Water @UW-Madison & Morgridge Center for Public Service

**Community-based Water Research Grants**

2025 Application Guidance

Water@UW-Madison is pleased to partner with the Morgridge Center for Public Service to offer support for community-based water research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Thanks to generous support from the University Provost, grants will provide up to $10,000 per project for UW-Madison faculty, staff, or graduate students to engage in community-based research (CBR). Funding may be used to support a new CBR project, add a CBR component to existing work, or continue an ongoing CBR project.

Grants may be used to support projects in any discipline that engage with community organizations, public sector entities, or grassroots groups to address water-related challenges. Projects may address any aspect relevant to water or water resources, but are required to detail how they will meet community-identified priorities. Specifically, projects should:

● Address a community-identified priority or question originating within a community or co-created by researchers and community members working together

● Include community partners at all stages of the research process according to community interest and capacity

● Work to build community capacity and provide a sustained positive impact

● Work toward social change and justice

Researchers are welcome to submit a proposal to address any aspect relevant to water or water resources, including any of the *10 Grand Water Challenges* outlined by the Freshwater Collaborative of Wisconsin. Projects that address issues identified in the *Water* chapter of the 2021 Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Assessment Report and projects with a strong focus on Environmental Justice are also encouraged to apply. In addition, watershed-based plans, lake-management plans, and river-management plans often document local management objectives and can be useful sources of information on community priorities.

Projects can be at any stage of development. Funding may be used to begin community-based work, continue an ongoing CBR project, or provide gap or bridge funding if additional funding is forthcoming or likely.

Funding cannot be used for faculty salary, but may be used to compensate staff members, undergraduate and graduate student employees, or community partners. Grant funds may also be used to purchase supplies and services necessary for the project. Proposals that use a portion of funding for community partner expenses will be given extra weight.

**Eligible applicants**

UW-Madison faculty, staff or graduate students

**Eligible projects**

Proposals are welcome from any discipline with the following stipulations:

● Project addresses an issue related to water or water resources

● The project must align with Morgridge Center Guidelines for Community-Based Research.

● Applicant has identified one or more community partners

○ The proposal must include documentation of partners’ support or willingness to participate in a letter, email, or other form of communication.

○ Alternatively, an applicant may provide strong justification for the need for an initial effort to identify and connect with community partners.

**Proposal**

Follow the proposal prompts. You should clearly describe the anticipated benefits to community partners and to the academy. Funding priority will be determined by the degree to which the project addresses an urgent community-identified priority or question, includes community partners in the research process, builds community capacity, and intends to generate results that will be useful to the community. Funding consideration will also acknowledge the degree to which the project validates community knowledge in academic inquiry and adds to our understanding of how to conduct community-based research. Before submitting a proposal, please review the program funding priorities outlined in the [CBR grant review](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zG3gHf2r8GxMX8YPx2C6WObrC3VVmEaUNM3BJbSuWio/edit?usp=sharing)

**Applying**

Two rounds of funding are available in 2025. Application deadlines are Feb. 15, 2025 and April 15, 2025. In each round, allocated funds will be awarded according to project priority until they are exhausted. Applications that fail to secure funding in the first round are welcome to re-apply. Upload your proposal and relevant documents at this [Qualtrics form](https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6Rku5yAHSE1YEDQ).

Grant conditions

Staff who will be conducting grant-supported work must:

1. Attend an orientation session that will include training on cultural humility, understanding power dynamics between campus and community, and how to utilize the support resources available through the Morgridge Center.

2. Complete a training module provided by Morgridge Center staff on preparing your university research team to work in communities.

3. Share their work at the Water@UW-Madison Fall Art & Science Poster Session in November of 2025. You are also encouraged to participate in the Water@UW-Madison Spring Symposium.

4. Complete grant-funded work, including the submittal of a brief project report, by Jan 1, 2026.

For more information, please contact Alison.Mikulyuk@aqua.wisc.edu

For questions about uploading your application, contact Cory Sprinkel ([sprinkel@wisc.edu](mailto:sprinkel@wisc.edu)) Application form on next page.

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Community-based Water Research Grants

**Application**

*Note: Complete this document, save, and upload via Qualtrics:*

**Project team**

Project lead name:

Project lead email:

Project lead mobile phone number:

Project lead department and title:

Please list other university members of the research team (name, title, department, email):

Please list other community members of the research team (name, title, organization, email):

**Project information**

Project title:

Geographic focus of the project:

Anticipated project start date:

Is this a brand new community-based research (CBR) project?

Are you adding a CBR component to an existing project?

Are you requesting funds to sustain an ongoing CBR project?

**Financial information**

Financial Administrator Name:

Financial Administrator Email:

Financial Administrator Phone:

Funding string to be used for the transfer of funds:

**Project narrative**

*In this section, please tell us a bit about your proposed project. Please note: these grants can support the development of a project with the commitment to implement the project at a later date (e.g. the grant can support the activities of developing community partnerships, developing a research plan, etc.), as well as the implementation of a project. If you are using the funds to develop your project versus implement your project, your answers to the following questions may necessarily be more general.*

**Project summary**

*Briefly provide a description/overview of your proposed project. Also, give your rationale: why do you believe this project is needed on campus and in the community?*

**Partnership**

● What community partners will you be working with? What roles will they have in your project? ● How will you create or sustain an equitable, collaborative partnership with the community organization(s) or partner(s)?

**Project goals**

● What are the goals of your project? *(The overall aim or desired result)*

● What are your objectives? (*Actions you will take to achieve project goals.)*

● What do you anticipate as outcomes? (*Actual results, which serve as evidence of progress toward achieving project goals.)*

● How will your research team evaluate the outcomes and progress toward your goal?

**Project impacts**

* + What are any anticipated community impacts of your project? Please include information about how this project may contribute to building community capacity and working towards social justice, and how you will know progress is being made towards those goals.
  + How will the findings/outcomes be shared with the community?
  + How will the findings/outcomes be shared with the academic community?
  + What plans are there for the sustainability of your project? What are your plans to ensure the project or its outcomes are sustainable within the community after the project ends?
  + Is there anything else you’d like to share about your project?

**Budget**

**Maximum Funding Allowable = $10,000**

**Budget Categories:**

1) Staff members

a) Undergraduate:

% Time: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Hourly Rate: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Total $ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

b) Graduate:

% Time: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Hourly Rate: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Total $ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

c) Community partner:

% Time: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Hourly Rate: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Total $ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

d) Other UW staff

% Time: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Hourly Rate: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Total $ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2) Supplies and equipment: Total $ \_**\_\_\_\_**

3) Miscellaneous other: Total $ \_\_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL COMMUNITY-BASED WATER RESEARCH GRANT REQUEST GRAND TOTAL $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Letters of Community Support**

Please include documentation of partners’ support or willingness to participate. Documentation may be provided in the form of a letter, email, or other communication. If you are seeking funding to begin community based research and do not have community support at this time, please write a brief justification for using this funding to initially identify, connect with, and build relationships with community partners.

*Copy and paste the emails or letters here, or bundle this application form with the additional letters to create a single file (e.g. pdf, zip) .*

**Submit your application**

Qualtrics link:

**https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\_4GFW5Rdm201Bwea**

You will only be able to upload one file, so be sure to bundle all of your information. If you need to submit multiple files, additional supporting information, or for another reason need to submit more than one file, send your additional information via email to sprinkel@wisc.edu