

Water Seed Grant Program

Water is a necessary part of Global Food Systems and is thought by many to be the key limiting resource in the future. Water supply is often a major element in both rural and urban communities and their economies. Sponsors, such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Science Foundation (NSF), have begun to include issues associated with water as integral parts of major funding programs. Of particular note is NSF's Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water Systems (INFEWS) initiative (see http://www.nsf.gov/about/budget/fy2016/pdf/37_fy2016.pdf) that in FY16 will likely fund close to \$75 million in research to help understand the interactions of these three highly interconnected systems. For these reasons, the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) is inviting proposals related to issues either in the urban-rural interface or in NSF's INFEWS. The key objective of the OVPR's Water Seed Grant program is to provide limited funding to K-State investigators to help prepare for larger, water related funding opportunities that will become available in the future.

Eligibility

Only K-State faculty and staff members are eligible to apply for the seed grant funding under this opportunity. Subcontracting with another university/group is not allowed; however, external consultants may be funded.

Number and Type of Awards

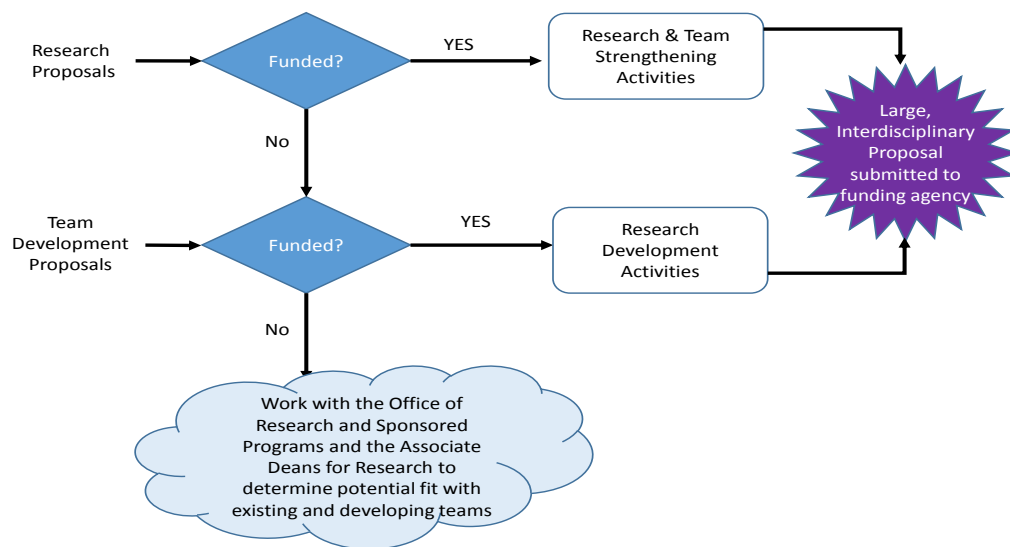
The primary objective of this award program is to prepare research teams for submission of water-related proposals in the next year. These proposals are expected to be prepared by interdisciplinary research teams and to request funding at levels that would not normally be available to single Principle Investigator (PI) grants. To help prepare teams for these extramural proposals, this program will fund: 1) one interdisciplinary research award with a maximum value of \$90,000 for a water-related project and 2) up to three team development awards with budgets up to \$9,700 for groups to prepare for larger, interdisciplinary water submissions to external funders. All funded projects are expected to result in the development or strengthening of research teams with expertise in INFEWS.

Project Requirements (both types)

- The project must be interdisciplinary and include socio-economic as well as scientific/engineering considerations.
- The project must address either urban-rural interface or INFEWS.
- The project must be completed within a 12-month period and within the budget available.
- The project must lead to the submission of a proposal to an external funding agency.

Submission

Proposers should indicate which project type is of interest. All proposals submitted for the interdisciplinary research award will be evaluated for that award. Those not selected for funding will automatically be considered for the team development awards. Projects submitted for the team development awards will be considered directly for that opportunity. See the figure below for clarification.



All submissions must use 11-pt, Times New Roman or Calibri font with uniform 1" margins and include:

- A **cover sheet** that includes the project title and the names/department/college of the PI and co-PIs (limited to two)
- A **two page summary** detailing how the project meets each of the above project requirements. The summary should be to the point and have clearly stated goals and objectives. The methods/approach paragraph(s) should follow logically from the goals and objectives.
- A **timeline** with major milestones and deliverables.
- A **participant list** showing name, department, college, and project role.
- A **biosketch** (2-pages, NSF Format) for each PI /co-PI.
- A **budget** using the NSF Standard Budget form with an accompanying justification. Indirect costs should not be included. Matching funds from industrial/private collaborators may be included and should be addressed in the budget justification. (An editable excel spreadsheet that produces NSF Budget forms is available at <http://www.k-state.edu/orsp/preaward/forms/index.html>.)

Proposals are due by 5 pm CDT on October 16, 2015

- **Create ONE PDF file of the items listed in the above section** (order—cover sheet, summary, timeline, participant list, budget, budget justification, biosketches).
- **Email the PDF as an attachment to orsp@ksu.edu** by the deadline with “Water Seed Grant” in the subject line.
- **Signatures will be obtained via the eSign system.** You will receive an email from the system and should immediately log in through the link in the email and sign as PI. Your department head and dean/director will then receive emails requesting their signatures. Make sure your department head is aware that signing will be requested via eSign. **The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) must receive all signatures within a week of the proposal due date; otherwise, your proposal will be returned without review.** You will NOT receive a reminder to complete this task.

Review

The submissions will be reviewed by a panel with representatives from at least four of the following areas:

Agriculture, Biology, Engineering, Economics, Sociology, Education, and Policy. Up to four groups will be selected for funding based on the following evaluation criteria:

- The strength of the idea proposed and the clarity of its presentation.
- The strength and clarity of the plan for submitting to an outside funder. The planned submission should be for a larger, interdisciplinary opportunity (USDA Water Challenge, NSF CNH, NSF INFEWS, etc.).
- The relevance of the project to urban-rural interface or the INFEWS topical area.
- The capability of the project team to complete what is proposed.
- The involvement of multiple disciplines in the project.
- The inclusion of students in the project.

Demonstrated collaboration involving multiple, diverse disciplines and multiple K-State colleges.

One submission will be selected for up to \$90,000 funding. The remaining three will receive up to \$9,700 each to further develop their ideas for submission for an external funder.

Requirements for the Interdisciplinary Research Award (up to \$90,000 for one team)

- Submit a proposal related to water/ INFEWS to an external funder as an extension of the project.
- Develop a communication plan for the research with the help of the OVPR's Documentation Technical Writer and execute the plan.
- Attend a quarterly meeting to informally share results, report progress, and learn about new techniques and perspectives.
- Develop a final report outlining the findings, outputs and anticipated outcomes of the project.
- Submit a final report outlining activities completed, the findings, outputs and anticipated outcomes of the project. The report should also provide recommendations to ORSP for the effective execution of future, related programs.

Requirements for the Team Development Awards (up to \$9,700 for 3 teams)

Prior to receiving funding, the development award groups will be required to write a one- to two-page work plan and budget for this funding. Activities covered can include such things as preliminary data collection, workshops, meeting support, and travel for K-State faculty to visit potential collaborators or to bring potential collaborators or nationally known experts to K-State. The work plan should include steps to help make the group into an integrated research team such as preparing an article together or presenting their ideas at a national meeting. The deliverable for these groups will be an interdisciplinary proposal to an external funder in an area related to water or the INFEWS topical area. The submission should be for a larger, interdisciplinary opportunity.

- Submit a proposal related to water/ INFEWS to an external funder as an extension of the project.
- Attend a quarterly meeting to informally share results, report progress, and learn about new techniques and perspectives.
- Submit a final report outlining activities completed and providing recommendations to ORSP for the effective execution of future, related programs.

All four groups will have the support of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs to help with logistics and strategy for submission to external sponsors. That office can also help with meeting planning and set up as well as help with finding broader impact collaborators and programs.

Timeline

Due date: October 16

Awards Made: November 2

Work Plans Due for Team Development Awards: November 18