

Illinois Water Resources 2011-2012 Call for Proposal

The Illinois Water Resources Center (IWRC) requests proposals to fund one graduate student from a college or university in Illinois who is conducting research that will lead to publication of a thesis related to Illinois water resources issues.

About IWRC

IWRC is one of 54 programs funded by USGS under the Water Resources Research Act to promote and support the restoration, conservation and best management of water resources in the United States and US territories. The mission of National Institutes for Water Resources programs includes:

- 1) promoting collaborations between USGS and researchers related to the most pressing water resources research needs across the country;
- 2) disseminating research findings and other water resource information to the public; and
- 3) supporting young scientists who seek careers in water resources.

Funding Eligibility and Requirements

Graduate students from colleges and universities in Illinois who are enrolled as of August 2011 are eligible to apply. IWRC will fund one M.S. or Ph.D. student at 50% for 12 months to conduct research on Illinois water resources issues. The project period will be March 1, 2012 – February 28, 2013.

IWRC will pay the departmental student stipend rate, fringe benefits, tuition, and fees for the selected student. The student's department must provide travel, supplies, space, equipment, match, and all indirect costs, which can be used as match.

Proposals must be submitted by faculty members or professionals affiliated with 4-year institutions. The graduate student to be funded should be listed as a co-PI. Proposals to support unknown future graduate students will not be considered.

Application Contents

Proposals should consist of the following elements.

Cover page

The cover page should include:

- **Title.** Concise description of the project.
- **Focus Categories.** Choose a maximum of three focus categories from the list provided in Attachment A, with the most preferred focus category first.

- **Research Category.** Choose the most applicable category from the following: Social Sciences, Ground-water Flow and Transport, Water Quality, Biological Sciences, Engineering, or Climate and Hydrologic Processes.
- **Keywords.** 3-5 words or phrases to describe the project to an educated lay audience.
- **Start Date.** Enter the actual beginning date for the project.
- **End Date.** Enter the estimated end date for the project.
- **Principal investigator(s).** Provide names, academic rank, university, email address, and phone number of the principal investigators.
- **Congressional District** of the university where the work is to be conducted.

Budget

Federal funds will pay for one 50% research assistantship, to include tuition and fees for 12 months between March 1, 2012 – February 28, 2013. Supplies, travel, and other expenses related to the student's work must be provided by the department and can be used as match. Federal dollars cannot be used to pay indirect costs. However, the indirect costs on both the federal and state totals can be used as match. IWRC grants require a match of two non-federal dollars for each federal dollar.

Submit the budget breakdown using a format similar to attachment B.

Submit the budget justification using a format similar to attachment C.

Abstract

Provide a brief (one-page) description of the problem, methods, and objectives.

Project Narrative

The narrative should not exceed **10 single-spaced pages** in 12-point font.

- **Statement of critical regional or state water problem.** Include an explanation of the need for the project, who wants it, and why.
- **Statement of expected results or benefits.** Specify the type of information that is to be gained and how it will be used. Include plans for dissemination of findings.
- **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.** Show by literature and communication citations proposed project or on-going work on the same topic.
- **Training potential.** Identify the student, including degree level, who will receive training from this project.

Investigator's qualifications

Project participants should include CVs. No CV shall exceed two pages or list more than 15 pertinent publications. Graduate student to be funded should include transcripts from colleges and universities attended.

Matching fund commitment letters

Provide a matching fund commitment letter signed by the PI's department or campus to verify that the matching funds will be supplied should this project be funded.

Deliverables

The award recipient will be required to submit a final report by April 30, 2013. IWRC will publish the report as part of our research report series available at http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/iwrc/scientists_research.html.

Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by external reviewers on the following criteria. The IWRC Executive Committee will review proposals and technical reviews to make final funding decisions.

Technical and scholarly merit (25%): The proposed project should reflect current research in the subject area. Proposals should indicate how the proposed work fits into and advances the current body of knowledge. Work that is likely to produce peer reviewed publications or be presented at professional conferences, or that is part of a larger body of work that will have scholarly application is desired.

Research Design (25%): The experimental design should be sound and should be reasonable given budget and time constraints. If the proposed work is part of a larger body of work with other funding sources, those connections should be identified.

Importance to Illinois water issues (25%): Proposals should justify how and why the project addresses important water problems in Illinois. Proposals should identify how management practices, policy or other larger issues might be impacted by this work.

Participation of Young Scientists (20%): Funding will support a 50% research assistant. The student's transcripts and CV should be included and support the student's ability to complete the project.

Preparation and knowledge of PI and partners (5%): Research partners should obviously have the technical and scientific skills to complete the proposed work.

Submission

Submit proposals electronically, in Word or Excel format, to Carla Blue, blue1@illinois.edu. Combine files where possible. Name each file with the PI's last name. Proposals must be received by **4:00 pm October 19, 2011**.

Transcripts and original matching fund commitment letters should be mailed to:

Carla Blue
Illinois Water Resources Center
384 NSRC, MC-635
1101 W. Peabody Drive
Urbana, IL 61801

Proposal Timeline

Full Proposals due: October 19, 2011

Proposals Selected: December, 2011
Project period: March 1, 2012 - February 28, 2013

Questions

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Attachment A

Focus Categories

Acid deposition
Agriculture
Climatological Processes
Conservation
Drought
Ecology
Economics
Education
Floods
Geomorphological Processes
Groundwater
Hydrogeochemistry
Hydrology
Invasive Species
Irrigation
Law, Institutions, and Policy
Management and planning
Methods
Models
Nitrate contamination
Non point pollution
Nutrients
Radioactive substances
Recreation
Sediments
Solute Transport
Surface water
Toxic substances
Treatment
Wastewater
Water Quality
Water Quantity
Water Supply
Water use
Wetlands

Attachment B

Budget Breakdown

Project Title:

Cost Category	Federal	Non-Federal	Total
1. Salaries and Wages -Principal Investigator - _____ - _____ - _____ Total Salaries and Wages	\$	\$	\$
2. Fringe Benefits			
3. Supplies			
4. Equipment			
5. Services or Consultants			
6. Travel			
7. Other direct costs			
8. Total direct costs			
9. Indirect costs	XXXXXXXX		
10. Total estimated costs	\$	\$	\$
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 C

Budget Justification

Project Title

<p>Salaries and Wages. Provide estimated hours and the rate of compensation proposed for each individual. (Tuition remission and other forms of compensation paid as or in lieu of wages to students performing necessary work are allowable provided that the tuition or other payments are reasonable compensation for the work performed and are conditioned explicitly upon the performance of necessary work.)</p>
<p>Fringe Benefits. Provide the overall fringe benefit rate applicable to each category of employee proposed in the project.</p>
<p>Supplies. Indicate separately the amounts proposed for office, laboratory, computing, and field supplies.</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>Services or Consultants. Identify the specific tasks for which these services, consultants, or subcontracts would be used. Estimate amount of time required and the hourly or daily rate.</p>
<p>Travel. Provide purpose and estimated costs for all travel.</p>
<p>Other Direct Costs. Itemize costs not included elsewhere, including publication costs. Costs for services and consultants should be included and justified under "Services or Consultants (above)."</p>
<p>Indirect Costs. Provide negotiated indirect ("Facilities and Administration") cost rate.</p>