



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**FY2024 State Water Research Institute Program**

**Introduction**

Under the Water Resources Research Act, Section 104(b) research grant program, which is administered by the US Department of the Interior through the Water Resources Division of the US Geological Survey (USGS), the Nevada Water Resources Research Institute (NWRRI) is soliciting proposals for funding. The following are general guidelines concerning this program.

**Funding**

It is anticipated that approximately \$70,000 of federal funding will be available for new sponsored research projects in fiscal year 2024 (FY2024). Proposals should be for research and information transfer projects that are 12 to 24 months in duration. Applicants are required to match each federal dollar requested with at least one non-federal dollar. It is anticipated that two projects will be funded in 2024, and therefore an upper limit of \$35,000 per proposal per year is established.

**Note:** The award of funds is contingent on the availability of appropriated federal funds.

**Program Objectives**

Applications submitted under this announcement are to be in furtherance of the following objectives:

- (1) Plan, conduct, or otherwise arrange for competent applied and peer-reviewed research that fosters:
  - (A) Improvements in Nevada water supply reliability.
  - (B) The exploration of new ideas that:
    - (i) address state water problems; or
    - (ii) expand our understanding of water and water-related phenomena.
  - (C) The entry of new research scientists, engineers, and technicians into water resources fields.
  - (D) The dissemination of research results to state water managers and the public.
- (2) Cooperate closely with other colleges and universities in the state that have demonstrated capabilities for research, information dissemination, and graduate training to develop a statewide program designed to resolve state and regional water issues and the related land problems and promote regional coordination.

The NWRRI encourages applicants to submit proposals that address the impacts of drought and increased aridity, with a focus on water resources within the state. Proposals addressing these research topics will be given additional consideration during the review process. Emphasis will be placed on proposals that consist of coproduced research involving water purveyors, water users, or similar entities within the state. Letters of support are required from entities outside of the research community to qualify as coproduced research.

Applications submitted under this announcement are to be in furtherance of these objectives and promote the national mission and objectives of the USGS, which are focused on providing water quality and quantity information, understanding water availability, addressing the influence of climate on water resources, and responding to water-related emerging needs.

The NWRRI encourages proposals that increase diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice both in the faculty and staff conducting the research and the communities benefiting from the proposed research.

Notice regarding the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS): The Department of the Interior will not approve funding for UAS that involves platforms built by adversarial countries. Please contact Suzanne Hudson for additional information (702-862-5464; [Suzanne.Hudson@dri.edu](mailto:Suzanne.Hudson@dri.edu)).

## **Deadline**

Proposals must be received **no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 15th** to allow for review, selection, and processing. Proposers will be notified of outcomes by May 1st. Final packages must be submitted electronically by NWRRI to the USGS in mid-May.

## **Application Requirements**

1. The period of performance will begin on the date of award (September 2024). Awards will be for a maximum duration of **24 months** and have an end date not later than August 31, 2026.
2. Projects must have a reportable element to be included in the FY2024/FY2025 program report(s).
3. All proposals must include a 1:1 non-federal match. The applicant shall have all matching funds committed at the time of application submittal. In addition, only direct cost budget categories will be funded from the federal share of each award. Because no indirect costs are awarded under this competition, forgiven indirect costs may be used as part of the non-federal match.
4. Proposals must also include a data management plan that describes how the proposal will conform to the USGS policy on dissemination and sharing of research results and associated data.
5. Successful applicants will be periodically contacted by NWRRI staff to determine

if data generated by the project has been used in publications or reports generated after conclusion of the proposed research.

**If you are interested in applying for a grant under this program, please contact Suzanne Hudson by phone at (702) 862-5464 or via email (Suzanne.Hudson@dri.edu) for a complete set of the guidelines.**

### **Proposal Review and Selection Criteria**

Proposals will be reviewed according to the following criteria:

1. 25 points – Relevance and importance to program objectives as they pertain to Nevada water needs.
2. 20 points – Scientific methods.
3. 10 points – Feasibility & budget justification.
4. 15 points – Technology transfer.
5. 10 points – Qualifications of investigators.
6. 20 points – Student educational opportunities.