

Request for Pre-Proposals

Fiscal Year 2018

Under Section 104 of the
Water Resources Research Act of 1984,
as amended



Arkansas Water Resources Center

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Pre-Proposals Due: August 11, 2017 5:00 PM CST

Each year, the Arkansas Water Resources Center funds projects through the U.S. Geological Survey 104B program as instituted by the Water Resources Research Act of 1984. The application requirements for fiscal year 2018 are contained within this document.

We are soliciting two different types of pre-proposals: (1) faculty research proposals, and (2) student research proposals with a faculty advisor. The student proposal should be written and completed by the student with guidance from the advisor. If selected for funding, you may be asked to provide additional information or make modifications to the proposal, based on comments from the AWRC technical advisory committee, the AWRC director and program manager.

Please contact the AWRC if you have any questions.

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**Arkansas Water Resources Center
USGS 104(b) Competitive Research Grants Program
Request for Pre-Proposals FY2018**

I. Eligibility

Any faculty member or affiliate at an institution of higher education in the State of Arkansas or students with a faculty sponsor can apply. Federal employees are NOT eligible as a principal investigator, but can participate as a co-investigator.

II. Types of Pre-Proposals

We are soliciting two different types of research pre-proposals:

- (1) **faculty research**: we anticipate funding one or more faculty projects up to \$25,000 each
- (2) **student research** with a faculty advisor: we anticipate funding one or more student projects up to \$10,000 each.

Student pre-proposals should be written by the student under the direction of a faculty sponsor. If selected, the student proposal will be submitted with the faculty sponsor as the principal investigator.

III. Funding

Funding is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds from the US Geological Survey. Each applicant must match each federal dollar provided with at least two dollars from non-federal sources. This means a request for federal funds of \$25,000 will result in matching funds of at least \$50,000 and a total project cost of at least \$75,000.

All funds shall be used during the project period (March 1, 2018-February 28, 2019). Matching funds may include non-federal salaries, wages and benefits, other sources of non-federal monies obligated specifically to the proposed project, and indirect costs (IDCs) on the non-federal portion of the budget, as well as non-recovered IDCs on the federal funding request; IDCs cannot be charged on tuition or equipment. All indirect costs (F&A) must be waived, but may be counted as match.

IV. AWRC 104B Program Objectives

Preference will be given to pre-proposals that align with the Center's objectives, including:

- Arrange for **applied research** that addresses water supply and water quality problems;
- Student training and support;
- Support early career faculty in water research and preliminary data;
- Support senior faculty changing focus or addressing emerging water issues;
- Publish results in peer-reviewed scientific literature and transfer information to stakeholders and the public;
- Cooperate with other colleges, universities and organizations in Arkansas.

V. Research Areas of Particular Interest

The National Institutes for Water Resources (NIWR) and the US Geological Survey encourage Centers that are located within the Mississippi River Basin to conduct complimentary research. The goal of this coordinated research effort is to develop a data or information base that can ultimately support a competitive regional water proposal at a much larger scale to address the largest water quality issues in our region. Research investigating the following topics are highly encouraged to apply:

- Harmful algal blooms;
- Phosphorus sources and transport;
- Edge of field monitoring (especially a survey of existing data in Arkansas)

VI. Application Requirements

Each application package must include the following (incomplete applications will NOT be reviewed):

1. **Cover letter.** Must be on departmental letterhead, addressed to the AWRC and its Technical Advisory Committee and must not exceed 1 page. Include the following:
 - a. Brief summary of proposed research;
 - b. Number of undergraduate, MS, or PhD students and Post-docs anticipated to be involved;
 - c. If this proposal is a continuation of a previously funded 104B project or from a different funding source, provide the project title, funding agency and year(s) funded;
 - d. List your plan for follow up funding from another source, if applicable.
 - e. The avenues of information transfer you anticipate pursuing. Identify the conferences and journal publications you anticipate attending and submitting research findings to.
 - f. *If this pre-proposal is for a student project, the PI must include a description of how this research fits into their larger research interest, and what's the base funding for the student.*
2. **Project pre-proposal.** It should not exceed **four** single-spaced pages, excluding references, investigators CVs and budget. **SEE THE TEMPLATE ON PAGE 4 FOR SECTION REQUIREMENTS.** Use 11-point Calibri font, with title and investigators centered and all other text fully justified.
3. **Investigator(s) qualifications.** Include CV (<1 page) for all investigators.
4. **Budget.** See page 5 for the template. Explanation of matching funds is not required at this time.

Complete all four parts of the application package and email as a single pdf document to erins@uark.edu no later than 5:00 pm on **August 11, 2017**. **FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FORMATTING AND CONTENT REQUIREMENTS MIGHT DISQUALIFY YOUR PRE-PROPOSAL FROM THE SELECTION PROCESS.**

Pls might be required to do a short presentation (<5 minutes) and answer questions (<5 minutes) for the proposal reviewers in September.

VII. Project Reporting Requirements

If selected for funding, you will be required to complete a project report and additional information as requested, due by **April 15, 2019**. Additionally, when publishing or presenting material related to this funded project, you must acknowledge both the USGS and AWRC for the 104B grant opportunity, and include the project number assigned to your research.

Project Title

Principal Investigator¹, Co-investigator²

¹Department, College or University, City, State

²Department, College or University, City, State

Introduction

Describe the problem and why your research is important and needed. Why should the reviewers want to support your research agenda?

Objectives and Hypotheses

Identify the objectives and hypotheses of the research project being proposed. Provide a timeline of activities in table format.

The project period for FY2017 is March 1, 2017 through February 28, 2018. No activities should occur outside of this time frame.

Literature Review

Briefly describe the current state of the literature regarding your topic, how you will provide the next level of understanding your topic. Describe the knowledge gap you'll address.

Expected Results and Benefits

Specify what kind of information will be gained, how it will be used, and by who. How is this research innovative? *Describe how this work will further the goals of the AWRC and be useful for the state of Arkansas.*

Methods

Provide detailed information about the methods and equipment you plan to use. Describe the study site location(s) and the laboratory facilities you plan to use. Include enough detail such that reviewers can understand and evaluate the ability of the team to satisfy the stated objectives. **Include description of statistical analyses you plan to use to test your hypotheses.**

References

Fitzgerald, E.J., M. Waters and N. Simone. Year published. Title of Article. Name of Journal. Volume (Issue): pp-pp.

Budget Breakdown Form

Cost Category	Federal (\$)
Salaries and Wages	
PI (name)	\$
Co-PI (name)	\$
Student – (undergrad, MS or PhD, name)	\$
<i>Total Salaries and Wages</i>	<i>sum</i>
Fringe Benefits	
PI (name) (UA Rate of 30.98%)	\$
Co-PI (name) (UA Rate of 30.98%)	\$
Student – (undergrad, MS or PhD, name) (UA Rate for GA salary 5.95%; for hourly Wages 5.74%; for enrolled hourly student Wages 0.38%)	\$
<i>Total Fringe Benefits</i>	<i>sum</i>
<i>Total Supplies</i>	\$
<i>Total Equipment</i>	\$
<i>Total Services or Consultants</i>	\$
<i>Total Travel</i>	\$
<i>Total Other Direct Costs</i>	\$
Total Project Costs	\$