

DC Water Resources Research Institute (DCWRRRI)

Request for FY2024 Proposals

The Water Resources Research Institute at the University of the District of Columbia (DCWRRRI) is accepting proposals under the Water Resources Research Act, Section 104 (b). The DCWRRRI is requesting a proposal for research or information transfer that explores new ideas to address water problems in the District of Columbia and expand understanding of innovative ways of managing urban waterways quality and quantity. Partly funded by the U.S. Geological Survey, the mission of the DCWRRRI is to provide the District of Columbia with interdisciplinary research support to identify DC water resource problems and contribute to their solutions. The Institute encourages all qualified research to consider submitting a proposal.

Deadline is 5:00 pm, March 29, 2024

Submission Eligibility: Eligible proposals must have a Principal Investigator who is a researcher affiliated with any DC-area university, including any of the schools within the DC University Consortium, including American, Catholic, George Washington, Georgetown, Howard, and UDC. Principal Investigators from any other universities should contact DCWRRRI regarding eligibility.

Submission Requirements: Proposals must be submitted electronically in the **Microsoft Word** to tdeksissa@udc.edu no later than **5:00 pm, March 29, 2024**. A proposal must follow the DCWRRRI Seed Grant Proposal Guidelines (as shown in Attachments 1 and 2) and must include a completed Budget Breakdown and Justification Forms (provided as Attachment 3 and 4).

- The maximum amount of funds requested cannot exceed **\$15,000.00**
- **All proposed research must demonstrate student training potential and identify proposed student involvement.**
- All grant recipients must provide a report in the appropriate USGS format and must include a conference presentation, article, and/or journal publications on DCWRRRI-supported research.
- Innovative and multidisciplinary research approaches are encouraged, as are projects involving multiple university collaboration within the District of Columbia.
- **Matching Funds Commitment Letter** - All proposed research must include the required cost sharing agreement (letter) signed by an official authorized to commit the applicant to all the matching share as indicated in Attachment 3. The **required cost share is \$1 for each federal dollar**. For UDC applicants, the commitment letter must be signed by the Dean. Examples of in-kind match include any non-federal expenditure for tuition fees, summer salary, student stipend payment, and laboratory contractual services or related charges.
- **Indirect Cost - Federal funds shall not be used to pay indirect costs.** Matching funds may contain indirect costs and non-federal salaries and benefits (see Attachment C). The applicant's negotiated indirect cost rate (NICR) may be applied to both qualifying federal and non-federal direct costs, and the result used to satisfy part of the matching requirement under the non-federal share. The NICR shall not be applied to tuition and equipment costs.

Questions should be addressed to DCWRRRI Director, Dr. Tolessa Deksissa, at (202) 274-5273 or tdeksissa@udc.edu.

DCWRRRI FY2020 USGS SEED GRANT RFP
ATTACHMENT 1
SUBMISSION GUIDELINE

Proposals must be submitted electronically in **Microsoft Word** to tdeksissa@udc.edu no later than **5:00 pm March 29, 2024** using the following format:

1. Title: The project title should be concise but descriptive of the effort.
2. Project Type: Research, Information Transfer, Information Management System, Education, or Other Please specify.
3. Focus Categories: List a maximum of three focus categories, with the most preferred focus category first. A list of focus categories is provided in Attachment 1. Enter the abbreviations in capital letters and separate them by commas.
4. Keywords: Enter keywords of your chosen description of the work.
5. Start Date: Enter the actual start date of the project (September 1, 2024).
6. End Date: Enter the estimated end date for the project (August 31, 2025).
7. Principal Investigator(s): Provide name, academic rank, university, email address and phone number for each principal investigator.
8. Congressional District: University district where the research is to be conducted.
9. Abstract: Provide a brief (one-page) description of the problem, methods, and objectives. Please be cognizant this information will be entered into a Website space provided by WRRRI, upon selection).
10. Statement of critical regional or State water problem: Include an explanation of the need for the project, the stakeholders, and other relevant details of the situation of need.
11. Statement of results or benefits: Specify the type of information that is to be gained and how it will be used.
12. Nature, scope, and objectives of the research: Include a timeline of activities to accomplish the research.
13. Related Research: Show by literature and communication citations the similarities and dissimilarities of the proposed project by completing or on-going research on the same topic.
14. Methods, procedures, and facilities: Provide enough information to permit evaluation of the technical adequacy of the approach to satisfy the objectives.
15. Training potential: Indicate the number and level of graduate and undergraduate students, by field of study and degree that are expected to receive training in the project.
16. Budget Breakdown: The Budget Breakdown (Attachment 3) and budget justification (Attachment 4) form must be completed and included with the proposal, including cost share.
17. Budget Justification: In addition to Attachment 4, provide a brief statement in each category justifying use of the funds requested.
18. Investigator's qualifications. Include a resume(s) of the principal investigator(s): No resume shall exceed two pages or list more than 15 pertinent publications.
19. Data management plan: One to two pages of data management plan, including method of data collection, quality control plan, standard applied, data sharing policy for access and sharing including provisions for appropriate protection of privacy, confidentiality, security, intellectual property, or other rights or requirements. For more information: <http://www.usgs.gov/datamanagement/plan/dmplans.php>

ATTACHMENT 2: FOCUS CATEGORIES

ACID DEPOSITION	ACD
AGRICULTURE	AG
CLIMATOLOGICAL PROCESSES	CP
CONSERVATION	COV
DROUGHT	DROU
ECOLOGY	ECL
ECONOMICS	ECON
EDUCATION	EDU
FLOODS	FL
GEOMORPHOLOGICAL PROCESSES	GEOMOR
GEOCHEMICAL PROCESSES	GEOCHE
GROUNDWATER	GW
HYDROGEOCHEMISTRY	HYDGEO
HYDROLOGY	HYDROL
INVASIVE SPECIES	INV
IRRIGATION	IG
LAW, INSTITUTIONS, AND POLICY	LIP
MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING	M&P
METHODS	MET
MODELS	MOD
NITRATE CONTAMINATION	NC
NON-POINT POLLUTION	NPP
NUTRIENTS	NU
RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES	RAD
RECREATION	REC
SEDIMENTS	SED
SOLUTE TRANSPORT	ST
SURFACE WATER	SW
TOXIC SUBSTANCES	TS
TREATMENT	TRT
WASTEWATER	WW
WATER QUALITY	WQL
WATER QUANTITY	WQN
WATER SUPPLY	WS
WATER USE	WU
WETLANDS	WL

ATTACHMENT 3: BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Proposed Start Date: September 1, 2024		Proposed Completion Date: August 31, 2025	
Project Number: (to be assigned by institute)			
Project Title:			
Principle Investigator (s):			
Cost Category	Federal	Non-Federal	Total
1. Salaries and wages:			
-Principal Investigator (s)	\$	\$	\$
-Graduate student(s)	\$	\$	\$
-Undergraduate student(s)	\$	\$	\$
Total salaries and wages	\$	\$	\$
2. Fringe Benefits:	\$	\$	\$
- Principal Investigator(s)	\$	\$	\$
- Undergraduate Student(s)	\$	\$	\$
- Graduate Student (s)	\$	\$	\$
Total Fringe Benefits	\$	\$	\$
3. Supplies	\$	\$	\$
4. Equipment	\$	\$	\$
5. Services or consultants	\$	\$	\$
6. Travel	\$	\$	\$
7. Other direct costs	\$	\$	\$
8. Total direct costs	\$	\$	\$
9. Indirect costs on federal share	\$	\$	\$
10a. Indirect costs on non- federal share:	XXXXXXXX	\$	\$
10b. Indirect costs on non-federal share	XXXXXXXX	\$	\$
11. Total estimated cost	\$	\$	\$
Total Costs at Campus of the University on which the Institute or Center is located.	\$	\$	\$
Total Costs at other University Campus			
Name of University:	\$	\$	\$

ATTACHMENT 4: BUDGET JUSTIFICATION FORM

Salaries and Wages for PIs. <i>Provide personnel, title/position, estimated hours, and the rate of compensation proposed for each individual.</i>
Salaries and Wages for Graduate Students. <i>Provide personnel, title/position, estimated hours, and the rate of compensation proposed for each individual. (Other forms of compensation paid as or in lieu of wages to students performing necessary work are allowable provided that the other payments are reasonable compensation for the work performed and are conditioned explicitly upon the performance of necessary work. Also, note that tuition has its own category below and that health insurance, if provided, is to be included under fringe benefits).</i>
Salaries and Wages for Undergraduate Students. <i>Provide personnel, title/position, estimated hours, and the rate of compensation proposed for each individual. (Other forms of compensation paid as or in lieu of wages to students performing necessary work are allowable provided that the other payments are reasonable compensation for the work performed and are conditioned explicitly upon the performance of necessary work. Also, note that tuition has its own category below and that health insurance, if provided, is to be included under fringe benefits).</i>
Salaries and Wages for Others. <i>Provide personnel, title/position, estimated hours, and the rate of compensation proposed for each individual.</i>
Fringe Benefits for PIs. <i>Provide the overall fringe benefit rate applicable to each category of employee proposed in the project. Note: include health insurance here, if applicable.</i>
Fringe Benefits for Graduate Students. <i>Provide the overall fringe benefit rate applicable to each category of employee proposed in the project. Note: include health insurance here, if applicable</i>
Fringe Benefits for Undergraduate Students. <i>Provide the overall fringe benefit rate applicable to each category of employee proposed in the project. Note: include health insurance here, if applicable.</i>
Fringe Benefits for Others. <i>Provide the overall fringe benefit rate applicable to each category of employee proposed in the project. Note: include health insurance here, if applicable.</i>
Tuition for Graduate Students. <i>Provide personnel, title/position, and amount of tuition remission proposed for each individual.</i>
Supplies. <i>Indicate separately the amounts proposed for office, laboratory, computing, and field supplies. Provide a breakdown of the supplies in each category.</i>
Equipment. <i>Identify non-expendable personal property having a useful life of more than one (1) year and an acquisition cost of more than \$5,000 per unit. If fabrication of equipment is proposed, list parts and materials required for each, and show costs separately from the other items. A detailed breakdown is required.</i>
Services or Consultants. <i>Identify the specific tasks for which these services, consultants, or subcontracts would be used. Provide a detailed breakdown of the services or consultants to include personnel, time, salary, supplies, travel, etc.</i>
Travel. <i>Provide purpose and estimated costs for all travel. A breakdown should be provided to include location, number of personnel, number of days, per diem rate, lodging rate, mileage and mileage rate, airfare (whatever is applicable).</i>
Other Direct Costs. <i>Itemize costs not included elsewhere, including publication costs. Costs for services and consultants should be included and justified under. Services or Consultants (above). Please provide a breakdown for costs listed under this category.</i>
Indirect Costs. <i>Provide negotiated indirect (Facilities and Administration.) cost rate.</i>
NA

ATTACHMENT 5: PREFERRED RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Recommended by the DCWRRRI Stakeholder Advisory Board, this year RFP focuses on the following:

- Research on the design and implementation of best management practices or green stormwater infrastructure to restore or clean DC water ways.
- Research to support the objectives of toxin monitoring and prevention and DC river restoration.
- Research to support the Potomac drinking water source protection partnership, including collaborative planning between upstream agricultural communities and downstream urban communities
- Research to address the feasibility of application of new technologies to meet regulatory requirements for stormwater, particularly with respect to effluent quality, nutrient management, and pesticide safety.
- Research on clean cities and sustainable urban infrastructure that addresses the interrelation of water and energy, natural resource economics, minimize water use or improve water quality.
- Research on prevention of contamination of water supplies, particularly by emerging contaminant of concern, e.g., Cytotoxins, cryptosporidium, atrazine, and pharmaceuticals.
- Research on restoration science, focusing on monitoring and measurement of the benefits of ecosystem services over baseline conditions, particularly with respect to tidal areas.
- Research on sustainable urban agriculture and water quality management.
- Research on sustainable entrepreneurship and water resources management.

The competence of each proposal will be determined based on evaluation criteria and weight below (100-point scale):

1. Technical Merit (35 points)

- a. Does the proposal have the potential to expand and apply fundamental knowledge in its specific area?
- b. Do the investigators demonstrate cognizance of past work?
- c. Are the objectives, methodologies, designs, and techniques adequately described
- d. Is the proposal scientifically and technically sound as described?
- e. Are the qualifications of the investigators appropriate for the proposed research?

2. Responsiveness (35 points)

- a. Does the proposed project address the water problems in the District of Columbia and expand understanding of innovative ways of managing urban waterways?
- b. Does the proposal directly address one or more of the DCWRRRI Stakeholder Advisory Board research priorities listed above?

3. Feasibility (10 points)

- What is the likelihood of success given the methods, budget and time frame proposed?

4. Educational Opportunity for Students (10 points)

- Does the proposal offer a useful educational experience for students (graduate and/or undergraduate)?

5. Data management and Information Transfer (10 points)

- Does the proposal have a well-specified plan to disseminate research results to water managers and the public?
- Does the proposal have a well-specified plan for data management, data quality control and quality assurance, and secured data storage and sharing policy?