

2020 Unsolicited Research Program FAQ

Q: What are the match requirements for the Program?

A: A minimum of 25% of the total project value must be contributed by the applicant (i.e., the applicant's minimum contribution must equal one-third of WRF funds requested). For example, if an applicant requests \$100,000 from WRF, an additional \$33,000 or more must be contributed by the applicant. Acceptable forms of applicant contribution include cost-share, applicant in-kind or third-party in-kind.

Q: Who is eligible to apply for funding?

A: Any academic, consultant, or utility in good standing may submit.

Q: Can I resubmit a proposal that was submitted to another WRF program?

A: You may as long as it meets the Unsolicited Research Program requirements. Indicate on the cover sheet if you have submitted to another program or have an existing research project funded by the Foundation. For the Unsolicited Research Program, you do not have to be a WRF subscriber to submit a proposal.

Q: Who reviews the proposals?

A: Proposals are reviewed by the Unsolicited Selection Committee, which includes members of the WRF Research Advisory Council.

Q: What is the level of funding for the Program?

A: The program routinely receives 10% of WRF's allocated research budget each year and launches every other year.

Q: What is the standard request from the program?

A: Standard funding requests range from \$25,000 to \$175,000 in WRF funds for the entire project period. Most projects are completed within one to two years.

Q: How competitive is the proposal process?

A: WRF typically receives about 50 - 150 pre-proposals for consideration.

Q: Several potential investigators/proposers have asked me to join their team. Can I team up with more than one proposing team?

A: Yes.

Q: Are references (cited literature) part of the 3-page main body pre-proposal limit?

A: Yes. Proposers can provide key references to support their pre-proposals; however, this is part of the three-page limit. Proposers selected to submit full proposals will be asked to submit this information (this will not count against the full proposal page limit).

Q: Are the WRF budget sheets required for the pre-proposal?

A: No, at this pre-proposal stage the budget items on the coversheet are required. Proposers selected to submit full proposals will use the WRF budget sheets to submit this information (this will not count against the full proposal page limit).

Q: Are letters of support or commitment needed for the pre-proposal?

A: No, not at this stage. If applicable, provide a list of other entities that have committed funds (or services) for this research or that are being pursued for collaboration in the pre-proposal. Proposers selected to submit full proposals can provide these letters of support at that time (this will not count against the full proposal page limit).

Q: Does WRF pay indirect costs?

A: Yes, WRF allows researchers to include the indirect cost rates of their universities/organizations. Note that some researchers/universities lower their rates (usually for non-governmental and not-for-profit organizations such as WRF) so more funds go directly to research.

Q: Do you fund internationally?

A: Yes, WRF funds internationally.

Q: What is the WRF policy on intellectual property and patenting?

A: Please review Section VI IP RIGHTS AND PUBLICATION of our policy position. This policy is described in the sample [Non-Federal Project Funding Agreement](#)

Q: When do research projects selected for funding typically start?

A: Beginning in 2020, projects will be contracted in the fourth quarter in the same calendar year that they are funded. Research projects may begin January of 2021 (the following year).

The requests for pre-proposals are launched in January, pre-proposal submissions are accepted in March, invitations to submit a full proposals are made in June, selection awards are made in September, and research projects are contracted in December.

Q: When and how will we be informed of the decision?

A: All those submitting pre-proposals will be informed by email in June 2020 of a decision.

Q: What is the schedule for the 2020 Unsolicited Research Program?

A: We agree it is important to plan considering the following key dates.

1/13/2020	External program launch (This is the opening date for accepting pre-proposals).
3/30/2020	Deadline for pre-proposals
4/10/2020	Review process begins
4/17/2020	Pre-proposals sent to reviewers
6/8/2020	Pre-proposal(s) shortlist notification. <i>Opportunity to submit to the TC program (2 weeks window)</i>
6/15/2020	Shortlisted full proposal invitation
7/30/2020	Full proposals due
9/24/2020	Approval of full proposals for 2020 funding award

Please check back for more updates on Frequently Asked Questions!

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