
Texas Water Resources Institute Faculty Fellows Program FY2021-2022

Overview

The Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) is offering fellowship opportunities through the U.S. Geological Survey 104b program to provide resources in support of 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 for this opportunity is December 4, 2020. TWRI anticipates awarding at least three applicants with up to \$15,000 federal funding each. The federal funding requires match of 2 non-federal dollars to each federal dollar received in the award. Funding will remain available for use by awardees for one year after the award date. No extensions will be granted.

Recipients of the fellowship will be expected, as described under Award Recipient Expectations, to work with TWRI through the proposals development and submission process with the goal of allowing Principal Investigators to focus on research. Assistance may include proposal review and budget development and review, document curation, and when applicable, act as a liaison with the TAMU Sponsored Research Service.

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 for large-scale funding.

Eligibility

To be eligible for funding, applicants must:

1. Be a faculty of Texas A&M University at College Station, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, or Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (Research and Extension personnel on and off main campus are eligible)
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 socio-economics 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;
- 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.

Timeline and Deadlines

The completed Application must be e-mailed in Microsoft Word to Danielle Kalisek at Danielle.Kalisek@ag.tamu.edu. Applications must be received electronically by **11:59 p.m. CDT, December 4, 2020**, to be considered.

Start date for TWRI fellowship awards will be no earlier than March 1, 2021. Awards will expire one year from the start date, and 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 to 2:1 non-federal match requirement. IDC used for match must be applied to modified total direct costs.
- A 2:1 non-federal match is required so a signed commitment letter will also be required.
- Example template provided below.

Award Recipient Expectations

Fellowship recipients are expected to participate in quarterly meetings with TWRI administration and technical staff to discuss ideas and proposal development progress. The expected fellowship output is a fully developed and submitted grant proposal within a year of receiving funding.

During the proposal submission process, fellowship recipients may receive assistance from TWRI that includes: the assistance in development and review of grant applications; assistance in the development and review of budgets; assistance in curating documents required by funding agencies; acting as a liaison between the TAMU Sponsored Research Service and researchers when applicable; and with proposal submission formats.

In exchange for both funding and assistance with submitting grants, it is expected that fellowship recipients will submit grant proposals for external funding partnering with TWRI. Through such a partnership, TWRI can assist with account setup, budget monitoring, budget revisions, and other grant administration activities. To cover these activities, a TWRI program manager will be budgeted for in the grant proposal that is used for the fellowship deliverable; this equates to \$1,800 in salary and fringe per year.

TWRI has a long history of providing technical, communications, team building, stakeholder coordination and business administration support to our collaborators. If desired by fellowship recipients, TWRI staff can be consulted with and included in different components of the grant proposal to help strengthen the research team. Additionally, TWRI staff have experience in managing projects of various sizes. If fellowship recipients are interested in including project management in their grant, TWRI should be consulted with early in the proposal development process.

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
- Demonstrate ability to engage other collaborators in accomplishing proposed research

Contacts

For Technical questions regarding the proposal ideas and content, please contact Dr. Lucas Gregory, lfgregory@ag.tamu.edu.

For budgetary or submission questions, please contact Danielle Kalisek, Danielle.Kalisek@ag.tamu.edu.

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, December 4, 2020**, 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, and title
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 can 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. 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)

8. 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 2:1 non-federal match requirement. IDC used for match must be applied to modified total direct costs. A 2:1 non-federal match is required so a signed commitment letter will also be required. (Example: If requesting \$5,000, then \$10,000 of non-federal match is required; likewise, if requesting \$15,000, then \$30,000 of match is required.)

Federal Request

Please list how you would like your faculty salary/fringe and/or travel to be divided out.

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. *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 be double the federal amount being requested.</i>