

Kansas Water Resources Institute

Established by the U.S. Congress with passage of the Water Resources Research Act in 1964, the water resources research institute program provides support for one institute at the land grant university in each state, plus 3 territories and the District of Columbia. Congress reauthorized the Act in 1984 with amendments and, most recently, in 2006, in PL 109-471. The Kansas Water Resources Institute is located at Kansas State University and is the designated Water Resources Research Institute for the State of Kansas.

The 2006 law listed the following as national water research priorities:

- (1) Aspects of the hydrologic cycle;
- (2) Supply and demand for water;
- (3) Demineralization of saline and other impaired waters;
- (4) Conservation and best use of available supplies of water and methods of increasing such supplies;
- (5) Water reuse;
- (6) Depletion, contamination, and degradation of groundwater supplies;
- (7) Improvements in the productivity of water when used for agricultural, municipal, and commercial purposes;
- (8) The economic, legal, engineering, social, recreational, biological, geographic, ecological, and other aspects of water quality and quantity problems;
- (9) Scientific information dissemination activities, including identifying, assembling, and interpreting the results of scientific and engineering research on water resources problems; and
- (10) Providing means for improved communication of research results, having due regard for the varying conditions and needs for the respective States and regions.

104(b) Base Research Grant Program

The Kansas Water Resources Institutes (KWRI) provides grants for research projects under the Water Resources Research Act, Section 104(b). The program's major goals are to foster research on water and related issues of importance to the state and region and to encourage the entry of students and young scientists into the field of water resources.

Proposals are solicited annually in the fall. Faculty members at any of Kansas universities may submit proposals. The project year runs from March 1 through the end of February. Funds available this year is \$92,000.

104(g) National Competitive Grants Program

The National Competitive Grants Program - 104(g) provides grants of up to \$250,000 and up to 3 years for research on water problems and issues of a regional or interstate nature beyond those of concern only to a single state. Any investigator at an institution of higher learning in the United States is eligible to apply for a grant through a Water Research Institute or Center established under the provisions of the Water Resources Research Act. In Kansas, this is the KWRI.

104(b) Base Research Grant Program

The Kansas Water Resources Institute (KWRI) provides grants for research projects under the Water Resources Research Act, Section 104(b). The Section 104(b) program, which is administered by the U.S. Geological Survey, provides support for small research projects on water-related issues in each of the 50 states, three territories and the District of Columbia. Funds for the program are appropriated annually by the U.S. Congress as part of the Department of the Interior budget. In 2011, KWRI received \$92,000.

Section 104(b) of the Water Resources Research Act requires the Institutes or Centers to:

(1) "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

expand 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.

(2) "cooperate closely with other colleges and universities in the State that have demonstrated capabilities for research, information dissemination, and graduate training in order to develop a statewide program designed to resolve State and regional water and related land problems."

(3) "cooperate closely with other institutes and other organizations in the region to increase the effectiveness of the institutes and for the purpose of promoting regional coordination."

An expectation of projects funded by this project is the publication of scientific research publications in peer reviewed journals.

Proposals are solicited annually in the fall. Project proposals are submitted to the KWRI for review and selection. The proposals for selected projects are included in the proposal package submitted to the USGS by the KWRI annually in January. The project year runs from March 1 through the end of February.

104(g) National Competitive Grants

In accordance with the Water Resources Research Act, Section 104(g) the U.S. Geological Survey in cooperation with the National Institutes for Water Resources issues an annual call for research proposals. The National Competitive Grants Program - 104(g) was established to support research on water problems and issues of a regional or interstate nature beyond those of concern only to a single state and which relate to specific program priorities identified jointly by the USGS and the institutes.

Objectives of this program include the following:

(1) Promote collaboration between the USGS and university scientists in research on significant national and regional water resources issues;

(2) Promote the dissemination and application of the results of the research funded under this program; and

(3) Assist in the training of scientists in relevant water resource fields. Proposals that include a strong educational component (student support) are encouraged, as are proposals from faculty beginning their careers.

Research funds made available through this program are awarded on a competitive basis subject to the merit of the proposal, the need for the information to be produced, and the opportunity such funds will provide for training of water resources scientists or professionals. Grant awards are subject to annual Congressional appropriations for the program.

Any investigator at an institution of higher learning in the United States is eligible to apply for a grant through a Water Research Institute or Center established under the provisions of the Water Resources Research Act. The KWRI is the designated Water Resources Research Institute for the State of Kansas.

Proposals may be for projects of 1 to 3 years in duration and may request up to \$250,000 in federal funds. Successful applicants must match each dollar of the federal grant with one dollar from non-federal sources.

Kansas Water Resources Institute
104(b) Base Research Grant Program
2011-2012 Timetable

September 30, 2011 - Session at the Water and Future of Kansas Conference with KWRI faculty to determine RFA priorities.

October 7 - An RFA will be released for 1 to 2 page pre-proposals due by November 1.

November 4 - KWRI Administrative Council will meet on November 4 and choose pre-proposals

December 1 - Full proposal due

December 15 - Outside reviews completed

By December 25 - KWRI Administrative Council will then meet and choose projects to fund

Approximately January 15 - Projects to be funded submitted to USGS

March 1 - Projects funded