



To: Distribution List

From: Faculty Research Development Office (FRDO)
Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: Limited Competition: EPA Innovative Water Infrastructure Workforce Development Grant Program (EPA-OW-OWM-20-01)

Date: February 8, 2021

UNM Researchers,

The Office of the Vice President for Research is requesting preproposals for the EPA Innovative Water Infrastructure Workforce Development Grant Program funding opportunity. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is soliciting applications from eligible applicants as described in Section III.A to (1) assist in the development and use of innovative activities relating to water workforce development and career opportunities in the drinking water and wastewater utility sector, and (2) expand public awareness about drinking water and wastewater utilities and to connect individuals to careers in the drinking water and wastewater utility sector.

The proposed activities support progress toward the [Agency's Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2018 – 2022 Strategic Plan](#) for the following goal and objective:

- Goal 1 - A Cleaner, Healthier Environment: Deliver a cleaner, safer, and healthier environment for all Americans and future generations by carrying out the Agency's Core Mission.
- Objective 1.2 - Provide for Clean and Safe Water: Ensure waters are clean through improved water infrastructure and, in partnership with states and tribes, sustainably manage programs to support drinking water, aquatic ecosystems, and recreational, economic, and subsistence activities.

Applications must address only one primary Project Area:

- Project Area 1.** Targeted internship, apprenticeship, pre-apprenticeship, and post-secondary bridge programs for skilled water utility trades.
- Project Area 2.** Education programs designed for elementary, secondary, and higher education students.
- Project Area 3.** Regional industry and workforce development collaborations to address water utility employment needs and coordinate candidate development, particularly in areas of high unemployment or for water utilities with a high proportion of retirement eligible employees.
- Project Area 4.** Integrated learning laboratories in secondary educational institutions.
- Project Area 5.** Leadership development, occupational training, mentoring, or cross-training programs that ensure incumbent drinking water and wastewater utility workers are prepared for higher level supervisory or management-level positions.

It is anticipated that up to five cooperative agreements will be awarded under this announcement, each with a project period of up to three years, depending on the amount requested and overall size and scope of the projects(s). EPA expects each award to range from a minimum of \$200,000 to no more than \$500,000. Applications are due to the sponsor by March 26, 2021. More information can be found at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=331067>.

This is a limited competition. Under this competition, **only one application can be submitted per applicant.**

If you are interested in submitting a proposal or participating as a sub-awardee on a proposal, please **follow this required two-step process**:

1. By noon on **Monday, February 15, 2021**, please submit a **required statement of interest** to limited@unm.edu that contains:
 - a) Specify what Project Area you are addressing
 - b) Name and departmental affiliation of the Principal Investigator (PI);
 - c) Name(s) and departmental affiliation(s) of the Co-PI(s) and Senior Personnel
 - d) Names(s) of any other (non-lead) participating institutions or organizations; and
 - e) A tentative project title and brief description of 200 words or less.

Only PI's who have submitted a statement of interest will be eligible to submit a pre-proposal.

2. By noon on **Friday, February 26, 2021**, please submit a **required 3-page preliminary proposal** (plus budget and CV for PI and Co-PIs; all documents in a SINGLE PDF file, 11 point font) to limited@unm.edu that begins with:
 - a. Proposed Project Title
 - b. Project Area you are addressing
 - c. Name and departmental affiliation of the Principal Investigator (PI);
 - d. Name(s) and departmental affiliation(s) of the Co-PI(s) and Senior Personnel

The body of the pre-proposal must contain the following components:

- **Project Area:** Describe the proposed approach for addressing one of the five Project Areas. Describe the proposed approach to share (or make available) the project activities, the results of the project activities, and the lessons learned to geographically diverse areas. Describe the proposed innovative approaches that will address the workforce needs of drinking water and wastewater utilities.
- **Project Partnerships:** Effective partnerships are important for the success of projects under this announcement. In their applications, applicants should identify appropriate and necessary partnerships to successfully conduct the project. Applicants should also include a clear description of the roles and responsibilities of specific partners, or planned partners, in the project's components/tasks. If you choose not to partner, applications will be evaluated based on how the applicant demonstrates how it will successfully conduct the project and meet the objectives described in Section I.B without partners.
- **Transfer of Results:** The application should include a description of the applicant's plan for active transfer of project results (as defined under each Project Area in Section I.B), methods and/or effective strategies to water utilities, states, tribes, and/or other interested stakeholders, so that the other entities may better build their drinking water and wastewater workforce.
- **Environmental Results and Measuring Progress:** Describe the anticipated products/results which are expected to be achieved from accomplishment of the project, and describe an approach for tracking and reporting your progress toward achieving the expected project output(s).
- **Milestone Schedule:** Provide a projected milestone schedule for the proposed project period (up to three years).

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact us at limited@unm.edu.

Please distribute this notice to departments and individuals whom you believe would be interested.

If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact Corey Ford (CFord@salud.unm.edu) or Cassandra Misenar (CMisenar@salud.unm.edu) for more information.