

# Where grant funding went, where it's going, and how to bring it home.

October 3, 2024

**NSDC**  
NATIONAL SPECIAL DISTRICTS COALITION



# Agenda

What will we cover  
today?

- Introductions
- Programs you care about
- What's on the horizon for 2025
- How to get the most out of TFG Grants consultations

TFG Grants  
Team



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TFG Managing Partner of Grants



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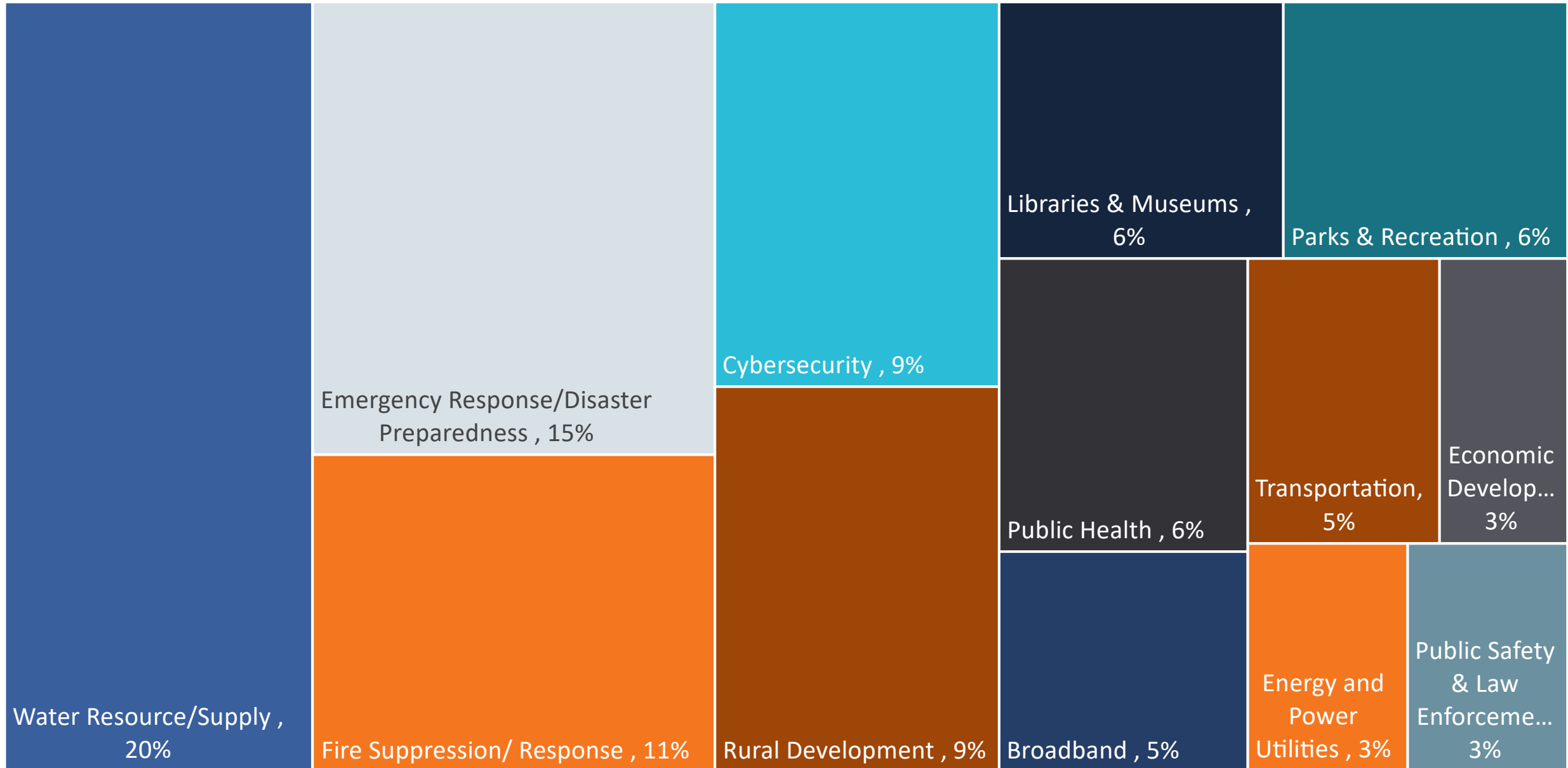
TFG Grants Analyst

# Programs You Care About

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Where are districts getting federal funding?

## Where Are Special Districts Seeking Grant Funding?





— BUREAU OF —  
RECLAMATION

# WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

**NSDC**  
NATIONAL SPECIAL DISTRICTS COALITION



Approximately \$140 million in IIJA and FY25 appropriations funding for 40-50 awards

50% match

Up to \$500,000 for projects to be completed within two years

Up to \$2 million for projects to be completed within three years

Up to \$5 million for large projects to be completed within three years

Application Due Date: November 13, 2024

- Supports projects that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings, implement renewable energy components, and support broader sustainability benefits.
- Water conservation projects include canal lining/piping, municipal metering, irrigation flow measurement, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition and Automation, landscape irrigation measures, high-efficiency indoor appliances and fixtures, and commercial cooling systems.
- Renewable energy projects include developing new hydropower capacity or upgrading the capacity of an existing hydropower facility, bringing existing mothballed hydropower capacity back online, and installing solar-electric, wind energy, or geothermal power systems.
- Limited geographic eligibility – Western United States or United States Territories.

FY2024  
WaterSMART  
WEEG Program

# Where did the money go?

## Award Breakdown

- \$105 million in funding awarded
- 64 projects were selected out of 154 applications creating about a 44% success rate
- Of the 64 projects funded, 43 were for projects in special districts which means almost **68% of the funding went to special districts**

## What to Expect

- FY 2025 applications are due November 13, 2024
- The process is getting more competitive, and districts will need to be prepared to WOW Reclamation.



# Assistance to Firefighter Grants (AFG)



\$324 million in FY23 appropriations funding for approximately 2,000 awards

Match is dependent on applicant size and ranges from 5% to 15%

The ranges for awards differs based on population of area served with the smallest communities receiving no more than \$1 million and the largest communities receiving no more than \$9 million

Anticipated Solicitation Date: Winter 2024

- Provides critically needed resources that equip and train emergency personnel to recognize standards, enhance operational efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience.
- Funding can be used for training, equipment, personal protective equipment, wellness and fitness, modifications to facilities, and vehicle acquisition.
- Each year, FEMA selects high priority project types. Projects seeking funding that aligns with the annual priorities will be more competitive.
- The application is essentially comprised of and reviewed in two different sections. The first is data driven and the second includes more narrative on the project. If a project does not meet a minimum threshold in the data evaluation, it will not move on in the review process.



FY2023  
Assistance to  
Firefighter  
Grants (AFG)

# Where did the money go?

## Award Breakdown

- \$324 million in funding awarded
- 1,635 projects were selected... unsure of total number of applications submitted
- Of the 1,635 projects funded, approximately 175 were for projects in special districts which means about **11% of the funding went to special districts**... could be more

## What to Expect

- FY 2024 solicitation expected to open in early 2025
- Applications are based on data and high priorities that differ each year
- Reach out to your neighbors for support and collaboration

## NSDC Federal Grant Guides

NSDC Grant Guides provide general overview of federal grant programs for certain types of services including:

- Water and Wastewater
- Transportation
- Parks & Recreation
- Fire Departments
- Libraries & Museums
- Rural Communities
- Opioid Abuse
- Economic & Community Development
- Law Enforcement
- Mental Health & Substance Abuse
- Habitat Conservation
- Homelessness

# What's on the Horizon

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What to expect in the future

## Special Districts are overwhelmingly interested in pursuing competitive grant funding



# Elections and Federal Funding

## Potential Policy and Funding Priority Shifts

- Impact and existing programs
- Strategic Response

## Program Realignment and Creation

- Innovative Program Development
- Stakeholder Involvement

## Timing and Speed of Grant Allocations

- Grant programs and Election years

# Policy and Funding Priority Shifts

Administration's priorities  
guide how federal funds are  
allocated through grants

**Are your priorities the  
same as the funders?**

**Impact on State and  
Local Programs**

Shifts in federal funding  
priorities between a change  
in political party in office

**Have a plan "B"**

# Government Program Realignment and Creation

Program Realignment

Reduction of Existing Programs

Creation of New Programs



*Implementing these changes will not be abrupt and should not impact existing grantees.*

# Timing and Speed of Grant Allocations

Program Realignment

Delayed Grant Announcements  
and Awards

Reallocating Funds

Impact on Multi-Year Grants



# Grant Program Eligibility

Requirements like Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Environmental Justice will likely still be in effect.

- Federal and State Mandates
- Implementation Strategies

Data is important!

- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Reporting and Accountability
- Use of Technology
- Evaluation Metrics

# How to Make the Most of Consultations

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What to expect and what to bring

## Special Districts Face Numerous Barriers to Optimal Federal Grant Opportunity Utilization



## Many Special Districts Could Make Use of TFG Grants Office Hours!



# What to Expect

## General Questions Asked During Consultations:

- What is your project?
- What is the need?
- Where will it take place?
- Who will be affected?
- What is the cost?
- What is the timeline?
- Do you have matching funds available?

# What to Bring

When identifying needs bring a list of:

- List of Priority Projects
- Estimated Costs
- Any General Information on Project(s)

When researching and preparing grants bring a list of:

- Any Identified Grants
- Timeline for Implementation
- Grant Guidelines

# How to Access NSDC Grant Services

## Submit your funding needs to the [NSDC Project Idea Portal](#)

1

- Easy to use online tool to provide information on specific project needs or general funding inquiries

## Book time during NSDC Grant Office Hours

2

- TFG reviews and connects with your district through a personal consultation
- Use the NSDC Project Idea Portal to submit your project ideas and get in touch with us. We will reach out to book a consultation.



[www.nationalspecialdistricts.org/grant-services](http://www.nationalspecialdistricts.org/grant-services)

# Questions?

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We're here to help.



Thank you!



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? Questions? Email us at [nsdcgrants@tfgnet.com](mailto:nsdcgrants@tfgnet.com).