



Memo

To: Jurisdictions with Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Needs

From: Colleen Hannon, Region 10 Grant Navigator

Date: 8.18.23

Re: Funding Opportunities for Water and Wastewater Projects

Colleagues:

Here is an update on our funding searches this week. I am focusing this week's memo on both water (WaterSmart) and wastewater (EPA). I have given you some state sources, but am trying to find federal dollars for you. We will be alternating each week among the five areas of priorities (water, wastewater, disaster resiliency, transportation, and energy efficiency). Please be sure to check the subject line for topic area and date.

I have announced WaterSmart before. But, to encourage your consideration, please see the announcement below for the WaterSMART webinar. The due dates are 10/23 and 4/24.

The Bureau of Reclamation will host a webinar on Thursday, August 24, 2023 at 11:30 am MDT, to discuss the WaterSMART Project and Planning Design Grants and the Drought Resiliency Projects funding opportunities including eligible applicants, program requirements, and the selection process. [Join the live event](#) or use the same link to watch a recording after the completion of the live event.

I want to highlight the two programs to be covered in the webinar. The first is **Planning and Project Design**.

- Planning
- Design
The objective of the Project Design Grants is to leverage money and resources by cost sharing with Reclamation the **final design of medium and large-scale on-the ground water supply construction (including domestic water supply projects for Tribes, insular areas, and disadvantaged communities), water management construction and restoration projects.**
- Contingency planning

The link to this program is <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=349785>

The second is **Drought Response**. Eligible applicants: states, tribes, special districts, regional authorities, local authorities, and nonprofits. These grants are made for our rural communities! Here are the four focus areas:

Task A: Increasing the Reliability of Water Supplies through Infrastructure Improvements: Eligible projects encompass constructing or modifying surface water intakes, developing new conveyance system components, establishing interties between water conveyance systems, and installing facilities to prevent saltwater intrusion.

Additionally, storing water and recharging groundwater supplies, along with developing alternative sources of water supply, are supported.

Task B: Increasing the Reliability of Water Supplies Through Groundwater Recovery Diversifying water supplies is vital, and this task focuses on groundwater recovery and aquifer storage. The funding is directed towards constructing wells to provide backup water during droughts, enhancing groundwater banks' capabilities, and recovering previously recharged/stored water for various purposes.

Task C: Projects to Improve Water Management through Decision Support Tools, Modeling, and Measurement This task aims to equip entities with the necessary tools to manage drought effectively. This includes developing decision support tools, models for drought prediction, water budgets with tiered pricing to encourage conservation, real-time operational modeling for supply conditions, and tools facilitating water marketing. Additionally, installing water measurement equipment and monitoring instrumentation is part of this task.

Task D: Domestic Water Supply Projects for Tribes or Disadvantaged Communities This task is dedicated to constructing domestic water supply projects for Tribal or disadvantaged communities lacking reliable access to water supplies. This involves developing new water sources and associated infrastructure for treatment and distribution.

The link is <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=349782>

In reviewing your list of community needs, these grants will address, I believe, lines, redundant lines, storage tanks, storage ponds, looping, water docks, line replacement, pumpstations, well rehab., reservoir rehab, piping and lining of ditches, treatment, and more. The webinar can clarify if I have all the categories correct. I will be attending.

Now, on to the wastewater funding through EPA. Both of the programs I have reviewed will be awarded to the State and not to local governments, though we are the targeted users of the funds. I will reach out to the State to determine how they will distribute these dollars. Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal grants and the Small, Underserved, and Disadvantaged Community grant program, established under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act, will provide support for stormwater and wastewater projects. I will report back to you on these next week.

As an aside, I have heard of applicants having trouble registering on sam.gov. Here is a link to the registration process for sam.gov and grants.gov. Please give yourself several weeks to get through these processes.
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration.html>

Finally, a reminder that many federal agencies provide technical assistance (TA) programs on grant applications. Here is EPA's. <https://www.epa.gov/water-infrastructure/water-technical-assistance-waterta-information>