WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program

Fiscal Year 2024 Funding Opportunity

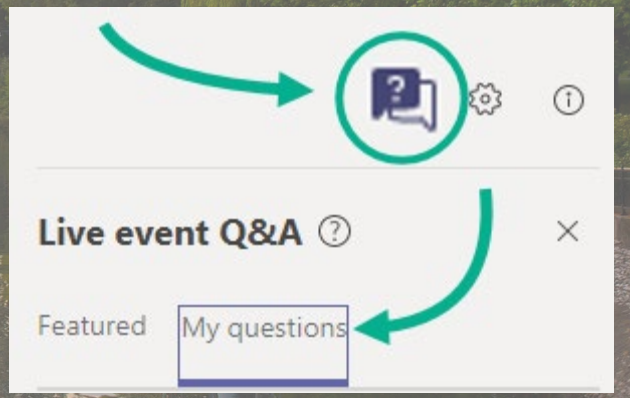
July 2nd, 2024

Getting Started

- To watch the recording, use the same link: **Join live event**
- Attendees' cameras and microphones are muted
- A copy of the slides will be available on our website:

https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/

- Questions and comments can be posted in the Q&A icon on the bottom of the menu bar



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Today's Agenda:

- WaterSMART Program Overview
- *Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I* Funding Opportunity Overview
- *Environmental Water Resources Program* Funding Opportunity Summary
- **IMPORTANT** Application Tips!
- Tools and Resources
- Question and Answer Period

WaterSMART Program

Provides a framework for Interior to support water supply reliability for multiple water users.

Cooperative Watershed Management Program

Develop a watershed group, complete watershed restoration planning activities, and design watershed management projects. The aim of CWMP is to encourage diverse stakeholders to form local solutions, and to support water supply reliable and reduce conflict over water resources.

- **Phase I:** Form a watershed group, develop a restoration plan and do project design (Up to $200,000 in Federal funding)

- Implementation of on-the-ground watershed management projects now funded under the Environmental Water Resources Projects funding opportunity.

Watershed Groups: Definition and Provisions

A watershed group, as defined in Section 6001(6) of the Cooperative Watershed Management Act (see Section A.1. Authority for full citation):

- 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.
- Represents a diverse group of stakeholders representing different water use sectors, 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.

We highly recommend you do not attempt to apply as a watershed group if you do not ORGANICALLY meet this definition.

Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I

Eligible Project Activities

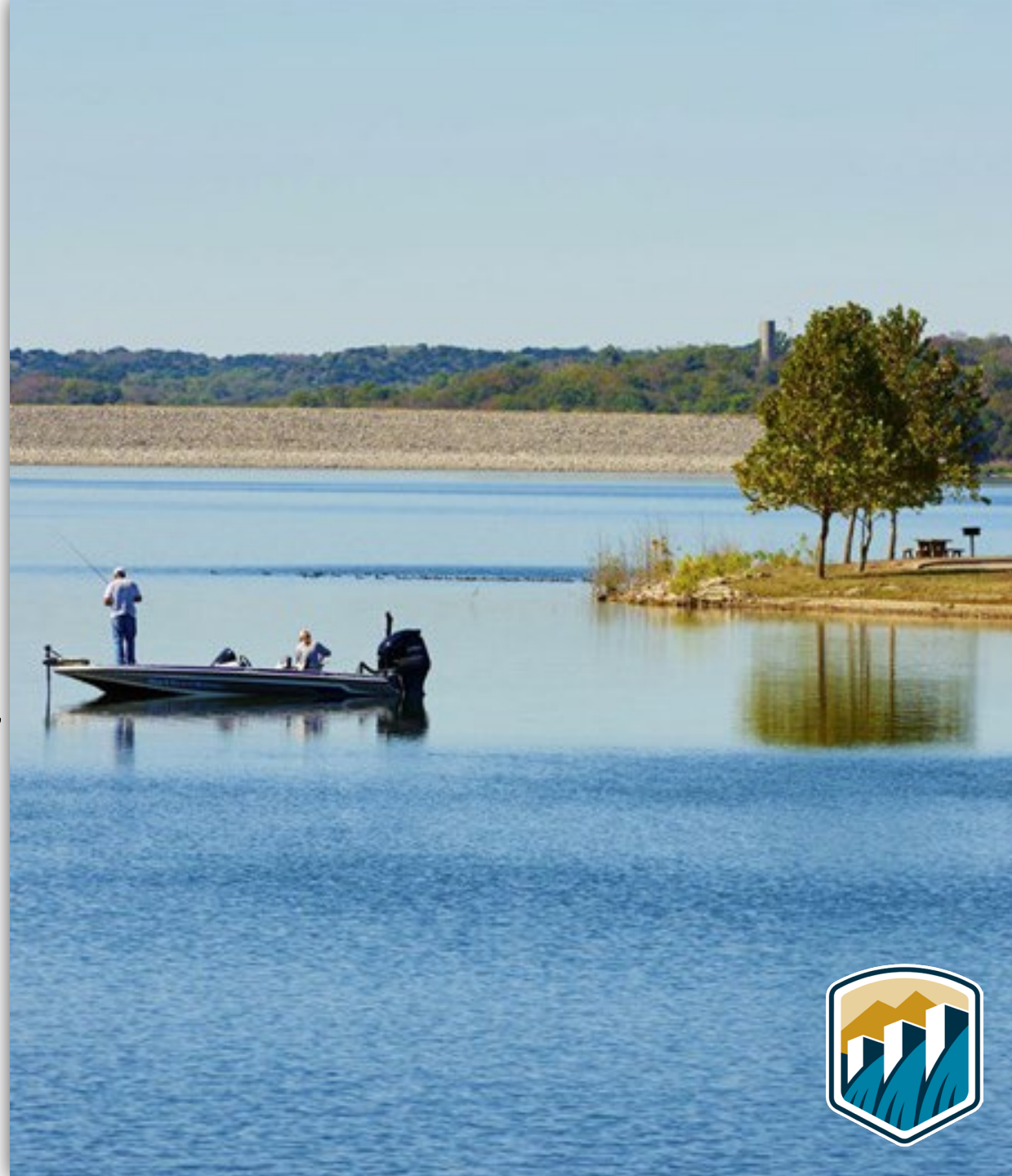
- Watershed group development
- Conducting outreach activities
- Gathering data about the watershed
- Watershed restoration plans
- Project design

Funding

- 0% Non-Federal cost share required
- Up to $300,000 in Reclamation funding over 3 years

Watershed Groups must 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

Applications are due by September 3, 2024.



Applicant Eligibility

New Watershed Groups:

States, Indian Tribes, local and special districts (e.g., irrigation, water districts, water conservation districts,), local governmental entities, interstate organizations, non-profit organizations, and institutes of higher education sponsoring a watershed group. To be eligible, applicants must also meet all the following requirements:

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
3. Be capable of promoting the sustainable use of water resources

Existing Watershed Groups

States, Indian Tribes, local and special districts (e.g., irrigation, water districts, water conservation districts), local governmental entities, interstate organizations, non-profit organizations, and institutes of higher education **sponsoring a watershed group**. To be eligible, applicants must also be an Existing Watershed Group, which meets the definition of a watershed group and 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.

Eligible Project Types

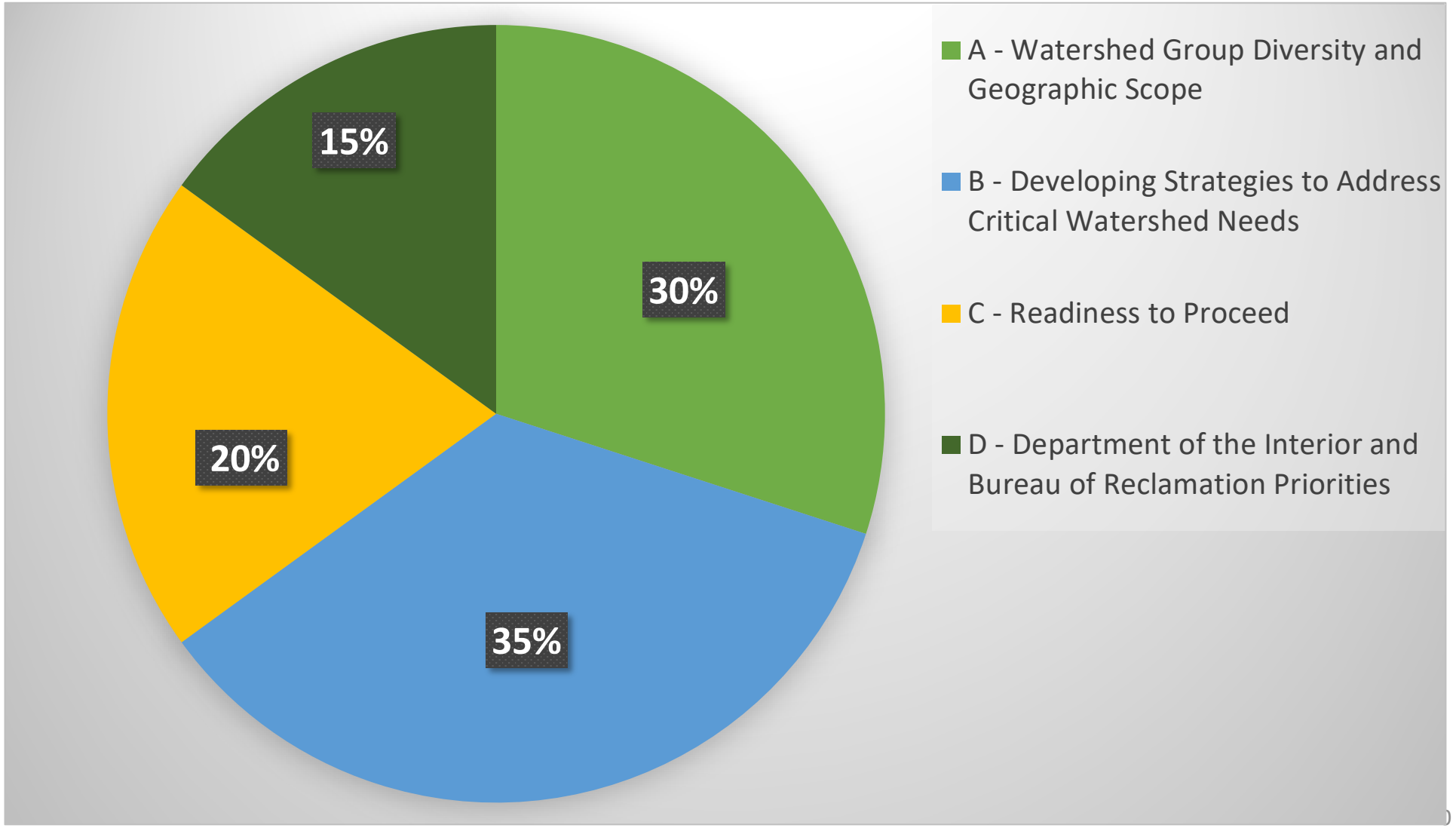
Applicants can apply for funding for activities within one or more of the following three Task Areas:

- Task A - Watershed Group Development: This includes efforts to establish or expand a watershed group, including developing a mission statement, conducting outreach, and conducting pre-planning activities.

- Task B - Watershed Restoration Planning: Developing or updating a watershed restoration plan, mapping and modeling, technical assessments of water quantity or quality, collaborating with stakeholder to gather information and to seek input, developing restoration goals and general watershed management project concepts, and creating a matrix to evaluate and prioritize potential projects.

- Task C - Watershed Management Project Design: Conducting an analysis to prioritize watershed management projects and identify specific project locations, completing site-specific design and engineering, developing project timelines and milestones, and researching potential environmental compliance requirements.

Evaluation Criteria



Evaluation Criteria

Criterion A—Watershed Group Diversity and Geographic Scope (30 points)

- Diverse stakeholder interests and sectors are represented within the group
- Greater consideration for small to medium watersheds (8 digit HUC) and groups whose work extends to entire watershed.

Evaluation Criterion B—Developing Strategies to Address Critical Watershed Needs(35 points)

- Describe the critical issues or needs within the watershed
- Describe how the work funded under this program will benefit the issues or needs identified.

Criterion C—Implementation and Results (20 points)

- Ability to meet program requirements evaluated based on schedule with milestones broken out for each task, start and end dates, and budget identifying costs for each task.

Criterion D – Presidential and DOI Priorities (15 points)

- Combating the Climate Crisis: How will the project help increase resilience to climate change or support climate change adaptation?
- Disadvantaged Communities: How does the project serve disadvantaged communities?
- Tribal Benefits: How will the project serve a tribe?

Cooperative Watershed Management Program- *Program Requirements Summary*

Eligible Applicants	Existing watershed groups and applicants to establish new watershed groups, including States, Indian tribes, local and special districts, local governmental entities, interstate organizations, and non-profit organizations.
Funding Groups	Up to $300,000 in Federal funds per applicant per award
Cost Share	Non-Federal cost-share is NOT required
Required Project Components	Semi Annual financial and performance reports, sufficiency review, and final report.
Evaluation Criteria	Applications will be evaluated against the evaluation criteria which comprise a total of 100 points.

NOFO Deadline: Tuesday, September 3, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. MDT

Environmental Water Resources Projects

Eligible Project Types

- Task A: Ecologically Focused Water Conservation and Efficiency Projects
- Task B: Ecologically Focused Water Management and Infrastructure Improvements
- Task C: Restoration and Nature-Based Solutions

Funding

- Projects up to $3 million in federal funding with a total project cost not to exceed $6 million, to be completed within 3 years.
- Watershed Groups can receive up to $5 million for projects to be completed within 5 years.
- Non-Federal Cost Share: Generally 25%

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding for WaterSMART Programs

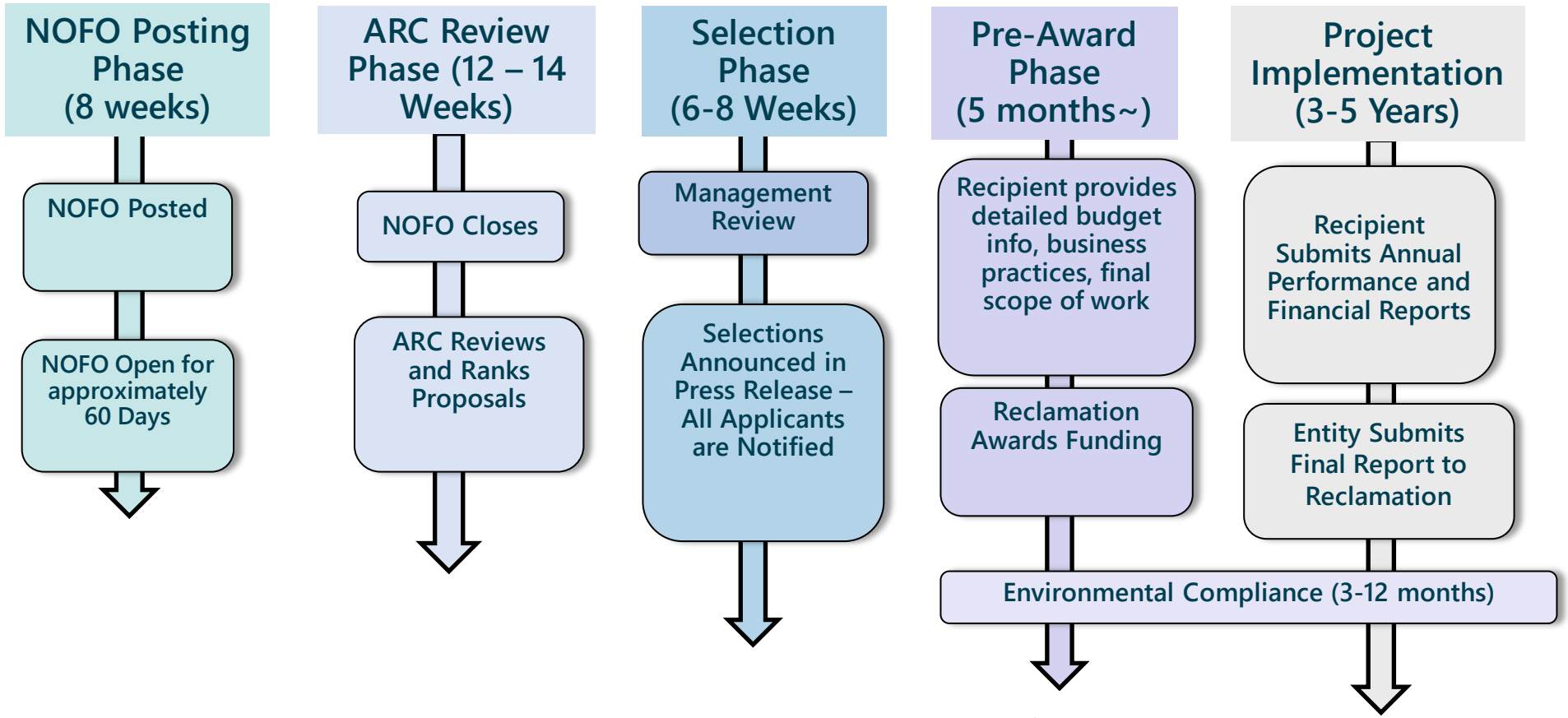
WaterSMART Programs Receiving Infrastructure Funding		
Program Area	**Funding Amount (Over Five Years)**	**Activities Funded**
WaterSMART Grants (for Nature-Based Features)	$100 million	Water conservation and efficiency, renewable energy, natural and nature-based features
Cooperative Watershed Management Program	$100 million	Watershed planning and restoration projects for watershed groups
Aquatic Ecosystems Restoration and Protection Projects	$250 million	Aquatic ecosystem restoration and protection projects to improve habitat
Multi-Benefit Projects to Improve Watershed Health	$100 million	Restoration projects to improve watershed health

Overview of Reclamation's WaterSMART Process

From NOFO to Selection

WaterSMART Selection Process

Sample schedule

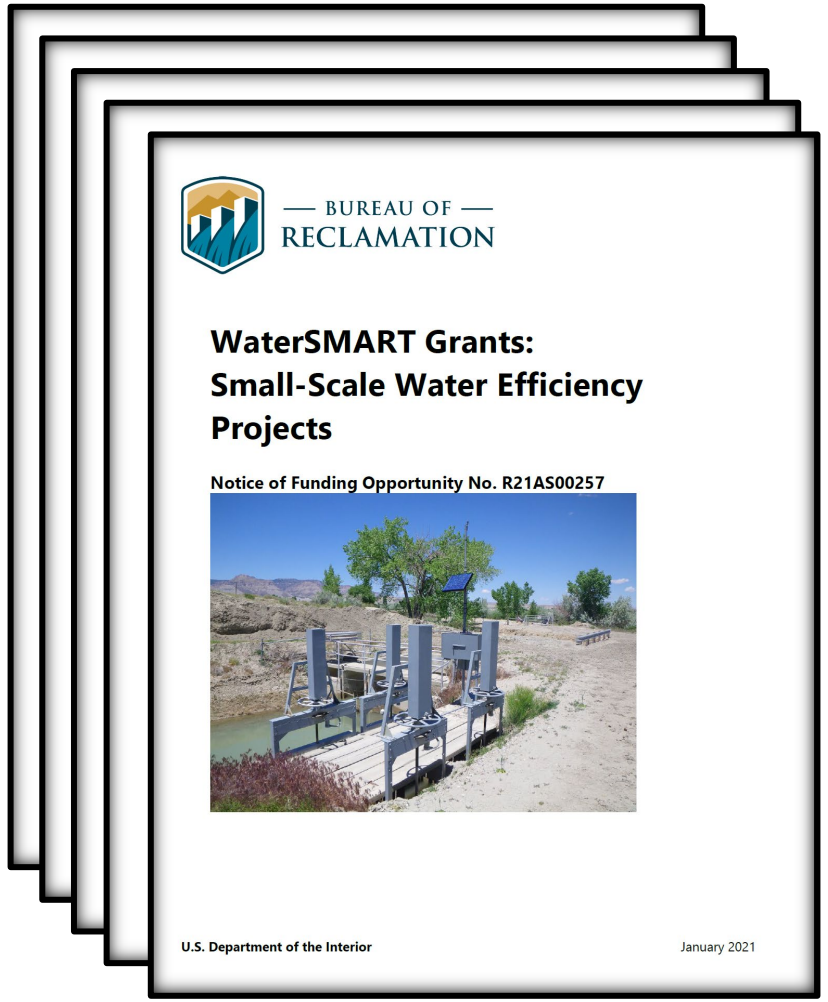


From NOFO Posting to Award of Funding = 12 - 14 Months

BUREAU OF
RECLAMATION
WaterSMART
Application Tips

General Application Tips

- The most successful projects are those that fit well with the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).
- Review the objective of the NOFO, the eligible project types and the evaluation criteria carefully to choose the right NOFO.
- <u>Suggested Pre-Application Actions:</u>
  - Contact the Program Coordinator to discuss which NOFO your project fits best under.
  - Look at past successful applications at www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART



Application Tips

General Considerations

- Important: Read *everything* in the NOFO!
  - Ask questions if something does not make sense.
- Give yourself plenty of time to write and submit the proposal.
- Do not assume the Application Review Committee knows you.
  - Paint the reviewers a picture and back it up with data!
  - Committee is comprised of Reclamation staff from throughout the Western states.
- If your application is not awarded, ask for a debriefing to help prepare better proposal next year.

Application Tips

Evaluation Criteria

- Make sure you respond to every criterion and every sub-criterion
- Your responses should:
  - Directly respond to the criterion – We recommend you copy and paste the criteria directly into your proposal and place your response immediately below each criterion/sub-criterion
  - Provide support in the form of quantification or citations to reference documents
  - Make the case for how your project meets the criterion – general statements without explanation or support will not score well
- <u>Application Tip:</u> Well-supported responses to the evaluation criteria are the key to writing a competitive proposal

Application Tips

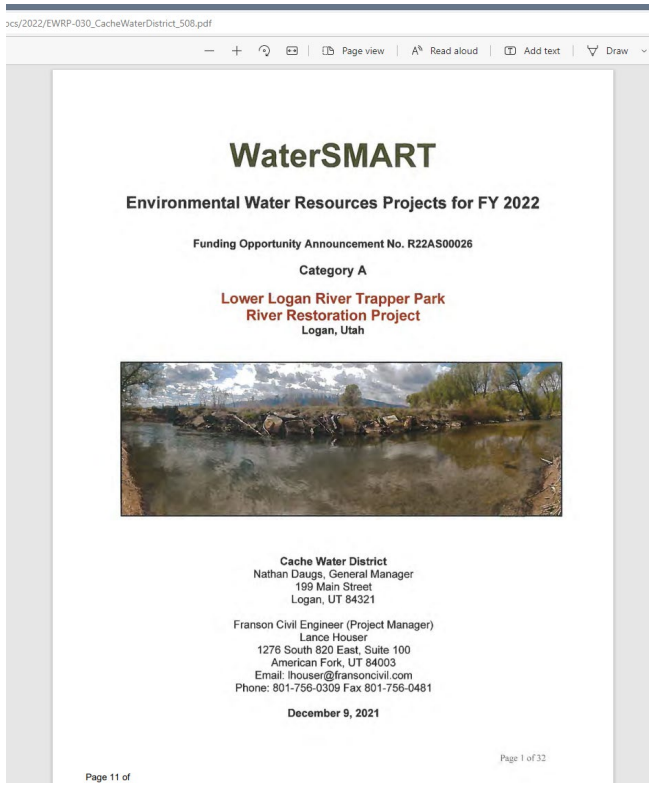
Other Considerations

- Project scope and budget should align! Reviewers will consider whether the budget is reasonable to complete the scope described in the technical project description.

- Consider inflation when developing your budget.

Application Tips

View Successful Applications Online



WaterSMART

Environmental Water Resources Projects for FY 2022

Funding Opportunity Announcement No. R22AS00026

Category A

Lower Logan River Trapper Park
River Restoration Project
Logan, Utah

Cache Water District
Nathan Daugs, General Manager
199 Main Street
Logan, UT 84321

Franson Civil Engineer (Project Manager)
Lance Houser
1276 South 820 East, Suite 100
American Fork, UT 84003
Email: lhouser@fransoncivil.com
Phone: 801-756-0309 Fax 801-756-0481

December 9, 2021

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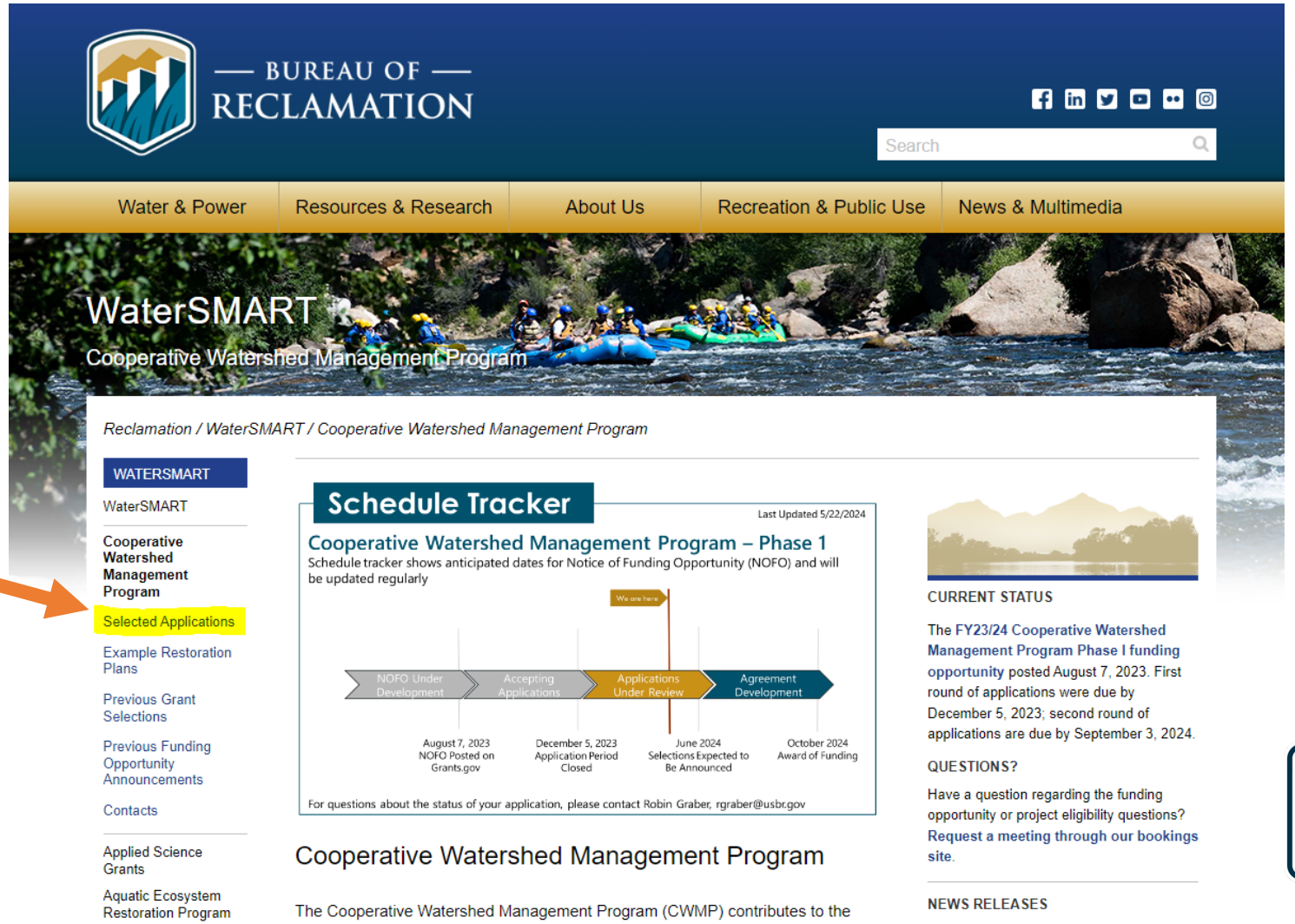


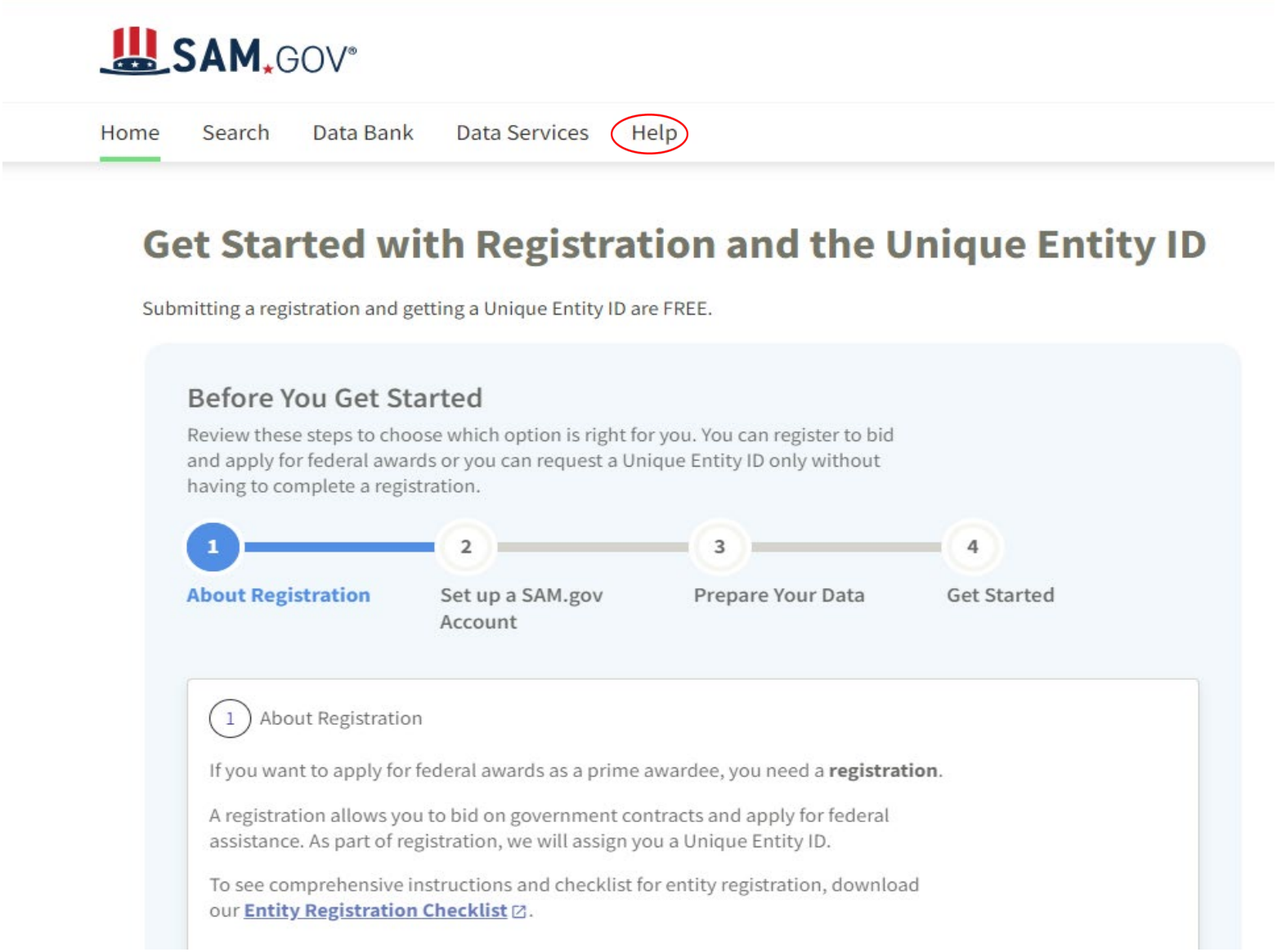
WaterSMART Financial Assistance Requirements

Application Tips

Where to Start

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

- [SAM.gov | Entity Registrations]
- If you have difficulties – document communications with help desk.
- Include communications with your application

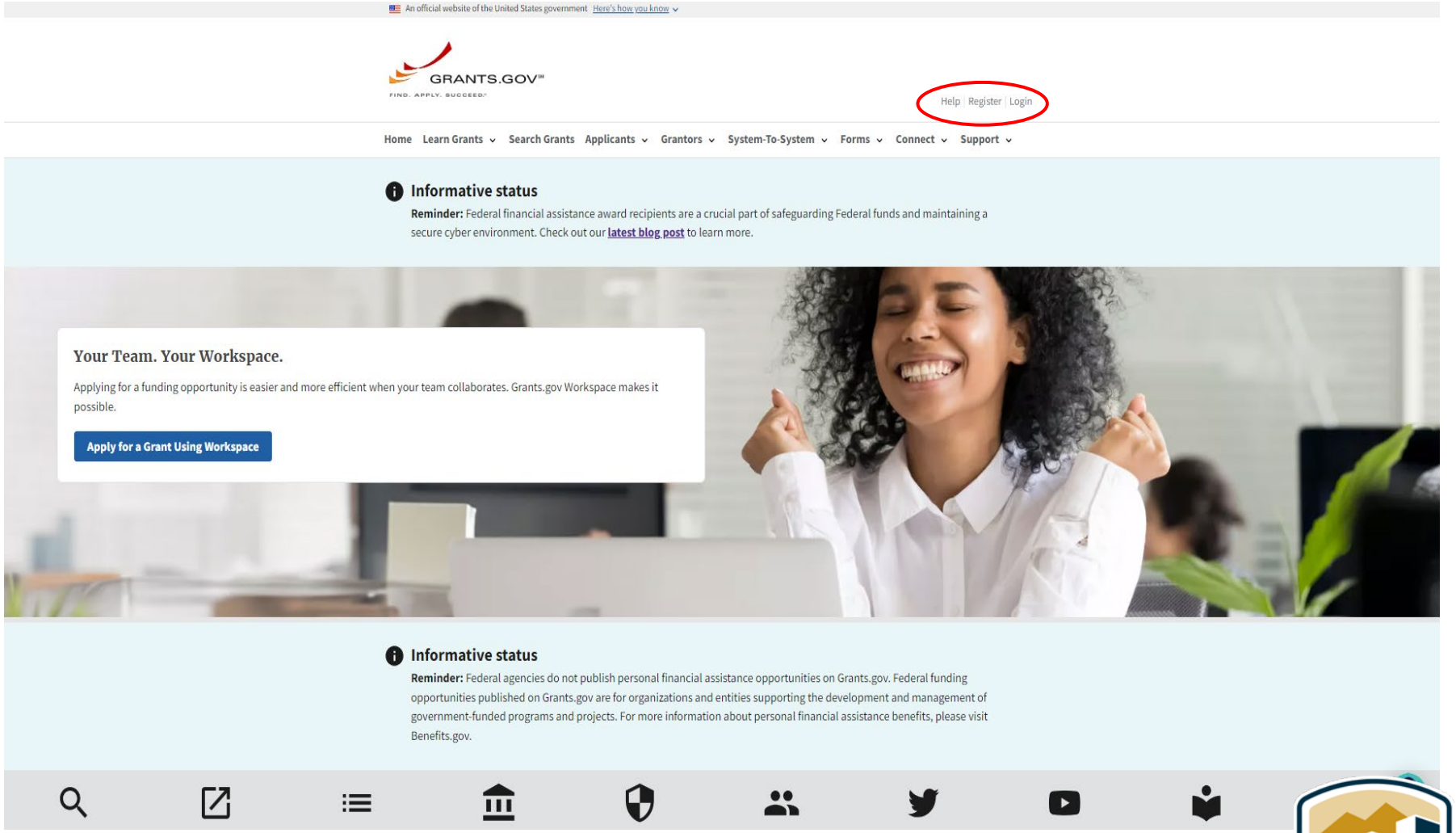


Application Tips

Where to Start

Find all Required Documentation and Register and Apply for Federal Grants

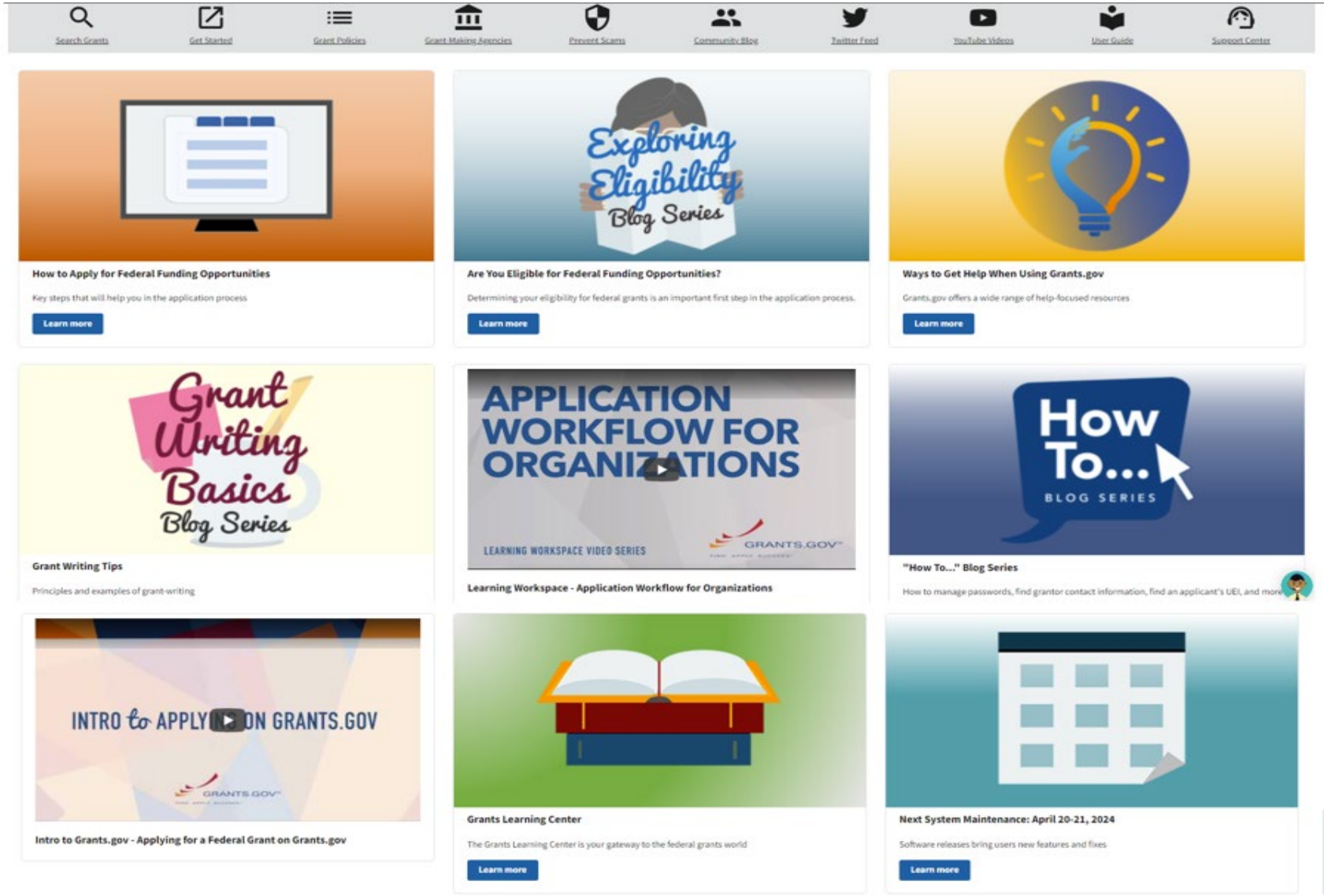
- www.grants.gov
- If you have difficulties, document communications with help desk.
- Include communications with your application



Application Tips

Additional Resources

WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program For Fiscal Year 2024
Funding Opportunity No. R23AS00362



Grants.gov provides many different guidance opportunities, regardless of the applicant's experience level.

Reclamation partnered with grants.gov to bring you this webinar to help familiarize yourself with the site and to provide an overview of how to submit a grant application. View the Powerpoint

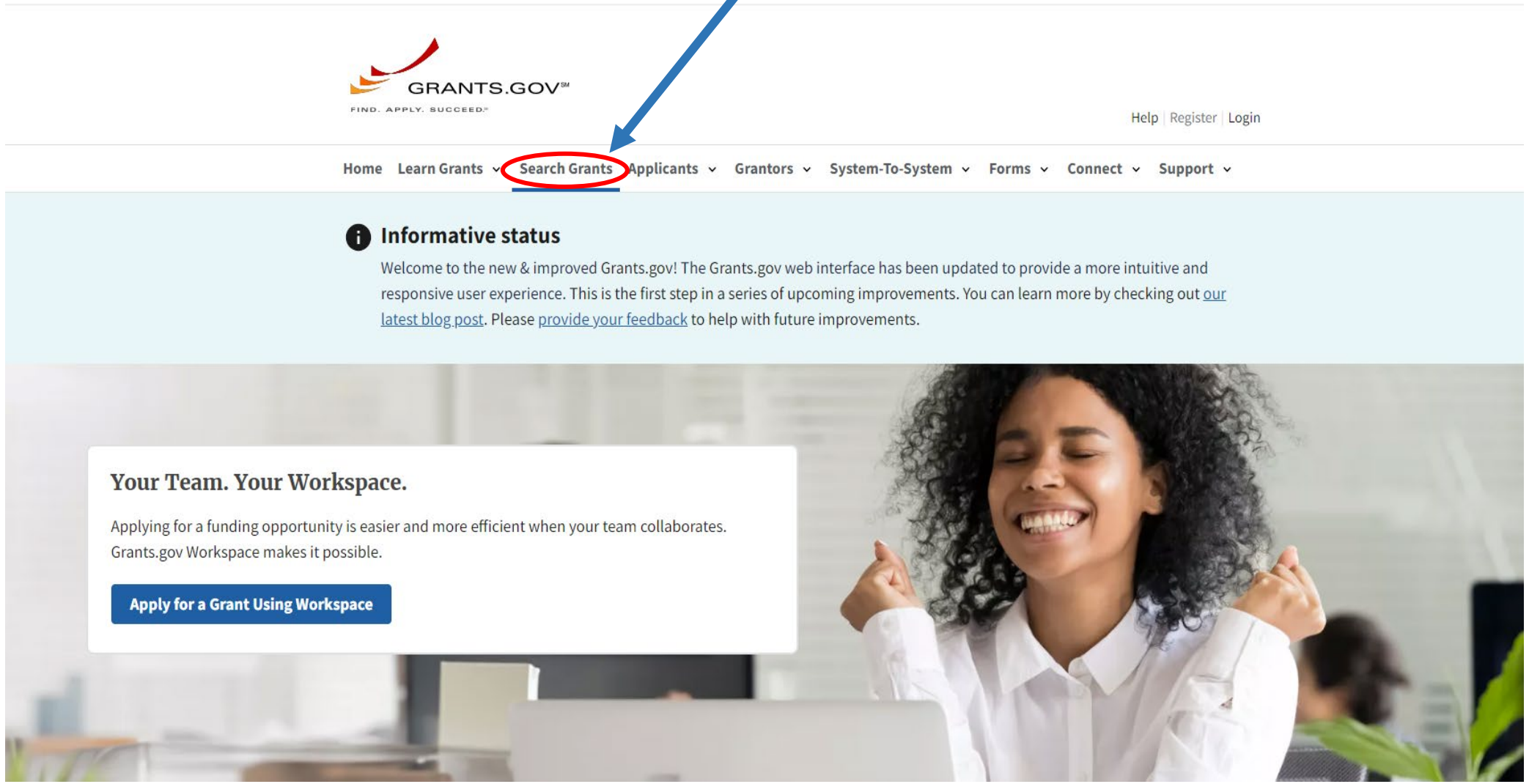
Info webinar available at www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART

Application Tips

Where to Start

WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program For Fiscal Year 2024
Funding Opportunity No. R23AS00362

Search Grants



Application Tips

Where to Start

WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program For Fiscal Year 2024
Funding Opportunity No. R23AS00362

SEARCH GRANTS

Search for Opportunity Number R23AS00362

BASIC SEARCH CRITERIA:

Keyword(s):

Opportunity Number: R23AS00362

CFDA:

Search

OPPORTUNITY STATUS:

- [x] Forecasted (0)
- [x] Posted (1)
- [ ] Closed (0)
- [ ] Archived (0)

Search Tips Export Results

SORT BY: Posted Date (Descending) Update Sort

DATE RANGE: All Available Update Date Range

Opportunity Number	Opportunity Title	Agency	Opportunity Status	Posted Date	Close Date
R23AS00362	WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I for Fiscal Year 2023	DOI-BOR	Posted	08/07/2023	09/03/2024

Application Tips
Where to Start

WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program For Fiscal Year 2024
Funding Opportunity No. R23AS00362

VIEW GRANT OPPORTUNITY

R23AS00362

WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I for Fiscal Year 2023

Department of the Interior

Bureau of Reclamation

Apply Subscribe

SYNOPSIS | VERSION HISTORY | RELATED DOCUMENTS | PACKAGE

Notification History:

Type	Date	Modification Description
Related Documents	Aug 25, 2023	FAQ for CWMP Phase I added to "Related Documents" Tab

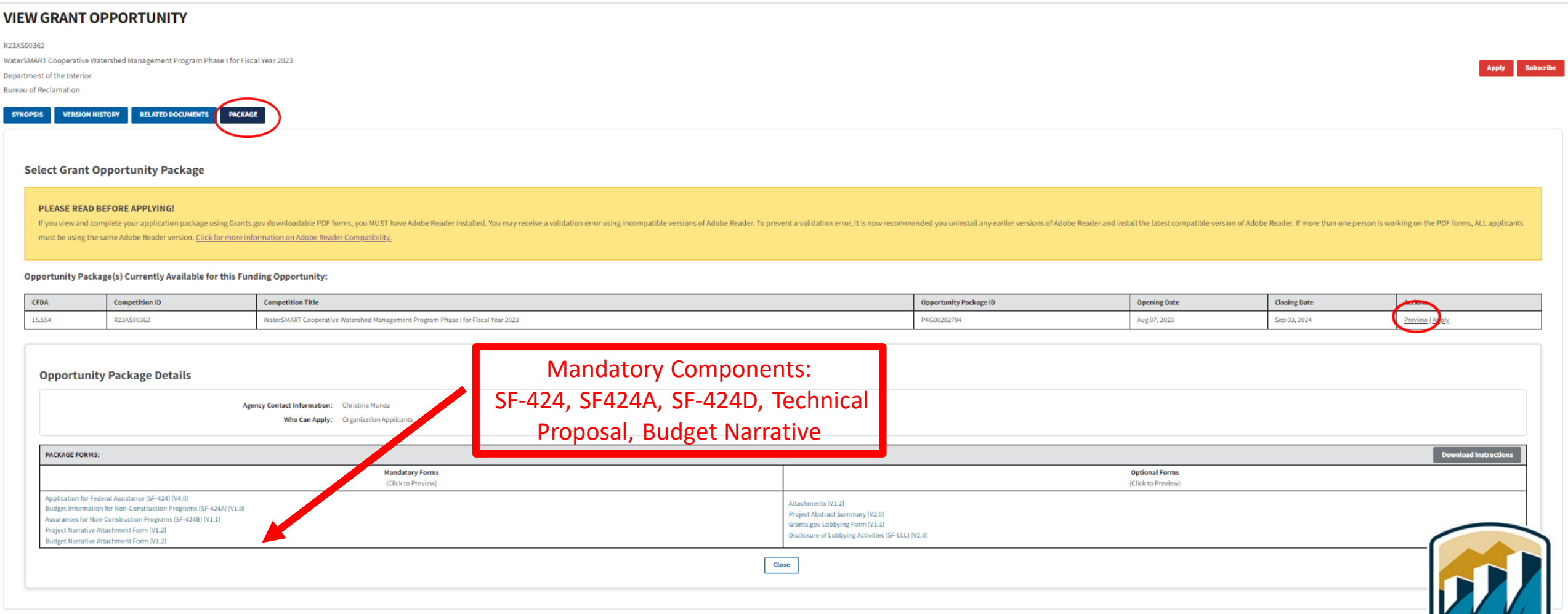
Click on the following file link(s) to download the related document(s):

File Description	File Name	Last Updated Date/Time	File Size
Folder: Full Announcement - Full Announcement	R23AS00362-Full Announcement - Full Announcement.zip	Aug 07, 2023 03:10:21 PM EDT	1.1 MB
Folder: Revised Full Announcement - Revised Full Announcement	R23AS00362-Revised Full Announcement - Revised Full Announcement.zip		NaN MB
Folder: Other Supporting Documents - FAQ	R23AS00362-Other Supporting Documents - FAQ.zip	Aug 25, 2023 04:51:33 PM EDT	
Folder: Other Supporting Documents - Other Supporting Documents	R23AS00362-Other Supporting Documents - Other Supporting Documents.zip	Aug 07, 2023 03:10:35 PM EDT	

Application Tips

Where to Start

WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program For Fiscal Year 2024
Funding Opportunity No. R23AS00362



Preparing your budget

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

6a. Personnel

This category includes salaries and wages of employees of the applicant organization that will be working directly on the project. Generally, salaries of administrative and/or clerical personnel are classified as indirect or overhead costs in your organization's accounting system included as a portion of the stated indirect costs. If these salaries can be adequately documented as direct costs, they can be included in this section; however, a justification must be included in the narrative. Recommend reviewing **§ 200.430 *Compensation - personal services*** for more information on the specific requirements regarding compensation costs, including the ***Standards for Documentation of Personnel Expenses*** **at §200.430(i).**

Narrative: For key personnel such as the project manager or principal investigator, identify the name individual and position/title. Other personnel should be identified by position only. For all positions, identify the project tasks that will be performed. Compensation rates can be expressed as hourly rates and number of hours or annual salary and percentage effort that will be contributed to each task, but must be consistent with your organization's accounting and timekeeping policies. Include estimated hours for compliance with reporting requirements, including the final project report and evaluation. For multi-year projects, identify the level of effort anticipated for each budget year and any estimates increases in compensation rates. Within the budget narrative, provide a certification that the labor rates included in the budget proposal represent the actual labor rates of the identified personnel/positions and are consistently applied to Federal and non-Federal activities. *Note: The annual/hourly labor rate must not include fringe benefits.*

Links: § 200.430 Compensation - personal services.

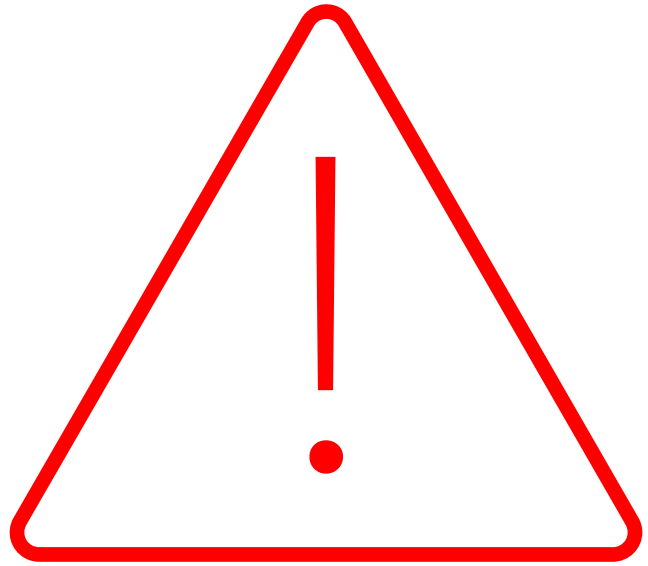
Personnel

Position Title	Time (Hrs or %)	Rate (Hr or Salary)	Total Cost	Rate Basis	Comments (as needed)
EXAMPLE!!! Sr. Engineer Y1	400	$46	$18,400	Current Salary	hourly rate based on average rate for all personnel occupying this position
EXAMPLE!!! Sr. Engineer Y2	400	$48	$19,000	Current Salary + 3% increase	Increase based on the average annual increase for all personnel occupying this position
			$0		
			$0		
			$0		
			$0		
			$0		
			$0		
			$0		
		Total	$0		

Application Content

Verify you have a completed mandatory forms:

- ☑ SF-424
- ☑ SF-424A
- ☑ SF-424B
- ☑ **Technical Proposal** (use Project Narrative form to upload in Grants.gov)
- ☑ **Budget Narrative** (use Budget Narrative form to upload in Grants.gov)



Financial Assistance Staff

- Answer questions about financial assistance requirements during the application process
- Conduct Initial Screening and remove applications that do not meet the completeness, eligibility and timeliness requirements of the NOFO.
- Notify Applicants of Application status based on the contact information provided on the SF-424 Form

Financial Assistance

First Level Screening

All application packages will be screened to ensure:

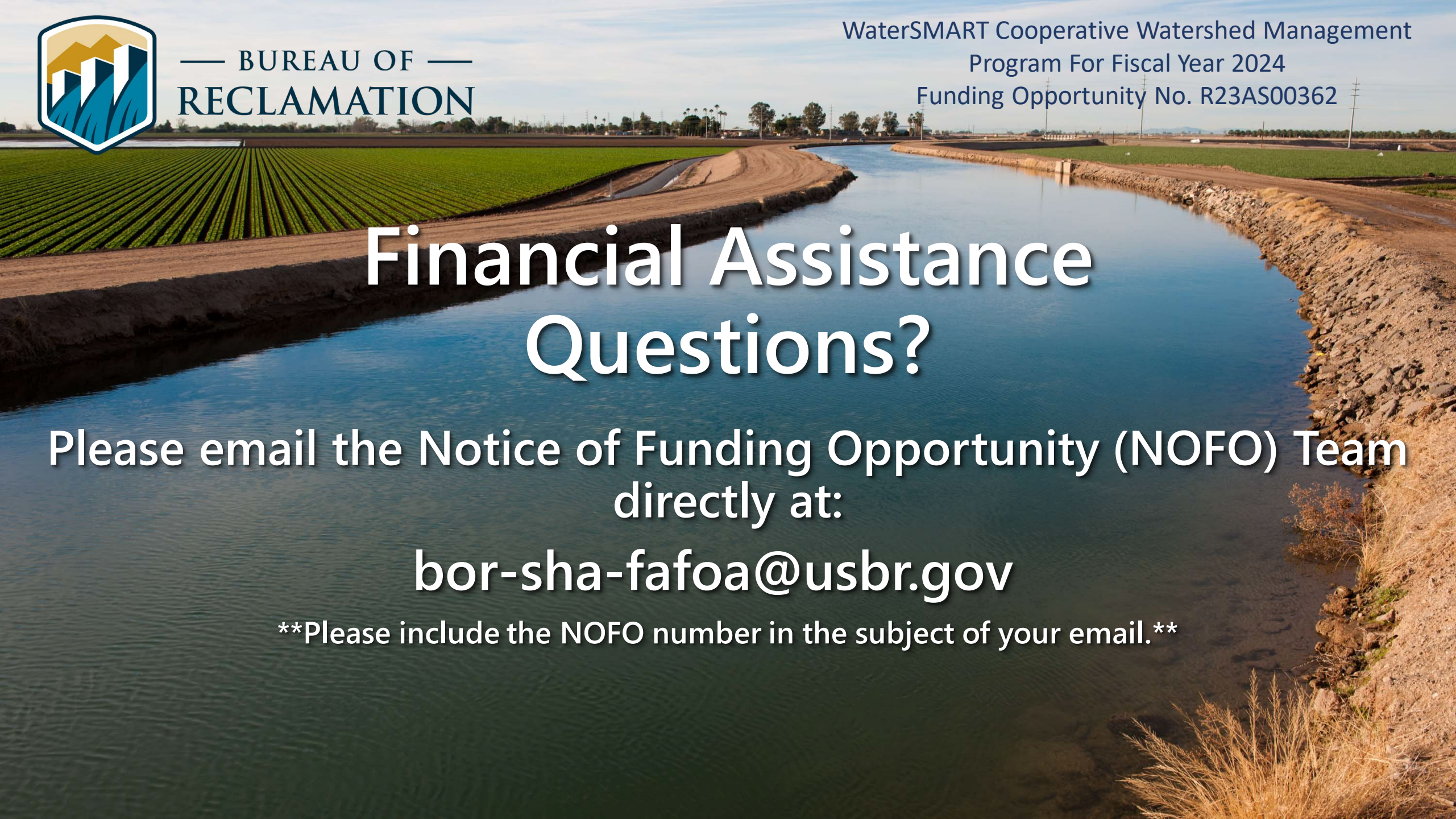
- The applicant meets the completeness, eligibility, and timeliness requirements
- The applicant meets the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and SAM registration requirements
- The application meets the content requirements
- The application contains completed mandatory forms

Financial Assistance

Selection Notification

After Initial screening:

- Ineligible applicants will be notified by Grants Officer
- Eligible applicants will move on to the Merit Review
- All successful and unsuccessful applications will be notified by Grants Officer.
- The Financial Assistance Office will reach out to the successful applicant regarding next steps for entering into a Financial Assistance award.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WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management
Program For Fiscal Year 2024
Funding Opportunity No. R23AS00362
Financial Assistance
Questions?
Please email the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Team directly at:
bor-sha-fafoa@usbr.gov
Please include the NOFO number in the subject of your email.

Additional Opportunities, Tools and Resources

https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/

Reclamation / WaterSMART

WATERSMART

WaterSMART

Contacts

Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

Water Marketing Strategy Grants

Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

Environmental Water Resources Projects

Title XVI

Desalination

Basin Studies

Baseline Assessments and Pilots

Reservoir Operation Pilots

Applied Science Grants

Cooperative Watershed

WaterSMART

The American West faces serious water challenges. Wide-spread drought, increased populations, aging infrastructure, and environmental requirements all strain existing water and hydropower resources. Adequate and safe water supplies are fundamental to the health, economy, and security of the country. Through WaterSMART, Reclamation will continue to work cooperatively with states, tribes, and local entities as they plan for and implement actions to increase water supply through investments to modernize existing infrastructure and avoid potential water conflicts.

Join the WaterSMART Mailing List

You may complete this **form** to receive WaterSMART program notification from the Bureau of Reclamation.

WaterSMART Project Selections Overview

Since January 2021, Reclamation has selected 255 projects to be funded with $93 million in WaterSMART funding, in conjunction with $314.3 million in non-Federal funding, across the western states.

OPEN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

None at this time

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY CALENDAR

Click here to view a detailed status of all current and upcoming WaterSMART funding opportunities.

WEBINAR

GRANTS.GOV℠

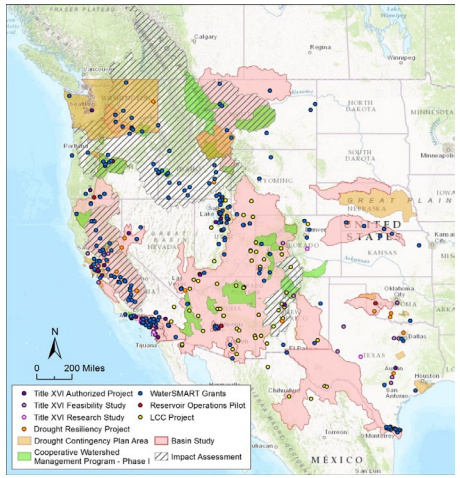
Reclamation partnered with grants.gov to bring you **this webinar** to help familiarize yourself with the site and to provide an overview of how to submit a grant application. View the Powerpoint

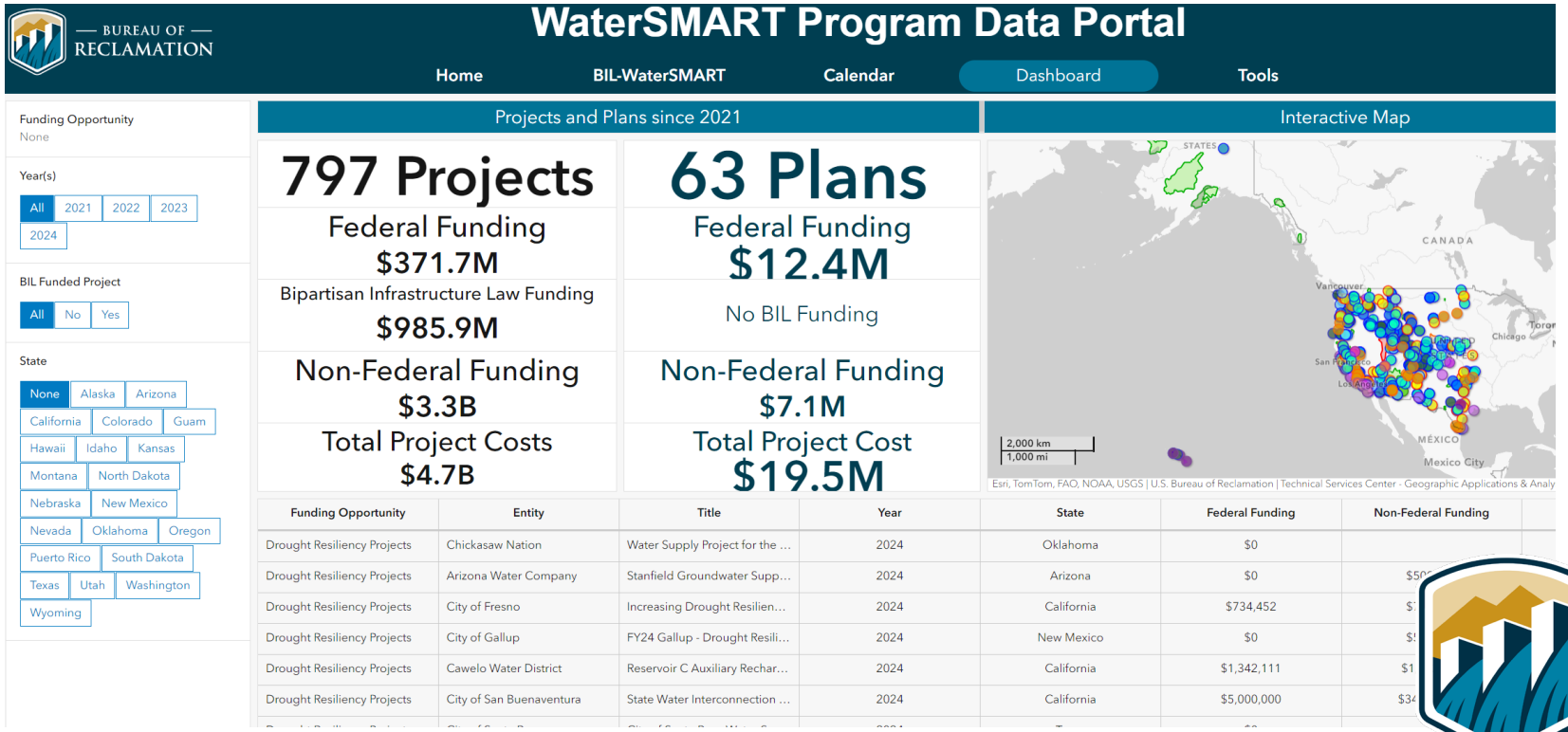
Helpful Tools

Through these portals, you can find information about recently awarded projects, BIL Funding, useful data visualizations, and interactive maps.

- **WaterSMART Program Data Portal**
  https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/bf5c5357e7044e0c80d5a55788d1db34/

- **Data Visualization Tool**
  http://arcg.is/1TcT68S





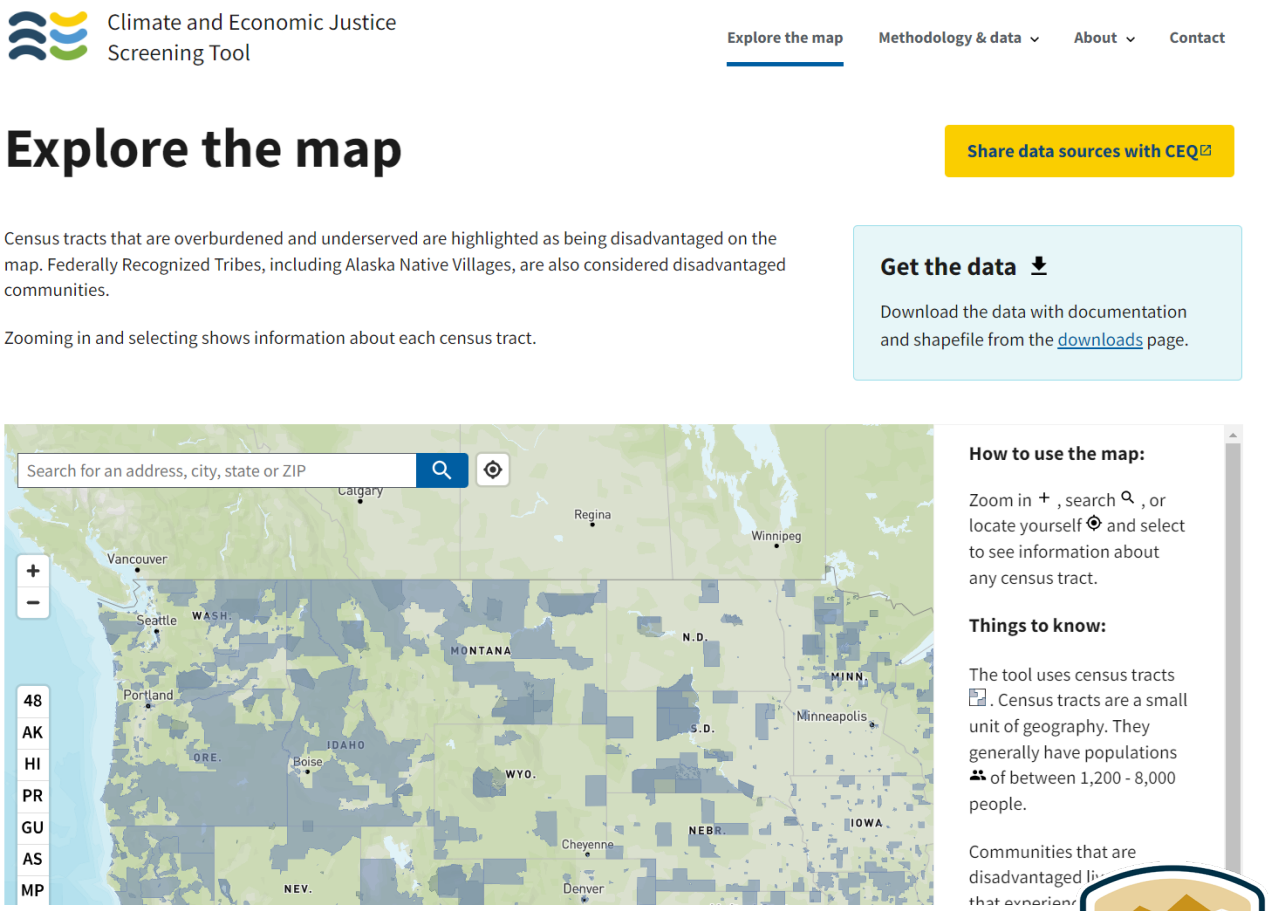
WaterSMART Program Resources

Additional Resources

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

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

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



Water Resources & Planning Office

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- (303) 445- 2881

Financial Assistance Office

Randy Filbert, Grants Management Specialist
- bor-sha-fafoa@usbr.gov

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Questions?

Please utilize the Q&A Function to ask questions.