

Texas Water Development Board

Request for Applications

Texas Flood Social Vulnerability Index Research Project

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) requests applications leading to the possible award of an interagency contract to develop an index for social vulnerability that is directly related to flooding. TWDB plans to execute an interagency contract with a Texas public university or college under the TWDB Flood Planning program from funds appropriated by the Texas Legislature.

To be eligible for a grant, an applicant must be a state university or college, a junior college district, or any service or part of a state institution of higher education.

Summary of the Request for Applications

Posting Date: Friday, December 3, 2021
Due Date (Closing): Thursday, February 3, 2022, at 3:00 PM
Anticipated Award Date: May/June 2022
Estimated Total Funding: \$100,000 to \$150,000

Program Purposes and Objectives

The TWDB is requesting applications for the award of an interagency contract with a Texas public university to develop an index for social vulnerability that is directly related to flooding. This work will include:

1. A literature review of existing social vulnerability or similar indices, an assessment of these indices and their potential overlap and incongruence with Texas flood needs,
2. Recommendations on creation of a flood-specific social vulnerability index for Texas, and key factors that will be considered,
3. Subject to a notice-to-proceed, development of a flood-specific social vulnerability index that can be applied to Texas and supplemental materials, including georeferenced GIS data and other information, to be primarily based on existing, available datasets, and

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4. Preparation of a technical report, including an executive summary comprising, at a minimum, the following items: a) literature review, b) methods, c) key factors considered and included, d) applicability limitation of existing datasets, and e) conclusion.

The results of this effort are intended to support the TWDB flood planning efforts, and may also support related efforts of outside entities, including but not limited to local communities, other governmental agencies, and research institutions.

How to Apply

Applications should not exceed two pages in length and include the following:

- A narrative outlining the proposed approach to the research project,
- A description of the potential contributing team members and their credentials and relevant experience, and
- A proposed high-level schedule and overall budget.

Questions regarding this solicitation must be submitted to bid-room@twdb.texas.gov and floodplanning@twdb.texas.gov by Thursday, January 20, 2022, at 3:00PM.

Responses to questions will be posted as an addendum to the solicitation by Thursday, January 27, 2022, if applicable.

Applications must be submitted by Thursday, February 3, 2022, at 3:00 PM to bid-room@twdb.texas.gov with a copy to floodplanning@twdb.texas.gov.

Limitations on Use of Funds:

Eligible costs are those directly attributed to the project, including staff salaries and wages and other direct costs, as applicable, such as travel, materials, supplies, software, data acquisition, etc. Indirect expenses such as the applicant's overhead and fringe benefits are not eligible for reimbursement. Eligible travel expenses of a grant recipient and any subcontractors are limited to the maximum amounts authorized for state employees by the General Appropriations Act. Any out-of-state travel expenses must be directly related to the approved scope of work in the contract and must be pre-approved by the Executive Administrator, or designated staff.

Evaluation Criteria and Selection Process

Incomplete applications and those that do not meet the requirements of the application as described in this posting may be eliminated from consideration.

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Applications will be scored by a review panel according to the following criteria: proposed technical approach to the literature review, proposed technical approach to the creation of the index, alignment of deliverables and objectives with TWDB needs, researcher(s) experience and capabilities, and overall schedule and budget.

TWDB reserves the right to reject all applications and make no awards under this announcement. In addition, TWDB reserves the right to partially fund applications by funding discrete activities, portions, or phases of a proposed project.

Negotiations with Selected Applicants

The applicable scope of work, deliverables, timeline, budget, and contract terms will be negotiated after TWDB awards the selected applicants. Failure to arrive at mutually agreeable terms of a contract with a selected applicant will constitute a rejection of the grant award and may result in funding being awarded to another applicant.