

Bureau of Reclamation

Notice of Funding Opportunity

WaterSMART: Applied Science Grants

Funding Opportunity Number

R25AS00280

Table of Contents

BASIC INFORMATION.....	1
ELIGIBILITY	3
Cost Sharing Requirement	3
GET READY TO APPLY	4
Required System Registrations	4
PROGRAM OVERVIEW	5
Program Goals.....	5
Program Description	5
Legislative Authority	7
Type of Award	8
PREPARE YOUR APPLICATION	8
Application Content and Format.....	8
Application Documents.....	8
SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES	13
Address to Request Application Package	13
Submission Dates and Times	13
Submission Instructions	14
APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION.....	14
Eligibility Review	15
Merit Review.....	15
Review and Selection Process.....	20
Risk Review	21
AWARD NOTICES	21
POST AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION	22
Administration and National Policy Requirements	22
Reporting.....	25

BASIC INFORMATION

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: R25AS00280

Assistance Listing Number(s): 15.557

Estimated Total Program Funding: \$6,000,000

Expected Number of Awards: 20

Award Ceiling: \$400,000

Award Floor: \$0

The Applied Science expects to make \$6M available under this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). The Bureau of Reclamation anticipates 20 awards, with individual award amounts ranging from \$0 to \$400,000.

Funding is contingent upon annual appropriations and apportionment. To assist applicants in planning, the Bureau of Reclamation provides the following informational breakdown of anticipated availability:

FY 2024: Up to \$3M

FY 2025: Up to \$3M

Cost Sharing Required?

Yes

Closing Date Explanation

First application July 8, 2026, at 5:00pm MDT

Second application : April 13, 2027, 5:00PM MDT

OMB Control Number:

Have Questions?

For questions regarding application submission, contact the Grants Officer, Matt Stonebridge MStonebridge@usbr.gov, 303-445-2029

For questions regarding applicant and project eligibility or application content, contact the Program Coordinator, Ms. Stephanie Hellekson, shellekson@usbr.gov, 720-799-3158.

Please include the NOFO number R25AS00280 in the subject line of any email correspondence.

Executive Summary

Through WaterSMART, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) leverages Federal and non-Federal funding to work cooperatively with States, Tribes, and local entities as they plan and implement actions to increase water supply and hydropower reliability. The WaterSMART Program demonstrably advances Trump administration priorities, such as those identified in Presidential Executive Order 14154 (January 20, 2025): Unleashing American Energy (E.O. 14154) and Secretarial Order 3418, and aligns with other priorities and requirements, such as those identified in Presidential Executive Order 14332 (August 7, 2025): Improving Oversight in Federal Grantmaking (E.O. 14332). The goal of the WaterSMART Applied Science Grants (ASG) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is to invite eligible entities to apply for funding to improve access to and use of hydrologic data, develop and improve water management tools, and improve hydrologic modeling and forecasting capabilities.

Water managers and reservoir operators rely on hydrologic data, modeling, and water supply forecasts to make decisions to meet future water demands. Water supply forecasts are estimates

of current and future water supplies based on measured basin conditions (e.g., such as the quantity of upstream mountain snowpack). Results from these projects will be used by water managers to increase water supply reliability to meet water delivery requirements (e.g., compacts, decrees, etc.), provide flexibility in water operations to be more resilient during droughts, and enhance water supply forecasts to better predict floods and optimize limited water supplies. Example projects include improving operational models for irrigation water deliveries or reservoir operations, improving the use of snow monitoring technologies to enhance the skill of water supply forecasts, and improving data acquisition, data analysis, and data delivery, including the development of hydrologic databases.

The ASG NOFO will build on and complement projects funded under the Snow Water Supply Forecasting Funding Opportunity by providing funding for applicants to improve the integration of innovative snow measurement data into water supply forecasts.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Applicants

Others (see text field entitled "Additional Information on Eligibility" for clarification)

Additional Information on Eligibility

Category A Applicants:

- States, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, 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 be located in the Western United States or United States Territories, including 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 Applicants:

Universities, nonprofit research institutions, nonprofit organizations, and Federally-funded research and development centers that are acting in partnership with the agreement of an entity described in Category A. All Category B applicants must be in the United States or the specific Territories identified above.

Ineligible Applicants:

Those not eligible include the following entities:

- Federal Governmental Entities
- Individuals
- Commercial/industrial organizations
- Private entities

Cost Sharing Requirement

Cost Sharing Required?

Yes

At the time of award, applicants must cost share at least 50 percent of the total project cost. For example, if the total project cost on the SF-424A is \$800,000, the minimum amount of non-Federal cost share would be \$400,000. All cost-share contributions must be from a non-Federal source and meet the requirements of [2 CFR 200.306](#).

Total Project Cost on the SF-424A	\$800,000
Minimum required cost share	50%
Applicant non-Federal cost share	\$400,000
Federal share	\$400,000

Applicants must be capable of cost sharing 50 percent of the total project costs. The total project cost is defined as the total allowable costs incurred under a Federal award and all required cost share and voluntary committed cost share contributions, including third-party contributions.

Cost share may be made through cash, costs contributed by the applicant, or third-party in-kind contributions. Third-party in-kind contributions include the value of non-cash contributions of property or services that benefit the federally assisted project and are contributed by non-Federal third parties, without charge. Cost-share funding from sources outside the applicant's organization (e.g., loans or state grants) should be secured and available to the applicant prior to award.

Other sources of Federal funding may not be counted towards the required cost share. The exception to this requirement is where the Federal statute authorizing a program specifically provides that Federal funds made available for such program can be applied to matching or cost sharing requirements of other Federal programs, such as awards to tribal organizations under P.L. 93-638, as amended. If it is determined that the Federal funding cannot be applied towards the non-Federal cost share, the work associated with the funding may be removed from the proposed project.

GET READY TO APPLY

Required System Registrations

Unique Entity Identifier and SAM.gov Registration

Before applying, all **applicants** except individuals applying as a natural person **must be registered in SAM.gov**. During the SAM.gov registration the entity will obtain their Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

The SAM.gov registration process can take several months. If your organization is not already registered in SAM.gov, begin the registration process as soon as possible.

To register in SAM.gov, go to the [SAM.gov website](#) and use the available resources to complete registration.

- **Financial assistance registrants** must review and certify compliance with the SAM.gov "Financial Assistance General Representations and Certifications".
- **Already registered?** You already have a Unique Entity ID. Before applying, check that your "Financial Assistance General Representations and Certifications" on SAM.gov is complete. Remember to renew your registration every year to keep it active while you

have an award or application in progress. You can update your registration whenever you need, including during renewal.

- **Need help?** For additional information and contact information on the [SAM.gov Help page](#).

GRANTS.GOV

This program accepts applications through [Grants.gov](#) so once you receive your UEI return to Grants.gov to [register](#) with Grants.gov. Please allow 30 days to register and set up a Workspace in Grants.gov. See [Submission Instructions](#) section below for additional details.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Program Goals

- Through WaterSMART, Reclamation leverages Federal and non-Federal funding to work cooperatively with States, Tribes, and local entities as they plan for and implement actions to increase water supply reliability through investments in existing infrastructure and attention to local water conflicts.

The objective of the WaterSMART Applied Science Grants is to provide funding to non-Federal entities for the development of tools and information to support water management. Eligible projects include the development of modeling and forecasting tools, hydrologic data platforms, and new data sets.

Program Description

Applied Science Grants provide water management tools for increased access to information and improved modeling and forecasting capabilities to help avoid water conflicts and improve our ability to meet a variety of water management objectives, including but not limited to: support for water supply reliability, forecasting skill, flexibility in water operations, water deliveries and drought management activities, and watershed health.

Certified Local Governments are encouraged to prioritize projects in support of the celebration of America's 250th birthday (American250). This may include, but is not limited to, preservation 2 planning, interpretation, public engagement, and rehabilitation projects that recognize and honor the nation's founding, history, and cultural heritage.

Eligible Projects

To be eligible, Projects must:

- be for the use and benefit of water managers located in 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 or Puerto Rico,
 - be based on known and available (or "mature") technologies and may not include the development of new or novel methods or technologies; and
- support one or more of the following water management objectives:
- increase water yield
 - ensure water supply reliability
 - improve water deliveries
 - improve drought management

- flexibility in water operations
- enhance water supply forecast skill
- improve watershed health.

Proposed projects will be reviewed by the Program Office to determine whether the project is eligible for evaluation. Projects must support the types of water management objectives described in the bullets immediately above and may include but are not limited to:

Modeling: Eligible projects can include the development or enhancement of existing hydrologic models to improve management of water resources and include model validation and analysis of model produced data. Modeling tool projects should be for the improvement of water supply reliability and be developed for use by water managers to help meet constraints or requirements (e.g., water delivery, administrative, hydrologic scenarios, or endangered species requirements). Projects may include improvements to the spatial and temporal resolution of a model, improvements to model calibration, enhancements to make a model more interactive and agile so that it can be used to answer specific questions as they arise, or other enhancements to modeling tools. Projects could include improvements to hydrologic models, reservoir operations models, or other types of water management models to understand natural processes. Projects may also include costs to obtain training on how to use new tools and software.

Forecasting: Eligible projects can include the development, improvement, or adaptation of forecasting tools and technologies to enhance management of water supplies and reservoir operations. Improving water supply forecasts can assist water managers to better predict the severity of droughts or floods and can improve estimates of water available for delivery from reservoirs to water users. Projects can include developing or adapting forecasting tools to meet the needs of water managers. Forecasting projects can be used to optimize operations and improve water management, including projects that support the use of forecast informed reservoir operations (FIRO), help water managers manage risks, and inform water allocation strategies, or even water marketing. Applicants are encouraged to explore whether there are existing data sets and forecast products that may be leveraged. Projects may also include costs to obtain training on how to use new tools and software. Note: Applicants must demonstrate how the forecast or data will be used to enhance management of water supplies and reservoir operations, for example, by using the tool in connection with an operations model.

Enhancing Water Supply Forecasting with Snow Measurement Data: Eligible projects can include enhancements of water supply forecasts using snow monitoring technologies. Projects should include the use of information from snow measurement technologies, such as aerial light detection and ranging (LiDAR) snow surveys, in snowpack volume estimation and water supply forecasting. Projects could include but are not limited to integration of snow survey data into hydrological or statistical forecast models. Note: Applicants must demonstrate how the forecast or data will be used to enhance management of water supplies. Conducting and collecting new snow measurements, such as aerial LiDAR surveys, is not an eligible activity under this NOFO but is eligible under Reclamation's Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program Funding Opportunity.

Data: Eligible projects can include improving access to and use of water resources data or developing new types of data to inform water management decisions. Eligible projects may include improvements to data acquisition, data analysis, and data delivery. Data acquisition projects may include incorporating or developing new or previously unavailable data, such as

remote sensing imagery, hydrologic data acquired using unmanned aerial systems, collection of water quality and temperature data, or paleo reconstructions of naturalized flows, for example. Projects may include developing hydrologic databases or decision support tools that resource managers can use to query or analyze data for to improve water management. Projects may also include improved data delivery, such as making data available to a broader audience, or improvements to make data systems compatible with existing systems (e.g., Federal or State databases). Projects may also include costs to obtain training on how to use new tools and software.

Ineligible Projects

Projects that are not eligible for funding under this NOFO include, but are not limited to:

- projects to research and/or develop new and novel methods or technologies
- planning studies, such as feasibility studies, appraisal investigations, water marketing strategies, and drought contingency plans
- projects to develop or demonstrate tools and technologies supporting water reuse, water recycling, and desalination projects (e.g., projects that are eligible under the Desalination and Water Purification Research funding opportunity)
- projects considered normal operations, maintenance, and replacement (OM&R)
- construction projects to improve water management
- projects funded under other Federal grants: and
- projects that are collecting new snow measurements, such as aerial LiDAR snow surveys.

Multiple Applications

Multiple applications for funding may be submitted for consideration under this funding opportunity, provided that the project scopes are not duplicative. Category B applicants may receive a maximum of up to 3 awards provided that the Category A partner entity for each project is different. In general, if you are seeking funding for multiple project components, and the components are interrelated or closely related, you should combine these in one application. However, if the projects are only loosely related, you should submit them as separate applications.

Technical Assistance

If the proposed project is selected, Reclamation may be able to provide technical assistance or services after award on a fee for service basis. Before applying, discuss the potential for technical assistance with Reclamation and include these costs in the budget. For more information, contact the Program Coordinator identified in the Have Questions section above.

Required Project Components

Applicants whose projects are selected for funding under this NOFO may be asked to participate in at least one Reclamation-sponsored webinar to discuss application of deliverables to management questions. In most cases, the webinar will be scheduled when the final report is ready to be submitted for Reclamation review. The presentation should inform Reclamation about project accomplishments, the final results of the identified tasks, and any lessons learned. This presentation may be open to the public as a webinar and may be recorded and made available on the WaterSMART website.

Legislative Authority

Section 9509 and 9504(b) of the Science and Engineering to Comprehensively Understand and Responsibly Enhance (SECURE) Water Act, Subtitle F of Title IX of the Omnibus Public Land

Management Act of 2009, Public Law (P.L.) 111-11 (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] 10364), as amended.

Type of Award

Projects will be funded through CA (Cooperative Agreement), G (Grant).

Recipient should expect the Federal agency to have substantial involvement in the project.

Awards will be made through grants or cooperative agreements as applicable to each project. If a cooperative agreement is awarded, the recipient should expect Reclamation to have substantial involvement in the project. Substantial involvement by Reclamation may include:

- Collaboration and participation with the successful applicant in the management of the project and close oversight of the successful applicant’s activities to ensure that the program objectives are being achieved.
- Oversight may include review, input, and approval at key interim stages of the project.

PREPARE YOUR APPLICATION

Application Content and Format

Application Documents

Applicants must submit the following forms with their application as specified below. Instructions for accessing and submitting application forms are provided in the [Submission Instructions](#) section of this document below. For instructions on completing form fields, see the form instructions on the [Grants.gov Forms Repository](#).

Forms/Assurances/Certifications	Submission Requirement
SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance Note: For applicants requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funds, the Authorized Representative’s signature (or electronic equivalent) on the Application for Federal Assistance form also represents their certification of the statements in Appendix A to 43 CFR 18-Certification Regarding Lobbying	Required from all applicants
SF-424A, Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs	Required for non-construction projects
SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	Required if requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funds <u>and</u> the applicant has used or plans to use funds other than Federal appropriated funds for lobbying related to the proposed project.
Project Abstract Summary (OMB 4040-0019). Must include, in plain language:	Required from all applicants

Forms/Assurances/Certifications	Submission Requirement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Award purpose, • Activities to be performed, • Expected deliverables or outcomes, • Intended beneficiaries, Subrecipient activities (if known or specified at time of award)	
DOI Research and Development (R&D) – Current and Pending (Other) Support Note: This form is available on the DOI website . Applicants must download the form and include the completed form as an application attachment.	Required for research projects.
DOI Research and Development (R&D) – Biographical Sketch Note: This form is available on the DOI website . Applicants must download the form and include the completed form as an application attachment.	Required for research projects.

Project Narrative

The project narrative, including responses to the merit review criteria (defined below) shall be limited to a maximum of **20** consecutively numbered pages. If this section exceeds **20** pages, only the first **20** pages will be evaluated. **The full application, including all attachments, should not exceed 100 pages. If the application exceeds 100 pages, only the first 100 pages will be considered in the evaluation.**

The font should be at least 12 points in size and easily readable. Page size should be 8½ by 11 inches, including charts, maps, and drawings. Margins should be standard 1-inch margins.

Oversized pages will not be accepted.

Applications will be prescreened for compliance to the page number limitations. Excess pages will be removed and not considered in the evaluation of the proposed project.

Title Page

Provide a brief, informative, and descriptive title for the proposed work that indicates the nature of the project. Include the applicant’s name and address and the project manager’s name and address, email address, and telephone number.

Table of Contents

List all major sections of the proposal in the table of contents.

Executive Summary

The executive summary should include:

- The date, applicant name, city, county, and state.
- A one paragraph project summary that specifies the work proposed, including how funds will be used to accomplish specific project activities and briefly identifies how the proposed project contributes to accomplishing the goals of this NOFO.

Example: *Oklahoma State University, with the support of the Lugert-Altus Irrigation District, the Kansas-Bostwick Irrigation District No. 2, and the Frenchman Cambridge Irrigation District, will incorporate remotely sensed soil moisture data with proven statistical techniques to create seasonal forecasts for rainfall dominated regions of the Great Plains. The project will use remote-sensed soil moisture data, North American Land Data Assimilation System, and NASA's Soil Moisture Active-Passive Satellite. The seasonal forecast tools will inform surface water managers, support improved irrigation water supply management, and enhance the ability of reservoir operators to anticipate and respond to extreme events such as droughts and floods.*

- The length of time and estimated completion date for the proposed project.
- Whether or not the proposed project is located on a Federal facility.

Technical Project Description

The technical project description should describe the work, including specific activities that will be accomplished. As part of this discussion, please address the following:

Applicant Category

Please indicate whether you are a Category A applicant or a Category B applicant and provide a short narrative summary describing how you meet the eligibility requirements of that applicant category.

If you are a Category B applicant, briefly explain how you are acting in partnership with a Category A partner and provide a short narrative summary describing how your partnering entity meets the definition of a Category A entity. In addition, if you are a Category B applicant, you must include a letter from the Category A partner confirming that they are partnering with you and agree to the submittal and content of the application and how they intend to participate in the project (see *Eligible Applicants* above). Category A partner letters must be submitted with the application for Category B applicants to be eligible.

Detailed Project Description: Provide a more comprehensive description of the technical aspects of your project, including the work to be accomplished and the approach to complete the work. This description should provide detailed information about the project, including your methodology and approach, and any models, data, and tools you are using, and the work to be conducted to complete the project. This section provides an opportunity for the applicant to provide a clear description of the technical nature of the project and the work to be performed and to address any aspect of the project that reviewers may need additional information to understand.

Goals: Discuss the preliminary goals and objectives of the project.

Please do not include your project schedule and milestones here; that information is requested in response to the Project Implementation criterion as described in the merit review criteria, *Criterion C* below. In addition, please avoid discussion of the benefits of the project, which are also requested in response to merit review criteria as described in *Criterion A*. This section is solely intended to provide an understanding of the technical aspects of the project and the work to be performed. Please note, if the work for which you are requesting funding is a phase of a larger project, please only describe the work that is reflected in the budget and exclude description of other activities or components of the overall project.

Project Location

Provide specific information regarding the proposed applied science project's geographic area of focus (for example, the proposed project may focus on a particular watershed or basin, county, State, Territory, or another region). Include a map showing the geographic location of the project area in one of the following formats:

1. Shapefile (.shp)
2. KMZ/KML (.kmz or .kml) aka Google Earth File
3. PDF map (.pdf)

Data Management Practices

Any spatially explicit data or tools developed in the performance of an award made under this NOFO must be developed in industry standard formats that are compatible with Geographic Information System (GIS) platforms.

Merit Review Criteria

See the *Merit Review* section below for additional details, including a detailed description of each criterion and subcriterion and points associated with each. The merit review criteria portion of your application should thoroughly address each criterion and subcriterion in the order presented to assist in the complete and accurate evaluation of your proposal.

It is strongly suggested that applicants copy and paste the merit review criteria and subcriteria from the Merit Review Criteria into their applications to ensure that all necessary information is adequately addressed.

Letters of Support

Applicants should include letters of commitment from third-party cost share sources. Letters of commitment should identify the amount of funding committed, the date the funds are available, time constraints on the availability of funds, and any other funding contingencies. Letters of support from interested stakeholders supporting the proposed project are encouraged, if applicable. Reclamation will not consider letters of support received after the application deadline for this NOFO in evaluating an applicant's proposed project. These letters do not count within the NUMBER OF PAGES FOR THE TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION page-maximum.

Letter of Partnership (Category B Applicants)

Category B applicants should submit a letter of partnership from the Category A partner, stating that they are acting in partnership with the applicant and agree to the submittal and content of the application. Ideally, this letter should be included with the application; however, if selected for an award, it must be received before the financial assistance agreement is finalized. Additional information regarding applicant eligibility may be requested during the application review process.

Budget Narrative

Applicants must describe and justify items and costs listed in their budget. The budget narrative must identify the following cost items: total estimated costs, non-Federal cost share, third-party contributions, and any pre-award costs. Total project cost is the sum of all allowable costs, including required and voluntary cost share and third-party contributions.

Budget items must be:

- Reasonable, allowable, allocable, and necessary
- Compliant with [2 CFR §200 Subpart E](#) cost principles

Indirect Costs: Applicants must indicate in their budget narrative how they will charge indirect costs, including the rate to be applied:

- De Minimis Rate: If eligible, state if your organization is opting to use the de minimis rate of up to 15% of total modified direct costs. Entities that do not have a current Federal negotiated indirect cost rate (including provisional rate) may propose to use the de minimis rate. For more information, refer to [2 CFR 200.414\(f\)](#).
- Negotiated Rate: State if you will negotiate with your cognizant agency. If your organization has previously negotiated a rate, attach a copy of the most recently negotiated rate agreement (active or expired).

Applicants must describe and justify items and costs listed in their budget. The budget narrative must identify the following cost items: total estimated costs, non-Federal cost share, third-party contributions, and any pre-award costs. Total project cost is the sum of all allowable costs, including required and voluntary cost share and third-party contributions.

The budget narrative provides a written description of the costs included in each budget category on the SF-424A and how they were estimated. While the SF-424A gives the total cost for each category of the budget, the budget narrative gives the item by item breakdown for each category and shows the calculations used to derive the costs. The budget description serves two purposes: 1) it explains how the costs were estimated, and 2) it justifies the need for the cost. See Attachment A for Budget Narrative Guidance. Attachment B is a suggested format for capturing budget details to support the Narrative.

Pre-award costs (defined at 2 CFR 200.458) are allowed, subject to Grant Officer approval. To be eligible, pre-award costs must be incurred after the posting date of this NOFO [and insert any additional programmatic requirements]. Pre-award costs are at the applicant’s risk. Successful applicants may submit requests for approval of pre-award costs to the awarding Grant Officer.

Program Cost Restrictions

Proposal costs. The costs for preparing and submitting an application in response to this funding opportunity, including developing data necessary to support the proposal, are not eligible project costs and must not be included in the project budget.

Other project costs. 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.

Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Costs

Include costs in the budget for completing compliance activities for Federal environmental and cultural resources laws and regulations. Applicants may contact their [local Reclamation office](#) to discuss the compliance requirements and potential costs. If the project is selected for award, these costs will be reviewed for accuracy and adjusted as needed. See “Administration and National Policy Requirements” for additional detail.

Conflict of Interest and Unresolved Matters Disclosures:

If any actual or potential conflict of interest exists related to this project at the time of application, the applicant must provide sufficient information to support a program determination of significance per [2 CFR 1402.112](#). Refer to [2 CFR 200.112](#) Conflict of Interest and [2 CFR 200.113](#).

Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement:

Applicants must state in their application if the activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel proposed in this application overlap with those in any other Federal proposal or award or not. If no overlap exists, include a statement to that effect. If any overlap exists, provide:

- Activities: Description any overlapping activities.
- Costs: Description of any overlapping costs.
- Time: Description of any overlapping key personnel time.
- A copy of any overlapping or duplicative proposal submitted to any other potential funding entity.
- Details on when any overlapping proposal was submitted, to whom, and the expected date of the funding decision.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

Address to Request Application Package

Grants.gov contains a complete application kit to submit a full application in response to this NOFO. Instructions for the Grants.gov application process are [available here](#). Contact Matt Stonebridge at MStonebridge@usbr.gov or, if you are unable to access the application materials electronically at:

Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Operations Section
Attn: NOFO Team
P.O. Box 25007, MS 84-27133
Denver, CO 80225

Proposals received after the application deadline will not be considered unless it can be determined that the delay was caused by Reclamation or there were technical issues with [Grants.gov](#). To document a delay due to a technical issue in Grants.gov, you must furnish a Grants.gov help desk ticket number to the NOFO team that validates the delay. Difficulties related to an applicant’s Grants.gov profile (e.g., incorrect organizational representative), uploading documents to Grants.gov, or an applicant’s SAM.gov registration are not considered technical issues with the Grants.gov system.

Submission Dates and Times

Closing Date for Applications: 07/08/2026

Closing Date Explanation

First application: July 8, 2026, at 5:00pm MDT

Second application : April 13, 2027, 5:00PM MDT

Submission Instructions

Apply Through Grants.gov

To apply through [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), please follow the instructions in the [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#). Before applying, ensure that at least one person at your organization is registered and has the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR). Only the AOR can submit the application. If you need more users, they must create their own Grants.gov account. Follow these steps below to apply:

- *Create a Workspace:* Creating a workspace allows you to complete it online and route it through your organization for review before submitting.
- *Complete a Workspace:* Invite participants to the workspace so you can collaborate on the application. Required applications forms are included in the Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Package and can be completed in the Workspace, unless noted otherwise in the Required Forms table above. Check for errors before submission.
- *Submit a Workspace:* An application may be submitted through workspace by clicking the Sign and Submit button on the Manage Workspace page, under the Forms tab
- *Track a Workspace Submission:* After successfully submitting a workspace application, a Grants.gov Tracking Number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) is automatically assigned to the application.

The system generates a date and time stamp and sends it to the applicant's AOR via email as proof of submission. Make sure your application passes the Grants.gov validation checks. Do not encrypt, zip, or password-protect any files. Only registered individuals in SAM as both a user and an AOR can submit applications. Please allow 30 days to register in Grants.gov.

Application System Technical Support: For Grants.gov technical registration and submission, downloading forms, and application packages, contact Grants.gov Customer Support at 1-800-518-4726 or by email at Support@grants.gov.

Applicants can submit a hard copy application by U.S. Mail or express delivery to the addresses below.

By mail or United States Postal Service overnight services:

Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Operations Section
Attn: NOFO Team
P.O. Box 25007, MS 84-27133
Denver, CO 80225

By all other express delivery and courier services:

Bureau of Reclamation mail services
Attn: NOFO Team
Denver Federal Center
Bldg. 67, Rm. 152
6th Avenue and Kipling Street
Denver, CO 80225

APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

Eligibility Review

During the eligibility review, the application is checked for timely submission, completed packages (see [Application Documents](#) above) and alignment with the requirements of this announcement. The Federal agency may remove an application if it does not pass the eligibility review.

Reclamation will remove an application if it does not include:

- Completed SF-424 and SF-424A forms
- SAM.gov registration, with a valid UEI (unless an exemption at 2 CFR 25.110 applies, see below)
- A project narrative
- A budget narrative

If an applicant selected for funding hasn't finished their SAM.gov registration (see [2 CFR 25.200](#) and [2 CFR 25.110](#)) when the federal agency is ready to make an award, we may decide that the applicant is ineligible for the award and choose to grant it to someone else. Please refer [2 CFR 25.205](#) for more information.

Prior to making an award, the DOI checks the anticipated recipient and their key project personnel against the current list of prohibited or restricted persons or entities in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Exclusions database. We are prohibited from making an award if a recipient or any key personnel are found ineligible, prohibited, restricted, or otherwise excluded from receiving or participating in an award, as their ineligibility condition applies to this program.

If removed from consideration for ineligibility, the Federal agency will notify the applicant in writing.

Merit Review

The merit review criteria should be addressed in the Project Narrative. Applications should thoroughly address each criterion and any sub-criterion in the order presented below.

Applications will be evaluated against the merit review criteria listed below. If the work described in your application is a phase of a larger project, only discuss the benefits that will result directly from the work discussed in the technical project description and that is reflected in the budget, not the larger project.

Merit Review Criteria: Scoring Summary	Points:
A. Water Management Challenge	20
B. Project Benefits	25
C. Project Implementation	20
D. Dissemination of Results	10
E. Presidential and Department of Interior Priorities	20

F. Cost Share Priority	5
Total	100

Note: Projects may be prioritized to ensure balance among the program task areas and to ensure that the projects address the goals and objectives of the NOFO.

Merit Review Criterion A - Water Management Challenge(s) (20 points)

Up to **20 points** may be awarded based on the identification of the *water management challenge*. Applicants that demonstrate the severity of the water management challenge for the project will receive the most points under this criterion. Please respond and provide support for your responses to each of the following sub-criteria.

1. Describe the water management problem that the proposed project is trying to address. Describe in detail the problem that is occurring within your project area.
2. Describe the severity of the problem to be addressed with supporting qualitative and quantitative details. For example, will your project address water supply shortfalls or uncertainties, the need to meet competing demands for water and the lack of reliable water supplies for municipal, agricultural, tribal, environmental or recreational water uses, water quality issues, complications arising from drought, conflicts over water, or other water management issues.
3. What are the consequences if the problem remains unaddressed.

Merit Review Criterion B - Project Benefits (25 points)

Up to **25 points** may be awarded based on the extent to which the project will result in a *tool or information* that will *benefit partners and stakeholders* and the extent to which the tool and information will be *used beyond project completion*. Applicants that demonstrate clear benefit(s) for the project, including documentation and support for those benefits, and can explain how the project tool, information, or results will be readily applied will receive the most points under this criterion.

1. How will the project improve water management decisions? How does the project support one or more of the following water management objectives:
 - increase water yield,
 - ensure water supply reliability,
 - improve water deliveries,
 - improve drought management,
 - increase flexibility in water operations,
 - enhance water supply forecast skill,
 - improve watershed health.
2. Describe, in detail, the benefits that can be expected to occur upon completion and implementation of the project and provide qualitative and quantitative support for your responses.
 - Describe how the project was identified. Was the proposed project identified using a collaborative process with input from multiple and diverse partners and

- stakeholders? Was the project identified as a specific partner or stakeholder need? Was it identified through a prior planning effort or previous work?
- **Who** will use the tool or data developed under this proposal, **who else** will benefit from it and **how** will they benefit from the project? Does someone benefit from the project without being a direct user of the tool or data developed? Support for this response could include but is not limited to letters from partners and stakeholders expressing support for the project and explaining how they will benefit.
 - Describe **how** the tool, method, or information will be applied and **when** it will be applied. Will the tool or information be used immediately or will additional work need to be done before the tool will be used?
3. Describe if the results of your project will be **applicable elsewhere**. What additional work would need to be done to make the project results transferable to others?
 4. Explain how your project complements other similar efforts in the area where the project is located. Will your project complement or add value to other, similar efforts in the area, rather than duplicate or complicate those efforts? Are there other similar efforts in the area that have used a similar methodology successfully which can be complimented? Applicants should make a reasonable effort to explore and briefly describe and related ongoing projects. Consider efforts by any Federal, state, local agency, or non-governmental organizations.
 5. Describe how the benefits will be assessed and verified. Is there a baseline or any quantitative metrics to use for comparison purposes. Describe or cite past work/literature to support the anticipated benefits.
 6. Provide an estimate of the cost per acre-foot of water created, conserved, or delivered as a result of the proposed activity, if applicable.

Merit Review Criterion C - Project Implementation (20 points)

Up to **20 points** may be awarded based upon the extent to which the applicant is capable of proceeding with the project upon entering into a financial assistance agreement. Applicants that describe a detailed work plan (e.g., estimated schedule that shows the stages and duration of the proposed work and identifies major tasks, milestones, and dates) and a budget that is appropriate for the work proposed and has a reasonable level of detail will receive the most points under this criterion. Your responses should reflect an understanding of the tasks required to complete the project within the required 2-year timeframe. Please respond and provide support for your responses to each of the following sub-criteria.

Describe your project implementation plan:

1. Briefly describe and provide support for the approach and methodology that will be used to meet the objectives of the project. Provide support for your chosen methodology, including use of any specific models, data, or tools, and why this is the best available approach.
2. Describe the work plan for implementing the proposed scope of work. Such plans may include, but are not limited to:

- a. an estimated project schedule that shows the stages and duration of the proposed work,
 - b. milestones for each major task,
 - c. start and end dates for each task and milestones, and
 - d. costs for each task (proposals with a budget and budget narrative that provide a reasonable explanation of project costs will be prioritized), along with an indication of which partner or partners would provide nonfederal cost-share on a timely basis to allow the work to proceed expeditiously.
3. Provide a summary description of the products that are anticipated to result from the project These may include data, metadata, digital or electronic products, final reports, and publications. *Note: using a table to list anticipated products is suggested.*
 4. Provide information on quality assurance / quality control practices that will be used to ensure the technical and scientific integrity of the tools or products.
 5. Who will be involved in the project as project partners? What will each partner or stakeholder's role in the project be? How will project partners and stakeholders be engaged in the project and at what stages? If you are a Category B applicant, be sure to explain how your Category A partners will be engaged in the project.
 6. Identify staff with appropriate credentials and experience and describe their qualifications. Describe the process and criteria that will be used to select appropriate staff members for any positions that have not yet been filled. Describe any plans to request additional technical assistance from Reclamation or via a contract. Please answer the following:
 1. Have the project team members accomplished projects similar in scope to the proposed project in the past either as a lead or team member?
 2. Is the project team capable of proceeding with tasks within the proposed project immediately upon entering into a financial assistance agreement? If not, please explain the reason for any anticipated delay.

Merit Review Criterion D - Dissemination of Results (10 Points)

Up to **10** points may be awarded for proposals that can articulate how the results will be disseminated, transferred, and communicated directly with partners and resource managers within the Western United States. Please respond and provide support for your responses to each of the following sub-criteria. *Note: All applicants whose projects are selected for funding will be expected to participate in at least one Reclamation-sponsored webinar to disseminate deliverable(s) and discuss ways to apply deliverables to management questions. Under this criterion, proposals will be evaluated based on other efforts, beyond the required webinar, that they will take to disseminate the results of their project.*

Explain how project results will be disseminated, including:

Describe how the tools, frameworks, or analyses developed under the proposed scope of work will be disseminated, communicated, or made available to water resources managers who may be interested in the results. Describe a technology transfer plan for how the project will be used and adopted by others.

- If the applicant is the primary beneficiary of the project, explain how the project results will be communicated internally, and to interested partners and stakeholders and interested water resources managers in the area, if appropriate.
- If the applicant is not the primary beneficiary of the project (e.g., universities or research institutes), describe how project results will be coordinated and communicated to project partners and interested water resources managers in the area.
- Describe how the project results will be made available for others. What coordination is planned to ensure other water managers in the West can use the information to support water management objectives. What is the likelihood of successful use of the data or information shared.

Merit Review Criterion E - Presidential and Department of Interior Priorities (20 Points)

Up to **20 points** may be awarded based on the extent that the project demonstrably:

- advances the Trump Administration’s priorities, including E.O. 14154: Unleashing American Energy, justifies alignment with priorities and requirements in E.O. 14332: Improving Oversight in Federal Grantmaking;
- includes primary project elements that develop, demonstrate, and or implement artificial intelligence (AI) technologies that advance the Trump Administration and Department of Interior’s priorities for AI, including OMB M-25-21 Accelerating the Use of AI through Innovation, Governance, and Public Trust; S.O. 3444: Leading Interior’s Path to Artificial Intelligence Transformation;
- aligns with Secretary Burgum’s strategic objectives, including those identified in S.O.s 3417: Addressing the National Energy Emergency, 3418 Unleashing American Energy, 3419 Delivering Emergency Price Relief for American Families and Defeating the Cost-of-Living Crisis; · aligns with goals and objectives in the U.S. Department of the Interior FY 2026-2030 Strategic Plan; and
- supports water management and enhanced operational flexibility in Reclamation States, with priority given to the Colorado River Basin, which is experiencing long-term drought conditions.

Please address only those priorities that are applicable to your project. **All priorities will be given equal consideration.** A project will not necessarily receive more points simply because multiple priorities are addressed. Points will be allocated based on the degree to which the project supports, advances, or otherwise demonstrates an enhancement of one or more of the priorities identified, and whether the connection to the stated priority (or priorities) is (are) well supported.

Merit Review Criterion F - Cost Share Priority (5 points)

Up to **5 points** may be awarded to proposals that include non-Federal cost share contributions exceeding the minimum by at least 5 percent. Projects with a higher non-Federal cost share may be awarded more points. *State the percentage of non-Federal funding provided using the following calculation:*

Non-Federal Funding / Total Project Cost = %

See Cost Sharing Requirement and Budget Narrative for more information on cost-share requirements and eligible costs.

Note: projects selected for award will have reported cost-share amounts verified. If reported cost share is found to be ineligible, there may be impacts to award. Accordingly, please ensure reported cost share amounts are accurate and eligible.

Review and Selection Process

This program reviews proposed budgets to ensure:

- figures are correct
- estimated costs are necessary and reasonable and clearly linked to project narratives
- avoid obviously unallowable costs
- identify costs requiring prior approval
- ensure indirect cost rates are applied correctly
- confirm cost sharing requirements are reflected in the budget.

This program reviews applications for potential overlap or duplication between the proposed project and any other funded or proposed project. Depending on the circumstances, DOI may choose to not make an award.

Initial Review

Prior to conducting the comprehensive merit review, an initial review will be performed to determine whether: (1) the applicant is eligible for an award; (2) the information required by the NOFO has been submitted; (3) all mandatory requirements of the NOFO are satisfied; (4) the proposed project is responsive to the program objectives of the NOFO (program determination); and (5) the proposed project is in compliance with all applicable executive and secretary orders, including the President's executive order on Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing as well as the executive order and Secretary order on Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History. If an applicant fails to meet the requirements or objectives of the NOFO, or does not provide sufficient information for review, the applicant will be considered nonresponsive and eliminated from further review.

An Application Review Committee (ARC), made up of experts in relevant disciplines, will review the technical merit of the application, based on the merit review criteria. The ARC will also review the application to ensure that the project is eligible and meets the objective of this NOFO. During ARC review, Reclamation may contact applicants to request clarifications to the information provided, if necessary.

After the merit review, Reclamation conducts a "red-flag" review of top-ranking applications. During this review, Reclamation identifies any reasons a project would not be feasible or advisable, including environmental or cultural compliance, permitting, legal, financial, performance or other concerns. After the red-flag review, Reclamation conducts a "managerial review" of top-ranking applications. The managerial review prioritizes applications for selection based on the objectives of the NOFO. The review of applications will follow the requirements of E.O. 14332, such as ensuring review by senior appointees, and that selections demonstrably

advance the President’s policy priorities consistent with applicable law. Geographic dispersion, project types, applicant types, previous award history, and applicant success in implementing Gold Standard Science (E.O. 14303) may be considered during the review. Selections are finalized once these reviews are complete, and all applicants are notified.

Risk Review

Prior to making an award, the applicant will be assessed for their level of risk per [2 CFR 200.206](#). This assessment includes the applicant's financial management capabilities, project delivery experience, staffing resources, past award performance, administration and reporting compliance records, and overall project complexity and potential for challenges. If an award will be made, special conditions may be applied to the award corresponding to the assessed risk. For awards over the simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$350,000), a review of the applicant's eligibility and financial integrity information in the applicant's SAM.gov records will also be performed per [2 CFR 200.206](#).

The program also assesses financial management capabilities, project delivery experience, staffing resources, past performance, administration and reporting compliance records, and overall project complexity and potential challenges.

Reclamation conducts a detailed budget analysis and a business evaluation and responsibility determination. During this evaluation, Reclamation will consider several factors, such as:

- Allowability, allocability, and reasonableness of proposed costs
- Financial strength and stability of the applicant
- Past performance, including satisfactory compliance with all terms and conditions of previous awards, such as environmental compliance, reporting requirements, and audit compliance
- Adequacy of personnel practices, procurement procedures, and accounting policies and procedures.

AWARD NOTICES

Notices of Federal Award are sent electronically via GrantSolutions or e-mail. These notices outline the terms, conditions, and payment instructions per [2 CFR 200.211](#). The Notice of Federal Award signed by an authorized Grants Officer is the legal instrument obligating financial assistance to a recipient. Any other prior notice is not an authorization to begin work. If the program allows pre-award costs per [2 CFR 200.458](#), beginning performance before receiving a Notice of Federal Award is at the applicant’s own risk.

Anticipated Project Start Date: 07/08/2027

Anticipated Project End Date: 09/30/2029

Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates

This funding opportunity has two application submittal periods. For proposals submitted under the first application period, Reclamation anticipates contacting potential award recipients and unsuccessful applicants in November 2026 (or later if necessary), subject to the timing and amount of final appropriations. The anticipated award and completion dates for the first submittal period are as follows:

Anticipated Award Date: July 2027

Anticipated Project Completion Date: July 2029

For proposals submitted under the second application period, Reclamation anticipates contacting potential award recipients and unsuccessful applicants in August 2027 (or later if necessary), subject to the timing and amount of final appropriations. The anticipated award and completion dates for the second submittal period are as follows:

Anticipated Award Date: April 2028

Anticipated Project Completion Date: April 2030

Reclamation will contact award recipients individually to discuss the time frame for the completion of their agreement. A webinar will be held for successful applicants within 30 days following their notice of selection to review next steps and pre-Financial Assistance Agreement procedures.

Reclamation may post successful applications on a Reclamation website, after necessary redaction's, in consultation with the successful applicant.

POST AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

Administration and National Policy Requirements

For award administration and national policy requirements, see the [DOI General Terms and Conditions](#). Infrastructure projects require the use of American iron, steel, manufacture products, and construction materials per [2 CFR 184](#).

Automated Standard Application for Payments Registration

All recipients must be registered with and willing to process all payments through the Department of Treasury Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) system. All recipients with active financial assistance agreements with Reclamation must be enrolled in ASAP under the appropriate Agency Location Code(s) and UEI Number prior to the award of funds. If a recipient has multiple UEI numbers, they must separately enroll within ASAP for each unique UEI Number and/or Agency. If your entity is currently enrolled in the ASAP system with an agency other than Reclamation, you must enroll specifically with Reclamation in order to process payments. All of the information on the enrollment process for recipients, will be sent to you by ASAP staff if selected for award.

Approvals and Permits

Recipients must comply with Federal, State, Territorial, Tribal, and local laws, regulations, and codes, as applicable, and must obtain all required approvals and permits. Recipients must also coordinate and obtain approvals from site owners and operators.

Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance

The recipient must comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local environmental, cultural, and paleontological resource laws and regulations. Data collections supporting compliance efforts must follow separate compliance procedures. All projects will require compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), and National

Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) before any ground-disturbing activity may begin.

Recipients are prohibited from any ground-disturbing activities (e.g., biological or water quality surveys, grading, clearing, excavation, and other preliminary or construction activities) on a project before environmental and cultural resources compliance is complete. A recipient that proceeds before environmental and cultural resources compliance is complete risks forfeiting funding. The Grant Officer will issue a Notice to Proceed that explicitly authorizes work to proceed once environmental and cultural resource compliance is complete. See appendix X for additional details.

Official Resolution

Prior to award, the recipient must provide an official resolution adopted by the organization's governing body, or, for state government entities, an official authorized to commit the recipient to the financial and legal obligations of the financial assistance award. The official resolution verifies:

- The identity of the official with legal authority to enter into an agreement
- The board of directors, governing body, or appropriate official who has reviewed and supports the application submitted
- That the organization will work with Reclamation to meet established deadlines

Geospatial Data and Data Tools

If you receive financial assistance from the Department of the Interior (DOI), you must follow these rules for geospatial data:

- **Follow Federal Standards:** All geospatial data you collect or create must meet the standards set by the Federal Geospatial Data Committee (FGDC) or the Department of the Interior. This is required by the Geospatial Data Act of 2018, which is part of Public Law 115-254, specifically in Subtitle F (Geospatial Data), sections 751-759C (codified at 43 U.S.C. §§ 2801–2811).
- **Include Metadata:** Your Geographic Information Systems (GIS) files must include complete metadata. Metadata is information that describes the data, such as where it came from, how accurate it is, and how it should be used. This is to ensure that anyone using the data understands its context and quality.
- **Check for Existing Data:** Before you start collecting new geospatial data, you need to check GeoPlatform.gov. This is to see if there is already existing geospatial data from federal, state, local, or private sources that can meet your needs and is available for free. If such data is available, you should use it instead of gathering new data.

Intangible Property

Title to intangible property acquired under this agreement vests upon acquisition with the Recipient, however Reclamation reserves the right to obtain, publish, reproduce, or otherwise use and authorize others to use for Federal purposes in accordance with [2 CFR Part 200.315](#).

Real Property

Real property, equipment, and intangible property that is acquired or improved with a Federal award must be held in trust by the recipient as trustee for the beneficiaries of the project or program under which the property was acquired or improved, per [2 CFR §200.316](#). Title to real property acquired or improved under a Federal award will vest upon acquisition in the recipient. Except as otherwise provided by Federal statutes or by the Federal awarding agency, real property will be used for the originally authorized purpose as long as needed for that purpose, during which time the recipient must not dispose of or encumber its title or other interests. When real property is no longer needed for the originally authorized purpose, the recipient must obtain disposition instructions from the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Please note that any application submitted for funding under this NOFO may be subjected to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request (5 U.S.C. §552, as amended by P.L. No. 110-175), and as a result, may be made publicly available.

In response to a FOIA request for research data relating to published research findings produced under a Federal award that were used by the Federal Government in developing an agency action that has the force and effect of law, the Federal awarding agency must request, and the recipient must provide, within a reasonable time, the research data so that they can be made available to the public through the procedures established under the FOIA.

Requirements for Agricultural Operations under P.L. 111-11, Section 9504(a)(3)(B)

In accordance with Section 9504(a)(3)(B) of P.L.111-11, financial assistance will not be awarded for an improvement to conserve irrigation water unless the recipient agrees to both of the following conditions:

1. Not to use any associated water savings to increase the total irrigated acreage of the recipient and
2. Not to otherwise increase the consumptive use of water in the operation of the recipient, as determined pursuant to the law of the state in which the operation of the recipient is located.

If the recipient is a Tribe, a financial assistance agreement will not be awarded unless the recipient agrees to not use any associated water savings to increase the total irrigated acreage or otherwise increase the consumptive use of water more than the water right of the Tribe, as determined by a court decree, a settlement, a law, or any combination of these authorities.

Title to Improvements P.L.111-11, Section 9504(a)(3)(D)

If the project results in a modification to a portion of a federally owned facility that is integral to the existing operations of that facility, the Federal government shall continue to hold title to the facility and the improvements thereto. Title to improvements, P.L.111-11, Section 9504(a)(3)(D) that are not integral to existing water delivery operations shall reside with the project sponsor.

Operation and Maintenance Costs under P.L.111-11, Section 9504(a)(3)(E)(iv)

All costs for operation and maintenance of any infrastructure or infrastructure improvements funded through this agreement will be covered 100 percent by the recipient. No federal funds will be contributed to these expenses.

Improvements to Federal Facilities

Note that improvements to Federal facilities that are implemented through any project awarded funding must comply with additional requirements. Reclamation may also require additional reviews and approvals prior to award to ensure that any necessary easements, land use authorizations, or special permits can be approved and that the development will not impact or impair project operations or efficiency, consistent with the requirements of 43 CFR Section 429.

Liability under P.L.111-11, Section 9504(a)(3)(F)

Except as provided under 28 U.S.C. Chapter 171 (commonly known as the Federal Tort Claims Act), the United States shall not be liable for monetary damages of any kind for any injury arising out of an act, omission, or occurrence that arises in relation to any facility created or improved through an agreement awarded under this NOFO, the title of which is not held by the United States.

Reporting

The recipient's Notice of Award will detail all reporting requirements, including frequency, due dates, and instructions for requesting extensions. In general, but not limited to, recipients must:

- Submit Federal Financial reports and Program Performance reports.
- Use the [Federal Financial Report \(SF-425\) form](#) for financial reporting,
- Monitor award activities and report on program performance per [2 CFR 200.329](#),
- Promptly notify the awarding program in writing of any issues, delays, or conditions impairing award objectives per [2 CFR 200.329\(e\)](#),
- Disclose any conflicts of interest related to their award that arise during the award period per [2 CFR 1402.112](#),
- Report on the status of real property acquired under the award in which the Federal government retains an interest per [2 CFR 200.330](#), and
- Report all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award per [2 CFR 200.113](#).
- Report any matters related to recipient integrity and performance to SAM.gov per [Appendix XII to 2 CFR 200](#).
- If the Federal share of the award is more than \$100,000 and the recipient makes or agrees to make any payment using non-appropriated funds for lobbying in connection to the award, disclose those activities using the Disclosure of Lobbying (SF-LLL) form per [43 CFR 18.100](#).
- Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA) and 2 CFR 170 requires certain recipients to report information on executive compensation, and information on all sub-awards, subcontracts and consortiums equal to or over \$30,000 to SAM.gov.
- Report any required mitigation to lessen environmental impacts of the project.
- Recipients of Reclamation awards must include the following information in performance reports:
 - a comparison of actual accomplishments to the milestones established by the financial assistance agreement for the period,

- the reasons why the project did not meet established milestones, if applicable,
- the status of milestones not met from the previous reporting period, if applicable,
- whether the project is on schedule and within the original cost estimate,
- any additional pertinent information or issues related to the status of the project, and
- photographs documenting the project (appreciated, although not required). Note: Reclamation may print photos with appropriate credit to the recipient.
- Final reports are public documents and may be made available on Reclamation's website.
- A final report is required by applicants whose projects are selected. Contents of the report should include, but is not limited to, an executive summary, project background, technical approach, comprehensive evaluation, results or conclusions, benefits realized, as well as lessons learned.

Other Information

Reclamation will host a webinar to provide general information regarding this NOFO and answer questions. For more information regarding this NOFO, the general information webinar, and WaterSMART Applied Science Grants, including previously funded projects and applications, visit <https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/appliedscience>.

More information on Reclamation's Snow Water Supply Forecast Program can be found at <https://www.usbr.gov/research/snow.html>.