

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ON WATER RESEARCH, OUTREACH, AND EDUCATION

Water Sustainability Program, University of Arizona 2004

Funded by the Technology and Research Initiative Fund (TRIF) and administered by the Arizona Board of Regents.

Water is crucial to Arizona's economy and to the health and well being of its residents. The availability of water shapes the environment in which we live and directly affects our quality of life. A good understanding of all aspects of water, including supply and quality, is essential to the long-term sustainability of the state and its economic development. In addition, a thorough understanding of the interrelationships among the scientific aspects and the economic, legal and policy aspects of water demand is vitally important to decision-makers.

University of Arizona (UA) faculty has attracted major federal and private funding for water-related research during the past six years. This has culminated in the establishment of three NSF sponsored water centers: the Engineering Research Center for Environmentally Benign Semiconductor Manufacturing (ERC); the Center for Sustainability of semi-Arid Hydrology and Riparian Areas (SAHRA); and the Water Quality Center (WQC). In addition, the Water Resources Research Center (WRRC) has played a coordinating role among the three state universities since 1957, and continues to receive federal grant support through the United States Geological Survey. The four water centers were designated as the principal centers for faculty and staff research, outreach, education, and fund distribution at the UA in the water area, now under the new name, the UA Water Sustainability Program

A major objective of the TRIF program at the University of Arizona is to generate additional matching funds by building strong partnerships with entities from the private and public sectors. Attracting funds is key to the continuing success of the program. The four water centers have the responsibility of assuring the Board of Regents and the State of Arizona that this program is productive in leveraging TRIF money.

The competitive grants program should serve to strengthen research, outreach and education efforts, to ensure a sustainable, high-quality water supply for economic development and enhanced quality of life for all of Arizona.

WHO CAN APPLY:

Only faculty members and staff at the UA are eligible to submit proposals, but joint funding from investigators and stakeholders outside the UA is strongly encouraged. Researchers in any of the social, biological, physical, and engineering sciences and fields, such as water management, water law, and health sciences, are invited to apply.

The RFP and budget template are available on the web site of the Water Resources Research Center (<http://ag.arizona.edu/azwater/>), which is linked to the web sites of ERC, SAHRA and WQC.

DATES OF SUBMITTAL:

Proposals are due January 30th, 2004.
Awards will be announced no later than April 1st, 2004
Funding for the proposals will start July 1st, 2004.

FUNDING AREAS:

Proposals will be accepted from faculty and staff at UA on any topic related to critical water issues in the state.

FUNDING INFORMATION:

It is expected that most single investigator, research and outreach proposals will be funded at about \$25,000 to \$50,000 direct funds per proposal per year. Multi-investigator proposals are encouraged and may be funded at higher levels. Proposals may be funded for up to two years, subject to yearly review, progress made and funding available. There will be no indirect costs, but personnel costs should include fringe benefits. Researchers are strongly encouraged to negotiate matching funds from the private sector, utilities or governmental agencies. Researchers are also strongly encouraged to provide student opportunities in their proposals. The total amount of new money available for this RFP for FY 2005 starting July 1st, 2004 is expected to be \$550,000.

PROPOSAL REVIEW:

A review panel composed of faculty from the University of Arizona and possibly Arizona State University and Northern Arizona University and technical reviewers from Federal and State agencies and private firms experienced in the field of the proposal will review all proposals. The proposal review process will be similar to the review process used by Federal Agencies like NSF, NASA, DOE or EPA. Using the recommendations of the Review Panels and available funding, the four center directors will make final award decisions.

PROPOSAL SELECTION CRITERIA:

- 1. Relevance, usability, and timeliness to resolving water issues important to Arizona.**
- 2. Technical merit of the proposal and competence of the PIs.**
- 3. Leverage of TRIF funds via matches from the private sector, utilities, or governmental agencies.**
- 4. Partnerships with industry and other agencies.**
- 5. Complements the mission of one or more of the four water centers.**
- 6. Inclusion of educational/outreach components.**

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES:

The proposals shall consist of the following four sections, as specified:

SECTION 1 (one page)

1. **Title**
2. **Project Summary:** An 80-100 word summary of the project proposal.
3. **Duration:** (month/year to month/year). Use the actual beginning and estimated ending dates for projects.
4. **Principal Investigator(s) name(s) and College/Department:** Provide the name, email address and phone number for all PIs and identify a primary project contact. Only UA faculty and staff can be listed as PIs.
5. **TRIF funds requested.**
6. **Leveraged (matching) funds pledged.**
7. **Statement of critical regional or state water problems:** Include an explanation of the need and usability for the proposed research, who wants it, and why (2 paragraphs maximum).
8. **Statement of results or benefits:** Specify the type and relevance of information that is to be gained and timeliness of how it will be used (2 paragraphs maximum).

SECTION 2 (5 pages)

1. **Nature, scope and objectives of the research.**
2. **Approach, methods, procedures, and facilities:** Provide enough information to permit evaluation of the technical adequacy of the approach to satisfy the objectives.
3. **Related Research:** Show by literature and communication citations the similarities and dissimilarities of the proposed project to completed or on-going research on the same topic.
4. **Training potential:** Estimate the number and level of post-graduate, graduate and undergraduate students, who are expected to receive training or work opportunities.
5. **Information Transfer:** Describe how information on the results of the project work will be disseminated and their application promoted.

SECTION 3 (additional pages as needed)

1. **Qualifications of the investigator(s):** Include a resume(s) of the principal investigator(s) not to exceed two pages; indicate the total number of peer refereed articles; and list no more than 15 pertinent publications.
2. **Interaction with Water Centers:** Include a statement explaining how the proposed work complements the mission of one or more of the water centers (ERC, SAHRA, WQC, WRRC).
3. **Partnerships:** Identify project partners and their matching dollars, in-kind contributions or other support. Attach matching funds/in-kind contributions commitment letters signed by authorized personnel.
4. **Citation list.**

SECTION 4

BUDGET BREAKDOWN:

Submit a detailed budget using the attached template; one template for each year plus a total project budget for multi-year projects. No direct costs are to be included.

1. **Salaries and Wages:** Identify the individuals and categories of salaries and wages, the estimated hours or percentage of time, and the rate of compensation proposed for each individual or category.
2. **ERE Rates:** Use rates applicable at the UA for FY05.
3. **Materials and Supplies:** These include amounts estimated for office, laboratory, computing, and field supplies.
4. **Travel:** List the total costs, in state as well as out of state, for which the money will be used.
5. **Other Operating:** Includes consultants, independent contractors, non-capital equipment, etc.
6. **Capital Equipment:** This is property having a useful life of more than 1 year and an acquisition cost of more than \$5,000 per unit.
7. **Total Estimated Costs:** Total items (1) through (6).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

All PIs who have single or multi-year projects funded will be required to submit a 2-5 page progress report at the end of January the following calendar year. The report should be a summary of progress to date; highlight any accomplishments and deliverables; and provide a timeline of activities for the remainder of the project. Unanticipated problems and changes in personnel should also be documented in the report. Tables or charts may be included as needed.

For projects that were funded in year 1 of the competitive grants program, currently underway, the progress reports will be due **January 30th, 2004**.

SUBMISSION:

Please forward an electronic copy of the proposal (MS Word document and Excel Spreadsheet) on disk and 6 hardcopies of the proposal by January 30th, 2004 to:

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