

FACT SHEET: UTAH'S FEDERAL WATER FUNDING

By John Kuna and Annabelle Rosser

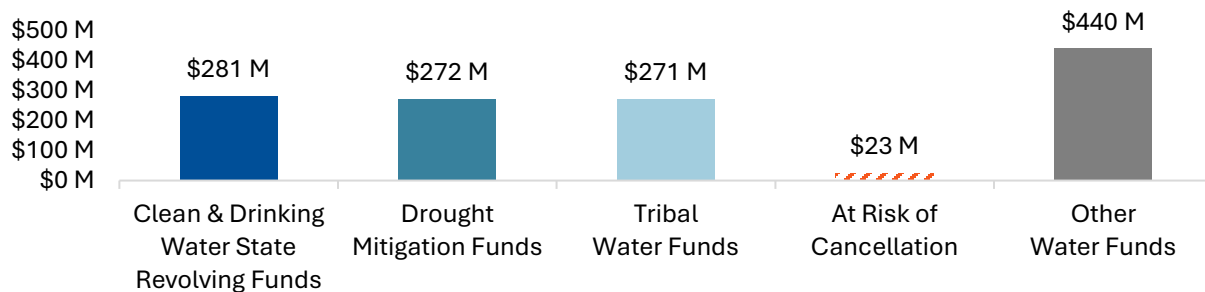
May 2026



Utah Granted \$1.3B in Water Funding to Date

Utah's funding from the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) has helped address many of the state's water issues including drought, increasing urban and agricultural water use, and climate change. Through December 2025, Utah was awarded nearly \$1.3 billion to support water efforts like the rehabilitation of the Great Salt Lake, water quality improvements in rural and arid locations, and the preservation of Tribal nation water rights.¹

Figure 1. Breakdown of major IIJA & IRA water funding in Utah



Drought Mitigation Funds includes the following programs: Drought Mitigation, Water Recycling, WaterSMART Grants, Water & Groundwater Storage, and Conveyance, Domestic Water Supply Projects, and Canal Improvement Projects. Tribal Water Funds includes the following programs: Indian Water Rights Settlements and Indian Health Service Sanitation Facilities Construction Program.

Source: [Water Program Portal](#) Outcomes Dashboard as of December 31, 2025

¹ Unless otherwise stated, all funding amounts are sourced from the Water Program Portal [Outcomes Dashboard](#), which tracks only IIJA and IRA program funding and therefore does not include other sources of funding. The data in this fact sheet is through December 2025.

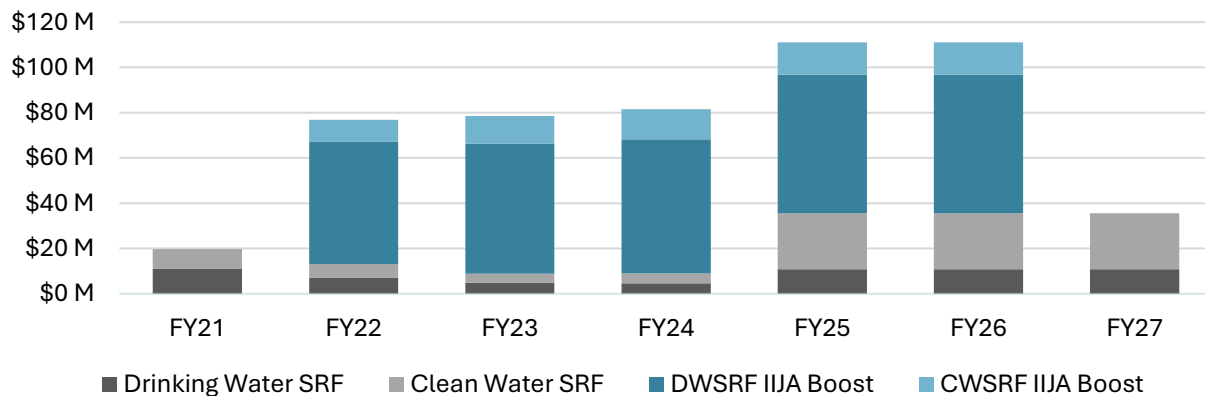
Drinking Water Access and Quality Saw Major Improvements

To help Utah meet its drinking water infrastructure needs, IIJA programs funded over \$555 million in drinking water projects. Funded projects aim to improve aging water infrastructure like canals, wells, conveyance, and reservoirs, install smart water metering technologies in residential and commercial buildings throughout the state, and improve drinking water quality. Nearly \$232 million bolstered the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) including:

- \$87 million to the installation of water infrastructure like new wells and water tanks to improve access and storage
- Over \$114 million to the replacement of lead pipes with non-contaminating alternatives
- More than \$30 million to reductions of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination in water sources

The DWSRF and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) both received large boosts in IIJA funding. When the funding boost provided by IIJA expires in fiscal year (FY) 2027, Utah’s SRF could return to pre-IIJA levels (Figure 2). Advocates will push to [maintain this level of funding](#) when Congress votes on the Transportation Infrastructure Reauthorization.

Figure 2. Federal support for the SRFs in Utah has increased since 2022



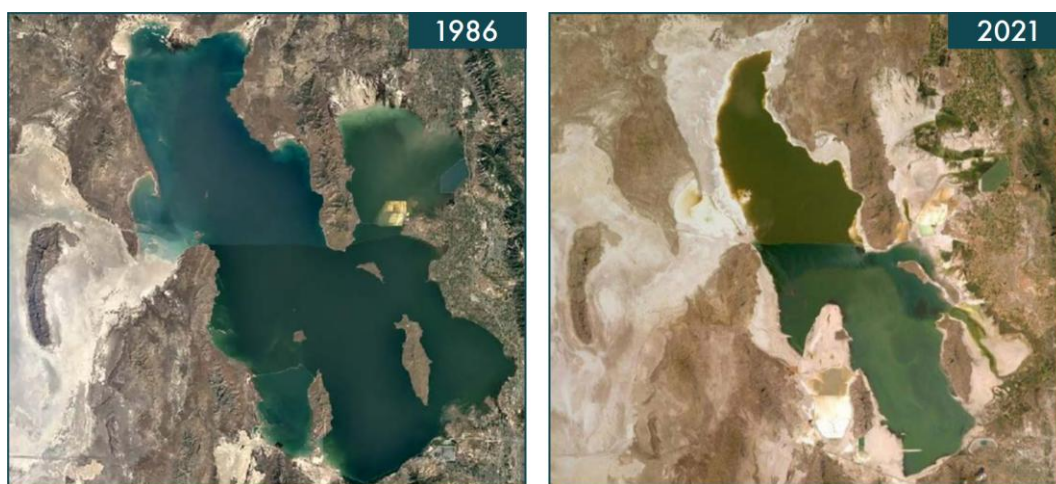
An additional \$43 billion was appropriated for the SRFs by the IIJA and is being distributed nationally each year through FY26. The funds for FY26 in the chart reflect projected allocations from IIJA funding. FY26 and FY27 base funding for the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds (DWSRF and CWSRF) are unconfirmed but assume the same funding level as FY25.

Source: [Water Program Portal](#) Outcomes Dashboard, the Water Program Portal [Utah SRF Factsheet](#), and EPA’s State DWSRF and CWSRF Allotments (2022-2025)

The Great Salt Lake is Shored Up by IIJA & IRA Water Funding

The Great Salt Lake Basin is Utah's socioeconomic core, with [80 percent](#) of the state's population living in and around the Salt Lake Valley. Mineral extraction, recreation, and brine shrimp harvesting are [pillars](#) of the regional economy and are reliant on the Great Salt Lake. However, unsustainable water use exacerbated by drought and changes in [precipitation and snowpack](#) has shrunk the lake's volume by [73 percent](#) since 1850. In November 2022, the lake hit a [record low](#), triggering [calls](#) from water advocates for emergency action. An influx of [state funding](#), coupled with federal investments and a [record snowpack](#) in 2022-23, addressed the immediate crisis.

Figure 3. The Great Salt Lake has shrunk by 73 percent since 1850



Source: Utah's Office of the Great Salt Lake – [The Great Salt Lake Strategic Plan](#)

Through a combination of IIJA and IRA funding, Utah has received additional federal grants for water infrastructure projects, drought mitigation efforts, and conservation work supporting the Great Salt Lake Basin and its inflows—the Bear, Jordan, and Weber rivers.² For instance, the [Central Utah Project](#) (CUP), an ongoing initiative to divert water from the Upper Colorado River Basin to the Great Salt Lake and Utah Lake basins, received \$50 million in additional IIJA funds for the Department of the Interior (DOI) to [accelerate its completion](#). The CUP first began construction in [1966](#) with several stages of the project being completed over subsequent decades. As of 2023, [83 percent](#) of the work was finished. DOI expects an additional [\\$1 billion](#) will be needed to complete the work. From the IRA, another \$50 million was awarded for drought mitigation efforts in the [Great Salt Lake Basin](#), which in tandem with funds from the state, will support a water delivery program aimed at

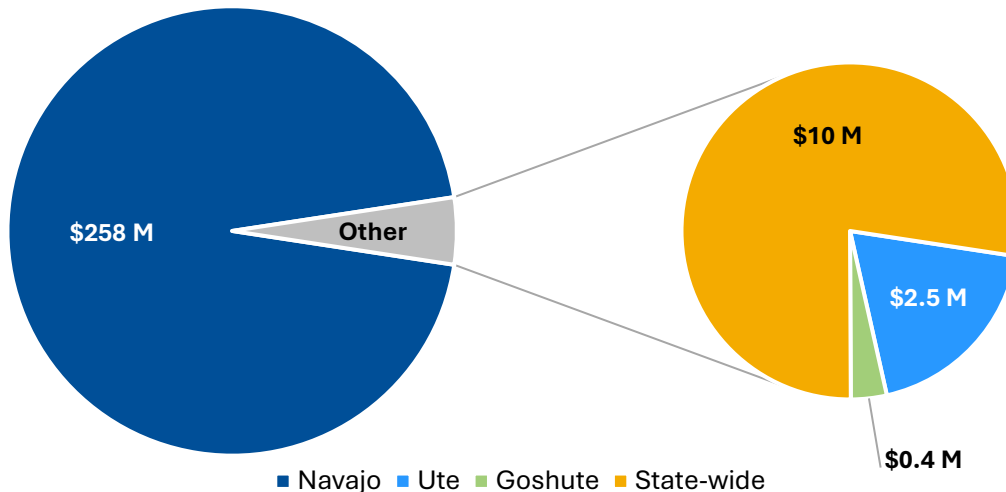
² Federal programs that are awarding funding to this region include Aging Infrastructure Account, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program, Canal Improvement Projects, Central Utah Project, Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, Water Recycling, and WaterSMART Grants.

ensuring an ongoing, resilient water supply in the region. While these efforts are crucial, they only cover a portion of the near- and long-term [strategy](#) to restore the Great Salt Lake's water levels. Utah has made significant progress stabilizing the Great Salt Lake, but a relatively dry 2025 winter lowered levels again, signaling the need for a [long-term solution](#).

Navajo Nation and Other Utah Tribes Secured Water Rights

Utah's Tribal nations have [long fought](#) for water access rights. While some Tribes had secured agreements and commitments in the past, the funds associated with those agreements have been slow to reach Tribes until IJA, which [greatly expanded](#) available funding for Tribal communities. To date, Tribal communities in Utah have been granted over \$271 million in IJA funding.³ Most of that funding (\$258 million) has gone to the Navajo Nation through the Indian Health Services Sanitation Facilities Construction Program and the Indian Water Rights Settlements (Figure 4). These funds will [help the Navajo](#) build critical water infrastructure on their lands, improve water quality, and expand water access for their people—only half of the households in areas that received funding have indoor plumbing. The remaining \$13 million was awarded among the Ute and Goshute tribes, and to state-wide projects that will provide benefits to Tribal communities.

Figure 4. Tribal Nations in Utah received over \$271M in IJA-boosted tribal water funding



Funding was identified by awarded projects' names, recipients, and locations.

Source: [Water Program Portal](#) Outcomes Dashboard as of December 31, 2025

³ This funding includes awarded projects from the Indian Water Rights Settlements and Indian Health Service Sanitation Facilities Construction Program and may exclude discrete awards made to Tribes from other programs.