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| **CONTACT WRRC:**  Marie-Françoise Hatte,  Associate Director  *mfhatte@umass.edu*  Massachusetts Water Resources Research Center  209 Ag Engineering Bldg  University of Massachusetts  Amherst, MA 01003  413.545.5531  [**wrrc.umass.edu**](http://wrrc.umass.edu/)  RFP available at  <https://wrrc.umass.edu/researchers/funding-opportunities>  **Submit by email to** wrrc@umass.edu  **Deadline: April 14, 2023** | Call for Proposals  Fiscal Year 2023  **FOCUS AReas**  Proposals are invited in all areas of water resources related to research and policy including, but not limited to, these USGS priority areas:   1. Water Scarcity and Availability 2. Water-Related Hazards and Climate Variability 3. Water Quality 4. Water Policy, Planning, and Socioeconomics 5. Ecosystem and Drainage Basin Functions 6. Water Technology and Innovation   Consult the [**USGS WRRA Program Priorities 2020-2030 circular**](https://wrrc.umass.edu/sites/wrrc.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/USGS%20WRRA%20Program%20Priorities%20for%202020-30%20Cir1488-1.pdf) for more details on research priorities and topics.  **Selection Criteria**   * Relevance and importance to Massachusetts and the Northeast U.S. * Quality of the research plan and support of graduate students * MA WRRC funding priorities (start-up projects, new faculty projects)   We encourage proposals   * From PIs who are from historically underrepresented or underserved groups in STEM, and from institutions that serve majority minority populations * That increase diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice, which intersect with water research and resources.     **All proposals must be emailed to wrrc@umass.edu**  **By 4/14/2023**  **Budgets must be approved by your institution’s**  **grants and contracts office** |

USGS has now released its [FY23 RFP](https://wrrc.umass.edu/sites/default/files/pdf-doc-ppt/USGS%20FY23%20104b%20RFP.pdf). It is directed to Water Institutes but has important information you should read.

The Massachusetts Water Resources Research Center (MA WRRC) invites research proposals for the U.S. Geological Survey’s Annual Water Resources Institute Program (WRIP) for Fiscal Year 2023. 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.

**Projects in the amount of $5,000, $10,000, $15,000 and $50,000 will be considered.**

PI must be a faculty member. Research awards will preferentially support proposals from untenured faculty and new WRRC collaborators, projects that aim to provide proof of concept support for subsequent proposals, and/or projects with robust broader impacts, particularly with respect to training the next generation of water professionals. Preference will also be given to PIs who have not received a WRIP award in the last round of proposals. We will not consider applications from PIs who failed to comply with past reporting requirements (a short final report will be due Nov 1, 2024).

All awards are subject to the federal 1:1 matching requirement.

All indirect funds (F&A) must be waived but may be counted as match. Other accepted sources of match are salaries, benefits, verifiable expenses funded by non-Federal sources.

The anticipated start date for funded projects is September 1, 2023.   
Grants will support one-year projects

**PROPOSAL GUIDELINES**

**Each proposal must include the elements listed below**:

* **Summary**

1. Project ID. Please follow format MA-2023-PI last name.
2. Principal investigator(s). Provide name and university of the principal investigators.
3. Project Title.
4. Project Type. Choose from the following: Research, Information Transfer, Information Management System, Education, or Other (please specify).
5. Congressional District of the university where the work is to be conducted.
6. WRRI Science Priorities. Choose from the following the one category that most closely  
   applies: Water Scarcity and Availability, Water Hazards and Climate Variability, Water  
   Quality, Water Policy, Planning, and Socioeconomics, Watershed and Ecosystem  
   Function, Water Technology and Innovation, or Workforce Development and Water  
   Literacy.
7. USGS Cross-Discipline Landscape (See list in the Budget spreadsheet cell B10. Probably None) and Science Descriptors (Chose one: Climate. Energy. Indian Water Rights. Natural Hazards. Oceans/Coastal/Great Lakes. STEM. Water Challenges. Other).
8. Keywords. Choose a maximum of three focus categories from the provided list  
   (cell B14 in Budget spreadsheet), with the most preferred focus category first.
9. Training potential. Estimate the number of graduate and undergraduate students, by  
   degree level, who are expected to receive training in the project.
10. Principal investigator(s). Provide academic rank, email address, and phone number of the  
    principal investigators.
11. Start Date. Enter the anticipated start date for the project.
12. End Date. Enter the estimated end date for the project.
13. Abstract. Provide a brief (300 word) description of the problem, methods, and objectives.
14. Plain-language summary. Provide a brief (150 word) description of the study that could  
    be understandable by the public.

* **Proposal Contents** (*up to 7 pages for $50K proposals, up to 4 pages for smaller proposals, including):*

1. Statement of regional or State water problem. Include an explanation of the need for the project, who wants it, and why.
2. Statement of results or benefits. Specify the type of information that is to be gained and how it will be used.
3. Nature, scope, and objectives of the project, including a timeline of activities.
4. Methods, procedures, and facilities. Provide enough information to permit evaluation of the technical adequacy of the approach to satisfy the objectives.
5. Related research (*Research projects only*). Provide context for the proposed work in terms of previous and ongoing research, including citations (Literature cited not part of the page number listed above).

* **Investigator’s qualifications**.  
  Include short (no more than 2 pages) biographical sketches of the principal investigator(s).
* **Budget Breakdown and Justification**  
  Include a screenshot of the summary table along with the budget justification. Federal costs must be explained separately from matching funds. The Budget Breakdown, Budget Justification, and the Budget Summary are to be created from the fillable EXCEL template available (attached in email). Please email the budget and justification files to wrrc@umass.edu.)  
    
  The project budget shall include detailed information on all cost categories and must clearly identify all estimated project costs. Unit costs shall be provided for all budget items including the cost of work to be provided by contractors or sub-recipients. In addition, applicants shall include a narrative description of the items included in the project budget, including the value of in-kind contributions of goods and services provided to complete the project when cost share is identified to be included. Cost categories can include, but are not limited to, those costs items included on the SF424A or SF424C.

**The following are attached in the email:**

1. Budget Breakdown, EXCEL fillable form
2. Budget Justification, fillable PDF form   
   Examples of both successful and rejected budgets are included. An inaccurate or incomplete budget will delay award.
3. Note on match: 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**.

* **Data Management Plan**  
  Proposals submitted to USGS must include a supplementary document of no more than four pages labeled "Data Management Plan" (DMP). This supplementary document should describe how the proposal will conform to USGS policy on the dissemination and sharing of research results and associated data. A valid DMP may include only the statement that no detailed plan is needed (e.g. “No data are expected to be produced from this project”), as long as the statement is accompanied by a clear justification. This supplementary document may include:  
  - the types of data, samples, physical collections, software, curriculum materials, and other materials to be produced in the course of the project;  
  - the standards to be used for data and metadata format and content (where existing standards are absent or deemed inadequate, this should be documented along with any proposed solutions or remedies);  
  - policies for access and sharing including provisions for appropriate protection of privacy, confidentiality, security, intellectual property, or other rights or requirements;  
  - provisions for re-use, re-distribution, and the production of derivatives; and  
  - plans for archiving data, samples, and other research products, and for preservation of free public access to them.  
  Additional guidance on data management plans is available from the USGS Data Management web site here: <https://www.usgs.gov/products/data-and-tools/data-management/data-management-plans>.
* [**Signed Assurances Form**](https://wrrc.umass.edu/sites/wrrc.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/SF424B-V1.1.pdf)
* **Signed Matching Funds Commitment Letter**

Complete application and have your Grants and Contracts office email it to [wrrc@umass.edu](mailto:wrrc@umass.edu) with scanned copies of:

* Signed Federal Certifications and Assurances Form
* 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

**For Non UMass Amherst Institutions:**

Also submit:

* Fringe Agreement document
* Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
* Signed [Subrecipient Commitment Form](https://www.umass.edu/research/sites/default/files/documents/subrecipient_commitment_form.pdf) (if your institution is an FDP institution or a UMass sister campus, you can use the shorted SRCF [form](https://www.umass.edu/research/sites/default/files/documents/srcf_-_fdp_organizations.pdf))

Any questions may be addressed to [wrrc@umass.edu](mailto:wrrc@umass.edu) or called in to Marie-Françoise at 413-545-5531

***Final MA WRRC awards are contingent upon Congressional approval***

***of FY 2023 funding for the National Water Institute Program***