DNRC GRANT FUNDING



Montana Association of Dams and Canal Systems

October 2026

GRANT PROGRAMS

RENEWABLE RESOURCE GRANT & LOAN PROGRAM

- Irrigation Infrastructure
  - Dams
  - Canals
  - Irrigation Efficiency
  - Diversion
  - Storage
  - Restoration
- Government & Private

RECLAMATION DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM

- Crucial State Need
  - High Hazard Dams
  - Channel Migration Zone Mapping
  - Drought Planning & Projects
- Government Only

RENEWABLE RESOURCE GRANTS & LOANS

Conserve, Manage, Preserve & Develop Montana's Renewable Resources



PLANNING GRANTS & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

- $20K - $40K
- Preliminary Engineering Reports
- Technical Narratives
- Asset Management Plans
- Other
- Technical Assistance



PROJECT GRANTS

GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

- $125K
- Engineering & Construction
- Apply May 15 Even Years
- Legislative Approval



EMERGENCY GRANTS

GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

- $30K
- Emergency Dam Repairs
- Siphon Failures
- Applications Accepted Until Funds are Expended



PRIVATE GRANTS

- $5K or 50% of Project Cost
- Water Related Projects
- Renewable Resource Benefits
- Public Benefits
- Dam Inspection or Repair
- Irrigation System Improvements



NEW DAM INSPECTION GRANTS

GOVERNMENT & PRIVATE

- $50K or 50% of Project Cost
- Five-Year Dam Inspections
- Engineer’s Safety Evaluation and Report
- Open Summer 2027



IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

PRIVATE ENTITIES

- $50K or 50% of Project Cost
- Develop or Sustain Montana's Irrigated Agriculture
- On-Farm Improvements



NONPOINT SOURCE GRANTS

GOVERNMENT & PRIVATE

- $50K or 50% of Project Costs (Private Only)
- Water Quality Benefits



RENEWABLE RESOURCE LOANS

GOVERNMENT & PRIVATE

- Government Entities Apply May 15 Even Years & Approved by the Legislature
- Private Entities Apply Anytime



RECLAMATION DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Repair, Reclaim and Mitigate Environmental Damage. Crucial State Needs.

PLANNING GRANTS

PROJECT GRANTS

WATER STORAGE PILOTS

RDG PLANNING GRANTS

GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

- $50K - $75K
- Preliminary Engineering Reports
- Feasibility Studies
- Engineering Designs
- Channel Migration Zone Maps
- Drought Management & Mitigation Plans



RDG PROJECT GRANTS

GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

- $500K
- Reclamation
- Drought Mitigation
- High Hazard Dams
- Other Crucial State Needs



NEW WATER STORAGE PILOT

GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

- Benefit Montana's Water Resources
- Regional or Statewide Importance
- Planning Grants to Demonstrate:
  - Technical & Financial Feasibility
  - Environmental Impacts
  - Legally Implementable
  - Supported



SPONSORED GRANTS

- Local Governments + Partners
  - Memorandum of Understanding
  - Procurement & Contracting

HOW TO BE COMPETITIVE

- ✓Match the project to the Program
- ✓Show a (realistic) measurable resource and public benefit.
- ✓Define the problem and solution.
- ✓Demonstrate readiness.
- ✓Bring credible match and financial capacity.
- ✓Document local support and collaboration.
- ✓Use clear evidence.
- ✓Start early and contact DNRC.

THANK YOU!

dnrc.mt.gov/grants-and-loans/

Autumn Bahr
DNRC Deputy Director
Autumn.Bahr@mt.gov