



**External Research Funding Support
Request for Applications (RFA)
May 2021**

The UPP is committed to helping collaborative research teams acquire external research funding, which is funding that is not already secured by the UPP, PSU, or a USGS Science Center. Based on feedback received from the UPP community, we will be supporting teams in their efforts through two different tracks this summer.

At this time, the UPP is planning to provide all support remotely. However, we may offer the option for in-person activities if local, state and institutional rules allow and participants would like to meet in person. These details will be discussed by the teams that are selected in each track.

Track 1: Research Idea Development

The purpose of Track 1 is to support a group of researchers who want to discuss and explore a particular research idea or overcome a research challenge with the ultimate goal of developing a proposal to an external funder. The group will meet in July or August and the UPP will provide a facilitator to support the goals of the meeting. The session will last 2-4 hours. The date will be determined by the participants and facilitator.

Team size is capped at six people and can include at most four PSU faculty members. Participating PSU faculty members will receive \$250 in professional development funds for participating in the session, and USGS staff time will be supported by USGS. Teams can include new collaborators or researchers who previously worked together, as well as collaborators from other institutions or organizations.

The UPP plans to fund 1-2 teams in Track 1. Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Does the team have a specific research idea that they want to explore or a research challenge they are trying to solve?
2. Does the team have commitments from both PSU and USGS staff?
3. Is this an important topic related to water science?
4. Does the team have specific desired outcomes for the workshop?

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis after meeting the given criteria. To apply, fill out a short online application at <https://forms.gle/ii5kwZtNSucLH5Px7>.



Track 2: Proposal Submission Support

The purpose of Track 2 is to support a team that is actively pursuing a specific funding opportunity. Support for the team selected for Track 2 includes:

1. **Grant Writer:** The UPP will hire a grant writer and pay for up to 60 hours of work in support of the proposal. The grant writer can provide editing support and may be able to write non-technical sections of the proposal.
2. **Project Manager:** The UPP will provide or hire a project manager to support the submission of the grant proposal. The project manager will coordinate with the departmental research administrator (DRA) at PSU, set up organizational and tracking systems, manage the team towards deadlines, and provide other managerial support.

There are no limits on team size or composition for Track 2, except that applications must include at least one PSU faculty member and one USGS staff member. Teams should have a funding opportunity clearly identified, ideally with a deadline in the late summer or fall.

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Timeline:**
 - Is there enough time before the deadline to realistically write and submit the proposal? How much preparation, organization and proposal writing has taken place to date?
 - Has the team identified cost-share/cost-match sources, if applicable?
- **Team:**
 - Is the proposal team set, or are the PIs still looking for additional personnel to fill technical gaps?
 - Does the team include both PSU and USGS staff?

To apply, fill out an online application at <https://forms.gle/ii5kwZtNSucLH5Px7>. Applications are due no later than **Friday, June 4, 2021 at 6pm PDT**. The UPP anticipates notifying applicants about the results of the process around June 25, 2021.

If you have any questions about either track, please contact us at upp@pdx.edu.