

Water SMART Program Water and Energy Efficiency Grants & Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

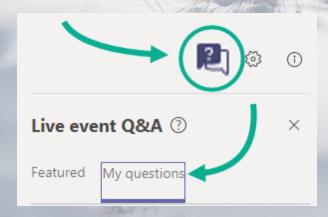
Water Resources and Planning Office Financial Assistance Operations Office August 29, 2024

Getting Started

- To watch the recording, use the same link at this meeting.
- 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

- Brandi Worthington (WEEG)
- Lucia Schurr (SWEP)

Financial Assistance Operations

Devin Baez



Agenda Overview

- Eligible Applicants
- Eligible Projects
- FY25 SWEP
 - Program Funding
 - Evaluation Criteria
- FY25 WEEG
 - Program Funding
 - Evaluation Criteria
- Application Tips
- Financial Assistance 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*

Funding is allocated through annual competitive processes





WEEG & SWEP Applicant Eligibility

Eligible Applicants

Category A:

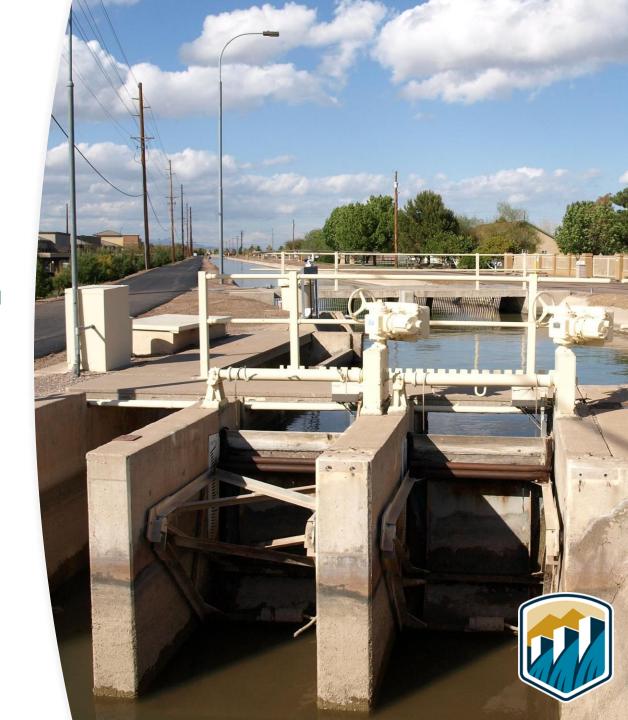
- States, Indian Tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts;
- State, regional, or local authorities, whose members include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; and
- Other organizations with water or power delivery authority.

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.



Category B – Partnership Letter

Category B applicants should include with their application a letter from the Category A partner, stating that the Category A partner:

- 1. Is acting in partnership with the applicant;
- 2. Agrees to the submittal and content of the application; and
- 3. Intends to participate in the project in some way, for example, by providing input, feedback, or other support for the project.

Note: Partners do not necessarily need to contribute cost share funding.



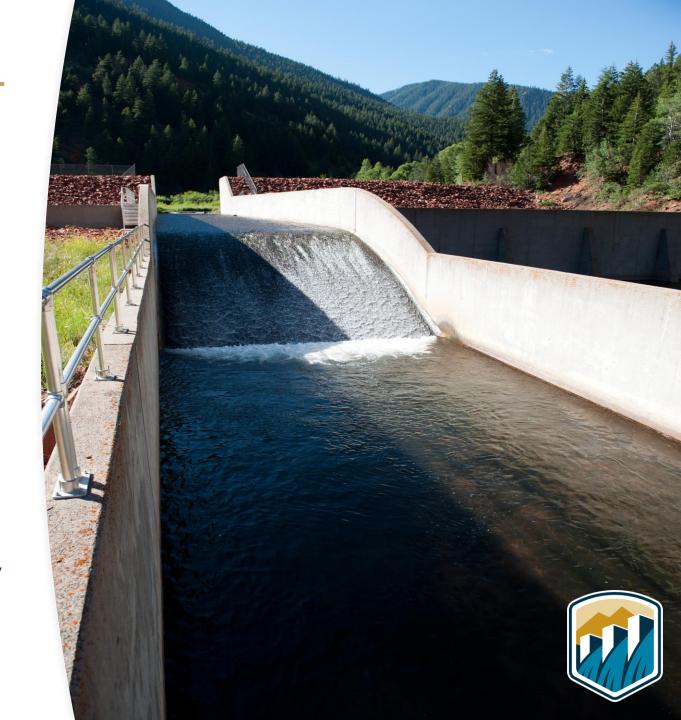
WEEG & SWEP Project Eligibility

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 (WEEG ONLY)
 - Hydropower
 - Solar, wind energy

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

Ineligible Projects (Section C.5.)



Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects Program Funding

Funding

- Up to \$125k in Reclamation funds for 2-year projects
- Total project costs not exceeding \$250k
 - Total project cost must include materials and the installation of materials
- 50% non-Federal cost share

Applications Due:

- Application Period 3: January 14, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. MST
- Application Period 4: July 8, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. MDT



Evaluation Criteria 15% 5% 35% 25% ■ Criterion A. Project Benefits ■ Criterion B. Planning Efforts Supporting the Project Criterion C. Project Implementation ■ Criterion D. Nexus to Reclamation ■ Criterion E. Presidential and Department of Interior Priorities



Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects Evaluation Criteria

Criterion A – Project Benefits (35 points)

- Discuss
 - Benefits to Category A Applicant's water supply delivery system
 - Other benefits (e.g., broader benefits to supply reliability, increasing collaboration, benefits to other sectors, collaboration with NRCS)
- Does not require quantification of water savings, but do explain the significance of the benefits

Criterion B – Planning Efforts Supporting the Project (25 points)

- Prioritizes projects that are identified through local planning efforts and meet local needs
- Discuss
 - How was the plan developed?
 - How is the project supported by the plan?



Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects Evaluation Criteria

Criterion C – Project Implementation (20 points)

- Describe implementation plan including schedule and milestones
- Discuss required permits and compliance, describe any engineering and design work that has been performed
- Discuss any engineering or design work performed specifically in support of the proposed project and if additional engineering or design work is needed

Criterion D – Nexus to Reclamation (5 points)

• Describe the connection to Reclamation project activities and facilities, if applicable.



Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects *Evaluation Criteria*

Evaluation Criterion E – Presidential and Department of the Interior Priorities (15 Points)

- Points will be awarded based on the extent that the project demonstrates support for the Biden-Harris Administration's priorities, including E.O. 14008: <u>Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad</u>, E.O. 13985: <u>Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government</u>, and the President's memorandum, <u>Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to Nation Relationships</u>.
- Sub-criterion No. E1: Climate Change
- Sub-criterion No. E2: Disadvantaged or Underserved Communities
- Sub-criterion No. E.3: Tribal Benefits

<u>Note:</u> We require applicants to utilize the White House Council on Environmental Quality's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool to discover how communities in their project area may be classified as disadvantaged or underserved. <u>Explore the map - Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool (geoplatform.gov)</u>

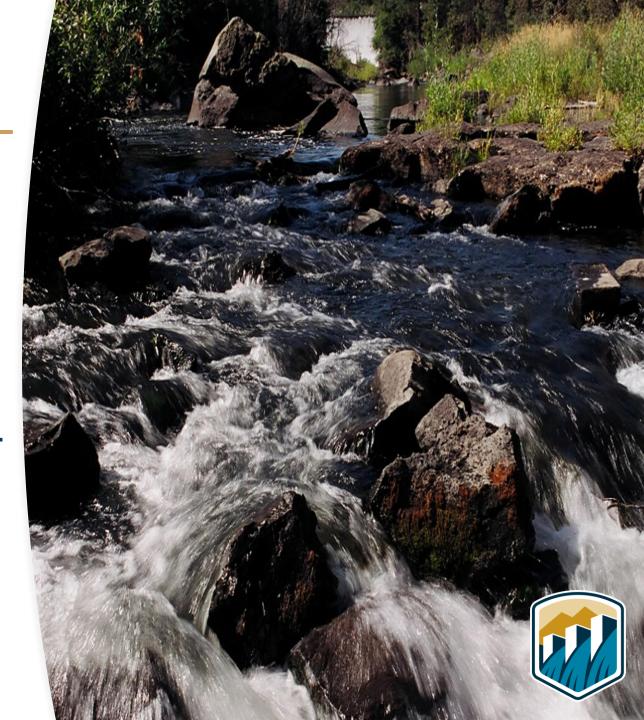
Water and Energy Efficiency Grants Program Funding

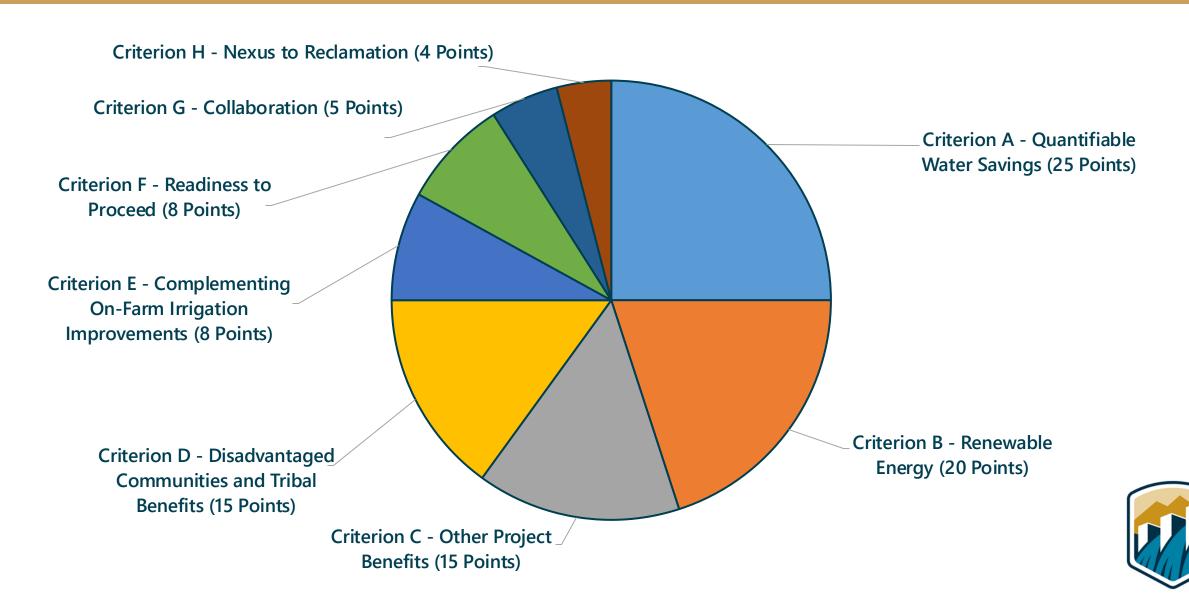
Funding

- 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

Closing Date:

November 13th, 2024 – 4:00 pm MDT





Criterion A – Quantifiable Water Savings (25 points)

- Describe the amount of estimated water savings
 - Provide specific amount
 - Provide documentation/support for estimate
- Describe current losses
- Address project-type specific questions

Criterion B – Renewable Energy (20 points)

- B1 Implementing renewable energy component related to water management and delivery (if applicable). Discuss:
 - Amount of energy capacity
 - Amount of energy generated
- B2 And or Increasing Energy Efficiency in Water Management
 - Quantified energy savings
 - Reduced greenhouse gas emissions



Criterion C – Other Project Benefits (15 points)

- Describe:
 - Resilience and sustainability benefits How the project will address a specific water and or energy sustainability concern
 - Ecological benefits How the project will result in ecological benefits
 - Climate Change benefit How the project helps communities adapt to drought reliance or improve ecological resiliency to climate change

Criterion D – Disadvantaged Communities and Tribal Benefits

(15 points)

- Describe project benefits to disadvantaged communities, insular areas, and tribal communities, if applicable
- Note: Please use the White House Council on Environmental Quality's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool to discover how communities in their project area may be classified as disadvantaged or underserved. Explore the map -Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool (geoplatform.gov)

Criterion E – Complementing On-Farm Irrigation Improvements

(8 points)

- Describe how project will complement on-farm irrigation improvements eligible for NRCS financial or technical assistance, if applicable
 - Note: On-farm improvements themselves are not eligible activities for funding under this NOFO

Criterion F – Readiness to Proceed (8 points)

- Describe implementation plan including schedule, milestones, and budget
- Discuss required permits and compliance
- Discuss any engineering or design work performed specifically in support of the proposed project and if additional engineering or design work is needed



Criterion G – Collaboration (5 points)

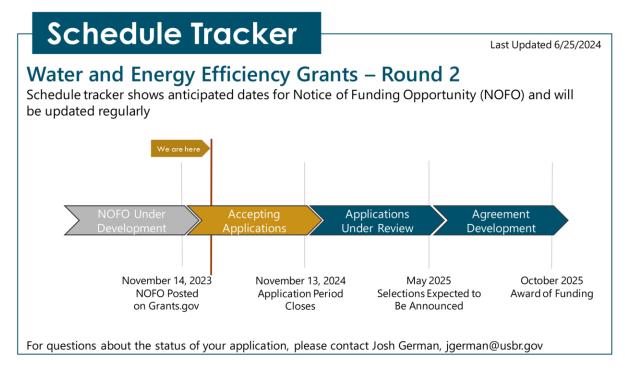
- Describe prior and planned outreach and collaboration on this project
- Include letters of support from relevant stakeholders

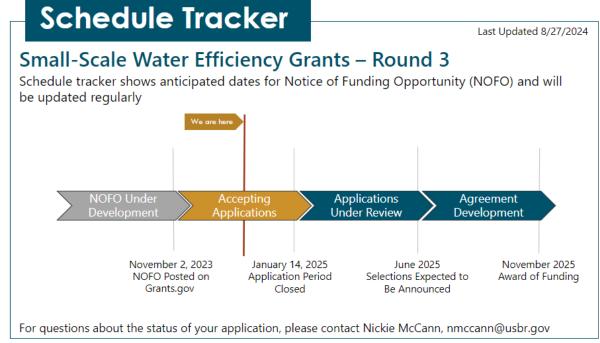
Criterion H – Nexus to Reclamation (4 points)

• Describe the connection to Reclamation project activities and facilities, if applicable.

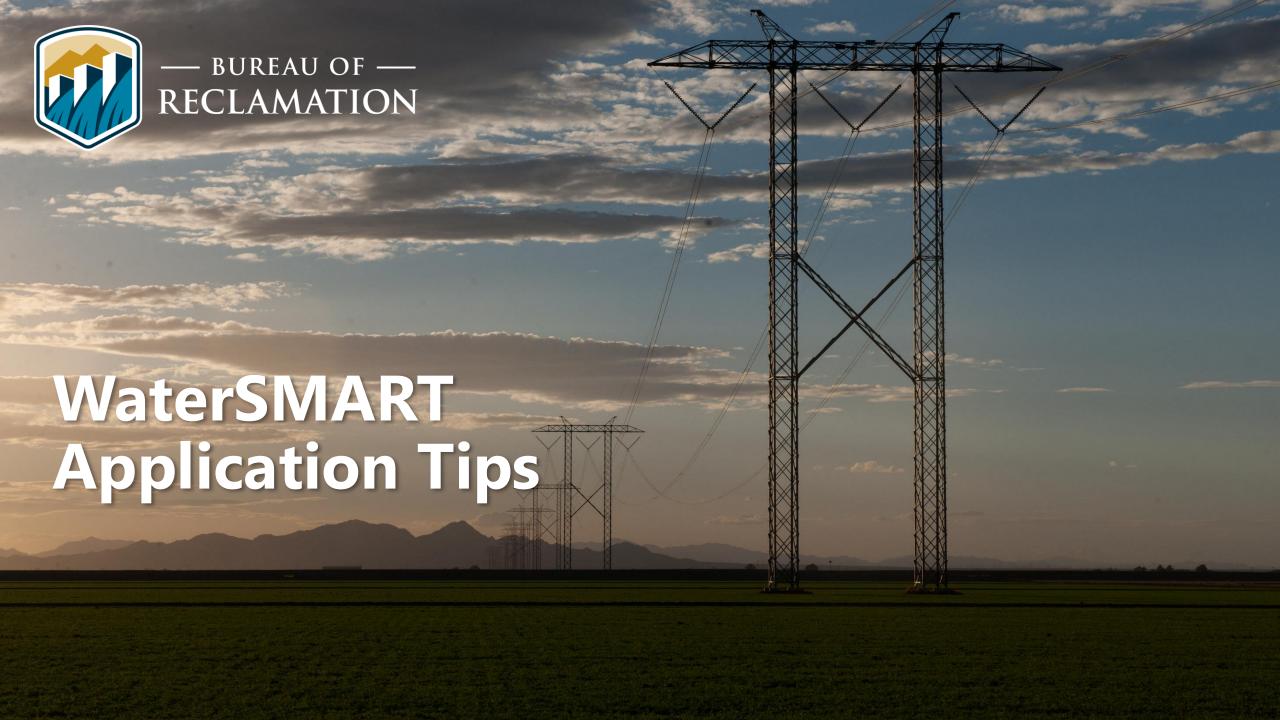


WaterSMART Selection Process









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.
 - Look at past successful applications at www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART
- Do not assume the Application Review Committee knows you.
 - Committee is comprised of Reclamation staff from throughout the Western states.
- If your application is not awarded, ask for a debriefing to help prepare a better proposal next year.



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
- Application Tip: Well-supported responses to the evaluation criteria are the key to writing a competitive proposal





Environmental and Cultural Resource Compliance

- All projects funded through WaterSMART funding opportunities must comply with Federal environmental and cultural resources laws and regulations. Reclamation regional and area office staff will ensure compliance.
- This compliance must occur prior to any ground-disturbing activities taking place, including installation of any equipment or monitoring devices
- We highly recommend you discuss your project with compliance staff at your local Reclamation regional or area office. If you are uncertain who to contact, please contact the Program Coordinator identified in Section G of the funding opportunity.



Before you Begin

Register in SAM.gov

Account Set Up

- "Sign Up" in Sam.gov (Login.gov)
- Obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)
- Register Entity in SAM.gov
- Entity Registration Checklist
- If you have difficulties document communications with help desk.
- Include communications with your application

NOTE: For all new registrants, creating the account with SAM.gov may take up to several weeks for the account to be approved and considered as ACTIVE!

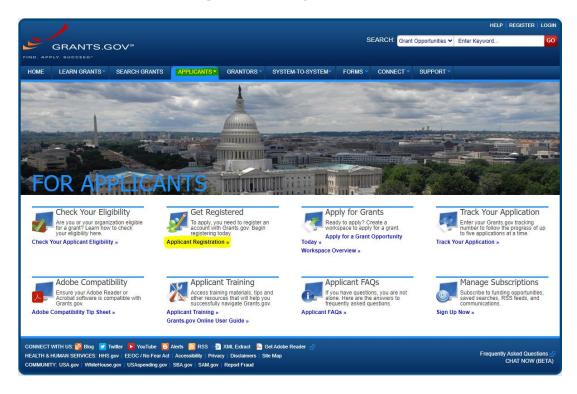




Before you Begin

Register in Grants.gov

- Grant Applicants | GRANTS.GOV
- Applicant Registration | GRANTS.GOV







Application Tips Where to Start

Start at www.grants.gov

Search Grants



Help Register Login

Home Learn Grants ∨ Search Grants Applicants ∨ Grantors ∨ System-To-System ∨ Forms ∨ Connect ∨ Support ∨

1 Informative status

Welcome to the new & improved Grants.gov! The Grants.gov web interface has been updated to provide a more intuitive and responsive user experience. This is the first step in a series of upcoming improvements. You can learn more by checking out our latest blog post. Please provide your feedback to help with future improvements.

Your Team. Your Workspace.

Applying for a funding opportunity is easier and more efficient when your team collaborates. Grants.gov Workspace makes it possible.

Apply for a Grant Using Workspace

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

Info webinar available at www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART

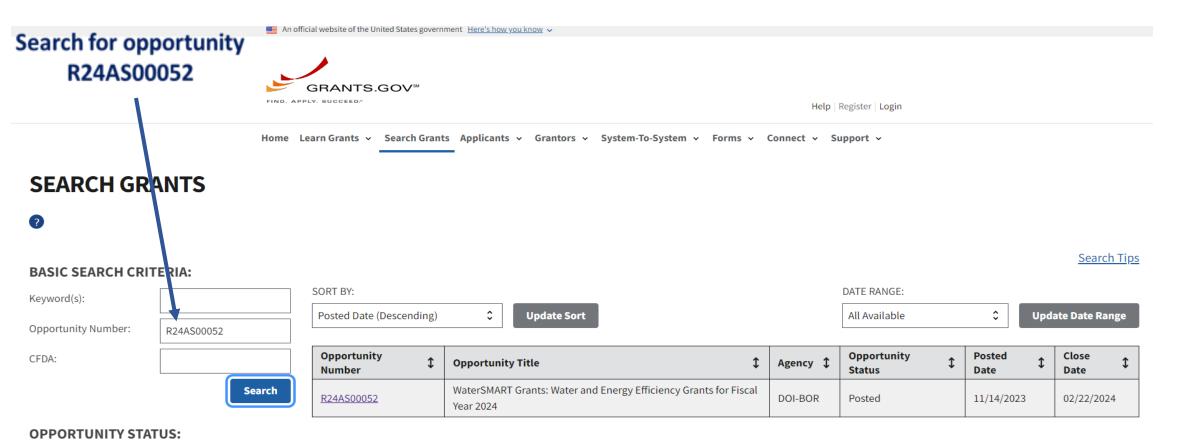


Where to Start

Forecasted (0)

Posted (1)

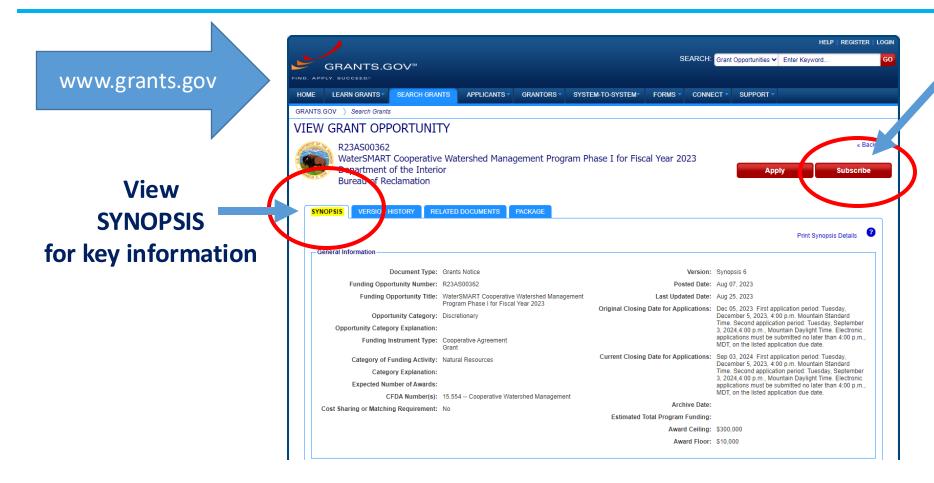
Archived (0)





View Grant Opportunity

Synopsis



PLEASE SUBSCRIBE
To receive notifications
of any changes

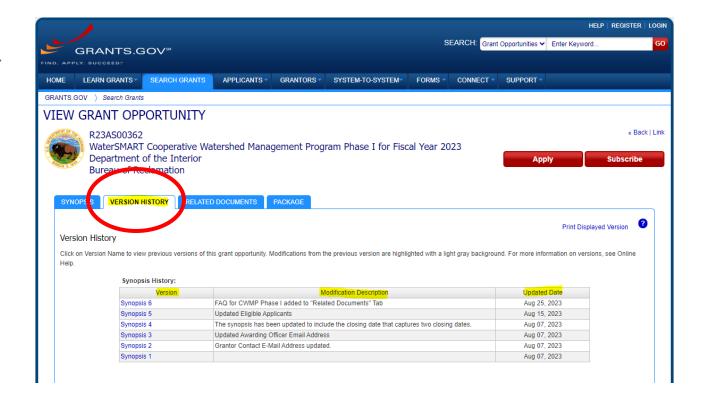


View Grant Opportunity

Version History

www.grants.gov

View
VERSION HISTORY
for
older Versions
and
Modifications





View Grant Opportunity

Related Documents

VIEW GRANT OPPORTUNITY

R24AS00052

WaterSMART Grants: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for Fiscal Year 2024

Department of the Interior

Bureau of Reclamation

SYNOPSIS

VERSION HISTORY



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

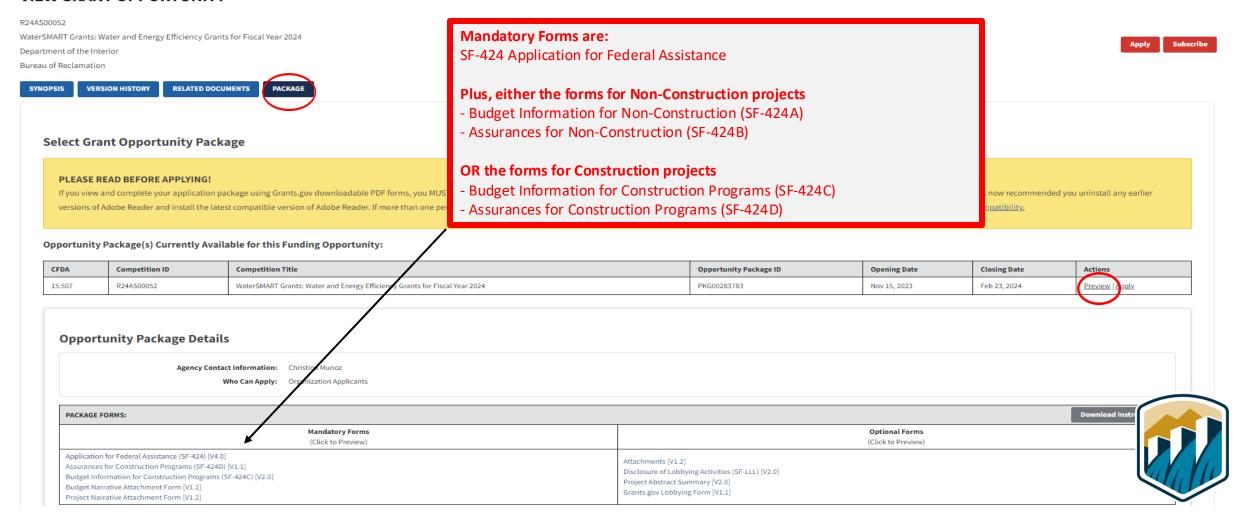
File Description	File Name	Last Updated Date/Time	File Size
* Folder: Full Announcement - Full Announcement	R24AS00052-Full Announcement - Full Announcement.zip	Nov 14, 2023 03:19:37 PM EST	1.4 MB
R24AS00052 FY24-FY25 WEEG NOFO Final 110923_508.pdf	R24AS00052 FY24-FY25 WEEG NOFO Final 110923 508.pdf	Nov 14, 2023 03:19:37 PM EST	2.3 MB
▼ Folder: Revised Full Announcement - Revised Full Announcement	R24AS00052-Revised Full Announcement - Revised Full Announcement.zip		NaN MB
* Folder: Other Supporting Documents - Other Supporting Documents	R24AS00052-Other Supporting Documents - Other Supporting Documents.zip	Nov 14, 2023 03:20:42 PM EST	322.6 KB
Attachment A - Budget Narrative Guidance.pdf	Attachment A - Budget Narrative Guidance.pdf	Nov 14, 2023 03:19:51 PM EST	232.1 KB
Attachment B - Budget Detail and Narrative template.xlsx	Attachment B - Budget Detail and Narrative template.xlsx	Nov 14, 2023 03:20:01 PM EST	83.4 KB
NOFO Frequently Asked Questions.docx	NOFO Frequently Asked Questions.docx	Nov 14, 2023 03:20:42 PM EST	30.0 KB





View Grant Opportunity Package

VIEW GRANT OPPORTUNITY



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.		al services.								
Personnel											
Position Title	Time (Hrs or %)	Rate (Hr or Salary)	Total Cost	Rate E	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					s position
EXAMPLE!!! Sr. Engineer Y2	400	\$48	\$19,000	Current Salary +	3% increase	Increase based on the average annual increase for all personnel occupying the position			occupying this		
			\$0								
			\$0								
			\$0								
			\$0								
			\$0								
			\$0								
			\$0								
Total \$0											



Application Tips Before you Submit

Verify that your Application is Complete!

- SAM.gov Registration is ACTIVE
- Grants.gov Registration account set up
- **SF-424** (remember signature)
- SF-424A and SF-424C (Non-Construction projects)
- SF-424B and SF-424D (Construction projects)
- Technical Proposal (<u>» Project Narrative Attachment Form [V1.2]</u>)
- Budget Narrative (<u>» Budget Narrative Attachment Form [V1.2]</u> **Budget Narrative or Budget Detail and Narrative Excel)**





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, and
 - 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 successful applicants regarding next steps for entering into a Financial Assistance award.



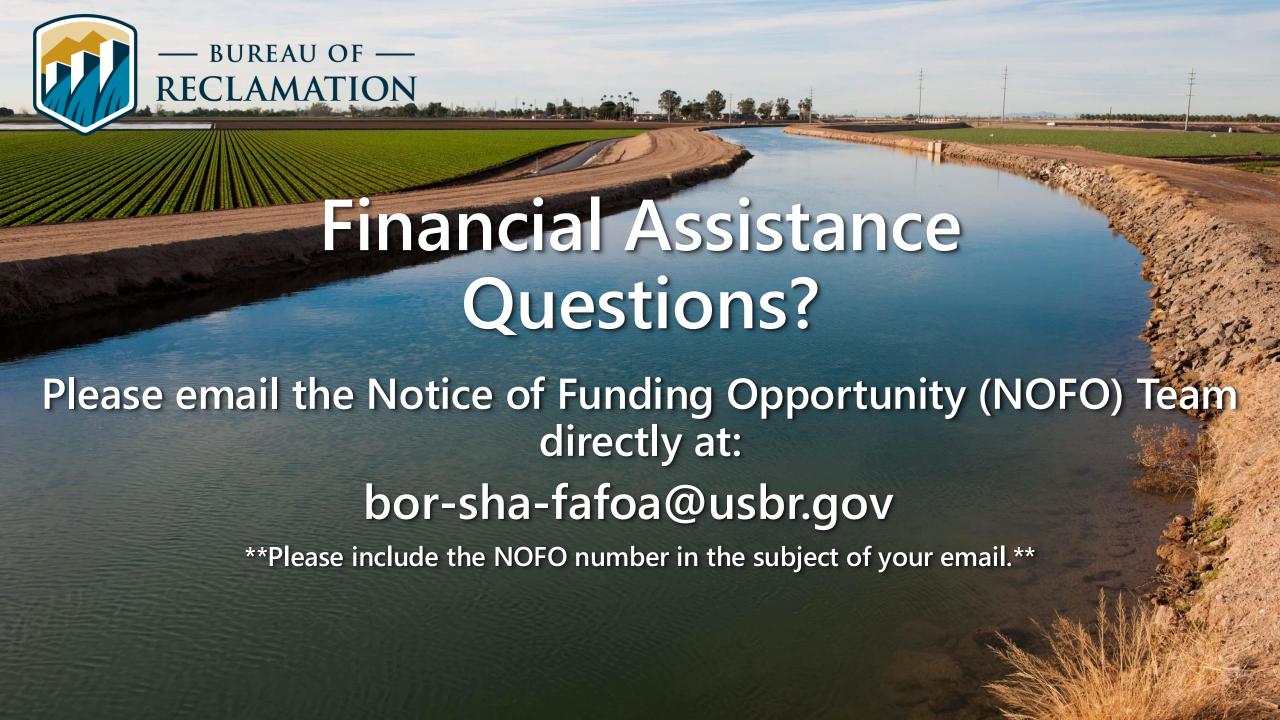
Pre-award Documentation

What to expect if selected for funding

You may be asked to provide:

- Additional budget clarifications
- Pre-award system survey (if no audit is required) or single audit if not available on the Federal Audit Clearinghouse
- Cost-share documentation
- Explanation of requested pre-award costs
- All reports up to date on other Reclamation awards





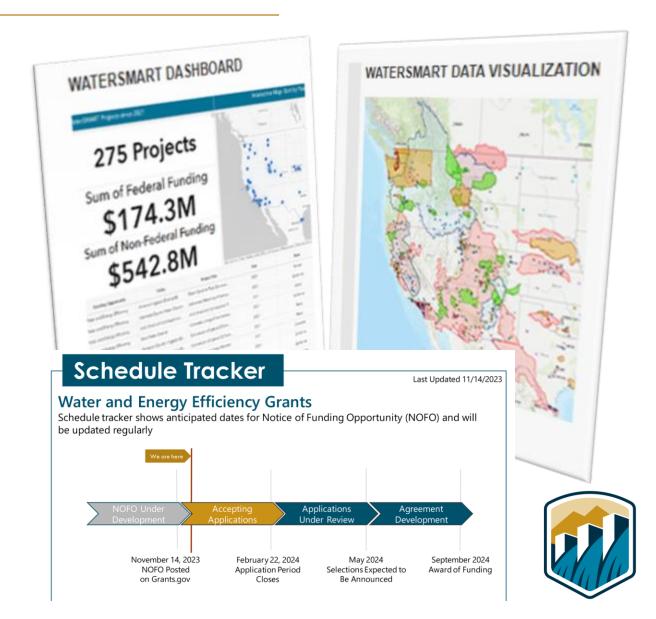


WaterSMART Program Resources

- WaterSMART Program Website: https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart
 - Previously funded applications for all programs
 - Interactive Data Visualization Tool
 - WaterSMART Dashboard
 - Funding opportunity calendar and status tracking
 - WaterSMART mailing list
 - Recent announcements



www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART



WaterSMART Program Resources

Additional Resources

- All open Funding Opportunities can be found at: <u>www.grants.gov</u>
 - 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
- Debriefings for past (unsuccessful) applicants: <u>Bookings website</u>





Questions?

Water Resources and Planning Office

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Financial Assistance Office

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