



— BUREAU OF —  
RECLAMATION

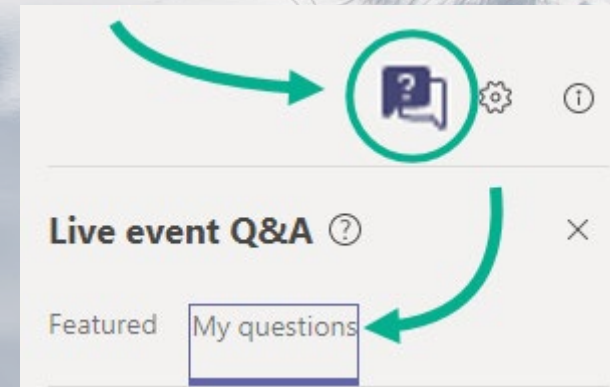
# WaterSMART Program Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

June 15, 2022

# Getting Started

- To watch the recording, use the same link: [Join Live Teams 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



# Today's Presenters

## **Water Resources and Planning Office**

- **Josh German**

## **Financial Assistance Operations**

- **Christina Munoz**



# Agenda Overview

- WaterSMART Basics
- FY23 WEEG
  - Eligible Applicants
  - Eligible Projects
  - Program Funding
  - Evaluation Criteria
- Application Tips
- System Requirements
- Program Resources
- Questions



# WaterSMART Program Basics

➔ **Most WaterSMART activities are grant programs**

➔ **Generally, a 50% non-Federal cost share is required for grants under WaterSMART. However, under the EWRP, non-federal cost-share may be 25% dependent on environmental value**

➔ **States, tribes, cities, irrigation, water and flood control districts, and conservation nonprofits including watershed groups, located in the 17 Western United States and territories, AK, HI, and Puerto Rico.**

➔ **Funding is allocated through annual competitive processes**



# Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

## Applicant Eligibility

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### Eligible Applicants

#### Category A:

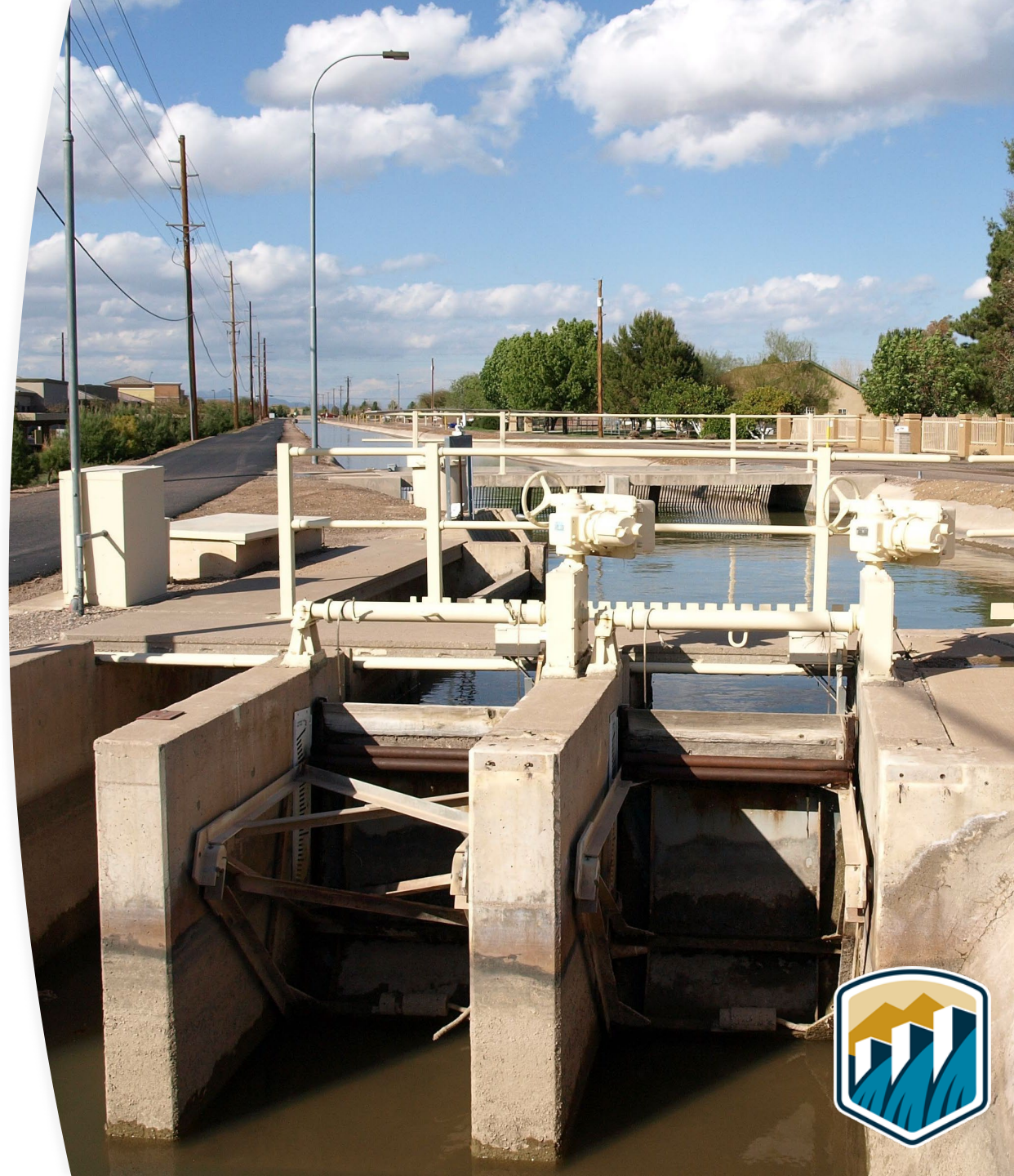
- States, Indian Tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts;
- State, regional, or local authorities, whose members include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; and
- Other organizations with water or power delivery authority.

All Category A applicants must also be located in the Western United States or Territories as identified in the Reclamation Act of June 17, 1902, as amended and supplemented; specifically: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

#### Category B:

Nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership with and with the agreement of an entity described in Category A. Category B applicants must include with their application a letter from the Category A partner, stating that they are acting in partnership with the applicant and agree to the submittal and content of the proposal.

All Category B applicants must be located in the United States or the specific Territories identified above.



# Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

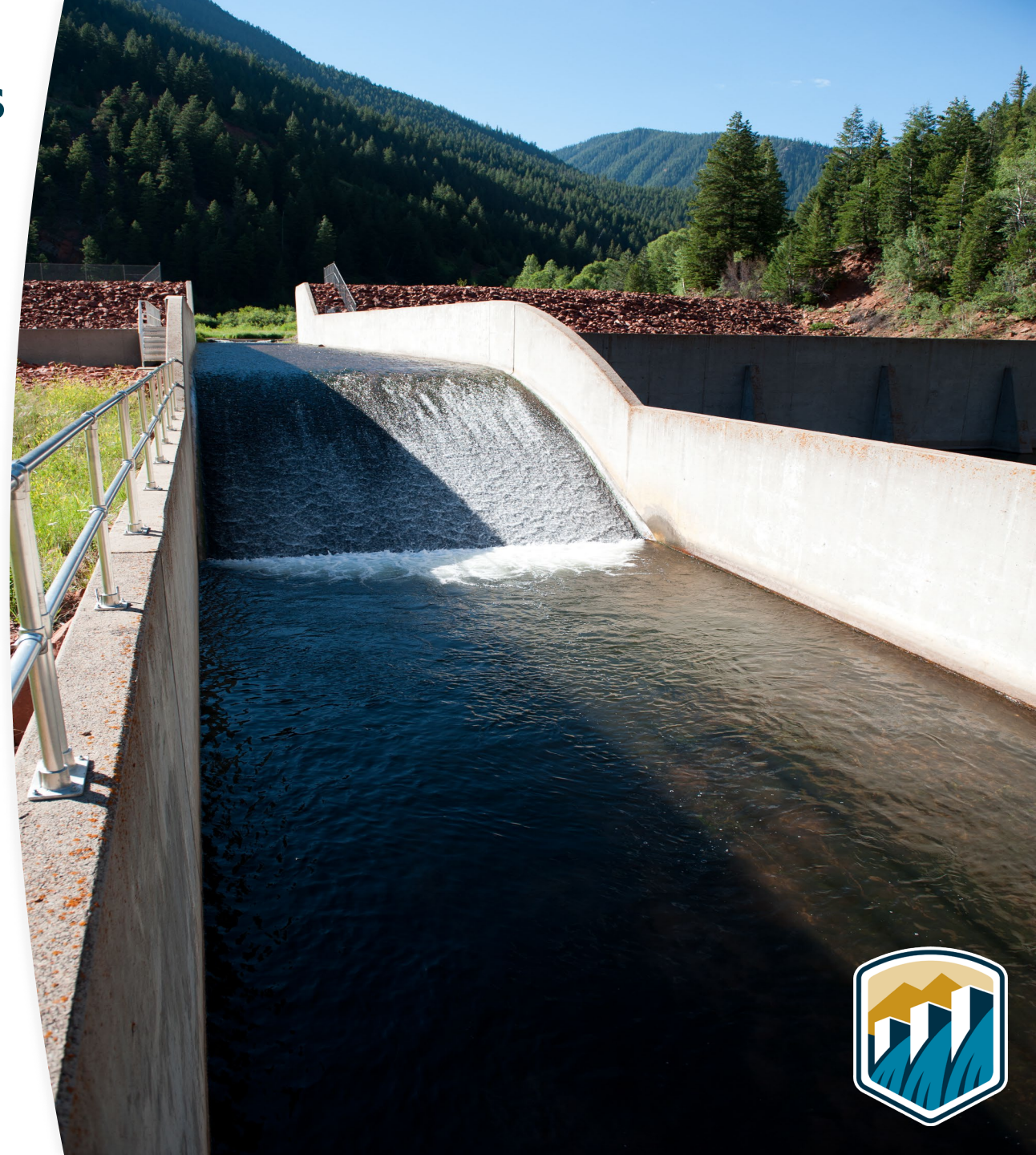
## Project Eligibility

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### Eligible Projects (Section C.4.)

- Water Conservation Projects
  - Canal lining/piping
  - Municipal metering
  - Irrigation flow measurement
  - Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition and Automation (SCADA)
  - Landscape irrigation measures
  - High-Efficiency Indoor Appliances and Fixtures
  - Commercial Cooling Systems
- Renewable Energy Projects
  - Hydropower
  - Solar, wind energy

### Ineligible Projects (Section C.5.)



# Water and Energy Efficiency Grants Program Funding

## Funding Groups

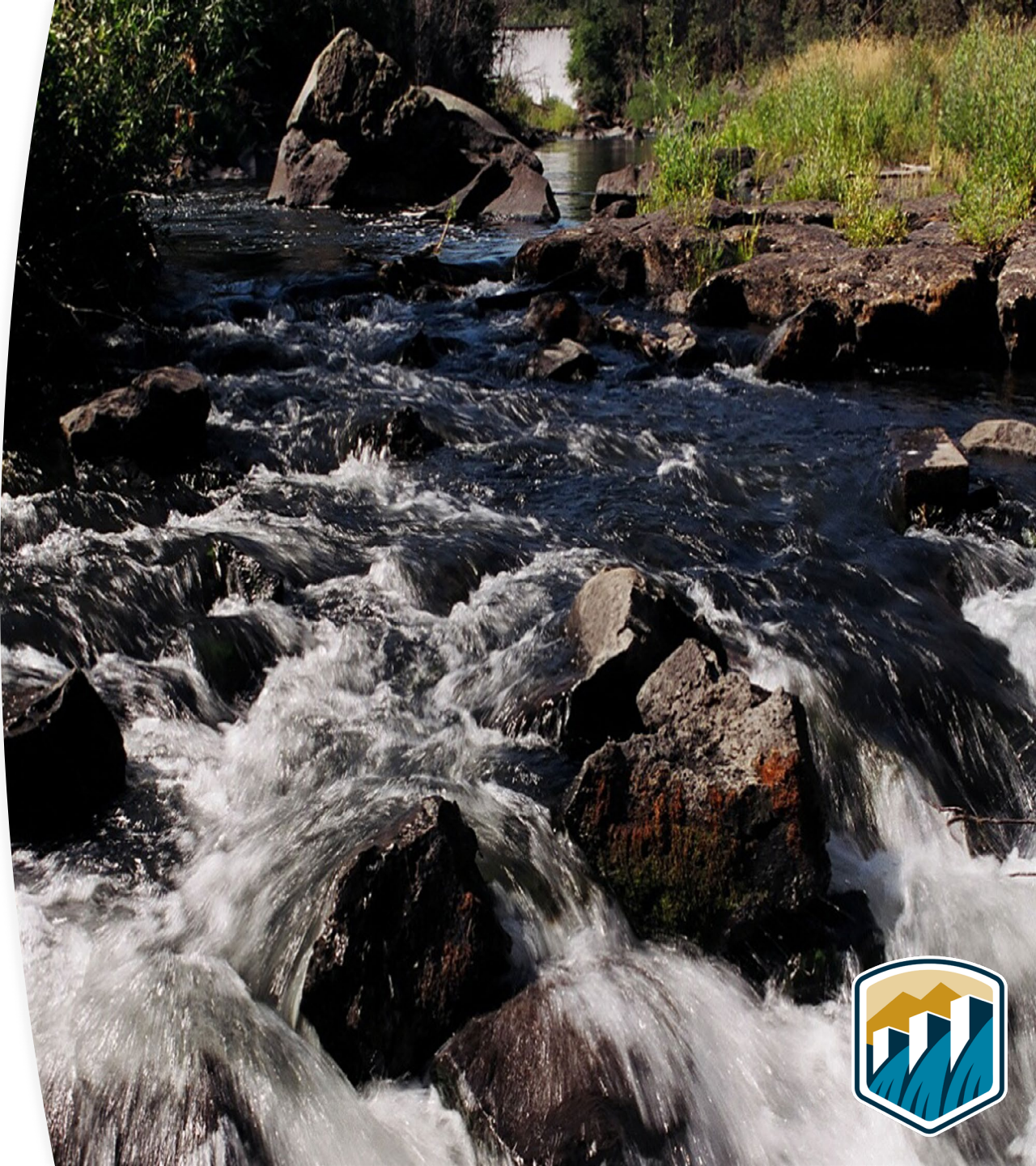
- Funding Group I: Up to \$500k in 2 years
- Funding Group II: Up to \$2 million in 3 years
- Funding Group III: Up to \$5 million in 3 years

## WaterSMART Grants Funding in FY 2023

- FY 2023 Appropriations: TBD
- BIL Funding
  - FY22 Spend Plan: \$120M
  - FY23 Spend Plan: \$112.5M

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

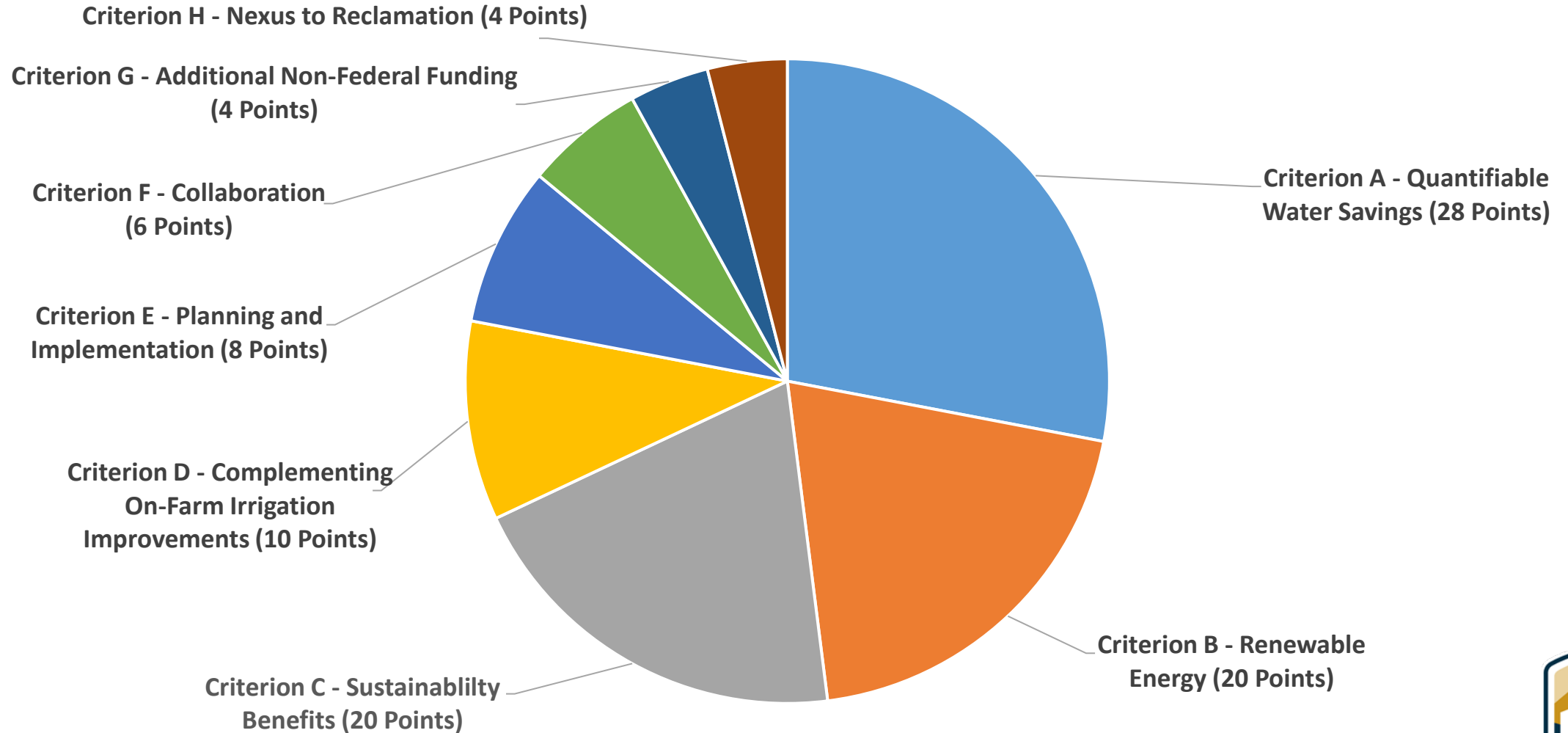
*In general ARPA funding may be counted toward non-Federal cost-share requirements for WaterSMART Grants.*





# Water and Energy Efficiency Grants Evaluation Criteria

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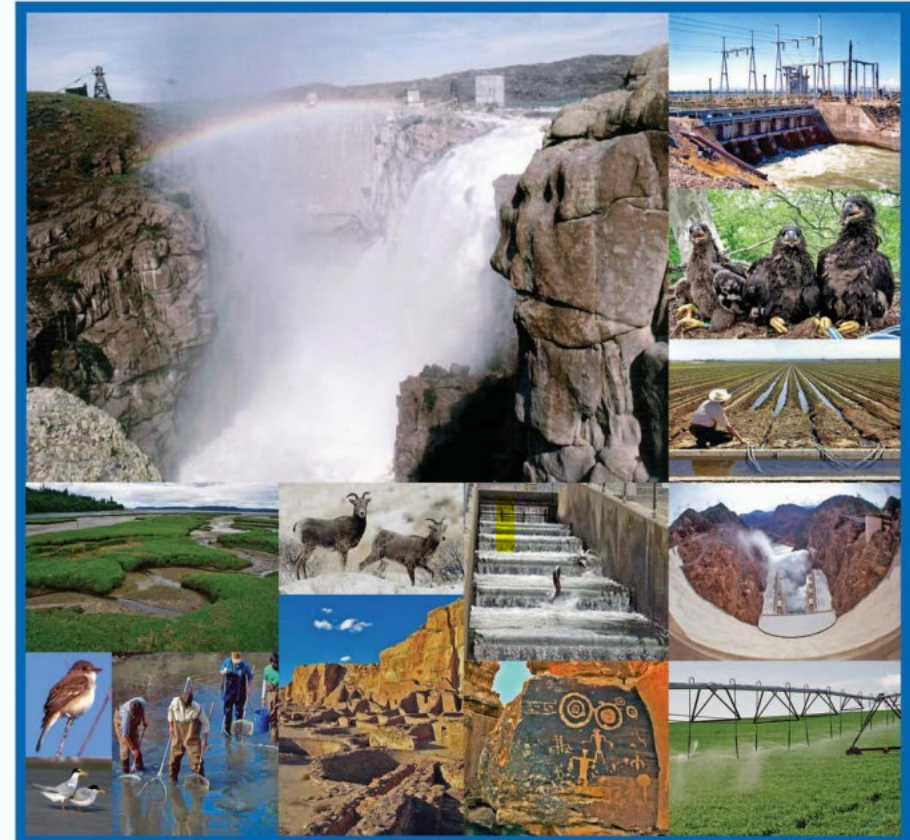


# Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

## Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance

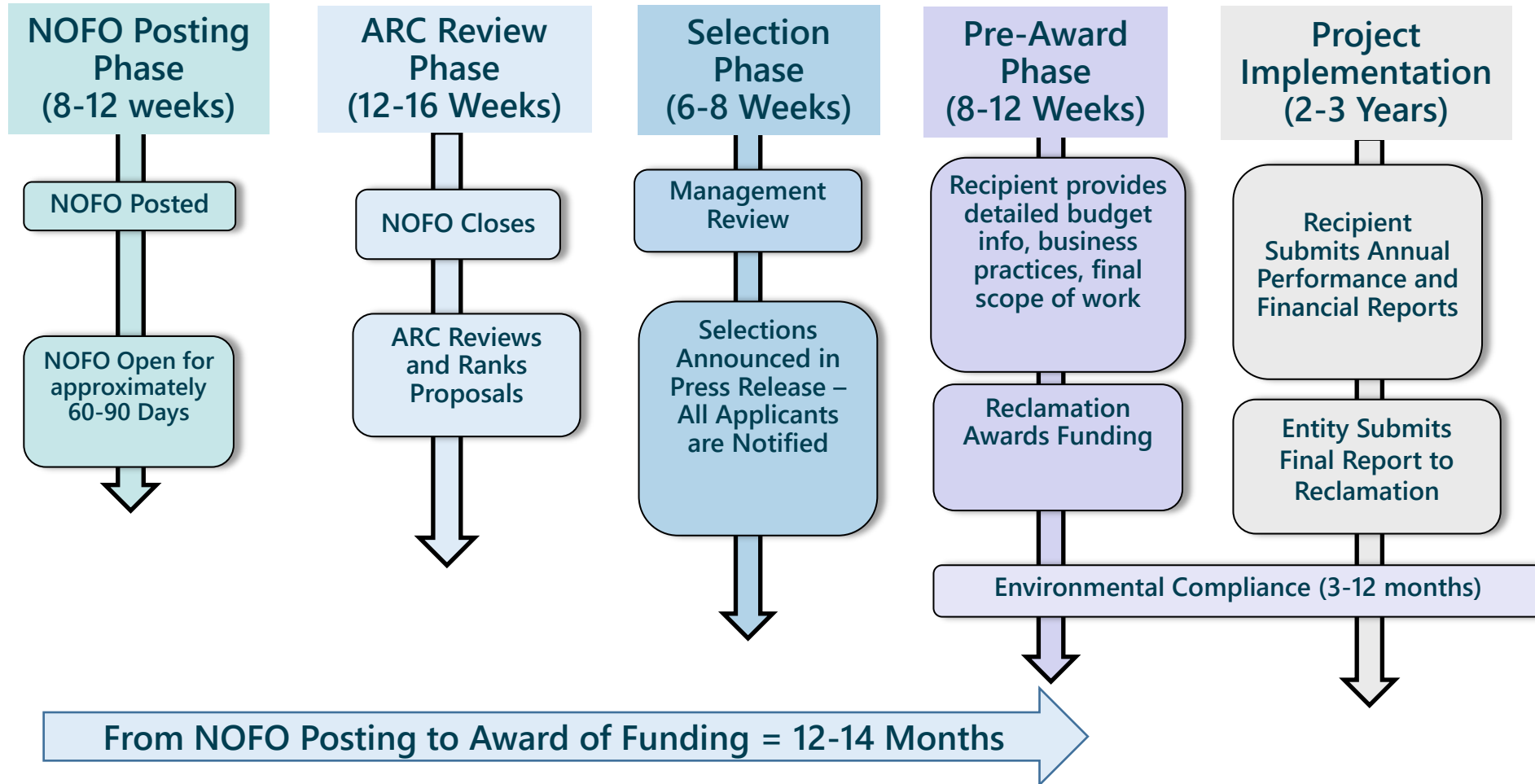
- All selected projects must comply with Federal environmental and cultural resource laws
- Reclamation regional and area offices complete compliance
- Compliance must occur prior to any ground disturbing activities including installation of any equipment or monitoring devices

### Reclamation's NEPA Handbook



# WaterSMART Selection Process

## Sample schedule



# Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

## Program Requirements Summary

### Eligible Applicants

States, Indian Tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts; State, regional, or local authorities, whose members include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; Other organizations with water or power delivery authority. OR a nonprofit conservation organization partnering with a previously described entity.

### Funding Groups

Up to \$5,00,000 in Federal funds for projects

### Cost Share

50% non-Federal cost share required

### Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated against the evaluation criteria which comprise a total of 100 points.

### Important Dates

**Pre-award costs date: April 1, 2022**  
**Construction start date limitation (includes installation): May 2023**

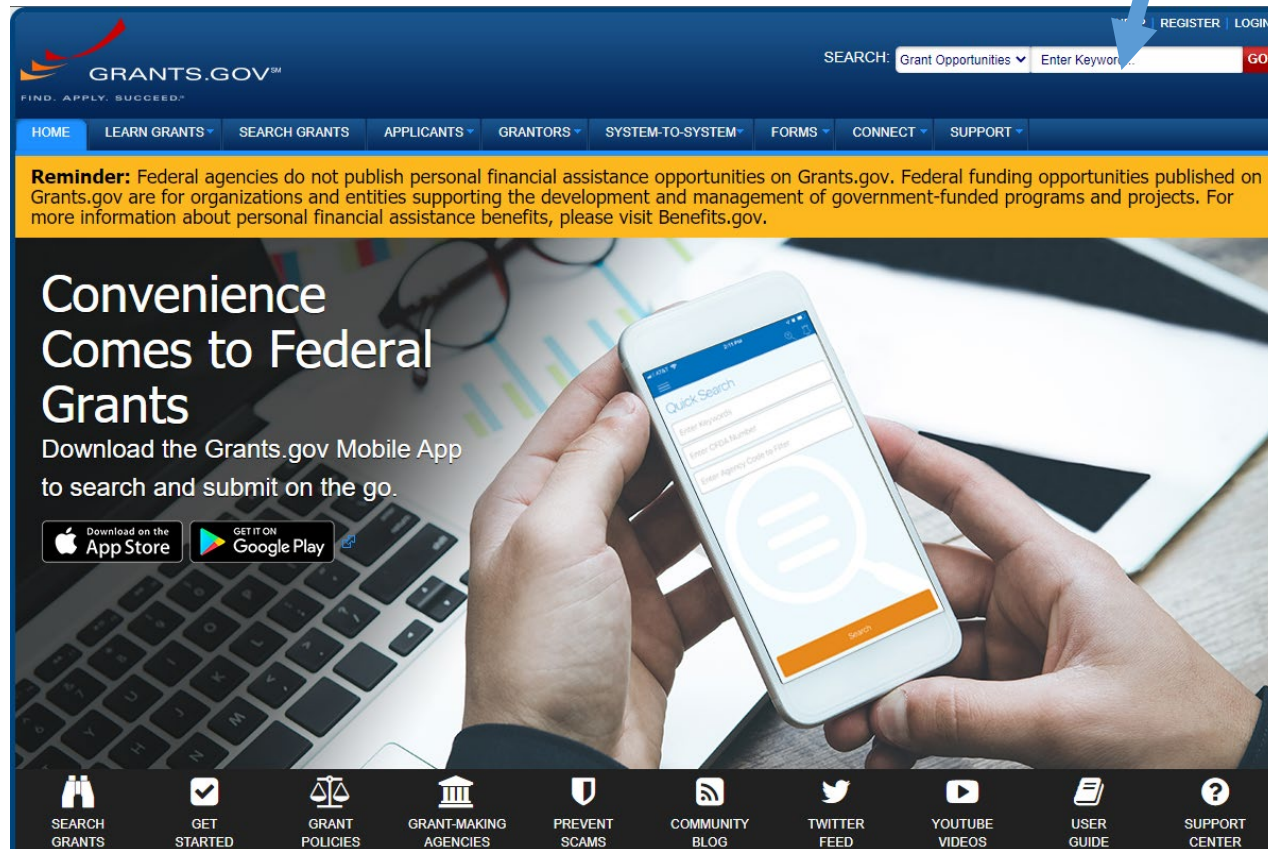
**Deadline: Thursday, July 28th, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. MDT**



# Application Tips

## Where to Start

Search for opportunity  
R23AS00008



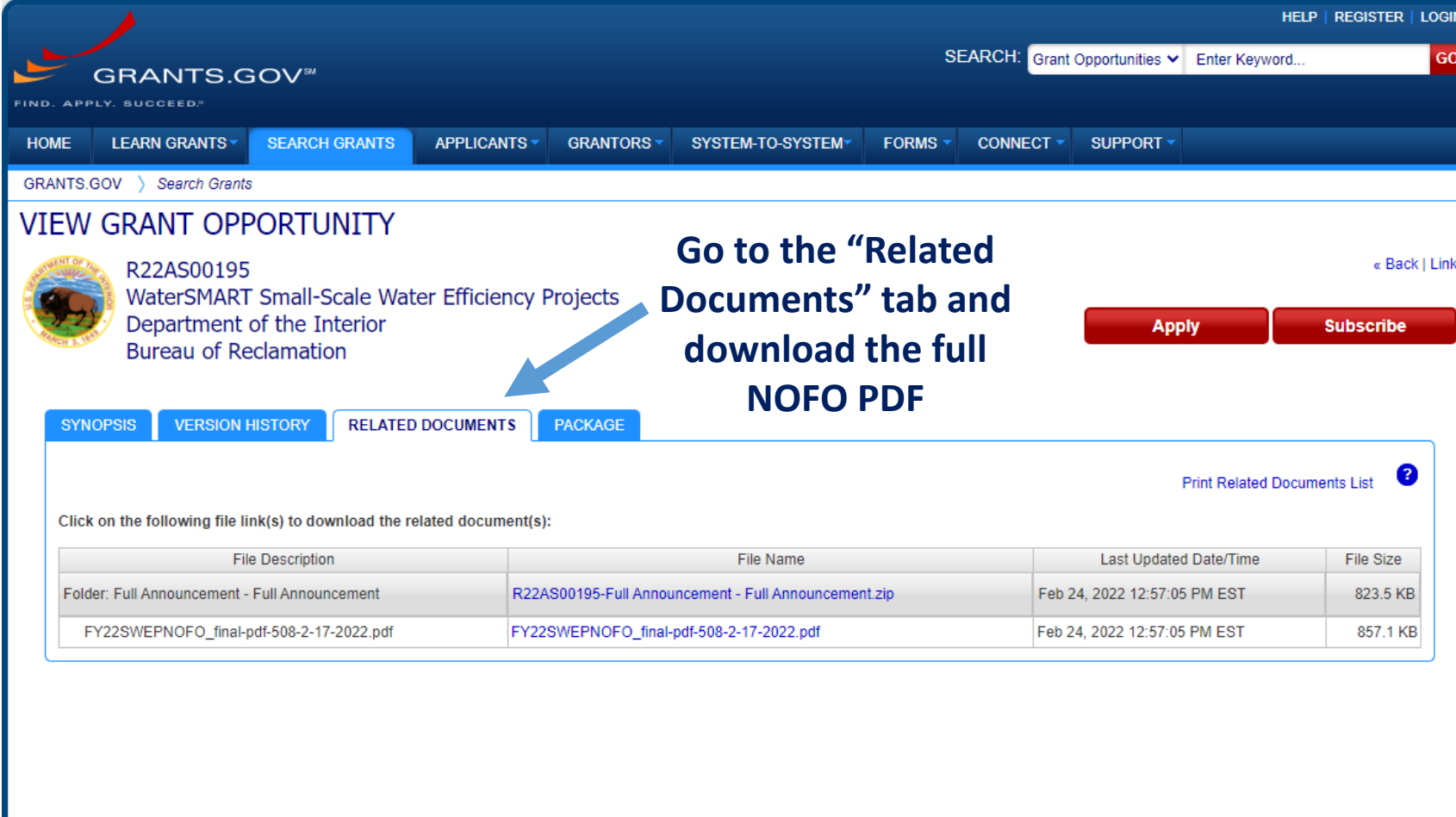
The screenshot shows the Grants.gov website interface. At the top right, there is a search bar with the text "SEARCH: Grant Opportunities" and a "GO" button. A blue arrow points to the search bar with the text "Search for opportunity R23AS00008". Below the search bar is a navigation menu with links: HOME, LEARN GRANTS, SEARCH GRANTS, APPLICANTS, GRANTORS, SYSTEM-TO-SYSTEM, FORMS, CONNECT, and SUPPORT. A yellow banner contains a reminder: "Reminder: Federal agencies do not publish personal financial assistance opportunities on Grants.gov. Federal funding opportunities published on Grants.gov are for organizations and entities supporting the development and management of government-funded programs and projects. For more information about personal financial assistance benefits, please visit Benefits.gov." Below the banner is a large image of a person holding a smartphone displaying the Grants.gov mobile app interface. The app screen shows a "Quick Search" section with fields for "Enter keywords", "Enter OMB Number", and "Enter Agency Code to filter", and a "Search" button. At the bottom of the website, there is a navigation bar with icons and labels for: SEARCH GRANTS, GET STARTED, GRANT POLICIES, GRANT-MAKING AGENCIES, PREVENT SCAMS, COMMUNITY BLOG, TWITTER FEED, YOUTUBE VIDEOS, USER GUIDE, and SUPPORT CENTER.

Start at  
[www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)



# Application Tips

## Where to Start



GRANTS.GOV™  
FIND. APPLY. SUCCEED.™


HELP | REGISTER | LOGIN

SEARCH: Grant Opportunities ▾ Enter Keyword... **GO**

HOME | LEARN GRANTS ▾ | **SEARCH GRANTS** | APPLICANTS ▾ | GRANTORS ▾ | SYSTEM-TO-SYSTEM ▾ | FORMS ▾ | CONNECT ▾ | SUPPORT ▾

GRANTS.GOV > Search Grants

### VIEW GRANT OPPORTUNITY

 R22AS00195  
WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects  
Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation

« Back | Link

**Apply** **Subscribe**

**Go to the “Related Documents” tab and download the full NOFO PDF**

SYNOPSIS | VERSION HISTORY | **RELATED DOCUMENTS** | PACKAGE

Print Related Documents List ?

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	<a href="#">R22AS00195-Full Announcement - Full Announcement.zip</a>	Feb 24, 2022 12:57:05 PM EST	823.5 KB
<a href="#">FY22SWEPNFOF_final-pdf-508-2-17-2022.pdf</a>	<a href="#">FY22SWEPNFOF_final-pdf-508-2-17-2022.pdf</a>	Feb 24, 2022 12:57:05 PM EST	857.1 KB



# Application Tips

## Proposal Preparation

- Give yourself plenty of time to write and submit the proposal
- Submit a few days before deadline
- Application Checklist

### Application Checklist

This table summarizes the information you are required to submit with your application.

What to submit	Required content	Form or format
Mandatory Federal Forms: Application for Federal Financial Assistance Budget Information Assurances Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	See Sec. D.2.2.1	SF-424, SF-424A, SF-424B, SF-424D, Project Abstract Summary, and SF-LLL forms may be obtained at <a href="http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html">www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html</a>
Title page	See Sec. D.2.2.2	Page 22
Table of contents	See Sec. D.2.2.3	Page 22
Technical proposal: Executive summary Project location Technical project description Performance measures	See Sec. D.2.2.24	Page 22
Evaluation criteria	See Sec. E.1	Page 22
Project Budget: Funding plan Budget proposal Budget narrative	See Sec. D.2.2.5	Page 23
Environmental and cultural resources compliance	See Sec. D.2.2.6	Page 23
Required permits or approvals	See Sec. D.2.2.7	Page 23
Letters of support and partnership	See Sec. D.2.2.9	Page 37
Official Resolutions	See Sec. D.2.2.10	Page 31
Overlap or Duplication of Efforts Statement	See Sec. D.2.2.11	Page 25
Conflict of Interest Disclosure	See Sec. D.2.2.12	Page 25
Uniform Audit Reporting Statement	See Sec. D.2.2.13	Page 25
Certification Regarding Lobbying	See Sec. D.2.2.14	Page 25
Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management	See Sec. D.3	Page 24





# Application Tips

## What do I include in my application?

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- Every WaterSMART NOFO includes a section describing the application content
- All bulleted items must be included with your application by the application deadline
  - Exception for Official Resolution-may be submitted up to 30 days after NOFO closes
- Application Tip: Structure your proposal in the order identified in the NOFO

**D.2.2. Application Content:** The application must include the following elements to be considered complete:

- Mandatory Federal Forms. Note, applications submitted by consultants must contain an **SF-424 and SF-424D** that is manually signed by an authorized representative of the entity applying.
  - SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance
  - SF-424 Budget Information- Construction Programs (this form is acceptable for both construction and non-construction projects)
  - SF-424D Assurances- Construction Programs
  - Project Abstract Summary (OMB Number 4040-0019)
  - SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if applicable)

These forms may be obtained at [www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html](http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html)

- Title page
- Table of contents
- Technical proposal and evaluation criteria (limited to **50** pages)
  - Executive summary
  - Project location
  - Technical project description
  - Evaluation criteria
- Project budget
  - Funding plan and letters of commitment
  - Budget proposal
  - Budget narrative
- Environmental and cultural resources compliance
- Required permits or approvals
- Letters of support for the project and letters of participation (will not count towards the total page limitation)
- Official resolution (will not count towards the total page limitation)
- Conflict of Interest Disclosure
- Uniform Audit Reporting Statement
- Certification Regarding Lobbying

**It is highly recommended that application packages be structured in the order identified above.**





# Application Tips

## Evaluation Criteria

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- Make sure you respond to every criterion and every sub-criterion
- Your responses should:
  - Directly respond to the criterion – 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 links to reference documents
  - Make the case for how your project meets the criterion – general statements without explanation or support will not score well
  - Don't assume that the reviewers know about the issues in your area, or the benefits of your project
- Application Tip: Well-supported responses to the evaluation criteria are the key to writing a competitive proposal. Do not take anything for granted.

**D.2.2. Application Content:** The application must include the following elements to be considered complete:

- Mandatory Federal Forms
  - SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance
  - SF-424 Budget Information (A or C Form, as applicable to the project)
  - SF-424 Assurances (B or D Form, as applicable to the project)
  - SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if applicable)

These forms may be obtained at [www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html](http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html)
- Title page
- Table of contents
- Technical proposal and evaluation criteria (limited to X pages)
  - Executive summary
  - Background data
  - Project location
  - Technical project description
  - **Evaluation Criteria**
- Project budget
  - Funding plan Budget proposal
  - Budget narrative
- Environmental and cultural resources compliance
- Required permits or approvals
- Letters of funding commitment
- Letters of project support
- Official resolution\*
- Unique Early Identifier and System for Award Management\*

It is highly recommended that application packages be structured in the order identified above.





# Application Tips

## Preparing the budget

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- The Application Review Committee uses the budget to confirm their understanding of the project's scope and intended benefits
- The Grants Management Specialist will use the budget to ensure all project costs are allowable, allocable to the project activities, and reasonable
- Should represent all project costs, including those to be paid with Federal funds and non-Federal cost share
- Must not include costs for work that is being funded under another Federal financial assistance agreement or contract
- Application Tip: Email [SHA-DRO-FAFOA@usbr.gov](mailto:SHA-DRO-FAFOA@usbr.gov) if you have questions about your budget as you are preparing your proposal.

**D.2.2. Application Content:** The application must include the following elements to be considered complete:

- Mandatory Federal Forms
  - SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance
  - SF-424 Budget Information (A or C Form, as applicable to the project)
  - SF-424 Assurances (B or D Form, as applicable to the project)
  - SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if applicable)

These forms may be obtained at [www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html](http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html)
- Title page
- Table of contents
- Technical proposal and evaluation criteria (limited to X pages)
  - Executive summary
  - Background data
  - Project location
  - Technical project description
- **Project Budget**
  - Funding plan Budget proposal
  - Budget narrative
- Environmental and cultural resources compliance
- Required permits or approvals
- Letters of funding commitment
- Letters of project support
- Official resolution\*
- Unique Early Identifier and System for Award Management\*

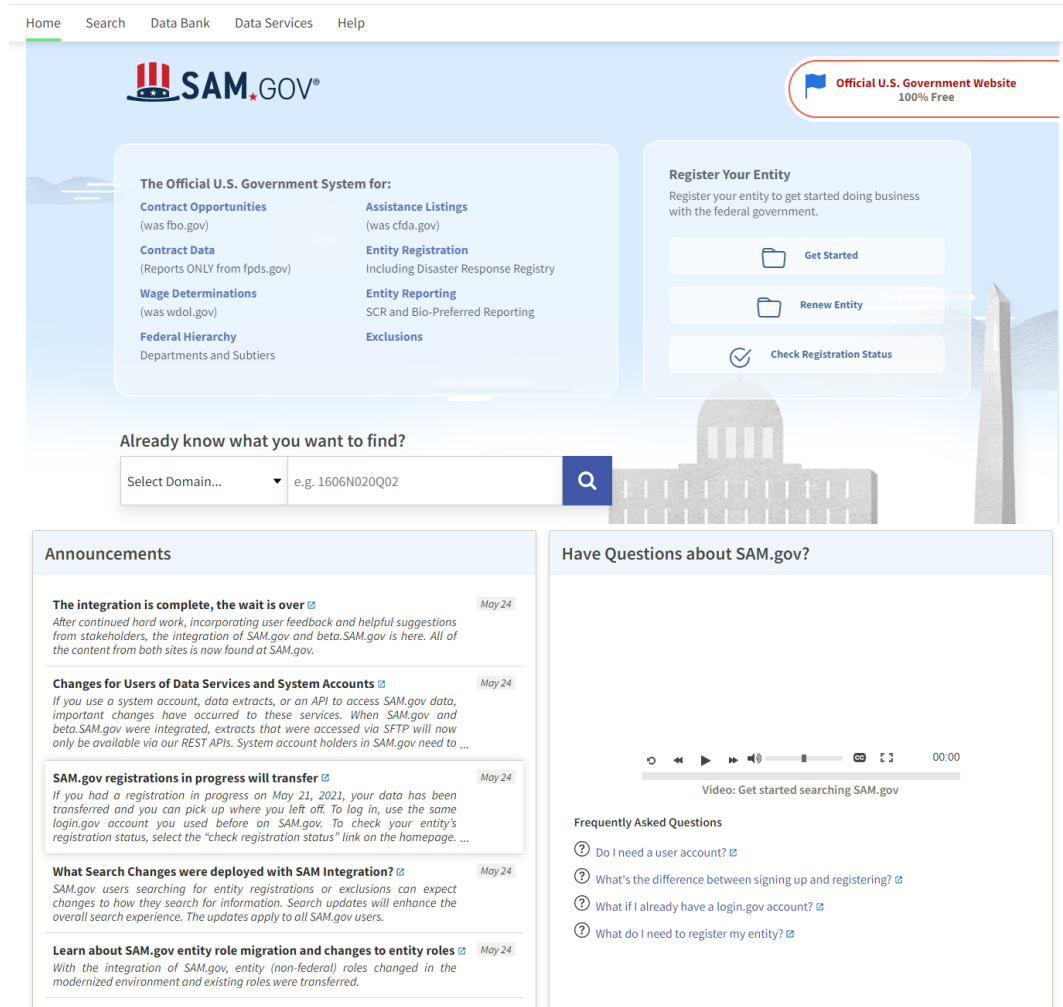
It is highly recommended that application packages be structured in the order identified above.



# System Requirements for Applicants

## Sam.gov Registration

- Begin registration process *prior to or no later than* when you are starting to prepare your application
- Sam.gov required at the time of submission of application
- A UEI will be assigned to entities upon registering with Sam.gov.



The screenshot shows the SAM.GOV website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Search, Data Bank, Data Services, and Help. The main header features the SAM.GOV logo and a badge indicating it is an "Official U.S. Government Website 100% Free".

The central content area is divided into two main sections. On the left, under "The Official U.S. Government System for:", there are links for Contract Opportunities (was fbo.gov), Contract Data (Reports ONLY from fpds.gov), Wage Determinations (was wdol.gov), Federal Hierarchy (Departments and Subtiers), Assistance Listings (was cfdia.gov), Entity Registration (Including Disaster Response Registry), Entity Reporting (SCR and Bio-Preferred Reporting), and Exclusions. On the right, under "Register Your Entity", there is a prompt to "Register your entity to get started doing business with the federal government." and three buttons: "Get Started", "Renew Entity", and "Check Registration Status".

Below these sections is a search bar with the text "Already know what you want to find?". It includes a "Select Domain..." dropdown menu and a search input field containing "e.g. 1606N020Q02".

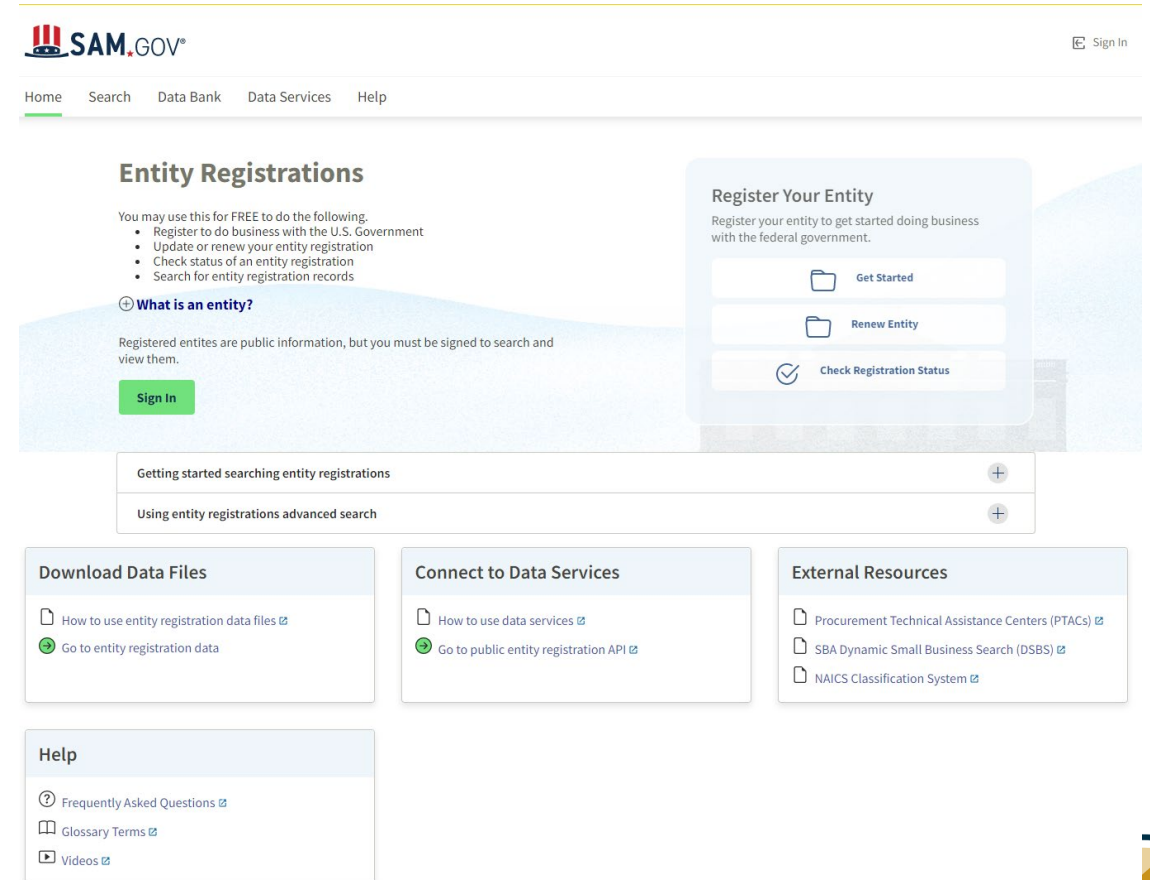
The bottom of the page features two columns of content. The left column, titled "Announcements", contains several news items with dates of May 24, 2021, including "The integration is complete, the wait is over", "Changes for Users of Data Services and System Accounts", "SAM.gov registrations in progress will transfer", "What Search Changes were deployed with SAM Integration?", and "Learn about SAM.gov entity role migration and changes to entity roles". The right column, titled "Have Questions about SAM.gov?", includes a video player for "Get started searching SAM.gov" and a "Frequently Asked Questions" section with four questions: "Do I need a user account?", "What's the difference between signing up and registering?", "What if I already have a login.gov account?", and "What do I need to register my entity?".



# System Requirements for Applicants

## Sam.gov Registration (cont.)

- For sam.gov registration, must:
  - Verify account is active (not expired)
  - Verify POCs are current
- Inactive sam.gov account will delay award process
- [Link: www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov)



The screenshot displays the SAM.GOV website interface. At the top, the SAM.GOV logo is visible on the left, and a "Sign In" link is on the right. Below the logo, a navigation bar includes "Home", "Search", "Data Bank", "Data Services", and "Help". The main content area is titled "Entity Registrations" and includes a "Register Your Entity" section with buttons for "Get Started", "Renew Entity", and "Check Registration Status". A "Sign In" button is also present. Below this, there are expandable sections for "Getting started searching entity registrations" and "Using entity registrations advanced search". At the bottom, there are three columns of links: "Download Data Files" (including "How to use entity registration data files" and "Go to entity registration data"), "Connect to Data Services" (including "How to use data services" and "Go to public entity registration API"), and "External Resources" (including "Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTACs)", "SBA Dynamic Small Business Search (DSBS)", and "NAICS Classification System"). A "Help" section at the bottom left contains links for "Frequently Asked Questions", "Glossary Terms", and "Videos".



# Sam.gov User Guide

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## How to Register Your Entity:

[https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd\\_sp?id=gsa\\_index](https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp?id=gsa_index)

### Federal Service Desk

This site is for people who make, receive, and manage federal awards. It provides support for government-wide systems required by federal policy.

**Need help? Get an answer fast!**

Easily find all you need to know about SAM.gov, FPDS.gov, eSRS.gov, and FRS.gov.

**Search Here for Help (User Guides, FAQs, Videos, Definitions)**



### Learn How to Register Your Entity

Get Started with Your  
Registration

Check Registration Status

Update Your Registration

Become an Entity  
Administrator

Search Entities and Exclusions

Access User Guides



# System Requirements for Applicants

Grants.gov

- Register for grants.gov early
- UEI number needed to register
- Grants.gov “How To” webinar
  - Posted on the WaterSMART website, or <https://youtu.be/uhETFM21HM4>

How to use 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](#)

A screenshot of the Grants.gov website homepage. The header features the Grants.gov logo and the tagline "FIND. APPLY. SUCCEED." Below the header is a navigation menu with "HOME", "LEARN GRANTS", "SEARCH GRANTS", and "APPLICANTS". A red banner below the menu contains a flag icon and the text: "Starting April 4, 2022, the UEI (SAM) will be required for all applicant's UEI within Grants.gov." The main content area has a dark background with the text "Convenience Comes to Federal Grants" and "Download the Grants.gov Mobile App to search and submit on the go." At the bottom of this section are two buttons: "Download on the App Store" and "GET IT ON Google Play". The background of the main content area shows a laptop keyboard and a pair of glasses.



# System Requirements for Applicants

## Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP)

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- Recipient is required to register with ASAP
  - ASAP registration must be completed and active before proceeding with the grant award process
  - ASAP used by Recipient to drawdown funds and track grant award account balances
- To begin process of registering for ASAP with Reclamation, send email to: [shadro-ASAP\\_ENR@usbr.gov](mailto:shadro-ASAP_ENR@usbr.gov)
- If already registered – you still must register specifically with Reclamation to be awarded funds
  - Not registering in a timely manner will delay the awarding of a grant
- This is a multi-step process with specific deadlines to complete each step
  - Not completing a step by due date will force a restart of the entire process



# System Requirements for Applicants

## Automated Standard Application for Registration (ASAP)

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- For existing ASAP registrations
  - Verify account is active (not expired)
  - Verify the POCs are current
  - Verify that someone from your organization can login and access the ASAP account
- Questions about the registration process can be submitted via email to: [sha-dro-ASAP\\_ENR@usbr.gov](mailto:sha-dro-ASAP_ENR@usbr.gov)



Automated  
Standard Application for Payments - on the Web





# ASAP – Already registered?

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- If you have an active/existing ASAP registration
  - Verify the POCS are current/updated
  - Verify that someone from your organization is able to login and access your ASAP account
- Questions about the registration process can be submitted via email to: [sha-dro-ASAP\\_ENR@usbr.gov](mailto:sha-dro-ASAP_ENR@usbr.gov)

ASAP help desk 855-868-0151





# System Requirements for Applicants

## GrantSolutions

- Applications submitted through grants.gov feeds to GrantSolutions
- If selected, applicants must register in GrantSolutions

The screenshot shows the GrantSolutions login interface. At the top left is the GrantSolutions logo with the tagline 'PARTNERS IN INNOVATION'. To the right is a navigation menu with links for ABOUT, BENEFITS, SERVICES, PARTNERS, and NEWS. Below the navigation is a horizontal bar with a blue gradient. The main content area is divided into three sections. On the left is the 'Login' section, which includes a heading, a sub-heading 'Login using any of the following services', and two input fields for 'GrantSolutions Username' and 'GrantSolutions Password'. A blue 'Submit' button is positioned below the password field. Below the input fields are links for 'Forgot username or password?' and 'Dont have a GrantSolutions account? Request new user account.'. In the center is a vertical line with the word 'OR' at the bottom. To the right of the line are two buttons: 'LOGIN.GOV for Recipients & Grantors' and 'AMS for Grantors'. On the right side of the page is a 'GrantSolutions Updates' section with text about standard downtimes and a 'Next Planned Downtime: September 2nd, 2021.' Below this is a 'Current Issues' section with the text '5 Known Issues'.



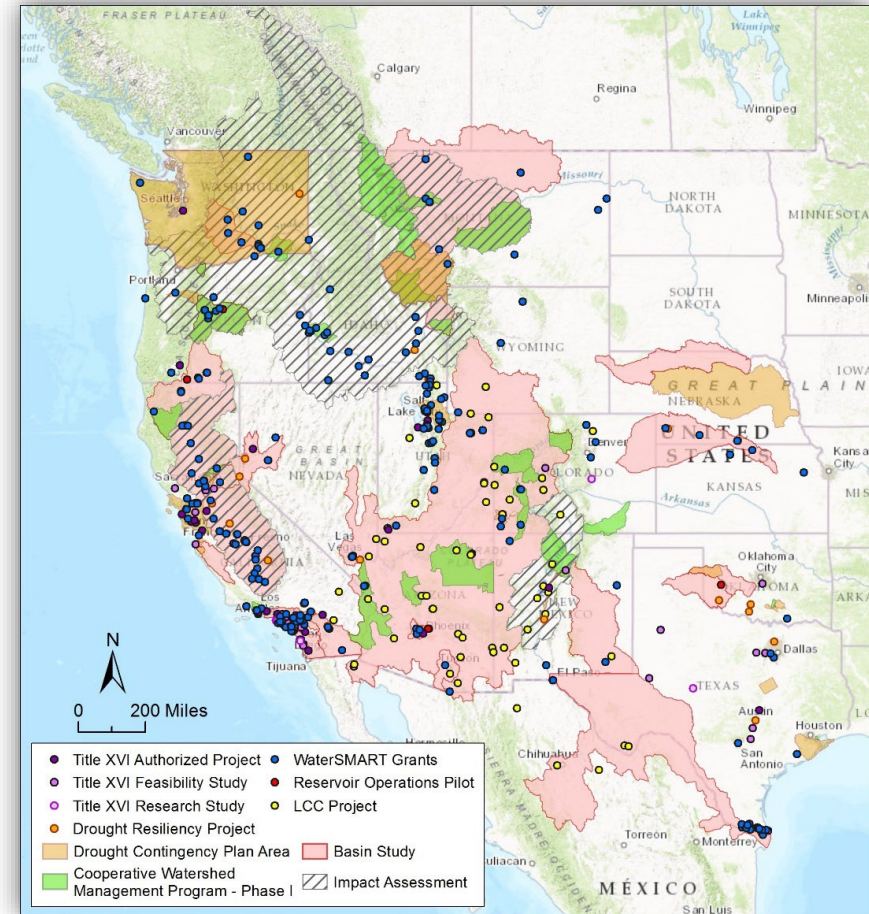
# Program Resources

## WaterSMART Data Visualization Tool

• Data Visualization Tool is an interactive website with program information including:

- Interactive maps
- Featured project tours
- Program growth over time

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



# Program Resources

## Other

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- WaterSMART Program Website:  
<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/index.html>
  - Successful proposals are available on the website for each program
- For information about upcoming WaterSMART Funding Opportunities, sign up at [www.usbr.gov/watersmart](http://www.usbr.gov/watersmart)
- Debriefings for unsuccessful applicants



# Program Resources

## WaterSMART Schedule

Program	Funding Opportunity	Post Date	Close Date
Drought Response Program	Drought Contingency Planning FY 2022	Posted on February 15,2022	April 14,2022
	Drought Resiliency Projects FY 2023	Posted on March 24, 2022	June 15, 2022
	Emergency Response Actions	Applications for emergency drought assistance are accepted on an ongoing basis	
WaterSMART Grants	Water and Energy Efficiency Grants FY 2023	Posted on May 2, 2022	July 28, 2022
	Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects FY 2022	Posted on February 24,2022	April 28,2022
	Water Marketing Strategy Grants	Expected November 2022	Expected January 2023
Environmental Water Resource Projects	Environmental Water Resources Projects FY 2023	Expected fall 2022	Expected fall 2022





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Questions?

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