advancement of environmental justice for all through the development and funding of programs that benefit disadvantaged communities, and establishes the [Justice40 Initiative](#) which sets the goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain Federal climate, clean energy, affordable and sustainable housing, water and wastewater infrastructure, and other investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution.*

Total Funding and Expected Distribution

Reclamation has determined that \$11 million of the funds authorized by *Public Law 117-169, Sec. 50231*, will be made available to the Territories for projects that provide domestic water supplies to disadvantaged communities or households that do not have reliable access to potable water. The \$11 million is intended for equal distribution among the Territories. Each Territory will be allotted a maximum of \$2.75 million, which can be provided as financial assistance grant(s), technical assistance provided by Reclamation, or a combination thereof.

Technical Assistance

Applicants can request that funding be used by Reclamation to provide technical assistance that supports water supplies to communities or households that do not have reliable access to potable water (e.g., in the areas of water conveyance, water treatment, water resources development). This document provides instructions for initiating a request for technical assistance under this opportunity by submitting a brief Letter of Interest (LOI).

LOIs for Technical Assistance will be accepted until August 25, 2024. Reclamation encourages applicants to submit proposals and LOIs as early as possible.

Eligible Applicants

To be eligible for technical assistance for domestic water supply projects, applicants must be Territorial government entities with water delivery authority in Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the U.S. Virgin Islands. Non-Territorial government entities are not eligible for this technical assistance opportunity.

Eligible Projects

To be eligible for technical assistance, proposed projects must meet the following requirements:

1. At least 80% of the average annual deliveries of project water must be for domestic water purposes. Domestic water supplies for communities include a communal benefit (e.g., school, hospital, nursing home, etc.).
2. The primary beneficiaries of the project must be disadvantaged communities or households
3. Technical Assistance projects must be completed within 3 years of establishing an agreement with Reclamation and no later than September 30, 2031.

Ineligible Projects

Reclamation will only provide technical assistance for projects for which the primary objective is to develop domestic water supply.

The primary focus of a project supported through this opportunity should not be:

- Water solely for commercial, industrial, and irrigation uses.
- Water solely for future development (e.g. future neighborhoods).
- Water required for fire flow protection.
- Operations, maintenance, and replacement (OM&R) of constructed infrastructure. OM&R is described as system improvements that replace or repair existing infrastructure or function without providing increased efficiency or effectiveness of water distribution over the expected life of the improvement.

Ineligible projects include but are not limited to:

- Projects in direct support of litigation of any kind.
- Projects that will not be completed in the timeframe described above.
- Projects that are normal and routine (recurring) or constitute OM&R. Examples of

ineligible OM&R projects include:

- Replacing malfunctioning components of an existing facility with the same components.
- Performing an activity on a recurring basis, even if that period is extended (e.g., 10-year interval).
- Sealing cracks in canals and/or pipes, including those sealant projects intended to improve facilities with inherent design and construction flaws.
- Replacing broken meters with new meters of the same type.
- Replacing leaky pipes with new pipes of the same type.
- Completion of one-time leak detection surveys.

Applicants with questions regarding project eligibility are encouraged to contact the Reclamation staff identified at the bottom of this announcement prior to the LOI submission deadline for further information.

Project Application Process

The provision of technical assistance under this opportunity is contingent upon evaluation of requests for technical assistance by Reclamation. Eligible applicants should coordinate with NAI AO staff on the creation and submittal of a brief LOI outlining a need for direct technical assistance from Reclamation related to domestic water supplies (3 page maximum).

Eligible applicants selected by Reclamation, following LOI review, will then collaborate with Reclamation to develop a scope of work and Letter of Agreement for a technical assistance project.

A successful technical assistance proposal does not entail a transfer of funds to the applicant. Under a technical assistance agreement, Reclamation cannot fund construction activities. For information regarding Financial Assistance grant opportunities to support Domestic Water Supply planning, design, and construction projects, see the separately attached *Financial Assistance Announcement*.

Letter of Interest Requirements

An LOI should describe or identify:

- The Territorial applicant and support for applicant eligibility.
- Proposed technical assistance project and support for project eligibility.
- Statement of need.
- General scope of the technical assistance project.
- Expected project goals, deliverables, and outcomes.
- Activities to be performed under a technical assistance agreement.
- Expected timeline for completion of project.
- Intended beneficiaries.

Letter of Interest Submission Instructions

Due Date of Application

August 25, 2024 by 5:00pm local time

Late LOI's will not be considered unless it is determined that a delay was caused by Reclamation mishandling.

LOI's can be submitted electronically via email to TerritorialDomesticWaterProgram@usbr.gov, or hard copies can be sent by U.S. Mail or express delivery to the addresses below by the specified date and time.

Electronic submission is preferred, however, paper applications can be delivered to Reclamation to the address below by the specified date and time.

Bureau of Reclamation
Native American and International Affairs Office (NAIAO)
International Affairs Program
1849 C Street, NW
MS 7069-MIB; MC 96-43100
Washington, DC 20240

Acknowledgement of Application Receipt

For mail-in and email application submission, applicants will receive an e-mail acknowledging receipt from Reclamation.

Additional Information

Questions regarding applicant and project eligibility, and the application process may be submitted to the attention of the following NAIAO staff:

Email: TerritorialDomesticWaterProgram@usbr.gov

Phone: Omero Martinez, International and Insular Affairs Specialist, +1 202-725-6690

Kyle Kramer, International and Insular Affairs Specialist, +1 303-242-9281