



**OKLAHOMA WATER
RESOURCES CENTER**

USGS 104(b) Annual Base Grants Program Request for Pre-Proposals PY2026

Deadline: Applications must be submitted online by October 15, 2025, 5:00 PM

More Information:

See the OWRC website

<http://water.okstate.edu/>

See the USGS website

<https://water.usgs.gov/wrri>

Questions:

Tracy Beck

water@okstate.edu

405-744-7093

Program Description and Objectives:

The Oklahoma Water Research Center (OWRC) is seeking pre-proposals that address high priority water problems in the State of Oklahoma. As one of 54 federally authorized water resource institutes and centers throughout the United States and its territories, it operates under the authority of the Water Resources Research Act of 1964 through the Water Resources Research Institutes Program administered by the USGS.

This Act directed the OWRC to plan, conduct, or otherwise arrange for competent applied and peer reviewed research that fosters improvements in water supply reliability, the exploration of new ideas that address water problems or expands understanding of water and water-related phenomena, the entry of new research scientists, engineers, and technicians into water resources fields, and the dissemination of research results to water managers and the public. **Pre-proposals submitted under this announcement should further these objectives.**

Funding Information:

We anticipate funding three seed grants (up to \$30,000 each) subject to the following stipulations:

- Funds will be administered through the Oklahoma Water Resources Center.
- All awards are subject to the availability of federal funds and other applicable considerations.
- Applicants must provide a 1:1 match in non-federal funds. All indirect costs (F&A) must be waived but may be counted as match. Salaries, benefits, and other project-related expenses covered by other state sources may also be counted as match.

Project Period:

Seed grants will support one-year projects (Note that project extensions are generally not allowed by USGS for this program unless there are extreme circumstances). The project year is anticipated to extend from September 1, 2026, to August 31, 2027.

Eligibility:

Researchers at **any** institution of higher education in Oklahoma are eligible for this annual competition. Multiple pre-proposals from the same researcher are welcome if each represents a distinct research project.

Selection Criteria:

- 35% – Relevance: Degree to which pre-proposal addresses a top OWRC/Water Research Advisory Board (WRAB) Priority (see priorities below)
- 35% – Scientific Merit: Innovative &/or significantly contributes to knowledge in field; scientifically sound and appropriate methods used; cognizant of past work and status of the science.
- 10% – Training Potential: Level of involvement of students and early career professors
- 10% – Potential for Expanding Funding: Likelihood that large grants and/or corporate investment will result (includes projected timeline for developing a subsequent proposal)
- 10% – Proposal Quality: Well written, logical flow, complete and adheres to RFP.

Research Priorities

- **Alternative water sources.** Projects should develop, test, and/or evaluate new technologies and approaches for treating alternative water sources (e.g., produced water, stormwater, municipal wastewater, brackish groundwater) to help Oklahoma meet current and future water needs (including needs of data centers).
- **Aquifer recharge.** Projects should explore strategies to enhance aquifer recharge in Oklahoma. These may include soil health practices, brush control, aquifer storage and recovery (ASR), stormwater capture and infiltration, and other innovative methods aimed at improving groundwater availability.
- **Emerging contaminants.** Projects should research the sources, fate, transport and treatment of emerging contaminants, particularly PFAS and microplastics, in water and biosolids.

Pre-proposal Guidelines:

Project pre-proposals must be submitted online
<https://water.okstate.edu/opportunities/104b.html>

Information requested includes:

- Principal Investigator (PI) Information (Note: PI must be a Faculty Member): Name, Phone #, Email, Institution, and Department
- Rank of PI
- Co-PI information: Name(s), Rank(s), Email, Institution(s), and Department(s)
- Project Title (20 words maximum). Concise but descriptive.
- Research Priority(ies) addressed (see list above)
- Abstract (250 words)
- Statement of State or Regional Water Problem Addressed (200 word maximum)
- Nature, Scope, and Objective(s) of Project (80 words maximum)
- Methods and Procedures (200 words maximum)
- Expected Outcome, Statement of Results, Benefits, Potential for Expanding Funding (80 words maximum)
- Number of Students Supported
- Funds Requested
- References Cited

Reporting Requirements:

All outputs of your 104(b) supported research must acknowledge both the USGS and OWRC for the 104(b) grant opportunity and must include the project number assigned to your research.

Recipients are expected to attend a virtual orientation at the outset of the project, submit a poster or presentation to the Governor's Water Conference and Research Symposium, as well as present results to the Water Research Advisory Board.

Award recipients are expected to provide appropriate information needed to produce a short article about completed research to be featured in the OWRC newsletter.

At the completion of the project, recipients will be required to provide (subject to change based on requirements from USGS):

- Name, major, degree program of all students who worked on the project.
- One or more publication quality photo(s) of project-related work (and/or student(s) performing such work).
- List of research publications, conference proceedings, patents, fact sheets and other products resulting from project.
- List of training sessions, information transfer, and notable achievements and awards.
- A final abstract (around 250 words) summarizing major findings and implications/impact of the project.

Follow-up reporting will be requested in future years to report on publications and other outcomes that result from this project in subsequent years.