

**UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA WATER INSTITUTE
2007 PROGRAM INITIATION FUND**

The Water Institute Program Initiation Fund provides funding for *new, faculty-initiated research, extension and outreach programs that are multi-/interdisciplinary* and that have the expectation of and a reasonable plan for becoming externally-funded programs at the University of Florida.

Projects should be innovative, support Water Institute Thrust Areas (see <http://waterinstitute.ufl.edu/thrustareas.html>), and have strong potential for garnering future funding from external sources. Program Initiation Fund awards are not intended to support on-going projects -- they should support new ideas (projects) and/or new collaborative partnerships. To be competitive, proposals must be multi-/interdisciplinary and must involve faculty from at least two departments/units/colleges. Single-investigator and single-unit proposals are not eligible.

Fundable activities include but are not limited to:

- Innovative activities that build intellectually-stimulating interdisciplinary partnerships among faculty within and across Water Institute Thrust Areas that have strong potential to result in externally funded programs (specific external funding program(s) should be identified).
- Projects that position faculty teams with preliminary data necessary to be successful with large-scale national or international grant applications (specific external funding program(s) and proposal submission deadline(s) should be identified).
- Projects to produce refereed synthesis papers or data analyses that have the potential to result in long-term funded state agency or industry partnerships (target journal and/or supporting letter from external partner required).

Proposals may be submitted by any faculty group that meets the following criteria:

- Each member of the faculty group must be affiliated with the Water Institute (i.e. registered in the Water Institute faculty expertise database <http://waterinstitute.ufl.edu/expertise.html>)
- The Project PI must meet the University's PI eligibility requirements for submitting proposals to external funding agencies (see *Policy on Eligibility to Submit Proposals*: http://rgp.ufl.edu/research/handbook/researcher_handbook/section2.html#RTFToCI).
- The Project PI must not have received funds from the UF Office for Research Opportunity Fund or from the IFAS Dean for Research Innovation Fund in 2006.

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Proposals must be submitted electronically to the Water Institute by midnight January 29, 2007, to water-institute@ufl.edu. Proposals should consist of the following materials in this sequence:

1. Cover Page (DSR-1 form). Completed and signed by the PI, Co-PIs, and the appropriate chairs.
2. Abstract. Explain the rationale for the work to be accomplished in terms that can be understood by any faculty member affiliated with the Water Institute.
3. Project Description. Up to three (3) pages of text **MAXIMUM** describing the project. If proposals are longer than 3 pages, only the first 3 pages will be reviewed.
4. References (maximum of 3 pages)
5. Participants. A list of the individuals to be involved and details of their participation.
6. A detailed budget and justification of expenses.
 - a. Budgets should not exceed \$50,000; most awards will be for less.
 - b. The budget may include all normally allowable costs of research with the exception of faculty salaries and indirect costs. The percent effort of each participating faculty member must be included.
 - c. Budgets may be for a period of one year.
 - d. A specific start date should be given. If no start date is specified, the Water Institute will assume a start date of May 1, 2007.
7. Plans to obtain continuing external support for the project. Proposals must specifically list the sources of external support that will be pursued following the seed money provided by the Water Institute Program Initiation Fund.
8. Current, brief (maximum of 2 pages) Curriculum Vitae for the Principal Investigator and each of the Co-PIs (NSF-style suggested) and a list of their currently funded and pending research with percent time commitment to each funded project.
9. Appendices, if necessary to support the proposal, should be brief (e.g., one reprint); please do not attach manuscripts or other lengthy documents.

Proposals must be emailed to the Water Institute; in Word or PDF format only; combine all files into ONE file (name file: 2007WIOppFund_PI last name). Paper copies will not be accepted. Formatting requirements: Single spacing; font size no smaller than 12 point; tables and figure legends can be in 10 point. The DSR-1 form may be scanned and submitted as a separate file (or it may be faxed, delivered or mailed to the Water Institute).

The deadline for RECEIPT of proposals by the Water Institute is midnight Monday, JANUARY 29, 2007, via email to water-institute@ufl.edu.

REVIEW CRITERIA – 2007 WATER INSTITUTE PROGRAM INITIATION FUND

Program Initiation Fund proposals received by the Water Institute will be reviewed by the Faculty Advisory Committee who will make funding recommendations to the Water Institute Director. The Water Institute Director will make final funding decisions. Each of the following criteria will be addressed and considered in assessing the application, weighting them as indicated below.

Significance and Innovation (30%): Does this study address an important problem within or across the UF Water Institute Thrust Areas? Is the project original, multi/interdisciplinary and innovative? Does the project represent a new direction of investigation for the faculty involved, or is it a new collaborative partnership?

Approach (25%): Does the project develop or employ novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, tools, or technologies? Is the proposed interdisciplinary approach likely to yield new insights into the problem being addressed? Are the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, well reasoned, and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics?

Likelihood of obtaining external support (25%): Do the investigators present reasonable plans to garner extramural support from specific funding agencies? Is the proposed timeline reasonable?

Investigators (10%): Are the investigators appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the principal investigator and other researchers? Does the investigative team bring complementary and integrated expertise to the project? Is there evidence of the ability of the team of investigators to work together in an interdisciplinary fashion?

Environment/Resources (5%): Do the proposed studies benefit from unique features of the scientific environment or employ useful collaborative arrangements? Do the PIs have the additional resources (e.g., equipment) to successfully accomplish their goals?

Budget (5%): Is the requested budget appropriate for the scope of work? Is the award period of 1 year appropriate?

Proposals will be ranked according to the scale:

- 4: Excellent
- 3: Very Good
- 2: Good
- 1: Fair

NOTIFICATION OF AWARD

Every effort will be made to notify Principal Investigators of their award status by March 1, 2007.

EVALUATION

Funding success related to the Program Initiation Fund award will be tracked. Annual reporting by the PI is required for three years after the termination of the Program Initiation Fund award. Proposals submitted as a result of the Water Institute Program Initiation fund must be submitted through the Water Institute (i.e., include the Water Institute Director's signature on the DSR-1 form).

QUESTIONS

Contact: Wendy Graham (wgraham@ufl.edu) Mark Newman (markn@ufl.edu) or Kathleen McKee (katmckee@ufl.edu) phone: 352-392-5893