

**COLORADO WATER CENTER
COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM
2019-2020 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**



Water managers and policymakers are facing increasingly urgent threats to our planet's water resources, including water shortages, pollution, climate change impacts, water-related diseases, and the destruction and degradation of freshwater ecosystems and habitats. Interdisciplinary tools and approaches are needed to address these challenges, but in many cases, they have yet to be developed or applied. The Colorado Water Center (CoWC) provides funding to help remedy this shortfall.

To that end, the CoWC invites proposals for Water Research Teams, Water Faculty Fellows, and Water Education and Engagement Projects for the 2019-20 academic year. Proposals should help support the mission and goals of the Center through collaboration and creative scholarship, as well as aim to address a water problem currently faced by our community, region, country, or world. This RFP targets CSU faculty and staff whose scholarly contributions will be significantly enhanced by receiving the award. We seek proposals from a broad range of disciplines, including the biological and physical sciences, the social and human sciences, and engineering fields. Applicants must demonstrate the ability and desire to help position CSU to better address water resource challenges through broad-based interdisciplinary research, education, and engagement activities. Applicants can learn about the Center at watercenter.colostate.edu.

GRANT CATEGORIES

WATER RESEARCH TEAM

The purpose of this type of grant is to facilitate interdisciplinary collaborations and leverage funds for water research at CSU. The maximum funding for this grant category is \$25,000 for July 1, 2019-May 15, 2020.

Application questions will require applicants to:

- demonstrate how the project supports the CoWC's priority research topics and enhances water scholarship at CSU
- demonstrate a clear need and impact(s)
- state how the funding will lead to future research and funding
- state innovative contributions to the field of inquiry

Special consideration will be given to projects that develop research teams who plan to pursue external grant(s), engage CSU faculty who are new to water-related research, develop collaborations with external partners, and include students.

WATER FACULTY FELLOWS

The purpose of this type of grant is for individual faculty to implement water-related scholarship and build capacity in water research, education, and engagement. The maximum funding for this grant category is \$10,000 for July 1, 2019-May 15, 2020. Application questions will require applicants to:

- demonstrate a clear need and impact(s)
- demonstrate how their work will position CSU to better address water resource challenges
- demonstrate how the interests and goals of the applicant will complement the CoWC's priority research topics

Special consideration will be given to faculty who plan to pursue external grant proposals and strengthen partnerships among the CSU water community and external partners.

WATER EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

The purpose of this type of grant is to provide funding for water-related education, outreach, and engagement projects and activities at CSU. This may include hosting a workshop or seminar series, course development/instruction, or organizing a CSU delegation to participate in an international water conference. The maximum funding for this grant category is \$7,500 for July 1, 2019-May 15, 2020. Application questions will require applicants to:

- identify tangible deliverables and their application
- demonstrate how the project supports the CoWC's mission and priority research topics
- demonstrate how the project expands CSU's presence in the water community

Special consideration will be given to projects/activities that engage the broader CSU water community, include students, and build new partnerships.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

- **Water Research Team:** PI and co-PIs must be a current CSU faculty member or staff researcher. The PI must be eligible to serve as a PI on an external grant.
 - **Water Faculty Fellow:** Applicant must be a current CSU faculty member.
 - **Water Education and Engagement Projects:** Applicant must be a current CSU faculty or staff member.
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SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants are required to apply via SmarterSelect, the CoWC's grants administration platform:

- [Water Research Team application](#)
- [Water Faculty Fellow application](#)
- [Water Education and Engagement Project application](#)

Applicants will be prompted to create an account before using SmarterSelect to apply. This account must be associated with the Principal Investigator's email, not that of an associated co-PI or student; for those applicants awarded funding, the same account will also be used to submit mid-year and year-end grant reports. Once an account is created, you may save and return to the application as many as needed prior to the deadline. If you experience any issues using SmarterSelect, have questions about application submission, or need your temporary password re-sent, please contact Catie Boehmer at catieboe@colostate.edu.

Please note: If you have received Water Center funding in the past, you likely already have a SmarterSelect account associated with your email address, as all previous awardees were entered into the platform's archive. An email detailing this data entry and account creation process was sent by the Water Center in May 2018, and included a temporary password to access your account.

DEADLINE

Applications must be submitted via SmarterSelect by **midnight Mountain Time on Friday, March 1, 2019**. Awarded applicants will be notified in May 2019.

APPLICATION REVIEW

Applications will be reviewed by a panel consisting of Associate Deans for Research, CoWC Executive Committee members, and select water faculty. Proposals will be reviewed and selected in the context of the CoWC [strategic plan](#), and we encourage all applicants to review the plan before applying. Awards will also be based on a range of criteria emphasizing innovation, creativity, feasibility, intellectual merit, potential impact, qualifications of investigators, and the ability to take a leadership role in water-related research, education, and engagement. The inclusion of students, interdisciplinary collaborations, and external partnerships are encouraged.

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

PROJECT DATES

One-year awards will begin on July 1, 2019 and end on May 15, 2020.

PROJECT BUDGET

- All expenses must be finalized by the project end date. No extensions will be granted.
- Timely drawdown is expected or funds will be withdrawn from the grantee.
- The PI is expected to work with their departmental accountant to ensure their award is spent according to the approved budget. The PI's departmental accountant is responsible for all project accounting and reports.
- The PI's department is responsible for any spending deficit.
- Funds may not be used as supplemental pay.
- Funds may not be used for equipment exceeding \$5,000.
- Project cost sharing will require prior approval by the CoWC Director, and all cost share accounting must be managed by the PI's department.

PROJECT DELIVERABLES

- Funded projects will be required to submit mid-year and final reports, as well as an article for the *Colorado Water* newsletter.
- Funded applicants will be asked to present their results and accomplishments at events, such as CSU Hydrology Days, and in written publications.

OTHER

- Funded applicants must comply with applicable University research integrity and compliance regulations and guidelines.
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MORE INFORMATION

Visit the CoWC at watercenter.colostate.edu/grants or contact Reagan Waskom, CoWC Chair, at reagan.waskom@colostate.edu.