

March 16, 2026

**BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
| WATERSMART PROGRAM**

WaterSMART Funding Opportunities Overview

Bureau of Reclamation | Department of the Interior

Bureau of Reclamation

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Overview

- On March 5, 2026, the Bureau of Reclamation published three WaterSMART funding opportunities to support water management, drought resilience, and innovation efforts.
- Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects (R25AS00279) — **Due June 2, 2026**
- Applied Science Grants (R25AS00280) — **Round 1 due July 8, 2026; Round 2 due April 13, 2027**
- Drought Response Program (R26AS00016) — **Due July 28, 2026**
- All opportunities are available on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). Reclamation will host webinars — check the website for details.



Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

Supports projects that improve water use efficiency, increase water conservation, and help communities better manage water resources.

Opportunity Number: R25AS00279

Total Program Funding: \$4,000,000 (Awards: \$1,000 – \$125,000)

Application Deadline: **June 2, 2026** at 4:00 PM MDT

Expected Awards: 50

How to Apply: Search [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) for opportunity number R25AS00279



Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects: Eligibility

Category A (must be in Western U.S. or Territories):

- States, Tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts
- State, regional, or local authorities with water or power delivery members
- Other organizations with water or power delivery authority

Category B:

- Nonprofit conservation organizations in partnership with a Category A entity (letter of agreement required)

Ineligible: Federal entities, individuals, and institutions of higher education



Applied Science Grants

Provides funding for projects that develop tools and information to support water management decisions and enhance hydrologic resilience.

Opportunity Number: R25AS00280

Total Program Funding: \$6,000,000 (Awards up to \$400,000)

Application Deadlines (Two Rounds):

- Round 1: **July 8, 2026** at 4:00 PM MDT
- Round 2: **April 13, 2027** at 4:00 PM MDT

How to Apply: Search grants.gov for opportunity number R25AS00280



Applied Science Grants: Eligibility

Category A (must be in Western U.S. or Territories):

- States, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts
- State, regional, or local authorities with water or power delivery members
- Other organizations with water or power delivery authority

Category B:

- Universities, nonprofit research institutions, nonprofits, and federally-funded R&D centers acting in partnership with a Category A entity

Ineligible: Federal entities, individuals, and commercial/industrial organizations



Drought Response Program

Assists communities in preparing for and responding to drought, including drought contingency planning and construction of drought resilience projects.

Opportunity Number: R26AS00016

Total Program Funding: \$13,500,000 (Awards: \$25,000 – \$1,500,000)

Application Deadline: **July 28, 2026** at 4:00 PM MDT

Expected Awards: 20

How to Apply: Search grants.gov for opportunity number R26AS00016



Drought Response Program: Eligibility

Category A (must be in Western U.S. or Territories):

- States, Tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts
- State, regional, or local authorities with water or power delivery members
- Other organizations with water or power delivery authority

Category B:

- Nonprofit conservation organizations in partnership with a Category A entity (letter of agreement required)

Ineligible: Federal entities, individuals, and institutions of higher education

Note: Puerto Rico, Alaska, and Category B applicants are ineligible for Drought Contingency Plans.





Thank You

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