

DC Water Resources Research Institute (DCWRRI)

Request for FY2023 Proposals

The Water Resources Research Institute at the University of the District of Columbia (DCWRRI) is accepting proposals under the Water Resources Research Act, Section 104 (b) for FY2023. The DCWRRI 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. Partly funded by the U.S. Geological Survey, the mission of the DCWRRI is to provide the District of Columbia with interdisciplinary research support to identify DC water resource problems and contribute to their solutions.

Deadline is 5:00 pm, February 28, 2023.

Submission Eligibility: Eligible proposals must have a Principal Investigator who is a faculty member or 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 DCWRRI regarding eligibility.

Submission Requirements: Proposals must be submitted electronically in **Microsoft Word** to tdeksissa@udc.edu no later than **5:00 pm, February 28, 2023**. A proposal must follow the DCWRRI Seed Grant Proposal Guidelines (as shown in Attachments 1 and 2) and must include a completed Budget Breakdown Form (provided as Attachment 3) unless different budget form is requested by USGS.

- The maximum amount of funds requested cannot exceed \$15,000.00
- A **1:1 federal to non-federal match** must be provided. The total federal match includes funding from the USGS/DCWRRI Seed Grant program as well as any other federal funds, e.g. EPA, NSF, USDA etc.
- Non-federal match may include both cash and “in-kind”. University indirect costs are typically waived in this program. If the associated university allows waiver of indirect costs, these costs may be used as in-kind match.
- Preference will be given to research proposals that include cash and/or in-kind matching by non-university District stakeholders, and research proposal that addresses issues identified by the DCWRRI Advisory Board shown in Attachment 3.
- All proposed research must demonstrate student training potential and identify proposed student involvement.
- All Seed Grant recipients must provide a report in the appropriate USGS format and must include a conference presentation, article, and/or journal publications on DCWRRI-supported research.
- Innovative and multidisciplinary research approaches are encouraged, as are projects involving multiple university collaboration within the District of Columbia.

Review Process, Award and Completion Dates: Proposals will be reviewed by a Technical Advisory Committee that includes DCWRRI Stakeholder Advisory Board. Selected research projects will be submitted by DCWRRI to the USGS in May 2023 for the award announcement in August 2023. The funds are expected to be available in September 2023. Projects must be completed no later than August 31, 2024.

Questions should be addressed to DCWRRI Director, Dr. Tolessa Deksissa, at (202) 642-0421 or tdeksissa@udc.edu.

DCWRRRI FY2023 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 February 28, 20** 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 **Table 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 (March 1, 2019).
6. End Date. Enter the estimated end date for the project (February 28, 2020).
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. Title. Please use the same title as was entered at number 1 above.
11. 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.
12. Statement of results or benefits. Specify the type of information that is to be gained and how it will be used.
13. Nature, scope, and objectives of the research. Include a timeline of activities to accomplish the research.
14. 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.
15. Methods, procedures, and facilities. Provide enough information to permit evaluation of the technical adequacy of the approach to satisfy the objectives.
16. 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.
17. Products or significant achievements of previously funded DCWRRRI projects if it applies.
18. Budget Breakdown. The attached Budget Breakdown form must be completed and included with the proposal.
19. Budget Justification. Provide a brief statement in each category justifying use of the funds requested.
20. 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.

FOCUS CATEGORIES

ACID DEPOSITION	ACD
AGRICULTURE	AG
CLIMATOLOGICAL PROCESSES	CP
CONSERVATION	COV
DROUGHT	DROU
ECOLOGY	ECL
ECONOMICS	ECON
EDUCATION	EDU
FLOODS	FL
GEOMORPOLOGICAL 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

**DCWRI FY2023 USGS SEED GRANT RFP
ATTACHMENT 2
BUDGET BREAKDOWN**

Proposed Start Date: September 1, 2023		Proposed Completion Date: August 31, 2024	
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)			
-Graduate student (s)			
-Undergraduate 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	XXXXXXXXXX		
10. Indirect costs on non-federal share:	XXXXXXXXXX		
11. Total estimated cost	\$	\$	\$

DCWRRRI FY2023 USGS SEED GRANT RFP
ATTACHMENT 3
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 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. Cynotoxines, 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.

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

1. Technical Merit (30 points)

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

2. Responsiveness (30 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. Information Transfer (10 points)

- Does the proposal have a well-specified plan to disseminate research results to water managers and the public?

6. Publications of Previously Funded Projects by DCWRR (10 points)

- If the PI has previously received a DCWRRRI's seed grant, he/she is expected to list scholarly publications including peer reviewed articles, conference presentations or book chapter under section 17.