

Texas Water Resources Institute Faculty Fellows Program

Fiscal Year 2025 Request for Proposals

Application Deadline: March 17, 2024

Federal Award: \$15,000

Nonfederal Match Required: 1:1

Total Awards Planned: 2

This material is based upon work supported by the U.S. Geological Survey under Grant/Cooperative Agreement No. G21AP10574.



Overview

The Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) is offering fellowship opportunities through the U.S. Geological Survey 104b program to provide resources to support the development and submission of proposals for external funding. TWRI is seeking applicants who are engaged in water resources related research and are looking to: build their research acumen; expand their colleague and collaborator network; and gain valuable experience in leading diverse, multi-partner research proposals.

The deadline for submission of applications is March 17, 2024. TWRI anticipates awarding at least two applicants with up to \$15,000 federal funding each. The federal funding requires match of 1 non-federal dollar to each federal dollar received in the award, or 1:1. The funding period of performance is expected to begin September 1, 2024, and will end August 31, 2025. No extensions will be granted.

Recipients of the fellowship will be expected, as described under Award Recipient Expectations, to work with TWRI through the proposal(s) development and submission process with the goal of allowing Principal Investigators to focus on the technical approach, or scope of work, language of the proposal. Assistance provided by TWRI may include proposal review, budget development and review, document curation and when applicable, act as a liaison with the TAMU Sponsored Research Service (SRS).

Priority outcomes of this fellowship are to encourage the development and submission of successful grant proposals for external funding. Additionally, it is anticipated that faculty will expand their network of collaborators by working with multidisciplinary teams, including TWRI staff, and improve their chances of securing large-scale funding.

Eligibility

To be eligible for funding, applicants must:

1. Be a faculty within the Texas A&M University System, including TAMU at College Station, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (Research and Extension personnel on and off main campus are eligible), Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station, Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service and all other Texas A&M University System universities and agencies.
2. Address one or more of the research priority areas listed below.

Research Priority Areas

Proposed research can deal with a wide range of water resources topics. However, priority will be given to research addressing the science, technology, policy or socioeconomics of:

- Developing innovative water management strategies that address agricultural and urban water conservation, identifying new surface water and groundwater sources, desalination, reuse (potable and non-potable) and aquifer storage and recovery;
- Evaluating and understanding the implications of water availability and quality on human health outcomes;

- Addressing major water quality impairments, which includes bacteria, dissolved oxygen, mercury and other hazardous contaminants (including contaminants of emerging concern);
- Understanding the vulnerability of groundwater resources (both quantity and quality) from both a management and policy perspective;
- Addressing impacts of climate variability, climate change and drought on Texas water resources, along with measures to adapt and mitigate these impacts; and
- Understanding the long-term effects of catastrophic flooding events on surface water and groundwater resources, along with measures to adapt to or mitigate these effects.

Contacts, Deadline and Timeline

Contacts

For technical questions, contact Lucas Gregory at LFGregory@ag.tamu.edu

For questions regarding the application, contact Danielle Kalisek at Danielle.Kalisek@ag.tamu.edu.

Deadline

The completed Application must be e-mailed as a Microsoft Word document to Danielle Kalisek at Danielle.Kalisek@ag.tamu.edu. Applications must be received electronically by **11:59 p.m. CDT, March 17, 2024**, to be considered.

Timeline

The start date for TWRI fellowship awards will be no earlier than September 1, 2024, and will end August 31, 2025; no time extensions will be granted.

Budget

- Up to \$15,000 federal funding per award.
- All funds must be used to support faculty salary/fringe (no student/postdoc support), or travel needs relative to proposal development.
- Indirect costs (IDC) may not be charged as part of the requested funds, but IDC on matching funds and unrecovered IDC can be used toward the 1:1 non-federal match requirement. IDC used for match must be applied to modified total direct costs.
- A signed commitment letter detailing the 1:1 non-federal match is required.
- Example template provided below.

Award Recipient Expectations

Fellowship recipients are expected to participate in regular meetings with TWRI administration and technical staff to discuss ideas and proposal development progress until the output is completed. The expected output is a fully developed and submitted grant proposal before the award end date.

During the external proposal submission process, fellowship recipients will engage TWRI personnel in activities that may include, but are not limited to, development and review of grant applications; development and review of budgets; curating documents required by funding agencies; acting as a liaison between SRS and researchers when applicable; and proposal submission formats review.

In exchange for both funding and assistance with submitting grants, it is expected that fellowship recipients will partner with TWRI to submit grant proposals for external funding. Through such a partnership, TWRI can assist with account setup, budget monitoring, budget revisions, and other grant administration activities if external grant projects are awarded. To cover these activities, a TWRI project specialist will be budgeted for in the external grant proposal that is used for the fellowship deliverable; this equates to a minimum of \$2,200 in salary and fringe per year.

TWRI has a long history of providing technical, communications, team building, stakeholder coordination and business administration support to collaborators. Additionally, TWRI staff have experience in managing projects of various sizes. TWRI should be consulted early in the proposal development process to ensure this is included.

Selection Criteria

- Potential impacts and relevance of proposed research to stated priority areas
- Relevance of prior work in the field that will increase the potential for research success
- Evidence of forethought and planning in the proposed research
- Demonstrated ability to engage other collaborators in accomplishing proposed research
- Anticipated request/award ceiling in external grant proposal

Application and Budget Template

Required Proposal Format

Please complete all parts of this application to be considered for the TWRI Faculty Fellows program. Proposals should be at least 11-point Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins. Proposals must be received by **11:59 p.m. CDT, March 17, 2024**, to be considered.

The application package is **limited to 3 pages** and must include items 1 through 6 below. Items 7 and 8 are not included in the 3-page limit. You do not have to keep the instructions within your application form but ensure that each section is titled accordingly and the required items 1 through 8 are addressed. *Application information beyond the 3-page limit **will not** be considered in the review process.*

Basic Information:

1. Title of anticipated proposal (may be changed at a later date by the awardee).
2. Name, contact information (email and phone number), university, department, title and Congressional district the work would take place in.
3. Please provide the Agency, Name of program within the agency, anticipated release date of the RFP, and relevant information to the program(s) you anticipate submitting to. Relevant information may include a past request for proposals or web links(s) to more information about the program(s) you anticipate submitting to. Recipients may change the program(s) they submit to but shall first consult with TWRI.
4. Abstract: Please provide 200 words or less about your proposed research problem, methods and objectives, and describe how your research will address the research priorities.
5. Description of planned proposed research, emphasizing how it will address water resources-related concerns (particularly how, if possible, it will benefit Texas), including:
 - a. *Statement of critical regional or state water problem.* Describe how your research will address RFP research priorities and explain the need for the project, who wants it and why.
 - b. *Nature, scope and objectives of the research, including a timeline of activities.* This is the major emphasis of your proposal.
 - c. *Methods, procedures and facilities.* Provide sufficient information to permit evaluation of the technical adequacy of the approach to satisfy the objectives.
 - d. *Statement of expected results or benefits.* Specify the type of information that is to be gained and how it will be used.

Note: Reference/Citations do not count toward the 3-page limit.
6. List of potential collaborators and/or partners for the proposal that will be the deliverable.
7. Describe the contribution you anticipate TWRI having in this proposal. (Examples may include, water sample collection, stakeholder engagement, preaward assistance and project management, communications services, etc.)
8. Other Required Information (*These items are not included in the 3-page limit.*)
 - a. Curriculum Vita (2 page maximum with no more than 15 relevant publications)
 - b. Current and Pending (only if not already included in CV)

9. Budget

TWRI Faculty Fellowship federal funds are to be used to support faculty salary/fringe (no student/postdoc support) or travel needs relative to proposal development. Indirect costs (IDC) may not be charged as part of the requested funds, but IDC and unrecovered IDC can be used toward to 1:1 non-federal match requirement. IDC used for match must be applied to modified total direct costs. A 1:1 non-federal match is required so a signed commitment letter will also be required. (Example: If requesting \$15,000, then \$15,000 of non-federal match is required.)

Federal Request

Please list how you would like your faculty salary/fringe and/or travel to be divided out. Please be specific and itemize how you derived the figures being requested (ex: for salary list your annual salary amount and the % effort you are budgeting in the justification; for travel, include the location, # of people, # nights, # days, mileage/airfare, hotel estimate/night, etc.).

Category	Request	Justification
Salary	\$	
Fringe Benefits	\$	
Travel	\$	
Total	\$	<i>Not to exceed \$15,000</i>

Required Matching

Please list the amount and source(s) of your non-federal matching funds. Include specific itemization here as well. *Note: Unrecovered indirect costs may be used as part of the matching requirement.*

Category	Match	Justification
Salary	\$	
Fringe Benefits	\$	
Travel	\$	
Supplies	\$	
Tuition	\$	
Other	\$	
Total Direct	\$	
Indirect Costs (IDC)	\$	<i>Please list university's negotiated IDC rate.</i>
Unrecovered IDC	\$	
Total Match	\$	<i>Must at least be equal to the federal amount being requested.</i>