

# KANSAS WATER PLAN PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE

## Initiative Guidelines – Fall 2023

The Kansas Water Office is making Kansas Water Plan Partnership Initiative funding available to promote progress on priority actions noted within Guiding Principle sections of the 2022 Kansas Water Plan and associated Regional Goal Action Plans. The Kansas Water Office will select applications for projects and activities that support Kansas Water Plan implementation through utilization of State Water Plan Fund (SWPF) financial resources available to the Kansas Water Office (KWO). All applications will be assessed and considered for selection based on funds available at that time.

To help ensure opportunities for applicants to seek funding in a timely fashion while encouraging competitive access to the funding, applications will be evaluated based on evaluation criteria outlined in this document. After an internal application review period, the KWO will approve projects for funding which are best aligned with Kansas Water Plan implementation needs. The KWO reserves the right to negotiate with applicants to modify the scope and budget of their project to better align with overall Kansas Water Plan objectives.

Applicants should be aware that many variables will impact funding levels, including overall funding demand.

The Kansas Water Plan Partnership Initiative funding categories\* included within this current call for applications include:

- Conserve & Extend the High Plains Aquifer
- Improve Our State's Water Quality
- Reduce Our Vulnerability to Extreme Events
- Increase Awareness of Kansas Water Resources

\* Applicants may qualify for more than one category of funding.

### **Eligible Applicants include:**

- Agricultural Commodity/Advocacy Organizations
- Colleges/Universities
- Conservation Organizations
- Private Sector Partners
- Public Governmental Entities
- Water-related Districts

## **Examples of eligible projects and activities**

- Projects which include water reuse and reclamation within the High Plains Aquifer region of Kansas.
- Projects which provide conservation-oriented education for irrigators, dairies and feed yards, municipalities and utilities within the High Plains Aquifer region of Kansas.
- Projects which support improvements in surface and/or groundwater quality conditions.
- Activities that promote education & outreach efforts which work to increase overall water resource awareness while promoting water conservation.
- Activities by public water suppliers interested in developing or expanding water conservation incentives offered to water users.

## **Matching Fund Requirements**

Kansas Water Plan Partnership Program funding requests require matching funds. *A minimum of 50% match is requested for all applications submitted.* Greater weight will be given to projects with a higher noted match. Matching funds may consist of a combination of in-kind and cash match. Other sources of State Water Plan Funding may not be utilized as match for this program. Applicants should identify match as pending or secure and provide evidence of matching fund in conjunction with application materials submitted.

## **Application Process**

The funding request must be submitted through the KWO's Kansas Water Plan Partnership Initiative application form, which is linked from the KWO webpage. Additionally, a statement of support from an appropriate Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) which includes information about how the project aligns with the applicable Kansas Water Plan and/or Regional Goal Action Plans is welcomed but not required. Any RAC statements of support should be uploaded along with the application materials or provided to the KWO application review team by the appropriate KWO Regional Planning & Outreach Coordinator.

## **Award Administration**

Contracting:

After approval of funding, KWO staff will direct the applicant to revise and supplement submitted documents, if necessary, to support execution of an award agreement. Successful applicants are expected to execute an award agreement with the KWO within 3 months of award. If an award agreement is not executed within this timeframe, the KWO may release those obligated funds to support other Kansas Water Plan implementation-related activities.

Reporting Requirements:

Progress Reports: The applicant shall provide the KWO at least one interim progress report. Progress reports shall describe the progress status of tasks identified in the contract scope of work and/or associated award agreement deliverables. The KWO may withhold reimbursement until satisfactory progress reports have been submitted.

#### Final Report:

At completion of the project, the applicant shall provide the KWO a final report which:

- Summarizes the project, tasks identified in the contract scope of work and/or associated project deliverables.
- Describes any obstacles encountered, and how these obstacles were overcome.
- Confirms that all matching commitments have been met
- Includes photographs, summary of activities and other relevant information.

The KWO will withhold disbursement of the last 10% of the budget until the final report is completed to the satisfaction of KWO staff. Once the final report has been accepted by KWO staff, and final payment has been issued, the award agreement will be closed without any further payment.

#### Payments:

Payments schedules will be negotiated and ultimately outlined within a fully executed award agreement. Satisfactory progress on award agreement deliverables will be a condition of payment receipt. The KWO may withhold payments until satisfactory progress has been demonstrated tasks identified in the contract scope of work and/or associated award agreement deliverables.

### **Application Review**

Criteria and considerations the KWO will evaluate, in collaboration with state agency partners, in making award determinations include:

- All Applications:
  - Is the proposal collaborative and engage a diverse group of partners?
  - Is the proposal scalable, allowing for action to take place at various levels of funding?
  - Does the proposal contain a framework to measure and evaluate its impact?
  - Does the project strive to improve the level of public awareness and engagement regarding water issues?
  - What is the ratio of applicant match in comparison to funding requested within the proposal?
- Conserve & Extend the High Plains Aquifer Category:
  - Does the proposed project explore new water reuse options within the noted project area?
  - Does the proposed project help to support implementation of a water conservation action plan?
- Improve Our State's Water Quality Category:
  - Does the proposal help to implement a local or regional water quality-related plan?
  - Are there noted water quality impairments within the proposed project area?
- Reduce Our Vulnerability to Extreme Events Category:
  - Does the proposal support implementation noted within an approved water conservation plan developed in accordance with current Kansas Water Office guidelines?
  - Would incentives provided through this proposal be the first time this water utility has provided incentives to customers for implementation of water saving measures?
- Increase Awareness of Kansas Water Resources Category:
  - Does the proposal enhance delivery of water conservation-related education, outreach and public information?
  - Does the proposal improve the use of existing education & outreach-related resources to support improved coordination in delivery of outreach and education activities?