



NATIONAL PRIORITIES: WATER INNOVATION, SCIENCE, AND ENGAGEMENT TO ADVANCE WATER REUSE

Informational Webinar for Applicants



EPA National Priorities RFA

August 5, 2021

- Review application information for the EPA STAR RFA:
“NATIONAL PRIORITIES: WATER INNOVATION,
SCIENCE, AND ENGAGEMENT TO ADVANCE
WATER REUSE ”
- Provide guidance for eligibility, submission, technical
aspects of application process
- Answer questions about the application process
Read the RFA very carefully, all necessary
information is provided



Webinar Ground Rules

- Please hold your questions until all EPA presentations have been made.
- You may type your questions in the comments box. 
- No specific research project or idea can be discussed but clarifying questions regarding what is written in the RFA announcement may be answered.
- These slides are posted on the RFA webpage.
- Please keep yourself muted during the presentation. 



- **Technical Contact:** Sarah Ludwig-Monty, Project Officer (Ludwig-monty.sarah@epa.gov); phone: 202-566-1072
- **Eligibility Contact:** Ron Josephson, Eligibility & Peer Review Officer (josephson.ron@epa.gov); phone: 202-564-7823
- **Electronic Submissions:** Debra M. Jones, Administrative Officer (jones.debram@epa.gov); phone: 202-564-7839





Overarching Research Topics SSWR PROGRAM

Clean Water Act

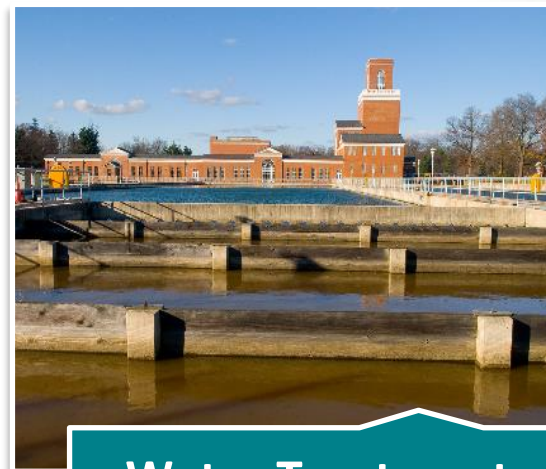
Safe Drinking Water Act



Watersheds



**Nutrients and
Harmful Algal
Blooms**



**Water Treatment
and Infrastructure**

SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH PROGRAM



RFA & Award Information

- Estimated Number of Awards: 2
- Anticipated Federal Funding Amount: \$3,246,000 per award
- Proposed federal budget must not exceed \$3,246,000
- **A minimum 25% non-federal cost share/match is required**
- Project Period of 4 years
- RFA will close on Sept. 29, 2021, at 11:59:59 pm Eastern Day Time



Research Areas:

1. **Research Area #1** – Science, Technology Development, and Validation for Water Reuse Applications
2. **Research Area #2** – Social science, Information, Engagement, and Organizational barriers to Water Reuse

There are two distinct research areas covered by this solicitation. Applicants should address **BOTH** research areas and cover all the topics of interest (A-E)

Research Area 1 – Science, Technology Development, and Validation for Water Reuse Applications

Research is needed to help inform the role of water reuse in the nation's priorities for securing water availability and water quality for user communities.

Research gaps exist for future fit-for purpose specifications using risk assessment strategies; brine reduction and disposal technologies and processes; development of real-time monitoring and control strategies for water treatment trains; and assessment, demonstration, and validation of novel or improved treatment technologies

Research Area 1 – Science, Technology Development, and Validation for Water Reuse Applications

Topics of Interest:

- TOPIC A: Health-Based Risk Assessment
- TOPIC B: Technology Innovation



Research Area 2

Research Area 2 – Social science, Information, Engagement, and Organizational barriers to Water Reuse

Research is needed to improve the national understanding of the water available for reuse and the critical impediments to advancing water reuse across the U.S., including public acceptance.

Both social and organizational barriers contribute to the critical research gaps surrounding reuse. More research is needed on the best approaches for improving cross-organizational engagement as well as approaches that increase public acceptance of water reuse.



Research Area 2 Cont'd

Research Area 2 – Social science, Information, Engagement, and Organizational barriers to Water Reuse

Topics of Interest:

- TOPIC C: Water Information and Availability
- TOPIC D: Organizational Barriers
- TOPIC E: Social Barriers

- The term “output” means an environmental activity, effort, and/or associated work products related to an environmental goal or objectives outlined in the RFA.
- Example outputs are provided for each Research Area and Topic of Interest in the RFA.
- The outputs should demonstrate potential for translational impacts such as practical application to real-world water reuse treatment systems at a national scale.



Expected Outcomes

Expected outcomes of this agreement will facilitate a holistic path forward to understanding the state and potential for reuse.

Outcomes will:

- Address the health risk concerns with water reuse in municipal, agricultural, stormwater, and industrial sectors.
- Provide a better understanding of the available technologies to support reuse, their cost-effectiveness, and potential for holistic resource recovery within a changing climate.
- Develop tools needed to support local, state, and national communication efforts to reduce institutional barriers and improve public acceptance and understanding of reuse.

Applicants should describe the following:

- Type of collaboration/support proposed and what role it will play in the overall project.
- How the collaboration will enhance the capacity of the project. How will results be useable by state/local agencies, utilities, and impacted communities
- How related or complementary projects/studies will be coordinated with activities of the project.
- How you will ensure that the collaboration will materialize during project performance.

Innovation and Sustainability: To the extent practicable, research applications must embody innovation and sustainability. Innovation for the purposes of this RFA is defined as the process of making changes; a new method, custom or device.

Innovative research can take the form of wholly new applications or applications that build on existing knowledge and approaches for new uses. Research applications must include a discussion on how the proposed research is innovative (see Section IV.C.6.a).



Cooperative Agreements

EPA will award Cooperative Agreements:

- Cooperative agreements allow collaborations between EPA and the institution's principal investigators
- Collaborations should enhance recipient's project:
 - Data sharing from similar and complementary projects
 - Coordinating in-house research projects with
 - Sample analysis by EPA laboratories with unique instrumentation
- Once EPA determines which applications will be awarded, cooperative agreement terms and conditions, roles and responsibilities, will be negotiated and a memo will be developed along with terms and conditions for the award.
- EPA Employees should not be contacted in development of their proposals.



Environmental Justice

In addressing the research areas and topics of interest above, applicants should demonstrate how the project will address the disproportionate and adverse human health, environmental, climate related and other cumulative impacts, as well as the accompanying economic challenges of such impacts, resulting from industrial, governmental, commercial and/or other actions that have affected and/or currently affect the underserved communities. Applicants should also demonstrate how the project benefits the underserved communities including those that have experienced a lack of resources or other impediments to addressing the impacts identified above that affect their community.



III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligible Applicants

Eligible to Apply:

Public and private nonprofit institutions/organizations and hospitals

Public and private institutions of higher education located in the U.S.



III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligible Applicants

NOT Eligible to Apply:

States, the District of Columbia, State and local government departments, territories, possessions, and Federally Recognized Indian Tribal Governments of the U.S., are NOT ELIGIBLE to apply

Profitmaking firms and individuals are NOT ELIGIBLE to apply

Foreign entities are NOT ELIGIBLE to apply

National laboratories funded by Federal Agencies (Federally-Funded Research and Development Centers, "FFRDCs") may not directly apply



Other Information

Please refer to the following RFA sections for additional information:

IV. Application And Submission Information

- Required application package materials including:
 - EPA Human Subjects Research Statement (HSRS)
 - Scientific Data Management Plan (SDMP)

V. Application Review Information

- Peer Review Criteria
- Relevancy Review Criteria



Application Materials

- To apply under this solicitation, use the application package available at **Grants.gov**
- For further submission information see: **RFA Section IV.F. “Submission Instructions and other Submission Requirements”**
- Note: All necessary forms are included in the electronic application package, with the exception of the current and pending support form, available at: **Research Funding Opportunities: How to Apply and Required Forms**

Make sure to include the current and pending support form in your Grants.gov submission



Agency Contacts



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Interested in becoming a Peer Reviewer?

Contact Meta Bonner (bonner.meta@epa.gov)

Thank you!