

## FOOD-WATER-SUSTAINABILITY COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM 2019-2020 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



Driven by a rising global population, rapid urbanization, changing diets, and economic growth, demand for food and water resources is increasing around the world. Agriculture is the largest consumer of the world's freshwater resources, and it is estimated that with a population of 8.3 billion people by 2030, we will need 40% more water and 35% more food. These resources already face mounting threats, including pollution, climate change impacts, the destruction and degradation of freshwater ecosystems and habitats, and agricultural intensification. Devising effective responses to these major challenges will require a systems-oriented, multidisciplinary approach to reshape the food-water nexus so that it works for all people sustainably. Yet many of the tools and approaches needed have yet to be developed or applied.

The inaugural **Food-Water-Sustainability Grant**—offered through a partnership between the Colorado Water Center (CoWC), the School of Global Environmental Sustainability (SoGES), and Agricultural Experiment Station (AES)—will provide funding to help address this shortfall. The CoWC, SoGES, and AES invite proposals for research focused on **Food-Water-Sustainability issues**. We anticipate funding a single two-year project over the FY20 and FY21 fiscal years.

This RFP targets CSU faculty and staff with established research interests in food, water, and sustainability whose existing or planned research projects will be significantly enhanced by receiving the award. We seek proposals from a broad range of disciplines, including the agricultural sciences, social and human sciences, and engineering fields. Proposals should help support the mission and goals of all partner entities through collaboration and creative scholarship. They should also target a sustainability challenge at the food-water nexus currently faced by our community, region, country, or world. Applicants must demonstrate the ability and desire to address the challenge through broad-based interdisciplinary research, education, and engagement activities. Applicants can learn about the CoWC, SoGES, and AES at [watercenter.colostate.edu](http://watercenter.colostate.edu), [sustainability.colostate.edu](http://sustainability.colostate.edu), and [aes.agsci.colostate.edu](http://aes.agsci.colostate.edu), respectively.

### Research Priorities

Projects should:

- Increase understanding of the food-water-sustainability nexus
- Address economic, societal, and environmental elements of global environmental sustainability, such as food security, poverty, inequality, desertification, climate change, globalization, industrial ecology, sustainable engineering, population growth, urbanization, and/or access to and use of water
- Incorporate innovative approaches, with real-world applicability to management and/or governance of food-water-sustainability issues
- Address resource conservation at the intersection of science, policy development, and

management

- Include meaningful engagement with stakeholders in project design and implementation
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## REQUIREMENTS

The CoWC, SoGES, and AES are partnering to fund one two-year grant that facilitates interdisciplinary collaboration to address the topics of water, food, and sustainability. The maximum funding for this grant is up to \$100,000 for the two-year project. Funding will be available on July 1, 2019 and end on May 15, 2021\*. Projects should develop an interdisciplinary approach leading to:

- Research advancing water and food systems, climate smart agriculture, and/or water and food security leading to improved sustainability of these resources.
- Engagement with water, food, and sustainability stakeholders, including CoWC, SoGES, and AES affiliates, faculty, and staff.
- Leveraged funds from internal and/or external resources.

*Special consideration will be given to projects that include undergraduate and graduate students as well as post-doc researchers.*

\*Funding for year two is contingent based on progress during year one and available funding from the CoWC, SoGES, and AES.

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## APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

PI must be current CSU faculty member or staff researcher in good academic standing.

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## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants are required to apply via SmarterSelect, the CoWC's grants administration platform: [Food-Water-Sustainability Research Team 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.

**Please note:** PIs who have received Water Center funding in the past are likely to have a SmarterSelect account associated with their email address. 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](mailto:catieboe@colostate.edu).

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## DEADLINE

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

## APPLICATION REVIEW

Applications will be reviewed by a panel consisting of representatives associated with the CoWC, SoGES, and AES. Awards will be based on a range of criteria with an emphasis on creativity, feasibility, intellectual merit, potential impact, and the qualifications of investigators. The inclusion of students, interdisciplinary collaborations, and external partnerships are encouraged.

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## AWARD REQUIREMENTS

Funding will be available on July 1, 2019 and end on May 15, 2021. Funding for year two is contingent based on progress during year one and available funding from the CoWC, SoGES, and AES.

## 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 and all cost share accounting must be managed by the PI's department.

## PROJECT REPORTING AND DELIVERABLES

- Funded projects are expected to result in publication of results in a peer-reviewed journal and/or development of a method or tool that can be used to improve the sustainability of food-water systems.
- Funded projects will be required to submit a mid-project report that documents accomplishments and progress against goals and a final report that describes results, as well contribute to a special issue of the *Colorado Water* newsletter.
- Funded applicants will be asked to present their results and accomplishments at events and in written publications.
- Funded applicants will be required to acknowledge support from the CoWC, SoGES, and AES in all publications, presentations, and external grant proposals related to the project.
- Funded applicants will be required to inform the CoWC, SoGES, and AES of any deliverables as a result of funding for three years after the project end date. (e.g., publications, presentations, and grant proposals submitted and/or received).

## OTHER

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

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