

# Water Funding for Drinking Water, Wastewater, Stormwater and Water Resilience in Western States

BLM program funds that are distributed through public application through grants.gov include:

## 1. Aging Infrastructure Account

- IJA funding: \$3.2 billion
- Recipients: Transferred Work Operators and Reserved Works Project Beneficiaries (districts, powers customers, cost share partners)
- Eligible Uses: Repair, rehabilitation and maintenance of infrastructure for reserved or transferred works
- Application Period: First round opened on Dec. 17, 2021, and closed Jan. 31, 2022. There will be multiple application periods. Another will open this fall.

## 2. Water & Groundwater Storage and Conveyance Program

- IJA funding: \$1.15 billion
  - Recipients: State, Local governments
  - Eligible Uses: Water and groundwater storage and conveyance projects that create new or expanded water storage. Must have existing feasibility study or construction authorization.
  - Guidelines: To be published January 14, 2022, per statute
  - Application Period - expected calendar 2022
- a. **Small Water Storage Program** - \*New Authority in Program \*
- IJA Funding; \$100 million
  - Recipients: Non-Federal project sponsors in Reclamation States; Alaska and Hawaii
  - Eligible Uses: Small water storage projects that store 2,000-30,000 acre-feet of water. *(most BLM reservoirs are over 100,000 acre feet).*
  - Funding Process: internal formulation and competitive grant process
  - Application period: NOFO released later in 2022.

## 3. Water Recycling

- IJA Funding: 1 billion
  - Recipients: Open
  - Eligible Uses: Water recycling and reuse projects located in Reclamation states
  - Application Period: NOFO closed. (ran from Jan. 14- March 15, 2022); BLM will allocate \$245 million this round.
- o **Large Scale Water Recycling** - \*New Authority in Program\*
- Recipients: Open
  - Eligible Uses: Large water recycling or reuse projects that cost \$500 million or more located in Reclamation state. Federal Share cannot be more than 25% of the total cost of the project.
  - Guidance: Program criteria out this summer for public comment
  - Application Period: NOFO to be published in fall/winter 2022

## 4. Water Desalinization Projects

- IJA Funding: \$250 million
- Recipients: Open
- Uses: Desalinization projects for ocean or brackish water
- Application Period: NOFO closed (ran from Jan. 14, 2022- March 15, 2022).

## 5. **Water Smart Grants**

- IJJA Funding: \$400 million; competitive grants
- Recipients: Open – must meet criteria for Grant Opportunity
- Uses: Management improvements that contribute to water supply sustainability, increase drought resilience and provide environmental benefits
- Application Period: There will be 3 distinct funding opportunities estimated to open in March, April, May 2022
  - Open now: WaterSMART Small Scale Efficiency Projects:
    - Applications due April 28, 2022, at 4 p.m. MDT
    - [NOFO link](#); also available at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) by searching for opportunity number R22AS00195.
    - Applicants are eligible for up to \$100,000, and the total project costs should be \$225,000 or less.
    - Eligible applicants include states, Indian Tribes, irrigation districts, or any other organization with water or power delivery authority in the Western United 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 Islands, and Puerto Rico.)
    - [Click here](#) to watch a recording of the BLM webinar on eligible applicants and project types, program requirements, and the evaluation criteria this funding opportunity
    - To schedule a time to talk to program coordinators, [click here](#)

## 6. **Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration and Protection Projects- \*New Program\***

- IJJA Funding: \$250 million for grants and direct federal spending
- Recipients; Open
- Eligible Uses: design, study and construction of aquatic habitat restoration and protection projects
- Application Period: Expected to open 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2022

## 7. **Watershed Management Projects- \*New Program\***

- IJJA Funding: 100 million
- Recipients: Open; Must meet criteria
- Uses: Water conservation and efficiency projects that increase reliability for ecological value, improvements to mitigate drought-related impacts to ecological values and projects that improve the condition of a natural feature or nature-based feature.
- Application Period: Estimated date, January 2022.

## 8. **Multi Benefit Projects to Improve Watershed Health - \*New Program\***

- IJJA Funding: \$100 mill in financial assistance
- Recipients: Open
- Eligible Uses: projects that support habitat restoration and watershed health
- Guidance: BLM will publish criteria for public comment in the next few months and then issue a NOFO.
- Application Period: Estimated for May 2022.