



U.S. National Science Foundation

Well Water RCN Collaboration Grants: Request for Proposals

Introduction: The Research Coordination Network for Water Security and Health of Private Well Users in the Gulf Coast is announcing a call for proposals to award collaboration grants that help stimulate cross-cutting collaborations that allow partners to travel to another campus to exchange ideas, develop grant proposals, and conduct research.

The **collective mission** of the Private Well Research Network is to develop and sustain a collaborative network working towards improved water security, well stewardship, and health outcomes for private well users. The overall objectives of the RCN are to:

- Create a strong and visible community of scientists, students, and professionals from diverse agencies (academia, industry, non-profit, government).
- Generate new and interdisciplinary knowledge about the existing and future health burdens experienced by private well users.
- Strengthen cross-cutting partner relationships that will sustain this research and education avenue.

Funding: Up to 5 awards of \$2,000 each are available to be distributed among faculty, students, and other partners.

Activities supported by the grant: Awards can be used to support the mission of the RCN by supporting research collaboration (e.g., invited speaker coordination, travel to establish new or reinforce collaborations, visit national labs) or conference support between March 1, 2026 – January 31, 2027. If you have questions about whether an activity can be supported by the network, email Ann Ojeda at aso0013@auburn.edu to see if they can be approved.

Submission Details: For full consideration, proposals should be emailed to Ann Ojeda by 5 PM CT **March 1, 2026**. Please include the RCN Travel Grant in the subject line. Funding decisions will be made by **April 1, 2026**, and all applicants will be notified.

Proposals should be submitted as a PDF and should include the following:

1. *Cover page:* applicant name, contact information, and affiliation.
2. *Collaborative Effort description:* A 2-page document using the following topics:
 - a. Overview of the proposed activity (location, dates, etc.)
 - b. Summary of planned activities and objectives

- c. Relevance to grant objectives
 - d. Impact on research collaboration
 - e. Expected outcomes (publication, conference presentation, invited talk, etc.)
3. *Travel/Collaboration budget*: A one-page budget for estimated costs related to travel/collaborations. Please indicate (and note the source) if additional funding will be used to supplement this award.

Criteria for Proposals: Applications will be reviewed by the RCN Steering Committee and awards will be made based on the following criteria:

- 1) Alignment of the activity or work with the mission of the Network,
- 2) Demonstrated need,
- 3) Anticipated impact of the activity or work.

Reporting and Post-Award Requirements:

There are two requirements for this award:

1. The awardee must attend and present at the Private Well RCN Research Seminar in coordination with all awardees for this cycle; date and time to be determined. The event will be recorded and made available to the network through a password-protected link.
2. After the travel or collaborative effort, the partner must submit a brief report (should not exceed one page) to Ann Ojeda, describing the outcomes of the visit within one month of completing the travel. Reports should include, but are not limited to, a summary of the travel/collaboration outcome, how this collaboration has impacted the individual's research/scholarship, and what connections and collaborations were a result of this travel.

Note: If the awardee holds an international visa (i.e., F-1, H1B), the awardee is only eligible for reimbursement of actual expenses after travel. Note: awards may be subjected to tax withholdings, which must be assessed on a case-by-case basis in accordance with federal law. Awardees must coordinate receipt/documentation submissions with Ann Ojeda.

Questions regarding this Request for Proposals can be directed to Ann Ojeda at aso0013@auburn.edu.

Conflict of Interest Statement: To ensure a fair and impartial evaluation process, individuals who serve as reviewers for this RFP may submit an application, but will be removed as a reviewer for all applications submitted within that funding period.

This will be a direct payment to the recipient as a participant in the RCN funded through the National Science Foundation (Award #2420817).