

United States Geological Survey

Groundwater and Streamflow Information Program National Ground-Water Monitoring Network



Proposals for Cooperative Agreements – Fiscal Year 2021 Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity G21AS00008

Closing Date: January 21, 2021
4 pm, Eastern Standard Time

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: The Paperwork Reduction Act says that the agency must tell you why we are collecting this information, how we will use it, and whether you have to give it to us. This information is being collected to determine the eligibility of the applicant and as a basis for approval or disapproval of the proposed project. The purpose of the program is to support data providers to the National Ground-Water Monitoring Network. The Network provides groundwater data from Principal Aquifers at a regional or National scale to assist in assessing ground water resources. Response to this request is required to obtain and retain a cooperative agreement under the National Ground-Water Monitoring Network. Public report burden for this collection is estimated to average 30 hours per agreement and 125 hours to prepare a final technical report. The OMB Control Number is 1028-0114 for this information collection; the expiration date is September 30, 2021. Direct comments regarding this collection of information may be sent to the Bureau Clearance Officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS807, Reston VA 20192.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY VIA

<http://www.grants.gov>

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Cooperative funding Agreements to Support National Ground-Water Monitoring Network Data Providers Fiscal Year 2021

CFDA 15.980

National Ground-Water Monitoring Network Cooperative Agreements

The Groundwater and Streamflow Information Program of the USGS is offering a cooperative agreement funding opportunity to state or local water-resources agencies that collect groundwater data to participate in the National Ground-Water Monitoring Network. The USGS is working to develop and administer a National Ground-Water Monitoring Network (NGWMN). This funding opportunity is to support data providers for the National Ground-Water Monitoring Network and to address the Department of the Interior's Secretarial Priorities.

Legal authority for this opportunity is provided under Public Law 111-11, Subtitle F—Secure Water: Section 9507 “Water Data Enhancement by the United States Geological Survey.” Funds will be used to support connecting new data providers to the Network and to support existing data providers to maintain persistent data service and to enhance the NGWMN.

1. Application Submission Closing Date

January 21, 2021, at 4 pm, Eastern Standard Time

2. Electronic Application Requirement

For the FY 2021 funding cycle all proposals shall be submitted electronically via Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>). Hard/paper submissions will NOT be accepted. Electronic copies submitted via e-mail will NOT be accepted under any circumstances. All proposals must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov on or before:

January 21, 2021, at 4 pm, Eastern Standard Time

Please be aware that the electronic submission process requires first time users to register using an e-Authentication process. This registration process can be somewhat complex and can take up to 3 weeks to complete. Be advised that it is virtually impossible to begin the process of electronic submission for the first time if you start just a few days before the due date. If you are from a university, contact your Office of Sponsored Programs. They may already have completed the registration process and should work with you to submit the application.

3. Award Description

The funding available for this Program Announcement is expected to be up to \$1,800,000 for Federal FY2021. This estimate does not bind the USGS to a specific number of awards or to the amount of any individual award. Congress has not yet authorized FY2021 funds for the National Ground-Water Monitoring Network, so awards cannot be made until this funding is appropriated. Work performance under these awards must be completed within the two-year cycle from the start date. The timing of funds availability and the signing of the award will determine the start date. Individual applications are restricted to a funding level of \$150,000 for a one-year project or \$300,000 for a two-year project. Funding for routine work under Objective 2 to maintain persistent data services is limited to \$20,000 per year (Objective 2A). Substantial involvement of the USGS is anticipated to provide support to new data providers during the site selection and classification process and to establish web services that interact with the NGWMN Data Portal. USGS also will provide guidance to existing data providers on techniques for collection of site information, on well maintenance activities, and on well drilling to support development of the NGWMN. Therefore, these awards will be in the form of cooperative agreements. NGWMN cooperative agreements address the Department of Interior's Secretarial Priorities to improve State and local groundwater monitoring efforts to more effectively manage groundwater resources at the regional and national scale (Secretarial Priority 1a, Attachment D) and to enhance communication and data sharing between State and local water resource agencies and the U.S. Department of the Interior (Secretarial Priority 3b, Attachment D).

All projects should propose start dates between July 15, 2021 and September 30, 2021.

4. National Ground-Water Monitoring Network

The National Ground-Water Monitoring Network (NGWMN) is designed to be a compilation of selected wells and springs from existing monitoring efforts to create a network to assess long-term water-level and water-quality trends at a National scale. The National Ground-Water Monitoring Network started as a product of the [Subcommittee on Ground Water](#) (SOGW) of the Federal [Advisory Committee on Water Information](#) (ACWI). The design for the National Ground-Water Monitoring Network is presented in the document 'A National Framework for Ground-Water Monitoring in the United States' and is available at: https://cida.usgs.gov/ngwmn/doc/ngwmn_framework_report_july2013.pdf. The Network focuses on monitoring groundwater in the Nation's most productive aquifers. The Network is designed primarily to help answer questions of groundwater availability at a Principal or major aquifer scale. The NGWMN focuses on serving data at actively monitored sites to help answer current groundwater availability questions. To create a unified network, field and data management techniques need to be as consistent as possible and sites need to be selected and classified in a common manner. In addition, site density in the Network should be consistent at the [Principal and Major aquifer](#) scale. This [spreadsheet](#) has the recommended well densities for each state and Principal aquifer.

11. Application Preparation Instructions

Your electronic submission shall consist of forms SF-424, SF-424A, and SF-424B. Form SF-424D is needed for proposals that include work under Objective 5. The items described below in items A through F should be included in the application package as the 'Project Narrative Attachment Form'. Failure to comply with the required application components listed below may result in the proposal being rejected.

Items A through G as described below shall be **combined in one document, in the order noted below**, and submitted through Grants.gov in either MS Word or Adobe PDF format. The application shall not exceed 20 single-spaced pages and the type size shall not be smaller than 12 point. All pages of the application shall be numbered. All text, figures, and tables shall be sized to fit on 8½" by 11" paper with 1-inch margins. **The negotiated rate agreement, figures, tables, detailed budgets for objectives, timelines for objectives, required maps, letters of support, and the Data Management Plan do not count toward the page limit.**

In the Grants.gov forms, floating your mouse over a field will provide instructions for completing that field. You can also click on the 'Check Package for Errors' button to check the entire application for validation errors (incomplete fields, etc.)

The application submitted through Grants.gov as the 'Project Narrative Attachment Form' (in MS Word or Adobe PDF format) shall be assembled in the following order:

- A. Proposal Information Summary
- B. Proposal
- C. Detailed Budget for each objective
- D. Timeline for each objective
- E. Data Management Plan
- F. Staff Qualifications
- G. Supporting Letters

Attachment A - Proposal Information Summary Template

USGS National Ground-Water Monitoring Network Cooperative Agreement Proposal Information Summary

Use the format below for the Proposal Information Summary

1. Project Title: The title of the proposal. Should be short title and should match that used in the title box of Form SF-424.
2. Principal Investigator: **List one Principal Investigator/Technical Contact Name and contact information here**
(Name)
(Institute/Organization Name)
(Street Address/P.O. Box)
(City, State, Zip Code)
(Telephone Number), (E-mail Address)
3. Authorized Institutional Representative: **Provide name of Institutional/Financial contact here**
(Name)
(Institute/Organization Name)
(Organizational Unit)
(Street Address/P.O. Box)
(City, State, Zip Code)
(Telephone Number), (E-mail Address)
4. Amount Requested: List total amount requested for project and the total for each year of the project.
5. Proposed Start Date: (The date you would like to start work; between July 15th, 2021 and September 30th, 2021)
6. Proposed Duration: (12 or 24 months)
7. Data Provider Status: Indicate status as 'New' or 'Existing' data provider. Existing data providers, provide the date you started working with the NGWMN as a data provider and the date and title of your last proposal.
8. Objectives included in proposal List each objective which is included in the proposal. **Provide the total USGS funding requested for each objective.**