



**Awwa
Research
Foundation**

Research Programs

Four ways to address the challenges of the water supply community

The Awwa Research Foundation, a nonprofit organization that sponsors water-related research, coordinates four different research programs to address many of the issues and challenges faced by its subscribers and the drinking water community as a whole. The four programs are described below. More detailed information, and guidelines for submitting research proposals, are available on the Web at www.awwarf.org > **The Foundation** > **About Our Programs** > **Research Programs**.



Tailored Collaboration Program

The Tailored Collaboration (TC) program serves as a research-funding partnership with utilities that are subscribers to the Foundation, providing the opportunity to leverage research dollars with Foundation funds. The TC program helps support utility research and enables utilities to be directly involved in the research process. The program also gives subscribing utilities access to the Foundation's independent review process, professional project management, and communication process. Proposals for TC projects may address topics that are regional or specific to a group of utilities, and which otherwise might go unpublished. Results from TC research are made available to other utilities, expanding the research benefits available to all subscribers. Approximately 10 to 15 percent of the Foundation's total research budget is allocated to TC projects each year. In 2004, nine TC projects were approved, involving more than 30 subscribing organizations.

Who may participate?

Utilities that pay their full AwwaRF subscription are eligible to sponsor and submit a TC proposal.

How are TC proposals selected?

Each TC proposal is evaluated by a proposal-specific review committee and then forwarded to the Tailored Collaboration Review Committee for final selection and funding. Recommendations and selections are based on scientific merit, applicability to the water-supply community, originality, and budget.

How are proposals funded?

The Foundation provides up to a one-to-two match of the cash contributed to the project, with a maximum Foundation contribution of \$100,000. As an example, a proposal requesting \$100,000 in Foundation funding would require \$200,000 in eligible matching funds. In-kind contributions are welcome but are neither required nor matched. After a proposal is selected for funding, a co-funding agreement is established between the Foundation and each co-funding organization. A sample agreement is available on the Web site.

How are TC projects managed?

The Foundation provides overall management of TC projects, including administration of the contract with the researcher and technical oversight of the project

with a Project Advisory Committee (PAC). The Foundation organizes a PAC for each funded project to provide guidance, review reports and significant materials, and generally monitor project performance.

How are findings communicated?

The Foundation's mission is not complete until the results of research are put to work in the drinking water community. Participants of TC projects must be willing to have the data published and distributed.

How do we submit a Tailored Collaboration proposal?

Guidelines for submitting a TC proposal are available on the Web at www.awwarf.org > **Research > Project Admin > Proposal Guidelines**. A TC proposal may be submitted at any time during the year. Draft and final proposals are considered the intellectual property of the submitter and are handled confidentially. For questions about the TC program not addressed in the guidelines, please contact the Foundation.

Solicited Research Program

Through the Solicited Research program, projects are awarded to research contractors through a competitive bid process. Research plans and project topics that best address issues of high priority to the drinking water community are identified through an extensive process that includes input from subscribing utilities and other sources. The determination of which solicited projects receive funding begins with the Research Advisory Council, a group of water-supply experts and representatives appointed by the board of trustees. The Council evaluates the research needs identified and recommends to the board of trustees a prioritized research agenda for approval. Once the year's research agenda is approved, requests for proposals are announced in an open, competitive submission process. Proposals are reviewed and final candidates are selected for the

best personnel and resources to conduct each study. The majority of the research projects sponsored by the Foundation falls within this program. Approximately 60 percent of the Foundation research budget is allocated each year to the Solicited program.

Unsolicited Research Program

Core research on fundamental topics often becomes the stepping stone to further advancements in drinking water science. Each year the Foundation funds a number of proposals under the Unsolicited Research program which have the potential to lay the groundwork for such advancements. Proposals to the program are evaluated by the Unsolicited Proposal Review Committee, which makes recommendations for funding consideration to the board of trustees. Unsolicited proposals are accepted once per year. Approximately 15 percent of the Foundation research budget is allocated annually to this program.

Partnership Program

The Foundation collaborates with a number of national and international research organizations to sponsor studies of mutual benefit. These cooperative arrangements help leverage resources, avoid duplication, and develop and disseminate broad-based knowledge. They also provide access to diverse audiences and foster a spirit of cooperation in the water-research arena. Partnership projects often address broad-based issues within the water supply community, such as regulatory issues, public health concerns, and national and international initiatives. More than 30 organizations have partnered with the Foundation to date.

More detailed information, and guidelines for submitting proposals, are available on the Web at www.awwarf.org > **The Foundation > About Our Programs > Research Programs**.

For more information, contact:



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