

Funding Options for Rural Communities

Cochise Planning Area
Stakeholders Meeting

August 10, 2016

Natalie Mast



A.R.S. 11-254.09



A.R.S. 11-254.09 Overview

- * Purpose

- * Allows the county BOS to establish a program to allow for gifts, grants, or donations to provide financial assistance to qualified residents for:

- * Deepening an existing drinking well **OR**

- * Plumbing or re-plumbing the recipient's residence for a water delivery system

- * Becomes active on *August 6, 2016*

A.R.S. 11-254.09 Program Requirements

1. BOS must designate an entity to operate the program, establish grant criteria, and award grants
2. Must limit grant recipients to persons who are low income or fixed income owners of residential property
3. Must develop application criteria for awarding grants
4. BOS is prohibited from using general county monies for grants under the program
5. The entity operating the program must submit an annual report of program operations, including gifts, grants, or donations received and grants awarded

Rural Community Assistance Corporation



RCAC Drinking Water Well Assessment

This Free Assessment Includes:

- * Potential sources of well contamination, including nearby agriculture and septic systems
- * Visual in-person inspection of your well, including inspection of proper sanitary seals, well cap screen and casing to reduce the risk of well water contamination
- * Review of well construction relative to standards
- * Evaluation of water source to identify potential vulnerability
- * Additional helpful information to ensure well water safety and reliability
- * Final Report with recommendations and possible remediation steps

RCAC Household Water Well Loans

- * What is it?
 - * A low interest loan that is newly available to Arizona to construct, refurbish, or replace individual household water well systems
- * Loan Terms
 - * Maximum loan amount: \$18,000
 - * Interest Rate: 1% on the first \$11,000; 1%-3% on the remainder depending on repayment ability
 - * Maturity may not exceed 20 years
 - * Associated loan costs estimated not to exceed \$250

RCAC Household Water Well Loans

Program Requirements:

- * Residence must be in a rural area, town, or community in a drought affected area*
- * Population not exceeding 50,000
- * Applicants must own and occupy the home being improved or be purchasing the home
 - * New home construction and community water systems are NOT eligible
- * Household income may not exceed \$50,918 per year

RCAC Contact Information

Drinking Water Well Assessments

- * Thi Pham, RCAC Project Coordinator
- * Phone Number: 916-447-2854
- * Email: tpham@rcac.org

Household Water Well Loans

- * Cyndy Elliott, Loan Officer
- * Phone Number: 209-576-0430
- * Email: celliott@rcac.org

Water Infrastructure Finance Authority



Planning and Design Technical Assistance Grant

- * WIFA is seeking grant applications for certain water infrastructure planning or design projects that will help prepare facilities for project construction
- * Available Funding:
 - * Up to **\$35,000** per project
 - * Total Funding:
 - * Drinking Water Projects - \$200,000
 - * Wastewater/Stormwater - \$100,000

Planning and Design Technical Assistance Grant

- * Eligible Applicants:
 - * Cities
 - * Towns
 - * Special Districts
 - * Tribal Entities
 - * ACC Regulated Private Water Companies

- * Apply online at azwifa.gov/application

- * Application is due August 31, 2016 at 3 pm

Planning and Design Technical Assistance Grant

- * For more information on eligible projects see the Applicant's Guide at azwifa.gov/technical-assistance-program

OR

- * Contact Melanie Ford
 - * Phone Number: 602-364-1321
 - * Email: mford@azwifa.gov



WIFA Loans

- * Same eligibility as grants
- * Very low interest
- * May be preferable to grants in some cases
 - * Forgivable principal
 - * Year-round availability
 - * Non-competitive
 - * No minimum or maximum loan amount

WIFA Loans

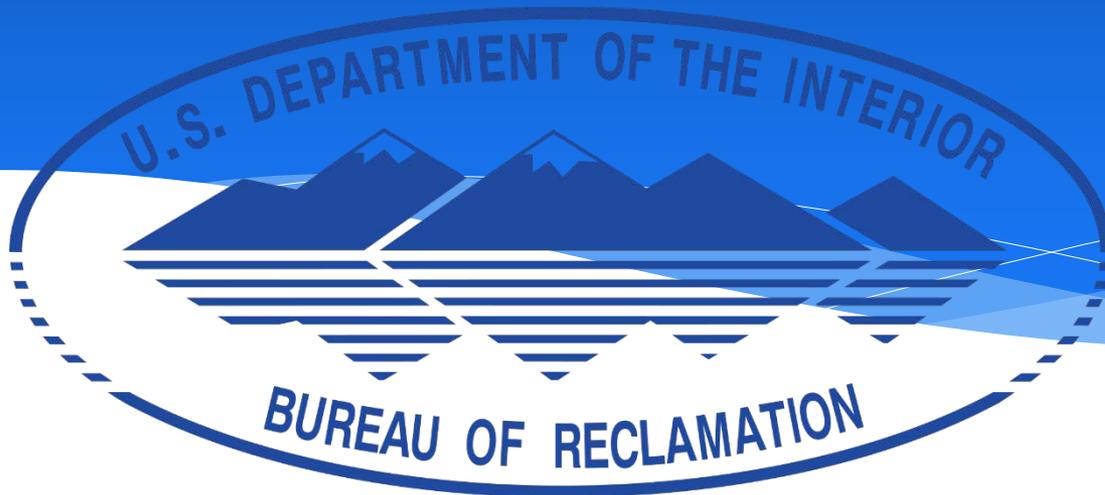
- * For more information on see the Loan Programs Guide at www.azwifa.gov/loan-programs/

OR

- * Contact Melanie Ford
 - * Phone Number: 602-364-1321
 - * Email: mford@azwifa.gov



Bureau of Reclamation



WaterSMART Grants

- * These grants are focused on improving water conservation and helping water resource managers make wise decisions about water use.
- * Reclamation helps administer grants, scientific studies, technical assistance, and scientific expertise through WaterSMART.
- * Some Available WaterSMART Grants:
 - * System Optimization Reviews
 - * Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

System Optimization Reviews

- * An SOR is an analysis of system-wide efficiency that focuses on improving the effectiveness and operations of a delivery system, district, or watershed.
- * Improvements that are recommended in the SOR may then be eligible for funding under other WaterSMART Grant categories.

System Optimization Reviews

A Review contains the following steps:

1. Information gathering
2. Collect new data
3. Identify issues and priorities
4. Set goals
5. Identify and evaluate potential improvement
6. Define a plan of action
7. Prepare a final report

System Optimization Reviews

Applicants Must:

- * Be a State, Indian tribe, irrigation district, water district, or other organization with water or power delivery authority
- * Be able to provide a 50/50 cost-share. Funding up to \$100,000 will be available per project.
- * Be able to complete the SOR within 24 months

Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

- * Eligible Applicants:
 - * Irrigation and Water Districts
 - * Tribes
 - * States
 - * Other entities with water or power delivery authority
- * Eligible Projects Should:
 - * Conserve and Use Water More Efficiently
 - * Increase use of Renewable Energy
 - * Improve Energy Efficiency
 - * Benefit Endangered and Threatened Species
 - * Facilitate Water Markets
 - * Carry out other activities that address climate-related impacts on water or prevent any water-related crisis or conflict

Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

- * Reclamation provides a 50/50 cost-share
- * Available Funds:
 - * Up to \$300,000 are available for smaller on-the-ground projects
 - * Up to \$1,000,000 are available for larger, phased on-the-ground projects that may take up to 3 years to complete

Reclamation Contact Information

System Optimization Reviews

- * Website:
<http://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/sor/index.html>
- * Contact Jessica Asbill-Case
 - * Phone: 623-773-6273
 - * Email: jasbillcase@usbr.gov

Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

- * Website:
<http://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/weeg/index.html>
- * Contact Jessica Asbill-Case
 - * Phone: 623-773-6273
 - * Email: jasbillcase@usbr.gov

Rural Water Infrastructure Committee



RWIC Overview

- RWIC is a partnership of various federal and state agencies who provide loans, grants, and technical assistance to Arizona's rural communities
- RWIC's Mission:
 - To serve as a “one-stop shop” for rural communities with a population of less than 10,000
 - To meet the needs of small drinking water and wastewater systems throughout Arizona

RWIC Partners



Get Connected with RWIC

- * Visit www.rwic.net

- * Fill out a Project Info Form
 - <http://rwic.net/docs/project-information-form.pdf>

- * Contact Susan Craig, RWIC Coordinator
 - Phone number: 602-364-1236
 - Email: scraig@azwifa.gov



Available Trainings and Other Updates

- * Financing Sustainable Water Workshop
 - * Hosted by AMWUA and AWE
 - * Tuesday, September 10 in Phoenix
 - * “All those involved in the rate setting process are invited: water utility directors, CFOs, finance directors, rate analysts, water resources & conservation staffs, sustainability directors, mayors, and city councilmembers.”
- * Free EFCN Webinars for Small Water Systems
- * ADEQ’s new online reporting tool for Water Quality Self-Monitoring Reporting Forms (SMRF) and Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs)



Questions?

Arizona Water Initiative
Cochise Planning Area

Coordinator:

Natalie Mast

nlmast@azwater.gov

(602) 771-4646