

United States Bureau of Reclamation  
Department of the Interior

R-DO - Reclamation – Denver and Washington Offices



2025  
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# Table of Contents

A. Program Description .....	2
A1. Authority .....	2
A2. Background, Purpose and Program Requirements.....	2
B. Federal Award Information.....	3
B1. Total Funding .....	3
B2. Expected Award Amount .....	3
B3. Anticipated Award Funding and Dates .....	3
B4. Number of Awards .....	3
B5. Type of Award.....	3
C. Eligibility Information .....	4
C1. Eligible Applicants .....	4
C2. Cost Sharing or Matching.....	4
C3. Other .....	4
D. Application and Submission Information .....	5
D1. Address to Request Application Package .....	5
D2. Content and Form of Application Submission.....	5
D3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM) .....	7
D4. Submission Dates and Times .....	8
D5. Intergovernmental Review .....	9
D6. Funding Restrictions .....	9
D7. Other Submission Requirements.....	10
E. Application Review Information.....	10
E1. Criteria .....	10
E2. Review and Selection Process .....	13
E3. CFR – Regulatory Information.....	15
E4. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates .....	15
F. Federal Award Administration Information.....	15
F1. Federal Award Notices .....	16
F2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements .....	16
F3. Reporting .....	16
G. Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s) .....	18
G1. Program Technical Contact.....	18
G2. Financial Assistance Administrative Contact .....	20

G3. Application System Technical Support.....	20
H. Other Information .....	21

## A. Program Description

### A1. Authority

Reclamation’s Native American Affairs Technical Assistance Program (TAP) is administered in accordance with the Reclamation Act of 1902, as amended and supplemented and Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003, Division D - Energy and Water Development Appropriations, Title II, Sec. 201, Public Law (P. L.) 108-7 (43 USC 373d) which authorizes Reclamation to enter into grants and cooperative agreements with federally recognized Indian Tribes to increase opportunities to develop, manage, and protect tribal water and related resources.

**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number**  
15.519

### A2. Background, Purpose and Program Requirements

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), through the TAP, provides financial and technical assistance to federally recognized Indian Tribes. The TAP establishes cooperative working relationships, through partnerships with Indian Tribes, to assist Tribes as they develop, manage, and protect their water and related resources. Reclamation’s Native American and International Affairs Office, Washington, D.C., plans to make fiscal year (FY) 2025 funds available for the TAP through Reclamation’s five Regional Offices.

For further information on the TAP please visit:  
[www.usbr.gov/native/programs/TAPprogram.html](http://www.usbr.gov/native/programs/TAPprogram.html)

The objective of this NOFO is to invite federally recognized Indian Tribes to submit proposals for financial assistance for projects and activities that develop, manage, and protect tribal water and related resources.

This NOFO also implements the Biden-Harris Administration’s priorities including Presidential Executive Order 14008: Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad (E.O. 14008), and Executive Order 13985: Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government (E.O. 13985). E.O. 13985 is supported by this NOFO as it increases opportunities for Indian Tribes to develop, manage, and protect their water and related resources.

#### Funding Opportunity Goals

- The objective of this NOFO is to invite federally recognized Indian Tribes to submit proposals for financial assistance for projects and activities that develop, manage, and protect tribal water and related resources.

## **B. Federal Award Information**

### **B1. Total Funding**

Estimate contingent upon final Congressional appropriations

#### **Estimated Total Funding**

\$10,000,000

### **B2. Expected Award Amount**

#### **Maximum Award**

\$1,000,000

#### **Minimum Award**

\$0

### **B3. Anticipated Award Funding and Dates**

#### **Anticipated Award Date**

June 06, 2025

#### **Anticipated Project Completion Date**

06/06/2027

### **B4. Number of Awards**

#### **Anticipated Number of Awards**

20

### **B5. Type of Award**

#### **Funding Instrument Type**

G - Grant

CA - Cooperative Agreement

If a cooperative agreement is awarded, Reclamation will have substantial involvement in the project. Reclamation can perform technical work through Regional and Area Offices, the Technical Service Center or water quality labs. For cooperative agreements, substantial involvement by Reclamation may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Collaboration and participation with the recipient in the management of the project and close oversight of the recipient'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.
- Technical support and other services provided to the Tribe towards the objectives of the proposal.

## C. Eligibility Information

### C1. Eligible Applicants

#### Eligible Applicants

11 – Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)

25 – Others (see text field entitled “Additional Information on Eligibility” for clarification)

#### Additional Information on Eligibility

Federally recognized Indian Tribes or Tribal organizations as defined in 25 U.S.C. 5304.

Additional Information on Eligibility

### C2. Cost Sharing or Matching

#### Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement

No

### C3. Other

**Excluded Parties:** Reclamation conducts a review of the SAM.gov Exclusions database for all applicant entities and their project personnel prior to award. Reclamation cannot award funds to entities or their key project personnel identified in the SAM.gov Exclusions database as ineligible, prohibited/restricted or otherwise excluded from receiving Federal contracts, certain subcontracts, and certain Federal assistance and benefits, as their ineligibility condition applies to this Federal program.

**Excluded Parties:** Reclamation conducts a review of the SAM.gov Exclusions database for all applicant entities and their project personnel prior to award. Reclamation cannot award funds to entities or their key project personnel identified in the SAM.gov Exclusions database as ineligible, prohibited/restricted or otherwise excluded from receiving Federal contracts, certain subcontracts, and certain Federal assistance and benefits, as their ineligibility condition applies to this Federal program.

### C4. Eligible Project Types

Proposed projects will be reviewed to determine whether the application is eligible for evaluation. To be eligible for funding under this NOFO, projects must be directly related to the development, management, or protection of tribal water and related resources.

Eligible activities may include, but are not limited to:

Water need and water infrastructure assessments.

Water management plans and studies.

Short-term water quality or water measurement data collection and assessment to inform new management approaches.

Training for tribal staff and managers in areas of water resources’ development, management and protection.

Minor repair, rehabilitation or replacement of existing tribally owned, water-related structures and facilities to restore original capability.

Minor infrastructure installation projects such as: Efficient land-scape irrigation.  
Drilling domestic or stock watering wells.  
On-the-ground activities related to riparian and aquatic habitat with the goal to maintain or improve water quantity or water quality:  
Restoring wetlands.  
Controlling erosion.  
Stabilizing stream banks.  
Constructing ponds.  
Developing water basin plans.  
Distinct, stand-alone water related activities that are part of a larger project. 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.

## **D. Application and Submission Information**

### **D1. Address to Request Application Package**

This NOFO includes all information, documents, and electronic addresses needed to submit an application through grants.gov. If the applicant is unable to access this information electronically, the Financial Assistance NOFO Operations staff may provide paper copies of any documents referenced in this NOFO via an email request from the applicant. All required application forms are available on the “Packages” tab for this funding opportunity on grants.gov and <https://www.usbr.gov/native/programs/TAPprogram.html>

### **D2. Content and Form of Application Submission**

#### **1. SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance**

Applicants must submit the appropriate Standard Form (SF)-424, Application for Federal Assistance. The required application forms are available with this announcement on Grants.gov. The SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance must be complete, signed, and dated. Do not include any proprietary or personally identifiable information. Please note: Enter only the amount requested from this Federal program in the “Federal” funding box on the SF-424 Application form. Include any other Federal sources of funding in the “Other” box and provide details on those Federal source(s) and funding amount(s) in the required Budget Narrative (see the “Budget Narrative” section below).

Any applicant organization that has not completed the financial assistance certifications and representations within their SAM.gov registration must submit the appropriate signed and dated Assurances form. All of the required application forms are available with this announcement on Grants.gov.

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Assurances form. All required application forms are available with this announcement on Grants.gov.

### **Project Narrative**

Applicants must submit the appropriate SF-424 Budget Information form and Budget Narrative. For non-construction programs or projects, applicants must complete and submit the SF-424A, “Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs” form. All of the required application forms are available with this announcement on Grants.gov. Federal award recipients and subrecipients are subject to Federal award cost principles in 2 CFR 200.

### **Detailed Budget Narrative**

#### **Conflict of Interest Disclosure**

Per the Financial Assistance Interior Regulation (FAIR), [2 CFR §1402.112](#), applicants must state in their application if any actual or potential conflict of interest exists at the time of submission.

#### *(a) Applicability.*

(1) This section intends to ensure that non-Federal entities and their employees take appropriate steps to avoid conflicts of interest in their responsibilities under or with respect to Federal financial assistance agreements.

(2) In the procurement of supplies, equipment, construction, and services by recipients and by subrecipients, the conflict of interest provisions in 2 CFR 200.318 apply.

#### *(b) Notification.*

(1) Non-Federal entities, including applicants for financial assistance awards, must disclose in writing any conflict of interest to the DOI awarding agency or pass-through entity in accordance with 2 CFR 200.112.

(2) Recipients must establish internal controls that include, at a minimum, procedures to identify, disclose, and mitigate or eliminate identified conflicts of interest. The recipient is responsible for notifying the Financial Assistance Officer in writing of any conflicts of interest that may arise during the life of the award, including those that have been reported by subrecipients.

*(c) Restrictions on lobbying.* Non-Federal entities are strictly prohibited from using funds under a grant or cooperative agreement for lobbying activities and must provide the required certifications and disclosures pursuant to 43 CFR part 18 and 31 U.S.C. 1352.

*(d) Review procedures.* The Financial Assistance Officer will examine each conflict of interest disclosure on the basis of its particular facts and the nature of the proposed grant or cooperative agreement, and will determine whether a significant potential conflict exists and, if it does, develop an appropriate means for resolving it.

*(e) Enforcement.* Failure to resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the government may be cause for termination of the award. Failure to make required disclosures may result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR 200.338, Remedies for noncompliance, including suspension or debarment (see also 2 CFR part 180).

### **Single Audit Reporting Statement**

All U.S. states, local governments, federally recognized Indian tribal governments, and non-profit organizations expending \$750,000 USD or more in Federal award funds in the applicant’s

fiscal year must submit a Single Audit report for that year through the [Federal Audit Clearinghouse's Internet Data Entry System](#). U.S. state, local government, federally recognized Indian tribal government, and non-profit applicants must state if your organization was or was not required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year. If your organization was required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year, provide the EIN associated with that report and state if it is available through the [Federal Audit Clearinghouse](#) website.

### **Certification Regarding Lobbying**

Applicants requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funding must certify to the statements in [43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A-Certification Regarding Lobbying](#). If this application requests more than \$100,000 in Federal funds, the Authorized Official's signature on the appropriate SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance form also represents the entity's certification of the statements in 43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A.

### **Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement**

If providing an overlap or duplication of effort statement (highly encouraged), applicants should address if there is any overlap between the proposed project and any other active or anticipated proposals or projects in terms of activities, costs, or commitment of key personnel. If any overlap exists, the applicant must provide a description of the overlap in the application for review. Applicants must state if the proposal submitted for consideration under this program does or does not in any way duplicate any proposal or project that has been, or will be, submitted for funding consideration to any other potential funding source—whether it be Federal or non-Federal. If such a circumstance exists, the applicant must detail when the other duplicative proposal(s) were submitted, to what Agency or financial assistance program, and when funding decisions are expected to be announced. If at any time another Federal awarding agency awards funds to the applicant that would be duplicative of the funding requested from Reclamation, applicants must notify the NOFO point of contact or the program coordinator immediately.

## **D3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)**

**Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Registration:** This requirement does not apply to individuals applying for funds as an individual (i.e., unrelated to any business or nonprofit organization you may own, operate, or work within), or any entity with an exception to bypass SAM.gov registration with prior approval from the funding bureau or office in accordance with bureau or office policy. All other applicants are required to register in SAM.gov prior to submitting a Federal award application and obtain a [Unique Entity Identifier \(UEI\)](#) which replaces the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number from Dun & Bradstreet in April 2022. A Federal award may not be made to an applicant that has not completed the SAM.gov registration. If an applicant selected for funding has not completed their SAM.gov registration by the time the program is ready to make an award, the program may determine the applicant is not qualified to receive an award. Federal award recipients must also continue to maintain an active SAM.gov registration with current information through the life of their Federal award(s).

### **Register with the System for Award Management (SAM)**



Applicants can register on the [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) website. The “Help” tab on the website contains User Guides and other information to assist you with registration. The Grants.gov “[Register with SAM](#)” page also provides detailed instructions. Applicants can contact the supporting Federal Service Desk for help registering in SAM. Once registered in SAM, entities will be assigned a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). Entities must renew and revalidate their SAM registration at least once every 12 months from the date previously registered. Entities are strongly encouraged to revalidate their registration as often as needed to ensure their information is up to date and reflects changes that may have been made to the entity’s IRS information. There is no cost to register with SAM.gov. There are third-party vendors who will charge a fee in exchange for registering entities with SAM.gov; please be aware you can register and request help for free. If applicable, foreign entities who want to receive payment directly to a U.S. bank account must enter and maintain valid, current banking information in SAM.

## **D4. Submission Dates and Times**

### **Due Date for Applications**

02/27/2025

### **Application Due Date Explanation**

Applications may be submitted electronically through grants.gov, by paper application or by email. Grants.gov Applications Grants.gov automatically generates an electronic date and time stamp in the system upon receiving the application. Grants.gov sends an acknowledgment of receipt with the date and time stamp and a unique Grants.gov application tracking number to the applicant’s authorized representative by email. This email from Grants.gov serves as proof of timely submission. 1.Applicant resource documents and a full set of instructions for registering with grants.gov and completing and submitting applications online are available on grants.gov. Application submission requires prior registration through grants.gov, which may take up to 21 days. In addition, please note the grants.gov system only accepts applications submitted by individuals that are registered and active in SAM as both a user and an Authorized Organizational Representative. Applicants have experienced significant delays when attempting to submit applications through grants.gov.

Paper Applications The applicant may submit a paper application to Reclamation by the specified date and time:

By United States Postal Service regular or overnight services and 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

Email Applications Applicants may email exemption requests to [bor-sha-fafoa@usbr.gov](mailto:bor-sha-fafoa@usbr.gov). All emailed applications should include the following information:

In the Subject line of the email:

1.the NOFO Number and Fiscal Year (FY 2025)

In the body of the email:

1. the NOFO title and number,
2. the application due date of the specified NOFO,
3. the Assistance Listing number,
4. the name of the applicant organization and UEI number(s),
5. the authorized organizational representative name and contact information (phone and email address),
6. the name and email of the point of contact regarding matters involving the application.

#### D.4.1. Due Date for Applications

Due Date for Applications: Applications must be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m., Mountain Standard Time, on Thursday, February 27, 2025.

#### D.4.2. Application Due Date Explanation

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m., MST, on the listed application due dates. Proposals received after the application deadline indicated below will not be considered unless it can be determined that the delay was caused by Reclamation mishandling or technical issues with the grants.gov application system. Please note that difficulties related to an applicant grants.gov profile (e.g. incorrect organizational representative), uploading documents to grants.

## D5. Intergovernmental Review

Prior to application submission, U.S. state and local government applicants should visit the [OMB Office of Federal Financial Management website](#) and view the “State Point of Contact (SPOC) List” to determine whether their application is subject to the state intergovernmental review process under Executive Order (E.O.) 12372 “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.” States not on the list do not participate in the intergovernmental review process, and therefore do not have a SPOC. If you are located within a State that does not have a SPOC, you may send application materials directly to a Federal awarding agency. If your state is on the list, contact the designated entity for more information on the state’s prior review requirements for Federal assistance applications.

## D6. Funding Restrictions

### Indirect Costs: Individuals

### Indirect Costs: Organizations

The applicant may include indirect costs incurred during the development or construction of a project, which will not otherwise be recovered, as part of the project budget. The applicant must show the proposed rate, cost base, and proposed amount for allowable indirect costs based on the applicable cost principles for the applicant’s organization. It is not acceptable to simply incorporate indirect rates within other direct cost line items.

If the applicant has never received a Federal negotiated indirect cost rate, the project budget may include a de minimis rate of up to 15 percent of modified total direct costs. For further information on modified total direct costs, refer to 2 CFR§200.68.

If the applicant does not have a Federally approved indirect cost rate agreement and are proposing a rate greater than the de minimis 15 percent rate, include the computational basis for the indirect expense pool and corresponding allocation base for each rate. Information on

Preparing and Submitting Indirect Cost Proposals is available from the Department’s Interior Business Center, Office of Indirect Cost Services.

If Reclamation does select the proposed project for award, applicant must submit an indirect cost rate proposal with their cognizant agency within 3 months of award. The Federal awarding agency that provides the largest amount of direct funding to the applicant’s organization is the cognizant agency for indirect costs, unless otherwise assigned by OMB. If the Department of the Interior is the applicant’s organization’s cognizant agency, the Interior Business Center will negotiate the indirect cost rate. Contact the Interior Business Center by phone at 916-930-3803 or email at [ICS@ibc.doi.gov](mailto:ICS@ibc.doi.gov). Visit the IBC website, for information regarding email submission forms.

Applicants must have an active Federal award before submitting an indirect cost rate proposal to their cognizant agency. Failure to establish an approved rate during the award period renders all costs otherwise allocable as indirect costs unallowable under the award. Recipients may not shift unallowable indirect costs to another Federal award unless specifically authorized to do so by legislation.

## D7. Other Submission Requirements

## E. Application Review Information

### E1. Criteria

#### Overview

**Maximum Points:** 100

The evaluation criteria portion of your application should thoroughly address each of the following criteria and sub-criteria in the order presented to assist in the complete and accurate evaluation of your proposal. Applications will be evaluated against the evaluation criteria (listed below), which comprise a total of 100 points. Please note that projects may be prioritized to ensure balance among the Regions and to ensure that the projects address the goals and objectives of the NOFO.

Evaluation Criteria Scoring Summary	Points
A. Project Need	30
B. Project Benefits	30
C. Project Implementation	30
D. Biden-Harris Administration and the Department of the Interior Priorities	10
Total	100

#### Evaluation Criterion A. Project Need

**Maximum Points:** 30

Up to 30 points may be awarded based upon extent to which the proposal demonstrates a compelling need to implement the project based on the following:

How does Federal funding assist in developing the project?

What is the magnitude of the impacts if the proposed project is not funded (e.g., public health

and safety, regulatory, and social risk etc.)?

Does the project assist in addressing health and safety of the Tribe and its members, and if so, how?

How urgent is the proposed project?

Does project assist in complying with regulatory requirements related to water and water resources, and if so, how?

Is the status of the Tribe's capacity to manage, develop and protect its water and related resources?

Are there current or historic drought conditions in the tribal or project area?

### **Evaluation Criterion B. Project Benefits**

#### **Maximum Points: 30**

Up to 30 points may be awarded based upon evaluation of the benefits that are expected to result from implementing the proposed project/activity. This criterion considers a variety of project benefits to water resources, including increases to water reliability and quality, improvements to water management, and/or reduction to conflicts between water users. Describe the expected benefits and outcomes of the project. In doing so, please answer all the questions applicable to the project. It is not necessary to answer all these questions in the affirmative to score well on this criterion and points will be allocated based on the degree to which the project provides water resource benefits as a whole.

Does the project improve development, management, and/or protection of tribal water and related resources, and if so, how?

Does the project build or enhance the Tribe's internal capacity to manage, develop and protect its water and related resources, and if so, how?

Does the project include data collection related to water quality?

How will data be analyzed and used to benefit the Tribe?

How will data analyzes inform management decisions/approaches?

Does the project improve water reliability or build long-term drought resilience for a given tribal community, and if so, how and to what extent?

Does the project assist with addressing current or future water shortages, and if so, how?

Will the project build long-term resilience to drought, and if so, how?

Will the project make additional water supplies available, and if so, how?

What is the estimated quantity of additional supply the project will provide and how was this calculated?

What percentage of the total water supply does the additional water supply represent?

Does the project improve tribal water system efficiencies and promote water conservation, and if so, how?

What is the estimated average annual quantity of conserved water and how was this calculated?

How will the conserved water be used?

Does the project reduce conflicts between water users, and if so, how?

Does the project address heightened competition for finite water supplies or issues related to over-allocation of water rights, and if so, how?

Does the project promote and encourage collaboration among parties in a way that helps increase the reliability of the water supply, and if so, how?

Will the project help prevent a water-related crisis or conflict, and if so, how?

Is there frequently tension or litigation over water in the basin?  
Are there non-tribal partners in the project and what is their roles?  
Is the project supported by existing water resource management plans, and if so, how?  
Does the project protect and enhance the environment, and if so, how?  
Projects that involve riparian and aquatic habitat improvements, must also improve water quality and quantity. Describe the environmental benefits as they relate to improved water quality and quantity.

### **Evaluation Criterion C. Project Implementation**

#### **Maximum Points: 30**

Up to 30 points may be awarded based upon the extent to which the proposed project is capable of proceeding upon entering into a financial assistance agreement. Applicants that describe a detailed plan (e.g., estimated project schedule that shows the stages and duration of the proposed work, including major tasks, milestones, and dates) will receive the most points under this criterion. In responding to this criterion, provide the following information to demonstrate the capability to implement the project.

Describe the implementation plan for the project that includes an estimated schedule that shows the stages and duration of the proposed work, during the two-year period of performance. The implementation plan should also include major tasks and milestones, identify staff with appropriate technical and project management expertise and describe their qualifications and roles in the proposed project or activity.

Describe any plans to contract activities. Describe the procurement standards that will be used to select successful contractors.

Describe any permits that will be required, along with the process for obtaining such permits. Identify and describe any engineering or design work performed specifically in support of the proposed project.

Describe any new policies or administrative actions required to implement the project.

Identify staff with appropriate technical and project management expertise and describe their qualifications and roles in the proposed project or activity.

Describe how the environmental compliance estimate was developed. Has the compliance cost been discussed with the local Reclamation office?

### **Evaluation Criterion D. Biden-Harris Administration and Department of the Interior Priorities**

#### **Maximum Points: 10**

Up to 10 points may be awarded based upon the extent to which the proposed project demonstrates support for the Biden-Harris Administration's priorities, including Presidential Executive Order 14008: Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad (E.O. 14008).

Presidential Executive Order 13985: Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government (E.O. 13985) is implemented through this NOFO.

Please address only those priorities that are applicable to your project. It is not necessary to address priorities that are not applicable to your project. 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 one or more of the priorities listed, and whether the connection to the priority(ies) is well-supported in the proposal. Without repeating benefits already described in previous criteria, describe in detail how the proposed project supports a

priority(ies) below.

Climate Change. – E.O. 14008 emphasizes the need to prioritize and take robust actions to reduce climate pollution; increase resilience to the impacts of climate change; protect public health; and conserve our lands, waters, oceans, and biodiversity.

How will the project build long-term resilience to drought? How many years will the project continue to provide benefits? Please estimate the extent to which the project will build resilience to drought and provide support for your estimate.

In addition to drought resiliency measures, does the proposed project include other natural hazard risk reductions for hazards such as wildfires or floods?

Does the proposed project include green or sustainable infrastructure to improve community climate resilience such as reducing the urban heat island effect, lowering building energy demands, or reducing the energy needed to manage water? Does this infrastructure complement other green solutions being implemented throughout the region or watershed?

Will the proposed project establish and utilize a renewable energy source?

Does the proposed project seek to reduce or mitigate climate pollution such as air or water pollution?

Will the proposed project reduce greenhouse gas emissions by sequestering carbon in soils, grasses, trees, and other vegetation?

Does the proposed project have a conservation or management component that will promote healthy lands and soils or serve to protect water supplies and its associated uses?

Does the proposed project contribute to climate change resiliency in other ways not described above?

## **E2. Review and Selection Process**

### E.2. Review and Selection Process

The Federal government reserves the right to reject any and all applications that do not meet the requirements or objectives of this NOFO. Awards will be made for projects most advantageous to the Federal Government. Award selection may be made to maintain balance among the eligible projects listed in this NOFO. The evaluation process will be composed of the steps described in the following subsections.

#### E.2.1. First Level Threshold Screening

The Grants Officer will screen applications to ensure they meet basic eligibility requirements.

The Grants Officer will screen all application packages to ensure that:

The application meets the completeness, eligibility, and timeliness requirements stated in this NOFO,

The applicant meets the UEI and SAM registration requirements stated in this NOFO,

The application meets the content requirements of the NOFO package, including submission of a technical proposal and budget narrative, and

The application contains executed mandatory forms SF-424, Application for Financial Assistance and SF-424B or D, Assurances Form, and a completed SF-424A, Budget Information Form.

A complete application must include all requirements described in the above bullets.

Applications must satisfy basic eligibility screening requirements to be considered for further review. The Grants Officer reserves the right to remove an application from funding consideration during the initial screening if it is not submitted on time, does not include the

appropriate SF-424 forms, does not include a technical proposal, or does not include a budget narrative. In that event, the Grants Officer will send a notification of elimination to the applicant. If an application is missing other information, Reclamation may reach out to request that information within a specified time frame.

#### E.2.2. Application Review Committee

An Application Review Committee (ARC), made up of experts in relevant disciplines selected from across Reclamation, will review the technical merit of the application. Evaluation criteria will comprise the total evaluation weight as stated in the paragraph E.1., “Technical Proposal: Evaluation Criteria,” of this NOFO.

Applications will be scored against the evaluation criteria by an Application Review Committee (ARC). ARC will also review the application to ensure that the proposed project meets the description of eligible projects and meets the objective of this NOFO.

During ARC review, Reclamation may contact applicants to request clarifications to the information provided, if necessary.

#### E.2.3. Red-Flag Review

Following the results of the ARC review, Reclamation offices will review the top-ranking applications and will identify any reasons why a proposed project would not be feasible or otherwise advisable, including environmental or cultural resources compliance issues, permitting issues, legal issues, or financial position. Additionally, the Red-Flag Review will address several of the determinations listed in paragraph A.4., “Program Requirements” of this NOFO.

Reclamation may consider any positive or negative past performance by the applicant and any partners in previous working relationships with Reclamation, including whether the applicant is making significant progress toward the completion of any outstanding financial assistance agreements and whether the applicant is in compliance with all reporting requirements associated with previously funded projects.

In addition, during this review, Reclamation will address any specific concerns or questions raised by members of the ARC, conduct a preliminary budget review, and evaluate the applicant’s ability to meet cost share, as required.

#### E.2.4. Managerial Review

Reclamation management will prioritize projects to ensure the total amount of all awards does not exceed available funding levels. Management will also ensure that all projects meet the scope, priorities, requirements, and objectives of this NOFO. Management may also prioritize projects to ensure that multiple project types are represented. After completion of the managerial review, Reclamation will notify applicants whose proposals have been selected for award consideration.

#### E.2.5. Pre-Award Clearances and Approvals

The following pre-award clearances and approvals must be obtained before an award of funding is made. If the results of all pre-award reviews and clearances are satisfactory, an award of funding will be made once the agreement is finalized. If the results of pre-award reviews and clearances are unsatisfactory, consideration of funding for the project may be withdrawn.

##### E.2.5.1. Environmental Review

Reclamation will forward all proposals to the appropriate Reclamation Regional or Area Office for completion of environmental compliance. To the extent possible, environmental compliance will be completed before a financial assistance agreement is signed by the parties. However, in most cases, the award will be made contingent on completion of environmental compliance. The financial assistance agreement will describe how compliance will be carried out and how the

costs will be paid. Ground disturbing activities may not occur until environmental compliance is complete and a notice to proceed is issued by the awarding Grants Officer. In some circumstances, environmental compliance may be completed by another Federal agency. If this occurs or if there is an existing environmental compliance document the environmental compliance document will need to be reviewed and adopted by Reclamation and a notice to proceed must be issued by the awarding Grants Officer before ground disturbing activities can begin.

#### E.2.5.2. Budget Analysis and Business Evaluation

A Reclamation Grants Officer will also conduct a detailed budget analysis and complete a business evaluation and responsibility determination. During this evaluation, the Grants Officer will consider several factors that are important, but not quantified, 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 issues, reporting requirements, proper procurement of supplies and services, and audit compliance

Adequacy of personnel practices, procurement procedures, and accounting policies and procedures, as established by applicable Office of Management and Budget circulars.

### **E3. CFR – Regulatory Information**

Before awarding a grant in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold, Reclamation is required to review the SAM.gov database and consider all information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (see 41 U.S.C. §2313).

Optionally, applicants may review information in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through SAM and comment on any information that a Federal awarding agency previously entered and that is currently in the designated integrity and performance system. Reclamation will consider any comments in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards when completing the review of risk as described in 2 CFR §200.206, "Federal awarding agency review of risk posed by applicants."

### **E4. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates**

Anticipated Award Date: Summer 2025

Reclamation estimates contacting potential award recipients and unsuccessful applicants within 180 days of the NOFO closing or soon after. Grants or cooperative agreements will be awarded to applicants that successfully pass all pre-award reviews and clearances.

### **F. Federal Award Administration Information**



## F1. Federal Award Notices

## F2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

See the “[DOI Standard Terms and Conditions](#)” for the administrative and national policy requirements applicable to DOI awards.

### Data Availability

Per the Financial Assistance Interior Regulation (FAIR), [2 CFR §1402.315](#):

(a) All data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, valuation products or other scientific assessments in any medium or form, including textual, numerical, graphic, cartographic, narrative, or audiovisual, resulting from a financial assistance agreement is available for use by the Department of the Interior, including being available in a manner that is sufficient for independent verification.

(b) The Federal Government has the right to:

(1) Obtain, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, or other scientific assessments, produced under a Federal award; and

(2) Authorize others to receive, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use such data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, or other scientific assessments, for Federal purposes, including to allow for meaningful third-party evaluation.

## F3. Reporting

### Financial Reports

All recipients must use the [SF-425, Federal Financial Report](#) form for financial reporting. At a minimum, all recipients must submit a **final** financial report. Final reports are due no later than 90 calendar days after the award period of performance end date or termination date. For awards with periods of performance longer than 12 months, recipients are required to submit **interim** financial reports on the frequency established in the Notice of Award.

All recipients must use the SF-425, Federal Financial Report, form for financial reporting. Recipients must submit a fully completed SF-425 form on a regular schedule as determined by Reclamation and indicated in the grant agreement document; this schedule is typically semi-annually or quarterly. A person legally authorized to obligate the recipient must sign the SF-425.

Recipients must submit a final performance report encompassing the entire period of performance. The final performance report must include, but is not limited to, the following information:

a brief description of the components of the project and the work completed, including each element of the scope of work and the work completed at each stage of the project, the goals and objectives of the project and whether each of these was met; the reasons why goals and objectives were not met (if appropriate); and any problems, delays encountered in completing the project, and if the project was completed within cost, future tracking of project benefits,

a description of how the project demonstrates collaboration, stakeholder involvement or the formation of partnerships, if applicable, and any other pertinent issues involving the project.

Please note that final reports are public documents and may be made available on Reclamation's website. Reclamation may print photos with appropriate credit to the applicant. Before posting recipient's project information on Reclamation's website, Reclamation will work with recipients to assure that proprietary, sensitive Tribal cultural, religious and/or historic information is not compromised.

### **Performance Reports**

Performance reports must contain a comparison of actual accomplishments with the established goals and objectives of the award; a description of reasons why established goals were not met, if appropriate; and any other pertinent information relevant to the project results. Final reports are due no later than 90 calendar days after the award period of performance end date or termination date. For awards with periods of performance longer than 12 months, recipients are required to submit **interim** financial reports on the frequency established in the Notice of Award.

The financial assistance agreement will include specific terms and conditions pertaining to reporting requirements.

Recipients will submit interim performance reports on a schedule determined by Reclamation (typically semi-annually or quarterly, listed in the grant agreement document). While the recipient may provide additional detail, these reports must at a minimum include the following information:

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 applicant.

### **Real Property Reports**

Recipients and subrecipients are required to submit status reports on the status of real property acquired under the award in which the Federal government retains an interest. The required frequency of these reports will depend on the anticipated length of the Federal interest period. Reclamation will include recipient-specific real property reporting requirements, including the required data elements, reporting frequency, and report due dates, in the Notice of Award when applicable.

### **Conflict of Interest Disclosures**

Recipients must notify the program immediately in writing of any conflict of interest that arise during the life of their Federal award, including those reported to them by any subrecipient under the award. Recipients must notify the program in writing if any employees, including subrecipient and contractor personnel, are related to, married to, or have a close personal relationship with any Federal employee in the Federal funding program or who otherwise may have been involved in the review and selection of the award. The term employee means any individual engaged in the performance of work pursuant to the Federal award. Recipients may

not have a former Federal employee as a key project official, or in any other substantial role related to their award, whose participation put them out of compliance with the legal authorities addressing post-Government employment restrictions. See the [U.S. Office of Government Ethics website](#) for more information on these restrictions. Reclamation will examine each conflict of interest disclosure based on its particular facts and the nature of the project and will determine if a significant potential conflict exists. If it does, Reclamation will work with the recipient to determine an appropriate resolution. Failure to disclose and resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies Reclamation may result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR 200.338 Remedies for Noncompliance, including termination of the award.

### **Other Mandatory Disclosures**

The Non-Federal entity or applicant for a Federal award must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award. Non-Federal entities that receive a Federal award including the terms and conditions outlined in 2 CFR 200, Appendix XII—Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters are required to report certain civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings to SAM. Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR 200.338 Remedies for Noncompliance, including suspension or debarment.

### **Reporting Matters Related to Recipient Integrity and Performance**

If the total value of your currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts from all Federal awarding agencies exceeds \$10,000,000 for any period of time during the period of performance of this Federal award, then you as the recipient during that period of time must maintain the currency of information reported to the System for Award Management (SAM) that is made available in the designated integrity and performance system (currently the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)) about civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings in accordance with Appendix XII to 2 CFR 200.

## **G. Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)**

### **G1. Program Technical Contact**

For **programmatic technical assistance**, contact:

First Name:

Last Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Reclamation Program Coordinator Contact

Indian Tribes and tribal organizations with questions regarding this NOFO, applicant and project eligibility, and the application review process or learning more about the other forms of technical

assistance that Reclamation provides to Tribes and Tribal organizations, should direct questions to the appropriate Regional point of contact.

Missouri Basin and Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas Gulf Regions  
Douglas Davis  
Native American Affairs Program Manager  
Missouri Basin and Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas Gulf Regional Office  
PO Box 36900  
Billings, MT 59107-6900 [douglasdavis@usbr.gov](mailto:douglasdavis@usbr.gov)  
(406)247-7710

List of Tribes in the Missouri Basin and Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas Gulf Regions:  
<https://www.usbr.gov/native/support/Tribes/GreatPlainsTribes.pdf>

Lower Colorado Basin Region  
Genevieve Johnson Acting Native American Affairs Program Manager  
Lower Colorado Basin Regional Office  
PO Box 61470  
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470  
[kdnelson@usbr.gov](mailto:kdnelson@usbr.gov)  
(702)293-8073

List of Tribes in the Lower Colorado Basin Region  
<https://www.usbr.gov/native/support/Tribes/LowerColoradoTribes.pdf>  
California-Great Basin Region  
Kevin Clancy  
Native American Affairs Program Manager  
California-Great Basin Regional Office  
2800 Cottage Way, Federal Office Building  
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898  
[kclancy@usbr.gov](mailto:kclancy@usbr.gov)  
(916) 978-5194

List of Tribes in the California-Great Basin Region:  
<https://www.usbr.gov/native/support/Tribes/Mid-PacificTribes.pdf>  
Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region  
Melinda Hernandez-Burke  
Native American Affairs Program Manager  
Columbia-Pacific Northwest Regional Office  
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100  
Boise, ID 83706-1234  
[mhernandezburke@usbr.gov](mailto:mhernandezburke@usbr.gov)  
(208) 215-0065

List of Tribes in the Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region:

<https://www.usbr.gov/native/support/Tribes/PacificNorthwestTribes.pdf>

Upper Colorado Basin Region

Ernest Rheume

Native American Affairs Program Manager

Upper Colorado Basin Regional Office

125 South State Street, Room 6107

Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1102

[erheume@usbr.gov](mailto:erheume@usbr.gov)

(970) 317-1487

List of Tribes in the Upper Colorado Basin Region:

[https://www.usbr.gov/native/support/Tribes/UpperColoradoTribes\\_508.pdf](https://www.usbr.gov/native/support/Tribes/UpperColoradoTribes_508.pdf)

## **G2. Financial Assistance Administrative Contact**

For **financial assistance administrative assistance**, contact:

First Name:

Christina

Last Name:

Munoz

Address:

Bureau of Reclamation mail services Attn: NOFO Team Denver Federal Center Bldg. 67, Rm.

152 6th Ave

Telephone:

720-614-2192

Email:

[bor-sha-fafoa@usbr.gov](mailto:bor-sha-fafoa@usbr.gov)

## **G3. Application System Technical Support**

For **Grants.gov technical registration and submission, downloading forms and application packages**, contact:

Name:

Grants.gov Customer Support

Telephone:

1-800-518-4726

Email:

[Support@grants.gov](mailto:Support@grants.gov)

**H. Other Information**