

Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program – National Integrated Water Quality Program

**COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION SERVICE;
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**INTEGRATED RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION COMPETITIVE
GRANTS PROGRAM – NATIONAL INTEGRATED WATER QUALITY PROGRAM**

INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE: This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under 10.303.

DATES: Applications must be received by close of business (COB) on **July 15, 2009** (5:00 p.m. Eastern Time). Applications received after this deadline will normally not be considered for funding. Comments regarding this request for applications (RFA) are requested within six months from the issuance of this notice. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: CSREES announces the availability of grant funds and requests applications for the Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program National Integrated Water Quality Program (NIWQP) for fiscal year (FY) 2009. The amount available for support of this program in FY 2009 is approximately \$12 million.

This notice identifies the objectives for NIWQP projects, the eligibility criteria for projects and applicants, and the application forms and associated instructions needed to apply for a NIWQP grant. CSREES additionally requests stakeholder input from any interested party for use in the development of the next RFA for this program.

B. Purpose and Priorities

The goal of the National Integrated Water Quality Program (NIWQP) is to contribute to the improvement of the quality of our Nation's **surface water** and **groundwater** resources through research, education, and extension activities. Projects funded through this program will work to solve water resource problems by advancing and disseminating the knowledge base available to agricultural, rural, and urbanizing communities. Funded projects should lead to science-based decision making and management practices that improve the quality of the Nation's surface water and groundwater resources in agricultural, rural, and urbanizing watersheds.

C. Program Area Description

The CSREES National Integrated Water Quality Program promotes the synergistic interaction among projects funded in the three (3) Program Areas listed below. We expect that knowledge created through funded projects is shared at the community and watershed scale via education and outreach activities. We also expect that knowledge is transferred among projects and across Program Areas within the NIWQP. Ultimately, Watershed Scale Projects should be sharing and coordinating project accomplishments with appropriate National Water Resource Projects and Regional Water Resource Projects. Likewise, National Water Resource and Regional Water Resource Projects should coordinate activities to achieve synergistic effects of greater knowledge transfer and use among stakeholders and practitioners in the water resources community. We expect project outcomes and impacts to describe changes in knowledge, action, and conditions for targeted audiences.

Applications are being solicited for the National Integrated Water Quality Program under the following areas: (See Part II.C. Project Types for specific details.)

1. National Water Resource Projects;
2. Regional Water Resource Projects; and
3. Watershed Scale Projects.

In each Program Area, projects are solicited for only those topics identified in that program area's description below. It is essential that applicants read the descriptions carefully when preparing applications. Proposals submitted to the Watershed Scale Projects (Program Area Code 110.C) must address the question areas listed in this RFA or applications will not be reviewed.