

**COLORADO WATER CENTER  
CSU COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM  
2021-2022 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**



**COLORADO  
WATER CENTER**  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Converging social, political, and cultural changes gave rise to the creation of land-grant institutions. CSU's land-grant mission frames the need to address current challenges with research and innovation that transform our world. CSU is poised to lead research, education, and engagement activities that advance solutions to myriad water issues impacting the quality of life in Colorado, the U.S., and the world, now and in the future. To that end, the Colorado Water Center (CoWC) invites proposals for Water Research Teams, Water Fellows, and Water Education and Engagement Projects.

Proposals should support inclusive, creative, and interdisciplinary research, education, and engagement activities and applicants should demonstrate the ability and desire to position CSU as a leading institution on water resources. Proposals are invited from a broad range of disciplines, including the biological and physical sciences, the social and human sciences, and engineering fields. Proposed projects should integrate diverse perspectives ensuring a strong foundation for learning, critical inquiry, and discovery.

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## **GRANT CATEGORIES**

### **WATER RESEARCH TEAM**

Water challenges impact multiple aspects of life. Each discipline offers a unique lens to view the same question and interdisciplinary teams may be particularly effective at providing alternative solutions. The purpose of this type of grant is for CSU researchers to develop or expand interdisciplinary collaborations and leverage funds to address complex global challenges.

- The maximum funding for this grant category is \$35,000.
- Proposals are required to demonstrate how the project supports high priority research topics by enhancing water scholarship and innovation at CSU and in the field of inquiry.
- This seed grant is expected to lead to future research and external proposals or grants.
- Special consideration will be given to projects that develop collaborations with external partners, include students, and foster equity.
- Proposals are encouraged to include CSU faculty and staff who are new to the university or new to water-related research.

### **WATER FELLOW**

The purpose of this type of grant is for individual faculty members and staff researchers to implement water-related scholarship and build capacity for innovative water research and outreach. Project outcomes that benefit the mission of CoWC and CSU are particularly desirable.

- The maximum funding for this grant category is \$15,000.
- Proposals are required to demonstrate the interests and goals of the applicant and how the work will position CSU as a leader in water.
- Special consideration will be given to proposals that develop capacity broadly benefitting CSU and strengthen inclusive partnerships among the water community.

## WATER EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

The purpose of this type of grant is to provide funding for water-related education and engagement activities at CSU. This may include hosting a workshop or seminar series, course development, or organizing a CSU delegation to participate in an international water conference.

- The maximum funding for this grant category is \$10,000.
  - Proposals are required to identify tangible deliverables that support high priority water topics and expand 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.
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## APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

This RFP targets all CSU faculty and staff whose scholarly contributions will be significantly enhanced by receiving the award. CSU faculty and staff who are new to the university or new to water-related research are encouraged to apply.

- **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 Fellow:** Applicant must be a current CSU faculty member or staff researcher.
- **Water Education and Engagement Project:** Applicant must be a current CSU faculty member or staff researcher.

Previous applicants and awardees are eligible to apply. However, applications submitted by a principal investigator who has not met reporting requirements on a previous grant administered or awarded by CoWC are not eligible for funding.

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## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The [Application Guide](#) serves as an outline of the requirements of all grant categories to be used for planning purposes. Applications may range in length and are often about four pages. Applicants are required to apply via SmarterSelect, the CoWC's grants administration platform. Applicants can access each category:

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

Applications must be submitted via SmarterSelect by **midnight Mountain Time on Sunday, January 10, 2021**. Applicants will be notified in February 2021 of selection outcomes.

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## APPLICATION REVIEW

Applications will be reviewed by a panel consisting of Associate Deans for Research, CoWC Executive Committee members, and select water faculty. Awards will 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 is encouraged.

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## PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

### PROJECT DATES

Awards will begin on July 1, 2021, and end on May 15, 2022

### 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.
- The PI is expected to work with their departmental budget office to ensure their award is spent according to the approved budget. The PI's budget office is responsible for all project accounting and the department is responsible for any spending deficit.
- Funds may be used for:
  - Faculty, staff, and student salary including summer salary, but supplemental pay is not allowed
  - Travel and conference expenses
  - Development of instructional or training materials
  - Equipment up to \$5,000
  - Additional expenses directly related to research
- Project cost-sharing will require prior approval by the CoWC Director, and all cost-share accounting must be managed by the PI's department.
- All awards are contingent on available funding.

### PROJECT DELIVERABLES

- Funded projects will be required to submit a mid-year report (January 17, 2022) and a year-end report (July 15, 2022), as well as an article for the *Colorado Water* newsletter and a summary for the CoWC Annual Report. PIs may be invited to submit additional CoWC publications.
- Funded applicants will be asked to present their results and accomplishments at events, such as CSU Hydrology Days, campus seminars, or state and national conferences.
- A plan for publication of suitable results in top tier journals.

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Projects should support the mission and goals of the Colorado Water Center.
- Projects should integrate CSU's Principles of Community and the mission and vision of the university's Diversity Statement.
- Funded applicants must comply with applicable University research integrity and compliance regulations and guidelines.

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## MORE INFORMATION

- Interested applicants are encouraged to learn about previously funded projects and attend the RFP Webinar or view the recording which will be made available at [watercenter.colostate.edu/grants/](https://watercenter.colostate.edu/grants/)
- For general questions related to the RFP contact Julie Kallenberger, Associate Director, at [Julie.Kallenberger@colostate.edu](mailto:Julie.Kallenberger@colostate.edu)
- For questions about SmarterSelect and application submission please contact Angelique Giraud, Water Outreach Coordinator, at [AGiraud@colostate.edu](mailto:AGiraud@colostate.edu)