

Extension Water Initiative Grant RFP for Proposals Due February 9, 2024

Utah State University Extension is pleased to announce the 2024 request for proposals (RFP) for the Extension Water Initiative Grant program. There will only be one submission cycle in 2024. This RFP is funded through a legislative appropriation approved during the 2016 legislative session titled the USU Extension Water Initiative. Research proposals must focus on at least one of the following topics: water conservation, particularly agricultural water conservation, optimization and efficiency; the creation of innovative tools that support/direct water conservation; the enhancement of water quality; the enhancement of water availability; or enhancing water efficiency. Priority will be given to projects that meet multiple objectives or that have the potential to conserve significant volumes of water. The eleven questions included in the Executive Summary (pages 1-6) of the *Recommended State Water Strategy* document released in July 2017 are particularly pertinent. All successful research projects must have a clear Extension outcome such as new Extension programming, deliverable tools, curriculum, smart Apps, or other Extension-relevant deliverables. Extension proposals that do not include a significant research component will be considered but must demonstrate a high probability of significant impact on water conservation within a reasonably short period of time.

The Proposal Narrative is limited to five single-spaced pages with a 12-point font and one-inch margins. A list of references, budget, budget justification and brief (2-4 page) biosketch for the Project Director (PD) are required, but are not included in this five-page limit. Proposals must provide a clear project justification, scope of work, description of anticipated impacts (including an estimated time frame for when impacts will be realized), description of how project outcomes will enhance water conservation and availability, specific Extension deliverables, and a clear and specific plan outlining how the project outcome(s) will be integrated into Extension programming or tools. There is an expectation for a 1:1 match from external partners such as a city/town, Conservation District, State or Federal agency, private industry, non-governmental organization, etc. The match can be a combination of in-kind and/or cash. The required cover page and budget template are posted at <http://extension.usu.edu/employee/grants>. A separate Budget Justification must be submitted with the budget template and must specifically justify each of the budget items as well as describe the match. The maximum request must not exceed \$75,000 and the timeline for completion may not exceed 24 months.

Proposals are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 9, 2024, and must be submitted electronically at <http://extension.usu.edu/employee/grants>. Please submit a single PDF document assembled in the following order: (1) Cover Page, (2) Project Narrative (limited to five pages), (3) References, (4) Budget Form, (5) Budget Justification, and (6) PD's Brief Biosketch (limited to 4 pages). Proposals will be reviewed by the Extension Water Advisory Board and ranked based on anticipated community impact(s). Funding recommendations will be made to the Vice President for Extension based on scientific merit and impact on community water conservation. The Vice President reserves the right to fund or not fund projects recommended for funding as well as the right to fund projects at full or partial levels depending upon the appropriateness of the budget and budget justification.

If you have questions about the Extension Water Initiative Grant Program or how to submit a Grant proposal, please contact Greg Cuomo (email: greg.cuomo@usu.edu; phone: 435-757-1520).