The Massachusetts Water Resources Research Center (MA WRRC) invites research proposals for the U.S. Geological Survey’s Annual Water Resources Institute Program for Fiscal Year 2015. Eligible projects include seed projects to develop new and innovative research; research projects that respond to water resources research needs of state or regional importance, including increasing the quality or quantity of water resources; and information transfer activities for water resources protection. **This year, one $30,000 and three or four $5,000 projects will be funded.** Faculty should encourage their graduate students to conceptualize projects to begin, expand, or extend their research awards at the $5,000 level, but the PI must be a faculty member. Research awards will preferentially support proposals from untenured faculty and new WRRC collaborators (we request those who have received an award in the last two years to not apply).

We are also interested in organizing workshops on topics of interest to academic researchers in the water field. We have allotted $6,000 for up to four workshops to cover travel and meeting space. Please submit your short proposals (max 2 pages) for workshop topics, including a list of participating faculty and graduate students, the preferred location for the event, and any costs involved (no salaries or food allowed as direct cost in this category; 2:1 match is required) in an email to wrrc@cns.umass.edu. WRRC staff will work with you to submit as a formal proposal.

All awards are subject to the federal 2:1 matching requirement. **Due date is October 26, 2015 and proposals must be submitted through your institute’s grants and contracts office (including UMass).** Awards will be announced by December 20, 2015. The anticipated start date for funded projects is March 1, 2016.
GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Applicants must be faculty or staff at Massachusetts Institutions of Higher Education. Graduate students are encouraged to apply but cannot be listed as the Principal Investigator. We will not consider applications from PIs who failed to comply with reporting requirements (final report due May 1, 2016)
- Budgets must include a $2 non-federal match for each federal dollar
- Matching funds must be committed at the time of proposal submission
- Indirect costs cannot be charged on federal funds, but can be used as a contribution to the non-federal matching requirement
- Proposed projects can be up to 12 months in duration.

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Each proposal must include the elements listed below:

Summary Information (do not include in narrative, these elements will be filled out on the online form)
Title, Focus Categories (see NIWR website), Keywords, Duration, Principal Investigators, Congressional District, Abstract.

Proposal Contents (Page limit: 3 for $5,000 grants, 7 for $30,000 grants, including):
- Statement of Critical Regional or State Water Problem
- Nature, Scope, and Objectives of the Research
- Results Expected - How will you use this grant to leverage future funding?

Budget
- Budget, including Federal Funds Requested and Non-Federal (matching) Funds Pledged (commitment letter required)
- Budget Justification (include source of matching funds).

UMass Amherst Proposals:
- Proposals must be submitted to OGCA by Oct. 26, 2015
- Please read carefully the instructions for UMass Amherst submissions we have posted online.

Off Campus Proposals (Not UMass Amherst):
- Complete application on NIWR website, save the complete application PDF and have your Grants and Contracts office email it to wrrc@cns.umass.edu with scanned copies of:
  - Signed Federal Certifications and Assurances Forms
  - Matching Funds Commitment Letter from the University’s Grants and Contracts Office
  - Your grants and contracts office must state in the email that they approve the proposal including budget and budget justification
- Note that if your proposal is selected, we will need all paper originals mailed to our office by January 1, 2016.

If you plan to submit a proposal, a courtesy email to wrrc@cns.umass.edu with your general topic would be appreciated so we can line up reviewers.

Any questions may be addressed to wrrc@cns.umass.edu or called in to Françoise at 413-768-8402

Final MA WRRC awards are contingent upon Congressional approval of FY 2015 funding for the National Water Institute Program.