



Mendocino County Water Agency/Drought Response Funding Opportunities

This funding search catalogues a collection of ongoing and one-time grant funding sources which can be used to support water systems in response to drought conditions. While many of these funding sources are ongoing programs, several with the largest funding allocations, such as DWR's Small Community Drought Relief Program, are one-time funding allocations from the state budget and are not guaranteed to be available in future years. DWR's first round of drought relief funding was significantly oversubscribed, and subsequent rounds are likely to be as, or more, competitive than Round 1. The 2021-2022 fiscal year represented a highly favorable funding environment for local agencies. While the State has proposed allocating additional funding to these drought programs in 2022-2023, there is no guarantee that supplemental funding resources will be available in future years. One of the challenges facing Mendocino County in working to re-establish the County Water Agency is the lack of funding sources interested in providing general operating support or staffing funding. Many of these programs are oriented around ensuring water supply is available and improving water distribution and storage systems to benefit communities. Staffing funding, on the other hand, is typically only included to facilitate the completion of a project with clear goals, deliverables, and outcomes. In order to successfully secure staffing funding for the County Water Agency, the County will likely need to identify key "project" priorities which will require supplemental staffing to complete, and frame grant funding requests around completing these projects while also building County staffing capacity to complete more projects in the future.

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Mendocino County Drought Response Funding Opportunities

Name of Opportunity + Funder	Eligible Applicants	Deadlines	Dollar Amounts	Match Requirements	Description of Program Pros and Cons
Department of Water Resources Small Community Drought Relief Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public agencies (e.g., Counties, cities) • Public utilities • Special districts (e.g., school districts, community service districts, irrigation districts, flood control districts, reclamation districts) • Colleges and universities • Mutual water companies • Nonprofit organizations¹ • Federally recognized Indian tribes • State Indian tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's California Tribal Consultation List 	Applications accepted until December 2023 or all funds are granted	\$192 million available in first round of funding. More proposed for FY 22-23 but not yet approved. All 21-22 funds have been allocated	Not required, but encouraged	<p>Eligible Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hauled Water • Temporary Community Water Tanks • Bottled Water • Water Vending Machines • Emergency Water Interties • New wells or rehab of existing wells • Construction or installation of permanent infrastructure <p>Staffing funding not listed as a standalone eligible expense. Intent of the Small Community Drought Relief Program is to provide immediate and near term financial and technical support to help small communities survive this and future droughts. The Program will support projects and programs that provide immediate and near-term water supply reliability benefits and improve small communities' drought and water shortage resiliency and preparedness. The specific objectives are to implement projects that provide reliable water supply sources, improve water system storage, replace aging and leaking pipelines, and provide alternative power sources for operation (emergency generators).</p> <p>This program funded the County's emergency water hauling project as well as several others in Mendocino County.</p>

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<p>DWR Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public agencies • Public utilities • Special districts • Colleges and universities • Mutual water companies • Non-profit organizations • Regional water management groups, as defined in Section 10539 of the Water Code • Federally recognized California Native American Tribes • Non-federally recognized Native American Tribes on the contact list maintained by the Native • American Heritage Commission for the purposes of Chapter 905 of the Statutes of 2004 	<p>Applications accepted until all funding has been allocated. Likely oversubscribed at this point. Additional funding coming in FY 22-23 for urban water suppliers, but not for multibenefit</p>	<p>\$190 million available in total. \$95 million for Urban Water Suppliers (County of Mendocino not eligible), \$95 million for multi-benefit projects</p>		<p>For the purposes of this GL/PSP, "project" means all planning, design, engineering, acquisition of real property interests, construction and related activities undertaken to implement a discrete action to be funded under this Program. Eligible project types include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hauled Water • Installation of temporary community water tanks • Bottled water • Water vending machine • Emergency water interties • New wells or rehabilitation of existing wells • Construction or installation of permanent connection to adjacent water systems, recycled water projects that support immediate relief to potable water supplies • Fish and wildlife rescue, protection, and relocation • Drought resilience planning (not applicable to multi-benefit project funds) • Other projects that support immediate drought response. <p>Projects (e.g., water demand management, groundwater recharge, and ecosystem restoration) not explicitly identified by Water Code Section 13198 (c) may still be eligible if projects satisfy the criteria and eligibility outlined in this GL/PSP and address an immediate drought response</p> <p>Explicitly ineligible activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation and Maintenance Costs • Indirect costs

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<p>State Water Resources Control Board Urgent Drinking Water Needs Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A public agency, including Regional Boards. • A tribal government that is on the California Tribal Consultation List maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission and is a disadvantaged community (DAC). • A not-for-profit organization serving a DAC; or A community water system that serves a DAC. 	<p>Rolling application cycle</p>	<p>Up to \$500k with SWRCB ED approval, projects >\$500k require SWRCB Board Approval</p>	<p>None</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of interim alternate water supplies, such as bottled or hauled water. • Emergency improvements or repairs to existing water systems as necessary to provide an adequate supply of domestic water. Improvements or repairs will typically only be funded if shown to be a more cost-effective interim solution than provision of interim alternate water supplies. Eligible improvements or repairs include but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Well rehabilitation or replacement; ○ Emergency interties, extension of service, or consolidation projects; ○ Treatment systems; ○ Rented, borrowed or purchased equipment; ○ Design, installation and initial startup costs;
<p>State Water Resources Control Board Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Program</p>	<p>Eligible recipients include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • public agencies, • nonprofit organizations, • public utilities, • mutual water companies, • California Native American Tribes, • administrators, and • groundwater sustainability agencies 	<p>Rolling application cycle</p>	<p>Funded at \$130 million/year with additional funding this FY; no minimum or maximum</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Small Community Funding is available to help small disadvantage communities (small DACs), providing drinking water service to less than 10,000 people or wastewater service to less than 20,000 people and having a median household income (MHI) of less than 80% the statewide MHI, with technical assistance needs, interim water supplies, and implement eligible drinking water or wastewater capital improvement projects.</p> <p>The Fund may be used on a broad range of projects and/or services of the following types: · Provision of interim replacement water (e.g., temporary bottled water, point-of-use [POU] or point-of-entry [POE] installation) · Planning or design (e.g., feasibility study) · Construction · Consolidation (physical or managerial) · Administrator funding · O&M · Technical Assistance (e.g., assistance with construction application) Any eligible project or service may also be funded on an emergency basis.</p>

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<p>State Water Resources Control Board County-wide and Regional Funding Solicitation (subprogram under SAFER)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counties • Non-governmental organizations on behalf of one or more Counties • Other public agencies on behalf of one or more Counties • Recipients provide assistance to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ State smalls serving a disadvantaged community ○ Domestic wells serving a DAC ○ Small DAC public water systems, which may include schools 	<p>Rolling application cycles.</p>	<p>No funding limits. Projects must serve disadvantaged communities</p>	<p>Not required</p>	<p>The State Water Board has opened a County-wide and Regional Funding Solicitation for counties or eligible partner entities to receive funding to implement regional programs that address drought-related and/or contamination issues for state small water systems (state smalls) and domestic wells serving disadvantaged communities (DACs) and low-income households.</p> <p>Project Types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community outreach ○ Domestic Well testing • Interim Solutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bottled Water ○ Tanks and hauled water ○ Kiosk filling stations ○ Point of use (POU)/Point of entry (POE) installation and maintenance • Long-Term Solutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Well repairs or replacements ○ Limited-scale consolidation (such as laterals, above-ground interties) ○ POU/POE installation and maintenance, in some cases

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USDA <u>Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most state and local governmental entities Nonprofit organizations Federally recognized tribes 	Rolling application cycles	\$150k for distribution system repairs \$1 million for new water sources	Not required but encouraged	<p>This program helps prevent damage or restore households and business' access to clean, reliable drinking water in eligible rural areas and towns following natural disasters. Funding can improve the natural environment and encourage manufacturers and other businesses to locate or expand operations.</p>
SWRCB <u>Drinking Water Well Replacement Program</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual Households (Homeowners) Small Water Systems serving less than 15 connections 	Rolling application cycle	Loans up to \$18,000	None	<p>The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) was authorized \$8 million by Senate Bill 108 (SB108) of which \$5 million will be used to assist individual households and small water systems to replace failed drinking water wells for disadvantaged households. These funds are administered by Rural Community Assistance Corp (RCAC) and are still available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New well construction Design costs of necessary infrastructure Well replacement, including extending wells to deeper aquifers Permits Distribution/Conveyance pipelines (up to the point of entry of household) Water Quality Sampling and Laboratory Analysis Limited Treatment systems (such as point-of-use devices) All necessary appurtenances, etc.

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SWRCB Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicly-owned community water systems (e.g., counties, cities and districts) • Privately-owned community water systems (e.g., for-profit water utilities, non-profit mutual water companies) • Non-profit or publicly-owned non-community water systems (e.g., public school districts) • Community water systems created by the project 	Rolling application cycle	No maximum	Loan program with no matching requirement. Principal forgiveness available to water systems serving DACs.	Planning/design and construction of drinking water infrastructure projects including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • treatment systems • distribution systems • interconnections • consolidations • pipeline extensions • water sources • water meters • water storages could be up to 24 months before funding agreement is executed after application.

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USDA Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most state and local governmental entities • Nonprofits • Federally recognized tribes 	Rolling application cycle	Up to \$30,000	None	<p>Areas to be served must be rural and financially distressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural areas with a population of 2,500 or less • Have a median household income below the poverty line or less than 80 percent of the statewide non-metropolitan median household income based on latest Census data <p>Funds can be used to pay predevelopment planning costs, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility studies to support applications for funding water or waste disposal projects • Preliminary design and engineering analysis • Technical assistance for the development of an application for financial assistance <p>The predevelopment planning costs must be related to a proposed project that meets the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct, enlarge, extend or improve rural water, sanitary sewage, solid waste disposal and storm wastewater disposal facilities • Construct or relocate public buildings, roads, bridges, fences or utilities, and to make other public improvements necessary for the successful operation or protection of facilities • Relocate private buildings, roads, bridges, fences, or utilities, and other private improvements necessary for the successful operation or protection of facilities

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USDA Water and Waste Disposal Grants to Alleviate Health Risks on Tribal Lands and Colonias	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State and local governmental entities serving eligible areas Nonprofit organizations Utility districts serving Colonias Federally recognized tribes 	Rolling application cycle	Not specified	Matching funds encouraged but not required.	<p>Eligible Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federally recognized tribal lands Areas recognized as Colonias before October 1, 1989 Rural areas and towns with populations of 10,000 or less <p>Residents of the area to be served must face significant health risks due to a lack of access to, or use of adequate, affordable water or waste disposal. Funds used for Construction of basic drinking water and waste disposal systems, including storm drainage</p>
USDA Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most state and local governmental entities Private nonprofits Federally-recognized tribes 	Rolling application cycle	Not specified	Loan program in which some funds can also be provided as a grant. Dependent upon borrowers ability to repay.	<p>This program provides funding for clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage disposal, sanitary solid waste disposal, and storm water drainage to households and businesses in eligible rural areas.</p> <p>Areas that may be served include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural areas and towns with populations of 10,000 or less -- check eligible addresses Tribal lands in rural areas Colonias <p>Funds may be used to finance the acquisition, construction or improvement of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drinking water sourcing, treatment, storage and distribution Sewer collection, transmission, treatment and disposal Solid waste collection, disposal and closure Storm water collection, transmission and disposal

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USDA Water and Waste Disposal Predevelopment Planning Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most state and local governmental entities • Nonprofit organizations • Federally recognized tribes 	Rolling application cycle	\$30,000 or 75% of application development costs	25%	<p>Eligible areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural areas and towns with populations of 10,000 or less. Check eligible addresses • Federally recognized tribal lands • Colonias <p>The area must also have a median household income below the poverty line or less than 80 percent of the statewide non-metropolitan median household income</p> <p>Grants may be used to pay part of the costs of developing a complete application for USDA Rural Development Water & Waste Disposal direct loan/grant and loan guarantee programs.</p>

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<p>DWR Integrated Regional Water Management Program (Granted locally through the North Coast Resource Partnership)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public agencies Non-profit organizations Public utilities Federally recognized Indian Tribes California State Indian Tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's California Tribal Consultation List Mutual water companies 	<p>Expecting submittal deadlines in September /October and February. Unclear which cycle will include NCRP.</p>	<p>Expecting ~\$10 million available for the North Coast Region, but could increase depending on allocations of drought funding</p>	<p>50%, can be reduced or waived depending on benefits to DACs or EDAs</p>	<p>Eligible projects must yield multiple benefits and include one or more of the following elements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water reuse and recycling for non-potable reuse and direct and indirect potable reuse Water-use efficiency and water conservation Local and regional surface and underground water storage, including groundwater aquifer cleanup or recharge projects Regional water conveyance facilities that improve integration of separate water systems Watershed protection, restoration, and management projects, including projects that reduce the risk of wildfire or improve water supply reliability Stormwater resource management projects to reduce, manage, treat, or capture rainwater or stormwater Stormwater resource management projects that provide multiple benefits such as water quality, water supply, flood control, or open space Decision support tools that evaluate the benefits and costs of multi-benefit stormwater projects Stormwater resource management projects to implement a stormwater resource plan Conjunctive use of surface and groundwater storage facilities Decision support tools to model regional water management strategies to account for climate change and other changes in regional demand and supply projections Improvement of water quality, including drinking water treatment and distribution, groundwater and aquifer remediation, matching water quality to water use, wastewater treatment, water pollution prevention, and management of urban and agricultural runoff Regional projects or programs as defined by the IRWM Planning Act (Water Code §10537)

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California Resilience Challenge (ICARP)	<p>California-based non-government organizations, including community-based organizations, representing under-resourced communities are encouraged to apply, as are local California public entities that represent under-resourced communities.</p> <p>Under resourced communities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DACs • Low income Communities (<80% MHI) • Frontline and underrepresented communities (environmental justice) • Climate vulnerable communities as described by OPR 	<p>One cycle per year, typically closes in early fall</p>	<p>Awards between \$100k-\$200k but can make larger or smaller awards at grantor's discretion</p>	<p>Not required</p>	<p>Activities eligible for funding are those related to climate resilience planning. The focus of CRC is on use of its grants to leverage planning efforts across the state. Examples of eligible activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility studies • Public consultation, planning, and economic analysis • Funding/financing analysis • Conceptual drawings and design • Data and geospatial analysis • Projects that create a plan for, or concurrently involve and leverage, climate adaptation activities that pull together collaborative, cross-sector action that builds capacity in communities through activities such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convening stakeholders to discuss community needs regarding potential climate change mitigation and adaptation projects eligible for statewide competitive grant programs with specific allocations for under-resourced communities. • Developing community and project plans, including climate action plans, demonstrating local needs and identifying multiple-benefit projects for implementation. • Supporting the development of partnerships between stakeholders and potential public and private funding sources. • Providing policy, program, and technical advice to stakeholders to develop and align multi-benefit projects with potential funding sources.

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<p>PG&E Better Together Resilient Communities Grant Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> governmental organizations, educational institutions, or certified 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations and must include a local or tribal government within Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E's) service area as a partner. 	<p>One cycle per year, typically closes in late summer.</p>	<p>Four \$100k awards per year</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Seeking projects which build community resilience and capacity to withstand climate-related hazards</p> <p>Unsuccessfully applied for funding for a ~0.5 FTE WA staffer, funding for additional domestic user drought kits (showerheads, faucet aerators, buckets, shower timers, etc), and an allocation for outreach such as radio ads, billboards, flyers, etc. in Summer 2021.</p>