

## PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT

### US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC)

**Title:** Evaluation of Muskellunge Management and Stocking Strategies in Iowa

**Announcement Type:** Initial Announcement

**Funding Opportunity Number:** W81EWF-26-SOI-00005

**Assistance Listing Number:** 12.630

**Date Issued:** 29 April 2026

**Key Dates:** Phase I announcement will be open to receive statements of interest continuously until 12 noon Central Time (CT), 29 May 2026, at which point all statements of interest must be received.

If invited to Phase II, full proposal applications will be due at 12 noon Central Time (CT), 29 June 2026.

**Estimated Award Ceiling:** \$155,000 for Base Year

**Estimated Total Program Funding:** \$446,000.00

**Agency Contact:** Kisha M. Craig, [Kisha.M.Craig@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kisha.M.Craig@usace.army.mil)

## I. Program Description

### A. Short Description of Funding Opportunity

ERDC seeks applications for: *Evaluation of Muskellunge Management and Stocking Strategies in Iowa*.

- B. **Background: Muskellunge** (*Esox masquinongy*) is a popular sportfish and are stocked in reservoirs and lakes throughout the Midwest. Muskellunge are generally managed as low-density trophy fisheries, with fish often requiring five to six years, after stocking, to grow to a length preferred by anglers (~38 in; Gabelhouse 1984; Neumann et al. 2012). Muskellunge are expensive to raise in a hatchery and are generally stocked at lower densities compared to other commonly stocked fishes (Szendrey and Wahl 1996; Southwick and Loftus 2017). The resource intensive nature of raising and stocking Muskellunge coupled with slow growth rates leads to adult Muskellunge having substantial replacement costs (Southwick and Loftus 2017). Therefore, maintaining Muskellunge fisheries in a sustainable and cost-efficient manner requires the ability to maximize survival of stocked fish and minimize the loss of adult Muskellunge.

Increased size at stocking generally increases post-stocking survival of Muskellunge in lakes and reservoirs (Szendrey and Wahl 1996; Wahl 1999); however, resource (e.g., water supply, hatchery space, forage) limitations at hatcheries often limit the number or sizes of fish that can be raised. Currently, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) hatches and rears Muskellunge on pellets in raceways at Spirit Lake Fish Hatchery (Spirit Lake, IA) before transitioning them to a diet of Fathead Minnows (*Pimephales promelas*). After being held for ~5 months in indoor raceways, Muskellunge are transitioned into outdoor concrete tanks at Rathbun Fish Hatchery, in Moravia, IA, where they are fed Fathead Minnows overwinter until they are stocked in May as yearlings. Using this traditional pond rearing method, the product is expensive to produce and often may not reach sizes that results in consistent survival in Iowa lakes and reservoirs. Therefore, assessing alternative rearing methods and ways to increase the size of Muskellunge raised in the hatcheries to improve survival while reducing challenges associated with fish culture (e.g., water availability, cost, space) is needed.

Recent technological advancements and investments into infrastructure have enabled the use of recirculating-aquaculture systems (RAS) to raise juvenile Muskellunge. RAS offers multiple advantages compared to traditional pond aquaculture techniques. RAS enables hatcheries to hold water temperature for optimal growth, allowing Muskellunge to be raised to larger sizes, potentially increasing post-stocking survival. Additionally, recirculating systems substantially reduce water consumption which is an important benefit for many state and federal hatchery systems (Ebeling and Timmons 2012). Finally, the controlled nature of RAS enables the ability to produce a product that does not require treatment for aquatic invasive species, because the fish are raised in water free of exposure to diseases, parasites, and aquatic invasive species (Ebeling and Timmons 2012).

Although RAS offers many advantages, it is a new technology for sportfish culture and

there is a lack of comparative studies that monitor post-stocking survival and behavior of RAS fish compared to traditional pond reared fish. Unlike pond reared Muskellunge that live outside for ~8 months, fish raised in RAS are not exposed to natural conditions (e.g., natural habitat, live forage fishes, aquatic and terrestrial predators, etc.). This naivety may influence post-stocking behaviors and increase susceptibility to predation (Suboski and Templeton 1989; Olla et al. 1998). Additionally, whereas pond reared Muskellunge consume live forage, Muskellunge raised in RAS are fed pellets to avoid the potential introduction of disease or aquatic invasive species via forage fish. As a result, RAS Muskellunge may face decreased foraging success as they lack behavioral capabilities to capture live forage (Suboski and Templeton 1989; Olla et al. 1998). Therefore, we need to evaluate the post-stocking movement, behavior, and survival of RAS Muskellunge compared to traditional pond reared fish before relying on RAS raised Muskellunge to support Iowa's popular Muskellunge fisheries.

### C. **Program Description/Objective:**

The primary purpose of this study is to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of Muskellunge stocking effectiveness and efficiency within Iowa's lakes and reservoirs, including those managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). This research directly addresses the USACE's interest in optimizing the management of recreational fisheries within their projects. By identifying and refining Muskellunge culture methods and stocking policies, this study aims to enhance the efficacy and efficiency of state agency stocking programs, ensuring that valuable resources are utilized to maximize angler success. The comprehensive understanding of Muskellunge survival, movement, and habitat use gained from this study will directly inform optimized stocking strategies, leading to more robust and sustainable Muskellunge populations. This, in turn, is anticipated to increase angler success rates and overall recreational satisfaction, thereby enhancing the economic and social benefits derived from recreational fishing on USACE reservoirs and similar water bodies across the state and potentially nationwide. The findings will directly inform the revision of Iowa's Muskellunge Management Plan (Meerbeek, 2014), and, critically, will establish a transferable framework for improving stocking outcomes and increasing recreational fishing opportunities in USACE reservoirs and similar water bodies across the nation.

Furthermore, this study will investigate the broader implications of its outcomes for the strategic adoption and advancement of Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS). As conventional hatchery systems increasingly face challenges from extreme weather events, water shortages, aquatic invasive species, and growing demand for stocked fish due to habitat degradation (Hanson and Ostrand 2011), RAS offers a resilient solution. This research will demonstrate how RAS can enable state and Federal hatcheries, including those supporting USACE-managed waters, to meet production goals more efficiently and sustainably, thereby securing the future of recreational fisheries and enhancing the public benefits derived from USACE projects.

#### **Tasks to be Completed:**

**Task 1: Population Dynamics.** Prior to stocking, all Muskellunge intended for Iowa's lake and reservoirs will be tagged with passive integrated transponder (PIT) Tags, and

some will also receive acoustic or radio transmitters. The initial treatment group will include Muskellunge raised traditionally (overwintered in ponds and fed live forage), musky raised in recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS) and fed pellets and RAS Musky fed live forage for about 14 days prior to stocking.

Post-stocking survival rate will be monitored using acoustic receiver arrays and manual tracking of radio tagged fish in various reservoirs and lakes. Mortality will be inferred from movement patterns of tagged fish. This survival data will support adaptive management allowing for the refining of culture and stocking methods (e.g., on-shore ramp stocking or off-shore stocking) to improve survival rates. Each subsequent refinement will be evaluated and used to implement further improvements the next year, ultimately building stronger Muskellunge populations and enhancing recreational fishing experiences.

Additionally, the movement, behavior, and habitat use of Muskellunge from different treatment groups will be studied post-stocking using acoustic receivers and manual trackers. This will help identify optimal stocking locations and potential habitat enchantments.

Furthermore, this study will also examine escapement (fish leaving stocked areas) using various tag types in systems of different size and outlet designs. Findings will guide recommendations for barrier installations, developed with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), to improve fish retention in reservoirs. These measures aim to increase the number of trophy-sized Muskellunge available to anglers, boosting recreational and economic benefits of these fisheries.

**Task 2: System-Specific Criteria for Optimized Muskellunge Fisheries to Revise Iowa Muskellunge Management Plan and Stocking Policy.** This task will involve habitat sampling and fisheries surveys across Iowa lakes and reservoirs, including USACE-managed sites, to identify environmental and ecological factors affecting Muskellunge populations, such as water quality, habitat structure, and prey availability. The data collected will help create tailored stocking and management plans to optimize Musky fisheries in different aquatic systems.

Additionally, the feasibility of installing barriers to reduce fish escapement will be assessed for current and future Musky fisheries. This evaluation will consider environmental, hydrological, and operational factors to improve fish retention.

By understanding system specific impacts and factors for successful Muskellunge establishment, resources can be allocated more effectively, enhancing angling success, recreational participation, and visitor satisfaction at Iowa water bodies. The Iowa DNR will lead habitat sampling and surveys to ensure a comprehensive planning effort.

The information gathered will form the basis for a Comprehensive Plan for Muskellunge stocking in Iowa, which will update the Iowa Muskellunge Management Plan (Meerbeek, 2014). USACE will provide planning guidance to align the plan with federal conservation and recreational goals for USACE reservoirs.

The Comprehensive Plan will analyze project data and offer actionable recommendations for the Iowa DNR to improve Muskellunge fisheries. These updates will guide best practices for stocking and management, enhance recreational fish quality, increase angler success, and provide economic benefit to communities near Iowa water bodies. The findings will also serve as a model for improved fisheries management nationwide.

### **Task 3: Project Management & Cooperative Ecosystem Studies (CESU)**

**Management.** The USACE will manage this project under the Planning Assistance to States Program guidelines. Stakeholder meetings will be held to discuss technical elements and to review progress, manage budgetary aspects, and discuss study developments. The study evaluation will be jointly conducted by the Iowa DNR and CESU Contract Awardee. This PAS project facilitates the utilization of the CESU program to provide resources that would otherwise be unavailable to the IADNR. In addition to providing expertise in biology and planning, utilizing the CESU agreement extends the expertise of the USACE (Tasks 1, 2 and 3) to include the expertise of the CESU Contract Awardee. The IADNR will document match contributions such as in-kind labor, as per USACE guidance, and submit an annual report to the Corps by October 15th each year, covering the period from July through June. The USACE and the IADNR will jointly develop appropriate quality control plans and information as required by USACE standards for this study.

#### **D. Public Benefit**

Muskellunge populations in reservoirs are often maintained by conservation agency stocking efforts. Hatchery operations, maintenance, and distribution of these species is expensive, and these costs are ultimately reflected in the price of a fishing license. Refining how Muskellunge are raised and stocked would improve populations and is anticipated to increase angler/reaction use and satisfaction of Iowa lakes and reservoirs. This increase in efficiency could also result in reduced stocking rates and costs, and could result in lower license costs, making fishing licenses more affordable for the public.

#### **E. Authorization: 10 USC 4001**

#### **F. Legal Requirements**

Each Cooperative Agreement awarded under this announcement will be governed by 2 CFR 200, “Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards”, 2 CFR 1100 Subchapter D—Administrative Requirements Terms and Conditions for Cost-Type Grants and Cooperative Agreements to Nonprofit and Governmental Entities and the most current DoD research general terms and conditions located at <https://www.onr.navy.mil/work-with-us/manage-your-award/manage-grant-award/grants-terms-conditions>.

#### **G. Program-Specific Requirements**

The resulting agreement will be subject to the following:

1. The award recipient shall be solely responsible for obtaining any necessary licenses and

permits, and for complying with any Federal, State, and municipal laws, codes, and regulations applicable to the performance of the work. The recipient will be expected to comply with all environmental regulations and obtain all necessary licenses and permits for the selected operational setting.

2. All use of vehicles in the performance of this agreement, whether manned or unmanned, shall be in accordance with applicable state, Federal, and local laws, executive orders, rules and regulations, USACE policy, and university policy regarding the use and operation of vehicles. This applies to both recipient(s) and any subrecipients.
3. See Appendix C to Part 1122—Terms and Conditions for NP Article III, “National Policy Requirements Concerning Live Organisms” for requirements regarding research involving human subjects and animals and the following program-specific requirements:
  - a. Prohibition of Human Subjects Research: You will not commence performance of research involving human subjects that is covered under 32 CFR Part 219 or that meets exemption criteria under 32 CFR 219.104, or expend funding on such effort, until and unless the conditions of either the following paragraph (1) or (2) have been met:
    - (1) You furnish to the ERDC liaison to the Human Research Protection Official (HRPO), with a copy to the Grants Officer, an assurance of compliance, Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval, and associated research documents. You receive written notification from the Grants Officer that the HRPO has accepted the assurance as appropriate for the research under the agreement and also that the HRPO has reviewed the research and associated documents and accepted the IRB approval for compliance with the Department of Defense (DoD) component policies.
    - (2) You furnish to the ERDC liaison to the HRPO, with a copy to the Grants Officer, documentation as required by DoD R&D General Terms and Conditions, NP Article III, Section A.1.c., and receive written notification from the Grants Officer that the exemption is determined acceptable. The determination will include citation of the exemption category under 32 CFR 219.104 and associated study documents.
    - (3) The ERDC Liaison to the HRPO is:
      - Name: [To be Provided at Time of Award]
      - Phone: [To be Provided at Time of Award]
      - Email: [To be Provided at Time of Award]
  - b. Prohibition of the Use of Animals: Notwithstanding any other terms and conditions contained in this award or incorporated by reference herein, the recipient is expressly forbidden to use or subcontract for the use of animals in any manner subject to Department of Defense Instruction 3216.01, Use of Animals in DoD Programs (20 March 2019) and Defense Health Agency-Multi-Service Regulation 6025.02, The Care and Use of Animals in DoD Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation (RDT&E) or Training Programs (1 September 2022), without the express written approval of the Animal Research

Compliance & Oversight Office (ARCOO), Office of the Surgeon General, U.S. Army Medical Command. Written authorization to begin research under applicable protocol(s) proposed for this award will be issued in the form of an approval letter from ARCOO to the recipient with a copy to the ERDC Grants Officer. Furthermore, modifications to already approved protocols require approval by ARCOO prior to implementation. For each fiscal year, the recipient must maintain, and upon request from ARCOO, submit animal usage information. The recipient must promptly inform ARCOO of adverse events regarding animals under applicable protocol(s) associated with this award. These requirements are defined in the approval letter from ARCOO. Noncompliance with any of these terms and conditions may result in withholding of funds and/or the termination of the award. Questions regarding ARCOO protocol review processes should be directed to ARCOO at the following:

Phone: [To be Provided at Time of Award]

Email: [To be Provided at Time of Award].

## II. Federal Award Information

The following information applies to awards issued under this announcement:

- This is a new program.
- The Government anticipates 1 Federal award from this announcement, but reserves the right to award more or less
- The total amount of funding expected to be awarded through this announcement is \$446,000
- The expected amount of funding for base award is \$155,000
- The expected award structure is by Year: Base Year = \$155,000; Option Year 1 = \$150,000; Option Year 2 = \$141,000.
- Award(s) from this announcement will be Cooperative Agreement(s)
- The anticipated period of performance is 3 years (Base year plus 2 option years)
- Applications for renewal or supplementation of existing projects are eligible to compete with applications for new Federal awards
- The government reserves the right to accept only portions of an application and to negotiate with potential awardees
- Government's substantial involvement includes: USACE will manage this project in accordance with requirement of the Planning Assistance to States Program. The Corps will hold meetings with the stakeholders to discuss technical element and to review progress, prepare budget information, and report on or discuss the progress of the study. The Iowa DNR and the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) Contract Awardee will conduct the study evaluation.

## III. Eligibility Information

### A. Eligible Applicants

This opportunity is restricted to non-federal partners of the Great Rivers Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit (CESU).

Disclosures of current and pending support made in this application may render an applicant ineligible for funding. Prior to award and throughout the period of performance, ERDC may continue to request updated continuing and pending support information, which will be reviewed and may result in discontinuation of funding.

Religious organizations are entitled to compete on equal footing with secular organizations for Federal financial assistance as described in E.O. 13798, “Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty.”

## B. Cost Sharing or Matching

This action will be 100% funded by USACE.

## C. Conflict of Interest

### a) General Requirement for Disclosure

You and your organization must disclose any potential or actual scientific or nonscientific conflict of interest(s) to us. You must also disclose any potential or actual conflict(s) of interest for any identified sub recipient you include in your application. We may have to ask you more questions if we need more information.

At our discretion, we may ask you for a conflict-of-interest mitigation plan after you submit your application. Your plan is subject to our approval. Refer to 2 CFR §§ 200.112 and 200.318.

### b) Scientific Conflict of Interest

Scientific collaborations on research and development projects are generally the result of close collaboration prior to the submission of applications for support. Accordingly, these collaborations should be considered when considering potential conflicts of interest. The potential conflict is mitigated by the disclosure of these collaborations, and the list of current and pending support you provide for senior and key researchers. Therefore, you must include in your list of current and pending support all collaborators, even if they did not formally provide support.

## D. Certifications, representations, and assurances

1. To apply for grants and other funding opportunities the applicant entity must have an active registration in the System for Award Management (SAM). Applications will not be accepted through Grants.gov or other methods unless the entity is registered in SAM. Registration in SAM now includes the acceptance of Certifications and Assurances. See <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/grantors/grantor-standard-language.html>

for details on how to register in SAM, and Grants.gov

2. The Federal Assistance Certifications Report is an attestation that the entity will abide by the requirements of the various laws and regulations; therefore, as applicable, you are still required to submit any documentation, including the SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if award value exceeds \$100,000.00), and, if applicable, informing DoD of unpaid delinquent tax liability or a felony conviction under any Federal law.
3. Certification Regarding Disclosure of Funding Sources. By checking "I Agree" on the SF 424 (R&R) block 17 you agree to abide by the following statement: "By signing this application, I certify the proposing entity is in compliance with Section 223(a) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 which requires that: (a) the PI and other key personnel certify that the current and pending support provided on the proposal is current, accurate and complete; (B) agree to update such disclosure at the request of the agency prior to the award of support and at any subsequent time the agency determines appropriate during the term of the award; and (c) the PI and other key personnel have been made aware of the requirements under Section 223(a)(1) of this Act. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. code, Title 218, Section 1001)."

## **IV. Application and Submission Information (2 Phase Process)**

### **A. Phase I: Submission of Statement of Interest (SOI)**

1. Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:
  - a. Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: Kisha M. Craig, [Kisha.M.Craig@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kisha.M.Craig@usace.army.mil) (Maximum length: 2 pages, single-spaced 12 pt. font).
    - i. Name, Organization and Contact Information
    - ii. Brief Statement of Qualifications (including):
      - Biographical Sketch,
      - Relevant past projects and clients with brief descriptions of these projects,
      - Staff, faculty or students available to work on this project and their areas of expertise,
      - Any brief description of capabilities to successfully complete the project you may wish to add (e.g. equipment, laboratory facilities, greenhouse facilities, field facilities, etc.).

Note: A proposed budget is NOT requested at this time.

The administrative point of contact is Kisha M. Craig, [Kisha.M.Craig@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kisha.M.Craig@usace.army.mil)

2. ERDC will only accept SOIs submitted on or before 29 May 2026, 12 noon Central Time (CT).

Based on a review of the Statements of Interest received, an investigator or investigators will be invited to move to Phase II which is to prepare a full study proposal. Statements will be evaluated based on the investigator's specific experience and capabilities in areas related to the study requirements.

## B. **Phase II** (if invited): Submission of Full Application Package

### 1. Address to Request Application Package

The complete funding opportunity announcement, application forms, and instructions are available for download at Grants.gov.

The administrative point of contact is Kisha M. Craig, [Kisha.M.Craig@usace.armymil](mailto:Kisha.M.Craig@usace.armymil) .

### 2. Content and Form of Application Submission

All mandatory forms and any applicable optional forms must be completed in accordance with the instructions on the forms and the additional instructions below.

#### a. **SF 424 R&R: Application for Federal Assistance**

- b. **Full Technical Proposal:** Discussion of the nature and scope of the research and technical approach. Additional information on prior work in this area, descriptions of available equipment, data and facilities, and resumes of personnel who will be participating in this effort should also be included. Specifically identify any anticipated requirement to use unmanned aircraft system(s). Each Period of Performance and/or tasks should clearly define the deliverable.

#### **Data Management Plan:**

A data management plan is a document that describes which data generated through the course of the proposed research will be shared and preserved, how it will be done, or explains why data sharing or preservation is not possible or scientifically appropriate, or why the costs of sharing or preservation are incommensurate with the value of doing so. See also: DoD Instruction 3200.12.

<https://www.esd.whs.mil/Directives/issuances/dodi/>

Data management plans are generally 2 pages in length, and must include the following considerations:

- (1) The types of data, software, and other materials to be produced.
- (2) How the data will be acquired.
- (3) Time and location of data acquisition, if scientifically pertinent.

- (4) How the data will be processed.
- (5) The file formats and the naming conventions that will be used.
- (6) A description of the quality assurance and quality control measures during collection, analysis, and processing.
- (7) A description of dataset origin when existing data resources are used.
- (8) A description of the standards to be used for data and metadata format and content.
- (9) Appropriate timeframe for preservation.
- (10) The plan may consider the balance between the relative value of data preservation and other factors such as the associated cost and administrative burden. The plan will provide a justification for such decisions.
- (11) A statement that the data cannot be made available to the public when there are national security or controlled unclassified information concerns (e.g., “This data cannot be cleared for public release in accordance with the requirements in DoD Directive 5230.09.”)

\*\*\*When preparing the Data Management Plan, it must be numbered to coincide with the above criteria that shall be included.\*\*\*

- c. **Cost Proposal/Budget:** Clear, concise, and accurate cost proposals reflect the offeror’s financial plan for accomplishing the effort contained in the technical proposal. As part of its cost proposal, the offeror shall submit a full budget in sufficient detail so that a reasonableness determination can be made. A recommended template will be included in the invitation to Phase II. The SF 424 Research & Related Budget Form can be used as a guide but is required if the sub-recipient uses it. The cost breakdown should include the following, if applicable:

1. **Direct Labor:** Direct labor should be detailed by level of effort (i.e. numbers of hours, etc.) of each labor category and the applicable labor rate. The source of labor rates shall be identified and verified. If rates are estimated, please provide the historical based used and clearly identify all escalation applied to derive the proposed rates.
2. **Fringe Benefit Rates:** The source of fringe benefit rate shall be identified and verified.
3. **Travel:** Travel costs must include a purpose and breakdown per trip to include destination, number of travelers, and duration.
4. **Materials/Equipment:** List all material/equipment items by type and kind with associated costs and advise if the costs are based on vendor quotes and/or engineering estimates; provide copies of vendor quotes and/or catalog pricing data.
5. **Subrecipient costs:** Submit all subrecipient proposals and analyses. Provide the method of selection used to determine the subrecipient.

6. Tuition: Provide details and verification for any tuition amounts proposed.
7. Indirect Costs: Currently the negotiated indirect rate for awards through the CESU is 17.5%.
8. Any other proposed costs: The source should be identified and verified.

**d. R&R Senior/Key Person Profile**

1. Biographical Sketch
2. Disclosure of Current and Pending Support:
  - i. A list of all current projects the individual is working on, in addition to any future support the individual has applied to receive, regardless of the source.
  - ii. Title and objectives of the other research projects.
  - iii. The percentage per year to be devoted to the other projects.
  - iv. The total amount of support the individual is receiving in connection to each of the other research projects or will receive if other applications are awarded.
  - v. Name and address of the agencies and/or other parties supporting the other research projects.
  - vi. Period of performance for the other research projects.

**e. SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities** (if award value exceeds \$100,000.00)

**f. R&R Other Project Information**

3. ERDC will only accept full application packages submitted on or before 29 June 2026, 12 noon Central Time (CT).

4. Submission Instructions

Choose **ONE** of the following submission methods:

a. E-mail:

Format all documents to print on Letter (8 ½ x 11”) paper. E-mail proposal to Kisha M. Craig, [Kisha.M.Craig@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kisha.M.Craig@usace.army.mil) .

b. Grants.gov: <https://www.grants.gov/>:

Applicants are not required to submit proposals through Grants.gov. However, if applications are submitted via the internet, applicants are responsible for ensuring that their Grants.gov proposal submission is received in its entirety.

All applicants choosing to use Grants.gov to submit proposals must be registered and have

and account with Grants.gov. It may take up to three weeks to complete Grants.gov registration. For more information on registration, go to <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants.html>.

Organizations must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and active System for Award Management (SAM) registration to apply for Federal financial assistance.

#### C. Application Withdrawal:

An applicant may withdraw an application at any time before award by written notice via email. Notice of withdrawal shall be sent to the agency point of contact identified in this announcement, and are effective upon receipt.

#### D. Funding Restrictions

Per 2 CFR § 200.216, funds may not be used to procure telecommunications equipment or video surveillance services or equipment produced by entities identified therein.

Funds from an award may not be used to attain fee or profit.

## V. Application Review Information

#### A. Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated using the following criteria, listed in descending order of importance:

- Technical merits of the proposed research and development; and
- Potential relationship of the proposed research and development to Department of Defense missions
- Overall realism of the proposed costs will be evaluated

#### B. Review and Selection Process:

Each application will be reviewed based on the selection criteria above rather than against other applications submitted under this Announcement.

Based on the Peer or Scientific Review, proposals will be categorized as Selectable or Not Selectable (see definitions below). The selection of the source for award will be based on the Peer or Scientific Review, as well as importance to agency programs and funding availability.

- i. Selectable: Proposals are recommended for acceptance if sufficient funding is available.
- ii. Not Selectable: Even if sufficient funding existed, the proposal should not be funded.

Note: The Government reserves the right to award some, all, or none of proposals. When the Government elects to award only a part of a proposal, the selected part may be categorized as Selectable, though the proposal as a whole may not merit such a categorization.

In addition to the technical/program review, the DoD performs a budget review and a risk review as directed by 2 CFR 200.206, including a review of the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS). Applicants may review information in FAPIIS and comment on any information entered into that system. Comments made by applicants will be taken into account in addition to other information in considering applicants’ integrity, business ethics, and record of performance.

## VI. Federal Award Administration Information

The notification e-mail regarding a selection is not authorization to commit or expend DoD funds. A DoD grants officer is the only person authorized to obligate and approve the use of federal funds. This authorization is in the form of a signed Notice of Award. Applicants whose applications are recommended will be contacted by a DoD grants officer to discuss any additional information required for award. This may include representations and certifications, revised budgets or budget explanations, or other information as applicable to the proposed award. The award start date will be determined at this time.

## VII. Reporting Requirements

The terms and conditions of the award will provide the specifics on how to submit the reports and any required sections for those reports.

The following is required in accordance with 2 CFR 200.328 (Financial Reporting) and 2 CFR 200.329 (Program Performance):

<b>Report</b>	<b>Requirements/Form</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Means of Submission</b>
ERDC Progress Report	Progress during the period covered by the corresponding SF 270	Upon SF-270 submission	E-mail
Research Performance Progress Reports (Interim and Final)	OMB 0690-0032	Annually	E-mail
Financial Report	SF 425	Quarterly	E-mail
Payment Report	SF 270	Monthly	E-mail
Invention/Patent (IP) Report, if applicable & IAW 37 CFR 401.14 (c)	Form DD882	Annually	E-mail
Annual Inventory of Federally Owned Property, if applicable	See REP Article III.C of DoD R&D General Terms and Conditions	Annually	E-mail
Notification of Loss, Damage or Theft of Federally Owned Property, if applicable	See REP Article III.C of DoD R&D General Terms and Conditions	Upon occurrence	E-mail
Closeout Report	See OAR Article VI of DoD R&D General	Once	E-mail

	Terms and Conditions		
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Awardees will need to comply with the reporting requirements in 2 CFR 170: Reporting Subaward and Executive Compensation Information.

The terms and conditions of the award will provide the specifics on how to submit the reports and any required sections for those reports.

## VIII. Federal Contacts

Questions should be directed to:

Kisha M. Craig  
Grants Specialist  
[Kisha.M.Craig@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kisha.M.Craig@usace.army.mil)

Zavien T. Beal  
Grants Officer  
[Zavien.T.Beal@usace.army.mil](mailto:Zavien.T.Beal@usace.army.mil)

Questions regarding Grants.gov should be directed to: the toll-free number 1-800-518-4726 and email at [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov).

## IX. Other Information

The Federal government is not obligated to make any Federal award as a result of the announcement. Only grants officers can bind the Federal government to the expenditure of fund.

Applicants are advised to monitor Grants.gov for potential amendments to this Notice of Funding Opportunity. You can also elect to be automatically notified by Grants.gov whenever there is a change to the opportunity.

Applications must not include any information that has been identified as classified national security information under authorities established in Executive Order 12958, Classified National Security Information.