The Alabama Water Institute (AWI) is piloting an institute bridge funding program for water-related research projects. Deadline to apply: **June 30**, **October 30** and **February 28** of each year.

PURPOSE

The AWI seeks to support faculty engaged in water research who are submitting external federal grants and would benefit from institute support in order to resubmit their proposal submissions.

- Multi-PI investigator (PI is a UA Faculty and at least one or more co-PIs are UA faculty) water-related projects in which the project **was reviewed recently by a funding agency, did not receive funding, and a summary statement and/or reviews were provided to the PI.** If the reviews and/or summary statement include major criticisms of the proposal, plans for responding to critiques to improve the chances of funding must be included in the application to be eligible for the AWI Pilot Bridge Program.

- Multi-investigator projects with a PI-record of interdisciplinary research related to water and who are experiencing a gap in their federally funded grants. The pilot bridge funds will allow the research teams to maintain their momentum by partially filling the funding gap. Such that they will have an opportunity to submit and secure additional sources of extramural support within the next year.

- Individual investigators are encouraged to apply if their reviewed proposals have a clearly defined water research impact and hold high promise for securing external support.

ELIGIBILITY

- Multi-investigator groups with a demonstrated track record of extramural funding who have lost or are at risk for losing their research support at the time of the Bridge application.
- Multi-investigator groups with a recently reviewed project submitted no earlier than August 1, 2017.
- Individual investigators who are experiencing a critical gap in funding for a research program which would have a campus-wide impact aligned with AWI water research activities.
- Documentation must be included with applications which demonstrate efforts to establish or re-establish funding. Submit grant reviews with all applications to ensure further consideration.

SUBMISSION DATES

June 30, October 30 and February 28. All applications have to be submitted by 5pm CST via the online submission form **https://uaawi.formstack.com/forms/pilot_bridge_program**.

Last revision: 9/17/2019

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING

The following information should be submitted as a single PDF through the online submission form
https://uaawi.formstack.com/forms/pilot_bridge_program.

A narrative (up to 5 pages for items 1-5) that includes:

1. The specific aims of the project and major research objectives, questions, and/or hypotheses.
2. A summary of important accomplishments of the research program and its impact on the campus.
3. A statement of the reasons that pilot bridge funding is requested and the period to be covered. This statement should include a discussion of the potential impact of the gap on the project, in particular regarding personnel.
4. A plan for regaining funding for the project or obtaining new sources of support. Include a timeline for obtaining support, noting when a decision is anticipated re: these external sources of funding. If a grant is to be submitted or is currently under review, provide the date (or anticipated date) of submission, the title, the sponsor, funding mechanism, funding period and amount.
5. Funding that will be provided by a college, department, or center to aid in bridging support for the project. Although not a determining factor for support under the Institute Pilot Bridge Program, if the applicant has requested and/or obtained some of the necessary bridge/gap funds for the project from a college, department or center include this information. A
6. A detailed budget request, indicating the names of individual staff to be supported and other categories of funding that will be needed. Please include a detailed budget narrative describing those needs. Include copies of the previously submitted proposal budget and/or the last year of the funded project. When requesting funds consider what you will need in order to address reviewer comments in order to successfully resubmit your proposal in the next round of submissions.
7. Include the panel review summary statement. If the summary statement includes major criticisms of the proposal, describe plans for responding to critiques to improve the chances of funding.
8. The biosketches for the PI and all co-investigators, including active and pending extramural support.

At the end of the bridge funding year, a report will be required with the following information:

- Final accounting of the spent funds and any matching fund sources.
- A summary of the research outputs that were carried out including published papers and/or conference presentations, and grants that were awarded or are pending as a result of the pilot bridge funding.

In addition to the outputs noted above, additional productivity metrics including graduate students and postdoctoral fellows supported by pilot bridge funding, publications, patents, and invited conference presentations will be used to determine future eligibility for pilot bridge funding.

NOTE: PIs/co-PIs who are awarded institute pilot bridge funding and who do not submit competitive proposals to external federal agencies will not be eligible to receive any future institute pilot bridge funding. Institute pilot bridge funding is not intended to serve as a seed-funding program to initiate a project and/or in lieu of submitting an external competitive proposal.