



National Institutes for Water Resources

FY 2007

National Competitive Grants Program

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

∞ **APPROPRIATION** At the time of the release of the RFP, this program had not received an appropriation of federal funds for Fiscal Year 2007. If an appropriation is received, it is estimated that approximately \$920,000 will be available under this program.

∞ **IMPORTANT CHANGE IN PROPOSAL SUBMISSION PROCEDURE** The SF424 required as part of your application must be submitted electronically at <http://www.grants.gov> by the university at which the Water Resources Research Center or Institute approving the proposal is located.

∞ **FAXED MATERIALS** Please include the NIWR project number on all faxed materials. This will allow your materials to be uploaded more promptly. Please contact [Kamie Redinbo](#) concerning any fax-related problems.

The U.S. Geological Survey in cooperation with the National Institutes for Water Resources requests proposals for matching grants to support research on the topics of water supply and water availability, which are issues of importance nationwide. Proposals are requested on the topics of water supply and availability, including investigations of possible new sources of supply, improvement of impaired waters to usable quality, conservation of existing sources, and limiting growth in demand. Proposals are sought in not only the physical dimensions of supply and demand, but also quality trends in raw water supplies; the role of economics and institutions in water supply and demand; institutional arrangements for tracking and reporting water supply and availability; and institutional arrangements for coping with extreme hydrologic conditions. Any investigator at an institution of higher learning in the United States is eligible to apply for a grant through a Water Research Institute or Center established under the provisions of the Water Resources Research Act of 1984, as amended. Proposals involving substantial collaboration between the USGS and university scientists are encouraged. Proposals may be for projects of 1 to 3 years in duration and may request up to \$250,000 in federal funds. Successful applicants must match each dollar of the federal grant with one dollar from non-federal sources.

For information on proposal requirements, research priorities, funding eligibility and requirements, and the proposal review, selection, and award process, please refer to the complete [RFP](#).

Program Objectives

Section 104(g) of the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 requires that this competitive grant program focus on: water problems and issues of a regional or interstate nature beyond those of concern only to a single State and which relate to specific program priorities identified jointly by the Secretary (of the Interior) and the (water resources research) institutes. Objectives of this program also include the following:

- A. Promote collaboration between the USGS and university scientists in research on significant national and regional water resources issues;
- B. Promote the dissemination and application of the results of the research funded under this program; and
- C. Assist in the training of scientists in relevant water resource fields. Proposals that include a strong educational component (student support) are encouraged, as are proposals from faculty beginning their careers.

Proposal Due Date

The SF-424 must be filed electronically at <http://www.grants.gov> by 5:00 PM US/Eastern March 2, 2007.

Proposals must be filed on this web site by **February 17, 2007, 1:00 AM US/Eastern** and must be approved for submission to the National Competitive Grants Program not later than **March 2, 2007, 5:00 PM US/Eastern**.

Applicant Eligibility and Proposal Approval

Awards are available only to Water Research Institutes or Centers established pursuant to the provisions of section 104 of the Water Resources Research Act and listed at <http://water.usgs.gov/wrri/institutes.html>. However, any investigator at an institution of higher learning in the United States is eligible to apply for an award through a Water Research Institute or Center.

Proposal Contents

Each proposal shall consist of the following items:

- A. **SF424 – Application for Federal Assistance.** The SF-424 must be submitted electronically by 5:00 PM US/Eastern, March 2, 2007 at <http://www.grants.gov> by the university at which the Water Resources Research Center or Institute approving the proposal is located. Further instructions can be found at <http://www.grants.gov>, click on “For Applicants” on the left side of the screen.

- B. **Signed Matching Funds Commitment Letter.** The applicant shall provide an institutional cost-sharing agreement (letter) signed by an official authorized to commit the applicant to all or part of the matching share or a third party, in-kind contribution signed by an official authorized to commit the third party. **Please fax the letter to (703)852-0030.**

NOTE: PLEASE INCLUDE THE PROJECT NUMBER ON YOUR COVER LETTER

- C. **Suggested Reviewers.** Provide the names and contact information for not more than six (6) suggested reviewers having expertise in the field of the proposal. Please include street address, city, state, zip code, phone, fax, email address and subject areas. Suggested reviewers **MAY NOT** be from your State. In fairness to all applicants, it is requested that no reviewers be contacted other than by the USGS or NIWR. This information must be entered using the Web form.
- D. **Project Information.** Each proposal shall consist of the following project information elements:

To be entered in the Step 1: Basic Project Information form provided at this Website:

- Title. Concise but descriptive.
- Project Type. Select Research, Education, Information Transfer, Information Management System or Other.
- Start Date. Choose the requested beginning date for the project. The target award date is July through September with a USGS-preferred project start date of September 1, 2007. The project start date must be no later than September 30, 2007.
- End Date. Choose the estimated end date for the project. Proposed projects may be of 1 to 3 years in duration, with discrete 12-month budget periods.
- Congressional District. Please show the congressional district of the university where the project will take place. If you need help in finding this information, check the website provided by the [United States House of Representatives](#).
- Research Category. From the list provided, choose the one category that most closely applies to the project.
- Focus Categories. Select a maximum of three focus categories from the list provided, with the most preferred focus category first.
- Keywords. Enter keywords of your choice descriptive of the work.
- Principal investigator(s). Choose the name of the primary and any additional principal investigator(s) from the names provided. If a name does not appear on the list that person has not yet registered in the system and will need to do so before being added to the proposal.

- Abstract. Provide a brief (one-page) description of the problem, methods, and objectives. The abstract will be distributed to prospective reviewers to elicit their interest in providing a review.

To be entered in individual forms provided at this Website:

- [Budget Breakdown \(for FY2007\)](#)
- [Budget Justification \(for FY2007\)](#)
- Budget Summary
Budget Note: Multi-year projects will be fully funded with FY 2007 funds. The budget must be complete for all years of the project.

To be "deposited" as a PDF document at this Website:

- Title. Please use the same title as was entered in the Step 1: Basic Project Information form.
- Statement of regional, interstate, or multistate water problem. Include an explanation of the need for the project, who wants it, and why.
- Statement of results or benefits. Specify the type of information that is to be gained and how it will be used.
- Nature, scope, and objectives of the project, including a timeline of activities.
- Methods, procedures, and facilities. Provide enough information to permit evaluation of the technical adequacy of the approach to satisfy the objectives.
- Related research. Demonstrate by literature and communication citations the similarities and dissimilarities of the proposed project to be completed or on-going work on the same topic.
- Training Potential. Estimate the number of graduate and undergraduate students, by degree level, who are expected to receive training in the project.
- Statement of Government Involvement. If a Federal employee will collaborate on the project, provide a detailed description of the role and responsibilities of the Federal collaborator in the proposed research project.
- Information Transfer Plan. Describe the plan for disseminating information on the results of the research and promoting their application. Each plan should define the subject matter and the problems to be addressed, identify the target audience, indicate the strategies to be employed (e.g., workshops, publications), and identify the cooperators (e.g. Cooperative Extension Service).
- Investigator's qualifications. Include a resume for each principal and co-principal investigator. No resume shall exceed two pages or list more than 15 pertinent publications.

Upon completion of all the required parts, you will generate your proposal. This generation will merge all components of your proposal together and will be available in PDF format for your inspection and final approval. You are responsible for verifying the approval, including compliance with the 12-page limit specified in the [RFP](#). Proposals exceeding the 12-page limit will not be considered in the competition.

Note: Letters of Support, if any, do not count against the 12-page limit specified in the [RFP](#) and must be placed after the resume(s).

Questions or comments concerning the [RFP](#) should be directed to:

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Questions concerning this website or fax materials should be directed to [Kamie Redinbo](#).