

**§ 404.15**

**§ 404.15 How can I request assistance under the program?**

This table summarizes the requirements for requesting assistance under the program. The requirements are described in more detail in the sections that follow.

Type of assistance requested	How to request assistance
1. Request Reclamation to conduct an appraisal investigation.	Submit a statement of interest as described in § 404.16. Reclamation will then advise you whether you are eligible to submit a full proposal.
2. Request funding to conduct an appraisal investigation yourself or through a contractor.	Submit a statement of interest as described in § 404.16. Reclamation will then advise you whether you are eligible to submit a full proposal.
3. Request Reclamation to conduct a feasibility study.	Submit a full proposal as described in § 404.20.
4. Request funding to conduct a feasibility study yourself or through a contractor.	Submit a full proposal as described in § 404.20.
5. Request Reclamation to review and approve an appraisal investigation or a feasibility study completed without Reclamation assistance.	Submit the investigation or study and a cover letter to your local Reclamation office, as described in § 404.25.

**§ 404.16 What information must I include in my statement of interest?**

A statement of interest is a preliminary scope of work that must include sufficient information to address all of the eligibility criteria described in §§ 404.6 and 404.7 and the prioritization criteria in § 404.13, as well as any information required by the program announcement. In general, this may include, but is not limited to:

- (a) Name, organization, and contact information, including the identification of any partners that may be involved in the appraisal investigation;
- (b) Location map and description of the areas to be served by the proposed rural water supply project, including:
  - (1) Geographical scope;
  - (2) Demographics; and
  - (3) Existing rural water supply infrastructure, if any;
- (c) Type of assistance being requested through this program as described in § 404.11;
- (d) A general description of the problems, needs, and opportunities that the appraisal investigation is being formulated to address, supported by data or

documentation where appropriate. The information provided must also address each of the prioritization criteria in § 404.13;

(e) A general description of project alternatives that may be considered in the investigation, including:

- (1) Water supply management alternatives (e.g., types of infrastructure or facilities to deliver new water supplies), if known;
- (2) Water demand management alternatives (e.g., water conservation and other approaches to reduce water consumption), if known; and
- (3) Potential sources of water supply.

(f) A general description of any prior studies on the problems, needs, and water management alternatives at issue; and,

(g) A general description of existing sources of water supply.

**§ 404.17 How will Reclamation evaluate my statement of interest?**

(a) Reclamation will apply the eligibility requirements in §§ 404.6 and 404.7 and the prioritization criteria in § 404.13, to determine whether the proposed rural water supply project is eligible for further consideration through a full proposal;

(b) If the proposed project is not eligible for further consideration, Reclamation will notify you in writing of that outcome; and,

(c) If the proposed project is eligible for further consideration, Reclamation will notify you in writing that you are eligible to develop a full proposal to conduct an appraisal investigation, as described in § 404.20.

**§ 404.18 How can I request assistance to conduct a feasibility study?**

To request assistance to conduct a feasibility study under § 404.11(a) or (b), consistent with Reclamation’s recommendation in an appraisal report, you must submit a full proposal to conduct a feasibility study in response to the program announcement, pursuant to § 404.20. You are not required to submit a statement of interest.