

Illinois Water Resources Center Annual Research Grants 2021 Call for Proposals

Letter of Intent Due to IWRC
Tuesday, September 8, 2020 – 5pm CDT

Full Proposal Due to IWRC
Thursday, October 1, 2020 – 5pm CDT

The Illinois Water Resources Center (IWRC) requests proposals to fund exploratory research or educational projects that enhance water sciences research and higher education throughout Illinois. While we are interested in all water resources issues that impact Illinois, our **2021 priority topics are agriculture, climate, ecosystem structure and function, water-energy nexus, health science (no human subjects research), and urban resilience**. We are particularly interested in supporting projects that will help grow the body of research in Illinois, including proof-of-concept projects that may help researchers attract larger grants. Proposals continuing the work of previous IWRC Annual Research Grants will **not** be accepted. This is an open call contingent on funding availability.

About IWRC

IWRC is one of 54 programs funded by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) under the Water Resources Research Act of 1964 to promote and support the restoration, conservation, and best management of water resources in the United States and U.S. territories. State and territory programs are administered by the National Institutes for Water Resources, whose mission includes:

- Promoting collaboration between USGS and researchers related to the most pressing water resource research needs across the country
- Disseminating research findings and other water resource information to the public
- Supporting young scientists who seek careers in water resources

Funding Eligibility and Requirements

The advancement of full proposals to review is contingent upon the submission of a Letter of Intent by the designated deadline. Proposals must be submitted by faculty members or professionals affiliated with four-year institutions. Students can be listed as co-PIs. Funds must be used to support a student's project, not a student worker on a PI's project. PIs will be required to provide documentation of committed matching funds. The U.S. Geological Survey **requires a 2:1 nonfederal to federal funds match**. The PIs' salaries may, and is often, used for the match as long as they are not federal employees. The sponsor will **not** pay indirect costs; researchers are encouraged to use forfeited indirect costs as a portion of the required match.



ILLINOIS

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Funding is for 12 months and the expected project period is March 1, 2021 to February 28, 2022. Funding availability and the funding timeline are determined by the U.S. Congress allocations process and may vary from year to year.

This program is designed as support for graduate students performing innovative research on water resources. Eligible expenses include salaries, research supplies, research travels, and publication costs. The IWRC anticipates funding four awards in 2021.

Application Contents

Eligibility for submission of the full application is contingent upon submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI - 1 page and 4,000 character maximum) by the specified due date and time. The LOI will be used by IWRC to improve the review process for full applications. The LOI will not be used for application selection purposes, and does not commit an applicant to a full submission.

IWRC will not accept Letters of Intent submitted after the deadline. Full proposals related to a late LOI or non-existent LOI will not be accepted or reviewed.

Each applicant must provide the following information as part of the Letter of Intent:

- Project Title
- Lead Organization
- Principal Investigator
- Abstract – The abstract provided should be not more than 200 words in length, and should provide a truncated explanation of the proposed project.

Submit Letters of Intent via email to IWRC's Program Manager, Amy Weckle (aweckle@illinois.edu) by 5 p.m. on Monday, August 31.

Full proposals, similarly, should be submitted via email to IWRC's Program Manager, Amy Weckle (aweckle@illinois.edu) by 5 p.m. on Thursday, October 1. Proposals must consist of the elements below.

1. Basic Information

The cover page should:

- Include a title concisely describing the project.

- Identify one or more primary topics related to water resources including justification for the exploratory research/educational project from the following (in alphabetic order):
 - Agriculture
 - Climate and hydrologic processes
 - Ecosystem
 - Energy
 - Environmental Sustainability
 - Health Science (no human subjects research)
 - Urban Resilience
- Include the percentage of research, training, and higher education proposed.
- List 3-5 keywords or phrases to describe the project to an educated lay audience.
- Provide the names, academic rank, university/organization, email address, and phone numbers of the principal investigators.
- Identify the congressional district of the university/organization where the work will be conducted (e.g. IL-15).
- A short, no more than one paragraph, summary or abstract.

2. Project Narrative

The two-page, single-spaced narrative should include a:

- Statement of exploratory research or educational needs and how the project will enhance water sciences research and higher education in Illinois.
- Statement of expected results or benefits specifying the type of information that is to be gained and how it will be used. Include plans for dissemination of findings. Dissemination of findings targeting communities are of particular interest.
- Description of the nature, scope, and objectives of the project.
- Description of the methods, procedures, and facilities. Provide enough information to permit evaluation of the technical adequacy of the approach to satisfy the objectives.
- List of students, in addition to the student listed as co-PI, who will receive training/education from this project. Please include degree level and briefly detail any training the students will receive.

Note: Literature citations are not included in the two-page limit.

3. Data Management Plan

Proposals must include a supplementary document of no more than two pages labeled "Data Management Plan" (DMP). Attachment A may be used for guidance. This supplementary document should describe how the proposal will conform to U.S. Geological Survey policy on the dissemination and sharing of research results and associated data. A valid DMP may include only a statement if no detailed plan is needed (e.g. "No data are expected to be produced from this project"), but such a statement must be accompanied by a clear justification.

Additional guidance on data management plans is available from the U.S. Geological Survey Data Management website here:
<https://www.usgs.gov/products/data-and-tools/datamanagement/data-management-plans>

4. Budget and Justification

A budget breakdown should be submitted using the attached budget worksheet (Attachment B).

Federal funds will pay up to \$10,000 for graduate students for work completed between March 1, 2021 to February 28, 2022. USGS does not allow federal dollars to pay indirect costs. However, the indirect costs on both the federal and state totals may be shown as match. IWRC grants require a match of two non-federal dollars for each federal dollar.

Please provide detailed justifications on Attachment C of how money will be spent, including separate breakdowns of wage rates and fringe benefits for each category of personnel supported by the proposal (e.g. separate numbers for faculty members, post-docs, graduate students, and undergraduate students), cost of equipment, travel, and so on.

5. Investigators' Qualifications

Project participants, including undergraduate and graduate students, should include CVs. They should be included with the project narrative and are in addition to the two-page limit. CVs are limited to two pages and can list no more than 15 pertinent publications.

6. Matching Fund Commitment Letters and University Confirmation

A matching fund commitment letter signed by the PI's department or sponsored program's office should be submitted to verify that the matching funds will be supplied should the project be funded. For example, see Attachment D.

Deliverables

- Grant recipients are automatically qualified as IWRC Fellows, which entitles them to promotion of research findings through the IWRC website (<https://iwrc.illinois.edu>), a part of the National Institutes for Water Resources network (<https://water.usgs.gov/wrri/index.php>).
- Grant recipients are expected to provide appropriate information needed to produce outreach materials such as a webinar or blog posts about the completed research. The type of information needed will be determined by the recipients and IWRC staff members.
- The grant recipient will be required to submit a final report by May 30, 2022. IWRC will post the report on the Center's website (iwrc.illinois.edu). **Failing to submit a timely report can disqualify PIs from receiving future funding from the National Institute of Water Resources and the U.S. Geological Survey.**

Submission

Submit proposals electronically as a single PDF excluding Attachment B – the budget spreadsheet - which should be sent as a separate file to Amy Weckle, Illinois Water Resources Center at aweckle@illinois.edu. Name each file with the PI's last name. Original matching fund commitment letters must be included in the electronic submission. The review process by IWRC is expected to be completed in early December 2020. Grant recipients will be notified via email.

Questions:

Amy Weckle (aweckle@illinois.edu – or 217-300-2101)

ATTACHMENT A

DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

PI and Institution

Project Title

Types of data - samples, physical collections, software, curriculum materials, or other materials to be produced in the course of the project.

Standards - to be used for data and metadata format and content

Policies for access - and sharing including provisions for appropriate protection of privacy, confidentiality, security, intellectual property, or other rights or requirements

Provisions for re-use/re-distribution - and the production of derivatives

Plans for archiving data - including samples, and other research products, and for preservation of free public access to them

ATTACHMENT B

BUDGET - SEE SPREADSHEET AT:

<https://uofi.box.com/s/owyovlxikxpvd1bxijbgysw5t7ap3c9y>

ATTACHMENT C

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

Project Title

Principal Investigator

Salaries and Wages - include the name, role, estimated hours, and rate of compensation proposed for each individual including those that are using effort as match. (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).

Fringe Benefits - provide the overall fringe benefit rate applicable to each individual. Note: include health insurance here, if applicable.

Equipment - 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.

Travel - 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, and other items as applicable.

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Other Direct Costs

Materials & Supplies - Indicate separately the amounts proposed for office, laboratory, computing, and field supplies. Provide a breakdown of the supplies in each category.

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Services or Consultants - 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.

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Tuition Remission - Provide personnel, title, and amount of tuition remission proposed for each individual.

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Other - Itemize costs not included elsewhere, including publication costs, conference registrations, non-employee travel, equipment rental, shipping, etc. Please provide a breakdown for all costs listed under this category

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Indirect Costs - Provide negotiated indirect (Facilities and Administration) cost rate and documentation.

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ATTACHMENT D - MATCH COMMITMENT EXAMPLE



**ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY**
Illinois' first public university

College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Geography, Geology,
and the Environment

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November 15, 2020

Amy Weckle
Illinois Water Resources Center
382 NSRC, MC-635
1101 W. Peabody Drive
Urbana, IL 61801
aweckle@illinois.edu

Dear IWRC

This letter is to confirm that Illinois State University commits to provide the following match contribution to [PI]'s project entitled "[Project Title]" during the project period of March 1, 2021 and February 28, 2022.

PI salary - \$XXXX for X months

PI fringe benefits- \$XXX at [rate]

Unrecovered indirect costs - \$XXXX. Unrecovered IDC is based on total federal and non-federal funds obligated to the project calculated at the University's federally negotiated rate of XX% * \$XXXXX (federal request + PI salary/fb) for a total of \$XXXX.

The source of this support is nonfederal and is not identified as cost sharing or matching funds for any other project.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dagmar Budikova
Departmental Chair