



USGS Water Resources Research Act Program

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Water Mission Area

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Annual NIWR Directors Meeting

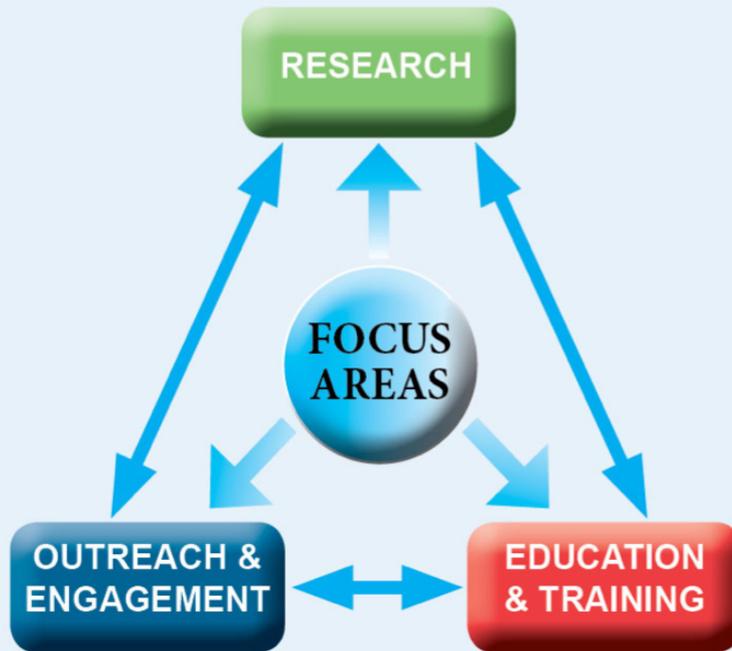
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USGS Water Resources Research Act Program

The Water Resources Research Act Program and associated National Institutes for Water Resources are a premier university network instrumental in resolving state/territorial, regional, and national water issues by conducting and applying research, sharing information and technology, and developing a diverse workforce.

CROSS-CUTTING ELEMENTS

How We Operate



RESEARCH

Discovering practical solutions and new technology to resolve our nation's water resources challenges.

OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

Providing evidence-based information and technology transfer as objective brokers.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Training thousands of university and college students in water-related disciplines.

Research, outreach and engagement, and education and training form the functional basis of our federal-state partnership.

A fourth cross-cutting element is: a university-based national network.

FOCUS AREAS



Water Scarcity and Availability

Drivers and outcomes of water availability and demand are understood and addressed to sustain human and environmental needs.



Water-Related Hazards and Climate Change

Extreme hydrologic events and the impacts of climate change are addressed.



Water Quality and Human Health

High-quality water that is safe and accessible for humans and ecosystems is assured.



Water Policy, Planning, and Socioeconomics

Policy, planning, and socioeconomics are integrated and applied toward the comprehensive management and governance of water resources.



Watershed and Ecosystem Function

Watershed and ecosystem functions are conserved to support and revitalize ecosystem services.



Water Technology and Innovation

State-of-the-art water technology and innovation are advanced to meet societal and ecosystem water-related needs.



Workforce Development and Water Literacy

A diverse workforce equipped to address our nation's water resources needs is achieved in concert with greater public understanding of water resources.

For over 50 years the Water Resources Research Act Program³ has invested in university-based, water-related research; information and technology transfer; and workforce development.

WRRRA Program

1. Annual Base Grants

- Research to assist states in solving hydrologic issues
- Provide training of students through participation in research

2. National Competitive Grants

- Regional and national hydrologic issues
- Collaboration with USGS Scientists

3. Coordination Grants

- Opportunity to use the expertise of University Faculty and students
- USGS and other federal agencies may participate

4. Student Interns

- Work on USGS Projects in USGS Offices

WRRRA Program

- Annual Base - aka 104b grants
 - Each Institute gets an equal share of the annual appropriations, except HI (& American Samoa) get 2 shares and Guam (& Federated States of Micronesia, Northern Mariana Islands) get 3 shares
 - \$7,125,000 - \$125,000 per year per Institute
 - Several Types of projects (Admin, Information Transfer, Research, Education)
 - Dollars are to be used for research to help solve state water resources issues, training/education of students, and information transfer (outreach)
 - As per the Water Resources Research Act must be matched 2:1

WRRRA Program

- National Competitive Grants – aka 104g grants
 - Applied and basic hydrologic research, peer reviewed
 - Must be regional or national research
 - 5-6 projects selected ~ \$1,500,000 dollars in total funding
 - \$250,000 federal funding for up to 3 years: matched by Universities 1:1
 - Collaboration with USGS Scientists who are partially funded by WMA Programs
 - Priority Areas include: Water Supply/Availability; Economics; Water Quality; Ecosystem research from a water quantity and/or quality perspective

WRRRA Program

- National Competitive Grants - continued
 - 3 RFP's based on 3 different science priorities
 - General Priority ~ \$1,500,000 dollars in total funding. Priorities change in coordination with USGS every year.
 - Aquatic Invasive species (AIS) ~ \$1,000,000 dollars in total funding. Any Institute may apply but the science must be conducted in the Upper MS basin.
 - PFAS ~ \$1,000,000 dollars in total funding.

WRRRA Program

- Coordination Grants
 - Grants or Cooperative Agreements
 - 5-10 grants issued each year (EPA, USGS, NRC, BOR, ACE)
 - ~ \$3 million per year
 - Must be research that has a national interest (not just agency specific)
 - USGS may participate but research must be funded with other program appropriations (GWSIP, WAUSP, NWQP) not Institute appropriations.
 - Cannot be a workshop/meeting must be research

WRRRA Program

- Student Interns
 - Students may be undergraduate – PhD
 - Student must be enrolled and in good standing
 - Grant can fund a student up to 4 years, minimum of 1 year
 - Student typically works part-time during the school year and full-time during vacation and summer
 - Students work in USGS office
 - Employees of the University
 - Pay is set by USGS HR based on education level
 - University may collect indirect (overhead), varies by Universities (19% to 52%)
 - Place 1-2 students per month, \$250,000 yearly total

WRRRA Program

- General Info – Grants Management
 - IPETT – developed for Institute/USGS to manage grants
 - Replacement for NIWR.net
 - USGS/DOI did not have one so we built IPETT
 - DOI has a new grants management software that tracks the complete administration of the grant, documents accomplishments and products that are produced, called **GrantSolutions**
 - Will probably supersede IPETT
 - Annual Reports are due 90 days after the end of the budget year. These reports report on the results and accomplishments of the projects funded that year.
 - General Accomplishment Section
 - Individual Project Accomplishment Section

WRRRA Program

- General Info – Evaluations
 - Evaluations of Institutes. Last one was finished in 2019, I am planning on the next one to be conducted 3 years after the end of each of our 5 year 104b project period. I would like this to be the new standard.
 - Latest 5 year period was from FY2016-FY2020, thus I am planning the next 5 year evaluation to be conducted during FY2023.
 - Purpose: ‘determine the quality and relevance of the Institutes water resources research and its effectiveness at producing measured results through planning, conducting, and arranging for research; training of the next generation of students, and information transfer’.