



Ohio Water Resources Center

**FY2024 Ohio Water Resources Center 104(b)
Request for Pre-Proposals and Application Instructions**
Application Deadline: September 28, 2023, 11:59 PM

475 Hitchcock Hall
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Columbus, OH 43210

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The Ohio Water Resources Center (WRC) at The Ohio State University is seeking research pre-proposals to address current water resources issues in the State of Ohio. This annual competition for in-state researchers is held through the Water Resources Research Institute 104(b) Program. **The aim of these grants is to stimulate water related research relevant for Ohio to the point where a highly competitive external proposal can be developed.**

The projects require a cost share of one non-federal dollar for every federal dollar (1:1 ratio). Indirect costs are not supported by the sponsor, but may be counted as part of the state/local match. Equipment purchases are not normally supported with federal dollars.

ELIGIBILITY: Any investigator with principal investigator (PI) status at an institution of higher learning in Ohio is eligible to apply. An applicant may serve as a principal investigator on only **one proposal** in response to this RFP. Participation as a co-PI on proposals is unlimited. Strong preference will be given to **investigators early in their careers**. Graduate and/or undergraduate student support is expected to be a component of each proposal.

IMPORTANT DATES: The application deadline for Ohio pre-proposals is **11:59 PM, Thursday, September 28, 2023**. Pre-proposal decisions and an invitation to submit a full proposal will be announced the week of October 30, 2023. Full proposals will be due December 14, 2023 at 11:59 PM and funding decisions are expected the week of March 11, 2024. Funding is anticipated to begin on September 1, 2024.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: Pre-proposals under this announcement will be accepted only through the Ohio WRC email: **ohiowrc@osu.edu**.

Detailed instructions for full proposal preparation and submission will be sent with the invitations for full proposals.

PRE-PROPOSAL COMPONENTS. Each pre-proposal shall consist of the following elements:

1. Cover Page. (See Appendix A)
2. Main Body (Proposed Work). This document shall not exceed 2 single-spaced pages using a 12-point font. The description shall include:
 - a. Objectives of the project. Include statement of state water problem and benefits of the project. Specify the type of information that is to be gained and how the information will be transferred.
 - b. Methodology. Describe the methods you will use to achieve the outlined objectives.

- c. Technical merit. Show by literature citations and communication the similarities and dissimilarities of the proposed project to completed or on-going work on the same topic.
3. Budget Breakdown. (See Appendix B) A formal budget is not required at the pre-proposal stage. However, an estimate of major project expenses is helpful in the evaluation.
4. Investigator's Qualifications. Include resume(s) of the principal investigator(s). No resume shall exceed two pages or list more than 15 pertinent publications.

PRE-PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS

Pre-proposals which meet the requirements of this Announcement will be evaluated by a review panel composed of Institute directors, university scientists, and federal and state agency employees experienced in water resources research. Pre-proposals will be reviewed according to the following criteria:

State benefit (relevance), Technical merit (scientifically sound, innovative), Investigator (early in career, cognizant of previous work), Feasibility (methods and budget).

RESEARCH AREAS: The Ohio WRC will accept any pre-proposal related to Ohio water resources issues, but expects to give priority to proposals that address:

- water resilience and security - e.g., water availability, flooding/drought, climate impacts to resilience, aging infrastructure, risk and reliability
- water technology - e.g., use of sensors, advanced treatment technologies, water reuse, residuals management
- water quality - e.g., nutrients, salinity, contaminants of emerging concern.

Projects that also incorporate concepts of water equity, including environmental justice and socioeconomic drivers related to water, such as identifying causes and impacts of water-related disparities, developing or evaluating tools or strategies to improve water quality or evaluate environmental justice, or providing scientific information to benefit underserved communities are also sought. For a list of recently funded proposals, visit our website: <https://wrc.osu.edu/past>.

INQUIRIES: If you have any questions regarding this grant opportunity, please contact Dr. John Lenhart (phone: 614-688-8157; e-mail: lenhart.49@osu.edu), or Dr. Linda Weavers (phone: 614-292-4061; e-mail: weavers.1@osu.edu).

Although Congress has not yet finalized the appropriation process for this fiscal year's program, this call for proposals must be made at this time in order to meet expected program deadlines.

Appendix A – Cover Page

Please fill in the relevant project information

Title	<i>Concise, but descriptive.</i>
Project Type	<i>Choose from the following: Research, Information Transfer, Education, Information Management System, Education or Other (please specify).</i>
WRRRI Science Priorities	<i>Choose from Appendix C the one category that most closely applies.</i>
Start Date	<i>Enter the actual beginning date for the project. Projects are expected to start on September 1, 2024.</i>
End Date	<i>Enter the estimated end date for the project. Project expected end date is August 31, 2025.</i>
Principal Investigator(s)	<i>Provide name, academic rank, department and university, email address and phone number of the principal investigators.</i>
Abstract	<i>Provide a brief (300 word) description of the problem, methods, and objectives.</i>
Keywords	<i>Choose a maximum of three focus categories from the provided list (Appendix C), with the most preferred focus category first.</i>

Appendix B – Pre-proposal Budget Breakdown

Cost Category	Federal \$	Non-Federal \$	Total \$
SALARIES AND WAGES			
Principal Investigator(s)			
Graduate Student(s)			
Undergraduate Student(s)			
Others			
Total Salaries and Wages			
FRINGE BENEFITS			
Principal Investigator(s)			
Graduate Student(s)			
Undergraduate Student(s)			
Others			
Total Fringe Benefits			
TUITION			
Graduate Student(s)			
Undergraduate Student(s)			
Total Tuition			
DIRECT COSTS			
Supplies			
Equipment			
Services or Consultants			
Travel			
Other Direct Costs			
Total Direct Costs			
Indirect cost on on-federal share			
Indirect cost on non-federal share			
Total Estimated Costs			

Appendix C – FOCUS CATEGORIES

Keywords	Science Priority
ACID DEPOSITION	Water Scarcity and Availability
AGRICULTURE	Water-Related Hazards and Climate Variability
CLIMATOLOGICAL PROCESSES	Water Quality
CONSERVATION	Water Policy, Planning, and Socioeconomics
DROUGHT	Water Technology and Innovation
ECOLOGY	Workforce Development and Water Literacy
ECONOMICS	Watershed and Ecosystem Function
EDUCATION	
FLOODS	
GEOMORPOLOGICAL PROCESSES	
GEOCHEMICAL 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	
WETLANDS	