

**STATE WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH INSTITUTE PROGRAM
REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**

FY 2009

ELECTRONIC FILING OF APPLICATIONS REQUIRED

Applications under this Announcement will be accepted only through the Internet site at <http://niwr.net>. Preparation of each application must follow the instructions contained herein and on the Internet site.

I. INTRODUCTION

This Request for Applications (RFA) is issued under the provisions of section 104 of the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-242), as amended by Public Laws 101-397, 104-147, and 106-374. Section 104 of the Water Resources Research Act directs the Secretary of the Interior to administer program grants to Institutes and Centers established under the provisions of section 104(a) of the Act. Water Resources Institutes or Centers have been established in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam. The Institute in Guam also serves the Federated States of Micronesia and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Responsibility for administration of this State Water Resources Research Institute program has been delegated to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

II. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Section 104(b) of the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 requires the Institutes or Centers to:

(1) "plan, conduct, or otherwise arrange for competent research that fosters (A) the entry of new research scientists into the water resources fields, (B) training and education of future water scientists, engineers, and technicians, (C) the preliminary exploration of new ideas that address water problems or expand understanding of water and water-related phenomena, and (D) the dissemination of research results to water managers and the public, and

(2) "cooperate closely with other colleges and universities in the State that have demonstrated capabilities for research, information dissemination, and graduate training in order to develop a statewide program designed to resolve State and regional water and related land problems." The Act also requires each institute to:

(3) "cooperate closely with other institutes and other organizations in the region to increase the effectiveness of the institutes and for the purpose of promoting regional coordination."

Applications submitted under this Announcement are to be in furtherance of these objectives. Specific areas of emphasis are at the discretion of the individual Institute or Center Directors.

III. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applications will be accepted only from faculty members or affiliates at institutions of higher education in the State of Maryland.

IV. APPLICATIONS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

- A. Applications for research on health effects involving human subjects.
- B. Applications for research involving oceanography (estuarine research applications are acceptable).
- C. Applications submitted by an Institute or Center that has not met reporting requirements on a previous award by the USGS.

V. FEDERAL FUNDS

As of the date of this Announcement, there has not been a [FY 2009](#) appropriation for this program.

VI. MATCHING FUNDS

- A. Each applicant must match each Federal dollar provided with not less than two dollars from non-federal sources.
- B. Matching funds shall be obligated during the period of performance.
- D. The matching requirement should be met during each 12-month budget period.
Note: Matching funds in excess of the required 2:1, non-Federal:Federal, match are acceptable.
- E. Matching funds may contain indirect costs and non-federal salaries and benefits. The applicant's negotiated indirect cost rate (NICR) may be applied to **both** qualifying federal and non-federal direct costs, and the result used to satisfy part of the matching requirement under the non-federal share. The NICR shall not be applied to tuition and equipment costs. **Federal funds shall not be used to pay indirect costs.**

VII. APPLICATION DUE DATE

Applications to the *Maryland Water Resources Research Center* must be filed on the Internet at <http://niwr.net> prior to **4:30 PM Eastern Standard Time, November 7, 2008.**

VIII. APPLICATION CONTENTS

Each application shall consist of the following items:

- A. Signed Matching Funds Commitment Letter
- B. Project Proposal
- C. Budget Breakdown (Attachment D)

D. Budget Justification (Attachment E)

Attachment D (Budget Breakdown) and Attachment E (Budget Justification) should be considered worksheets. During the proposal submission process, data for Attachments D and E will be entered into a form on the website. Upon completion of the submission process, the actual Attachments will be generated from these form entries and bundled with your application package.

IX. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Each application must be submitted through the website at **<http://niwr.net>** and shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the specific instructions provided at that site. Submission will require two distinctly different actions: (1) submission of specified information as text directly into a Web form and (2) "depositing" at the website document files containing detailed descriptions of the work being proposed. These files may be prepared using the word processing software of choice, but must be translated to PDF format prior to being deposited **(detailed instructions for preparing and submitting these files, and verifying their submission are provided at the website).**

Applications must contain the following sections and adhere to the following guidelines:

- A. Matching Funds Commitment Letter.** The applicant shall provide an institutional costsharing agreement (letter) signed by an official authorized to commit the applicant to all or part of the matching share or a third party, in-kind contribution signed by an official authorized to commit the third party.
- B. Project Proposals.** (Includes research, education, information transfer, and information management system proposals. "Graduate Fellowship" and "Seed Grant" projects must each be entered as separate research proposals if they support research.)

Each proposal shall consist of the following 19 elements. Items numbered 1 through 11 are to be entered in the Web form provided at the website.

- 1 **Title.** Concise but descriptive.
- 2 **Project Type.** Research, Information Transfer, Information Management System, Education, or Other (please specify).
- 3 **Focus Categories.** Choose a maximum of three focus categories from the list provided (Attachment G), with the most preferred focus category first.
- 4 **Keywords.** Enter keywords of your choice descriptive of the work.
- 5 **Start Date.** Enter the actual beginning date for the project.
- 6 **End Date.** Enter the estimated end date for the project.
- 7 **Principal investigator(s).** Provide name, academic rank, university, email address and phone number of the principal investigators.
- 8 **Congressional District** of the university where the work is to be conducted.
- 9 **Abstract.** Provide a brief (one-page) description of the problem, methods, and objectives in

the space provided at the Internet site.

- 10 **Budget Breakdown**, as requested by the Web form (See Attachment D).
- 11 **Budget Justification**, as requested by the Web form (See Attachment E).

Items 12 through 19 are to be "deposited" as a file document in PDF format at the website. Note: This document shall not exceed 10 single-spaced pages - 12 point font, exclusive of resumes (item 19). Upon submission of your application components, the entire package will be available in PDF format for your inspection and final approval. You are responsible for verifying the approval, including compliance with the 10-page limit. If editing is required, you must edit the problem document(s) using your word processor and resubmit that application component.

- 1 **Title.** Please use the same title as was entered in the Web form under item 1, above.
- 2 **Statement of critical regional or State water problem.** Include an explanation of the need for the project, who wants it, and why.
- 3 **Statement of results or benefits.** Specify the type of information that is to be gained and how it will be used.
- 4 **Nature, scope, and objectives of the project,** including a timeline of activities.
- 5 **Methods, procedures, and facilities.** Provide enough information to permit evaluation of the technical adequacy of the approach to satisfy the objectives.
- 6 **Related research.** (Research projects only) Show by literature and communication citations the similarities and dissimilarities of the proposed project to completed or ongoing work on the same topic.
- 7 **Training potential.** Estimate the number of graduate and undergraduate students, by degree level, who are expected to receive training in the project.
- 8 **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.

Budget Breakdown Attachment D

BUDGET BREAKDOWN* Project Number: (Number will be provided by the application system)
 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			
9a. Indirect costs on federal share	XXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXX		
9b. Indirect costs on non-federal share	XXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXX		
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:	\$	\$	\$

* This form is provided as a worksheet only

Budget Justification Attachment E

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION*

Project Number: (Number will be provided by the application system) 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>

* This form is provided as a worksheet only.

Focus Categories Attachment G

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