

Ohio Department of Higher Education Funding

Funding: 1 August 2022
– 31 December 2024

Full Proposal Instructions

On behalf of the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE), the Ohio Sea Grant College Program and the University of Toledo, are requesting Harmful Algal Bloom Research Initiative (HABRI) pre-proposals for one- to two-year research projects from Ohio colleges and universities that provide: (1) strategies and tools to evaluate or mitigate HABs; (2) research assistance to guide wetland restoration projects to reduce nutrient and sediments; (3) research on manure, agricultural drainage practices and nutrient application methods; (4) evaluation of climate change effects on nutrient runoff; (5) watershed studies; (6) cost effectiveness analysis of agricultural nutrient reduction practices; (7) assessment of occurrence of cyanotoxins and health effects; and (8) evaluation of treatment technologies for water treatment systems.

Ultimately, this request for proposals is seeking research and innovation that will aid the management efforts of state agencies and will support Governor Mike DeWine's H2Ohio Initiative. We anticipate approximately \$5 million in funding to be available for this competition. Proposed project budgets will be evaluated/assessed based on the scope of work; there is no predetermined minimum or maximum funding amount per projects. ODHE HABRI encourages both large, multi-investigator, interdisciplinary proposals as well as smaller more targeted proposals **Projects DO NOT require matching support and indirect costs are allowable up to 8%**. Project funding will begin on 1 August 2022 and will end on 31 December 2024.

Schedule

THURSDAY, 23 JUNE 2022 by 5 P.M.

Ohio Sea Grant must receive a **single PDF** of the full proposal submitted on its web page ***ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/submit***. All required forms (i.e., budget form and letter of collaboration) can be downloaded from the Ohio Sea Grant website at ***ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/funding***. Please contact the Ohio Sea Grant office if you have any problems with the forms (fussell.10@osu.edu).

FRIDAY, 22 JULY 2022

Researchers will be notified as to whether their proposal will be included in the proposal submitted by Ohio Sea Grant to the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

Complete full proposals must include the following in a single PDF:

- I. Project Narrative (7-page max)
 - a) Rationale
 - b) Objectives
 - c) Methodology
 - d) End-user
 - e) Literature cited*
- II. Budget form*
- III. Budget justification*

- IV. A two-page curriculum vita for each investigator/project member*
- V. Letter(s) of Collaboration (if needed)*
- VI. Your university's indirect cost rate agreement if you are not from OSU*
- VII. University approval of your application (Subrecipient Letter of Intent form if not an OSU PI)*

*** Not included in page limit**

I. Project Narrative

The maximum length for the narrative is **7 pages**. The length requirement includes tables, figures, and images. Pages can be either single- or double-spaced. Please use 11 or 12-point Times New Roman or an equivalent serif typeface with 1-inch margins and include page numbers. Additional pages will not be considered.

The project narrative, as highlighted above, must include the following subsections: (a) rationale, (b) objectives, (c) methodology, (d) end-users, and (e) literature cited (not included in page limit). A description of the required contents of each subsection is provided below.

Included in project narrative 7-page limit:

- a) **Rationale:** Provide a description of the novelty of the proposed research, background information, and identify related work and how this effort relates to or builds upon on this work. Additionally, describe how the proposed project addresses one or more of the OEPA, ODNR, ODH, LEPF and ODA research priorities and anticipated benefits to resource managers. This section should focus more on need, not historical background surrounding the HABs issue.
- b) **Objectives:** The objectives should clearly state what the investigator intends to do and/or produce. Measurable, hypothesis-based objectives are typically preferred. This section should make a connection between the outcomes of the proposed research and agencies and/or stakeholders. Specifically, how might this work support of Ohio industry, commerce, and business (e.g., water treatment plants, agricultural producers, health care providers, etc.).
- c) **Methodology:** Outline the methods, approaches, and techniques that will be used to meet the stated objectives/outcomes. The investigator should demonstrate the technical qualities of the proposed approach with enough detail that the review panel can adequately assess the features of the proposed work. Be sure to describe any collaboration between universities and the public and/or private sector. Please include specific information on why you chose the method you selected, how many sites/replicates will be collected, project location, how the data will be collected, etc. Additionally, please include a timeline or schedule for the project in a format of your choosing.
- d) **End-Users:** Describe how the proposed research and/or product innovation, development, and commercialization will include consultation with Ohio business/industry or state and local public entities and agencies. If applicable, discuss to what degree were end users or potential users brought into the planning of the activity, will be brought into the execution of the activity, or will be kept apprised of progress and results.

- e) **Literature Cited:** References are required if cited in the text of the proposal; citation of literature is essential to establish the familiarity and expertise of the project leader(s) to the subject in the proposal. Include full citation: name of authors, title, and location in the literature. This section is not included in the 7-page limit.

II. Budget Form:

A budget form is required for each year of the project **AND** a summary budget combining all years. Itemized budget forms are also required for each subaward on the project. The budget form is available on Ohio Sea Grant's website (ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/funding). See specific budget instructions at the end of this document. **Match is NOT required for this proposal. Indirect costs are allowable to a maximum of 8% MTDC.**

III. Budget Justification:

Your budget justification should specifically address, using line headers from the required budget form.

IV. Curriculum Vitae

The maximum length is two pages for each investigator, co-investigator, and collaborator. Each vita must contain the investigator's complete address, telephone number, and e-mail address. Beyond this, we are quite flexible and want the investigator to include the information that is most relevant to this funding opportunity. A listing of current research support that is closely related to the project is a good idea. Listings of current and past positions held and honors are also often helpful. Publications written by the investigator, especially those that are peer reviewed and related to the research project proposed should be listed.

VI. Letter of Collaboration

This funding opportunity is no longer requiring letters of support. We have replaced the support letters with a "Letter of Collaboration". Please have project partners and/or other entities providing you with resources (i.e., land access, equipment, other expertise needed to complete project) complete the Letter of Collaboration form found on our website (ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/funding). Instructions are included at the bottom of the form. These letters should be then sent back to the PI to be included in the project submission. Please note that these forms are not required but will be helpful when assessing project partnerships and feasibility of the proposed work.

VII. Indirect Cost Rate Agreement

If you are a non-OSU principal investigator, please include your university's indirect cost rate agreement form with your submission.

VIII. University Approval

Proposals submitted at the full proposal stage need to show approval of your proposed work and budget by your university with appropriate authorized signatures. If the proposal PI is not affiliated with Ohio State University (OSU), please complete the form "Subrecipient Letter of Intent" available on Ohio Sea Grant's webpage (ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/funding) and obtain the appropriate signatures. If the proposal PI is affiliated with OSU, please attach a completed copy of the university's ePA-005 form.

Submission

Full proposals will be due by **5:00 p.m. EST on Thursday, 23 June 2022** and will be immediately sent to panel reviewers. Please upload all materials in **one PDF document** to ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/submit. Please let us know if you do not receive a confirmation email that your proposal was received.

Proposal Evaluation

Experts from the state management agencies and appropriate content experts will review full proposals. Investigators will be notified as to whether their proposal will be included in Ohio Department of Higher Education funding opportunity by Friday, 22 July 2022.

Proposals will be evaluated using six criteria: 1) Rationale, 2) Objectives, 3) Methodology, 4) End-Users, 5) Qualifications and past record of investigators, and 6) Responsiveness to agency priorities. Each criterion will be awarded up to 10 points (60 points total).

Scores for all reviewed proposals will be ranked from highest to lowest. Projects recommended for funding will be selected in rank order until funding is exhausted with three possible exceptions: (1) PI is not in good standing, (2) the proposal was duplicative of a stronger proposal submitted under this call and/or (3) the proposal was well written and highly ranked, but the review panel knew of a duplicative project recommended for funding under a different call for proposals. The later occasionally occurs because many of our review panel members sit on other funding review panels.

Additional Information

- Proposals will not be accepted from investigators who are not current with their reporting requirements on previous projects funded by Ohio Sea Grant or the Ohio Department of Higher Education.
- Submitting electronic reprints to our office of resultant per-reviewed publications is a part of investigators' reporting requirements.
- Principal investigators, or members of the research team:
 - will be called on annually to present their research findings to state agency experts. This ensures that your research findings are informing management decisions. Ample time will be given for researchers to prepare for these presentations.
 - will be required to attend update webinars as needed to update ODHE and state agency representatives on progress toward your objectives and interesting findings to date.
 - may be called on to present their research findings to relevant stakeholders (i.e., elected officials and state agencies) or at relevant local and regional conferences. Ample time will be given for researchers to prepare for these presentations.