



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW AND INFLATION REDUCTION ACT FUNDING HANDBOOK FOR ACCESS TO CLEAN DRINKING WATER (2024)

GOAL OF THE HANDBOOK

This handbook is intended to be a reference guide for Tribes seeking to access and utilize funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to increase, improve, and maintain access to clean drinking water. While substantial and unprecedented levels of funding have been made available through the BIL and IRA, moving funds from the agencies to projects on the ground is proving to be challenging.

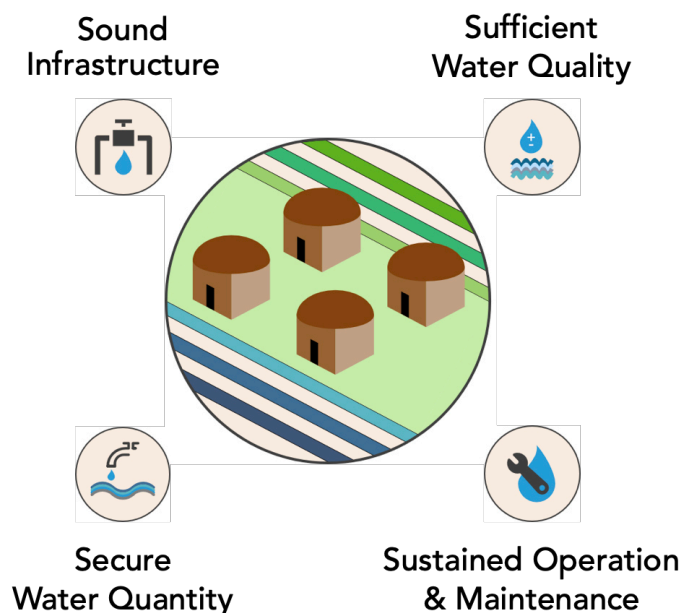
There are four federal agencies with BIL and/or IRA-allocated funding programs that provide some aspect of drinking water and sanitation services to Tribes, these are:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Indian Health Service

This handbook aims to provide a helpful map for Tribes as they move from identifying water access project needs to obtaining the funds necessary for planning, designing, constructing, and maintaining essential projects.

WATER ACCESS REQUIREMENTS






Acknowledging the tangible, historical, and persistent challenges that Tribal communities face in accessing clean and reliable drinking water, there are four interrelated and required aspects of ensuring and maintaining water security.








SUMMARY TABLES OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES






Agency funding programs are summarized below based upon the five different project stages and identify which of the four water access components can be addressed through each program.






- Bolded funding programs indicate they are for Tribal recipients only. These programs have zero match/cost-sharing requirements.
- Additional programs with zero match/cost-share requirements are noted with an asterisk after the program name.

 Research & Planning	 Infrastructure	 O&M	 Quality	 Quantity
BIA - Tribal Climate Resilience	✓			✓
Reclamation - WaterSMART WEEG	✓	✓		✓
Reclamation - WaterSMART Drought Resiliency	✓	✓		✓
Reclamation - Small Storage	✓	✓		✓
Reclamation - Indian Water Rights				✓
Reclamation - Domestic Water Supply for Disadvantaged Communities*	✓	✓	✓	
Reclamation - Drought Mitigation*	✓	✓	✓	
Reclamation - Emergency Drought Relief for Tribes	✓	✓	✓	
IHS - Sanitation Facilities Construction	✓	✓		✓
EPA - DWIG SRF TSA General Supplemental	✓		✓	
EPA - DWIG SRF-TSA EC	✓		✓	






 Operations & Maintenance	 Infrastructure	 O&M	 Quality	 Quantity
IHS - Sanitation Facilities Construction	✓	✓		✓

SUMMARY TABLES OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

 Pre-Construction	 Infrastructure	 O&M	 Quality	 Quantity
Reclamation - Domestic Water Supply for Disadvantaged Communities*	✓	✓	✓	
IHS - Sanitation Facilities Construction	✓	✓		✓
EPA - DWIG SRF TSA General Supplemental	✓		✓	
EPA - DWIG SRF TSA Lead Service Line Replacement	✓		✓	
EPA - DWIG SRF-TSA EC	✓		✓	
EPA - CWISA General Supplemental	✓			
EPA - CWISA EC-SDC	✓			

 Construction	 Infrastructure	 O&M	 Quality	 Quantity
BIA - Tribal Climate Resilience	✓			✓
Reclamation - WaterSMART WEEG	✓	✓		✓
Reclamation - WaterSMART Drought Resiliency	✓	✓		✓
Reclamation - Small Storage	✓	✓		✓
Reclamation - Domestic Water Supply for Disadvantaged Communities*	✓	✓	✓	
Reclamation - Drought Mitigation*	✓	✓	✓	
Reclamation - Emergency Drought Relief for Tribes	✓	✓	✓	
IHS - Sanitation Facilities Construction	✓	✓		✓
EPA - DWIG SRF TSA Lead Service Line Replacement	✓		✓	
EPA - DWIG SRF-TSA EC	✓		✓	
EPA - CWISA General Supplemental	✓			
EPA - CWISA EC-SDC	✓			

SUMMARY TABLES OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

 Technical Assistance	 Infrastructure	 O&M	 Quality	 Quantity
BIA - Tribal Climate Resilience	✓			✓
Reclamation - WaterSMART WEEG	✓	✓		✓
Reclamation - Domestic Water Supply for Disadvantaged Communities*	✓	✓	✓	
Reclamation - Drought Mitigation*	✓	✓	✓	
Reclamation - Emergency Drought Relief for Tribes	✓	✓	✓	
IHS - Sanitation Facilities Construction	✓	✓		✓
EPA - DWIG SRF TSA General Supplemental	✓		✓	
EPA - DWIG SRF TSA Lead Service Line Replacement	✓		✓	
EPA - DWIG SRF-TSA EC	✓		✓	
EPA - CWISA General Supplemental	✓			
EPA - CWISA EC-SDC	✓			

AUTHORS

This handbook was produced by the Initiative on Universal Access to Clean Water for Tribal Communities (UACW), with insightful and clarifying input from federal agency, Tribal, and academic partners. UACW affirms that every Native American has the right to clean, safe, affordable water as an essential component of public health, educational attainment, and economic development.

UACW researches and writes reports about the lack of access to clean water in Tribal communities, the applicability of the federal trust responsibility to provide clean drinking water to Tribes, and the various federal programs that address this issue. Building on research findings, UACW also works with Tribes to access and navigate the federal funding landscape.

Previous reports, including the current handbook, are available at: www.tribalcleanwater.org.