



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Future Supply Actions (FSA) Funding Program 2023 Frequently Asked Questions

1. Where can I find all the information on the FSA Program?

All information regarding the FSA program can be found at <https://www.mwdh2o.com/fsa>

2. Who can submit a proposal?

Only Metropolitan Member Agencies are eligible to submit a proposal. Submittals by a Sub-Agency or collaborator on behalf of the Member Agency will not be accepted.

3. How much total funding will be available for the 2023 FSA funding program?

Up to \$3 million can be awarded based on staff resources and selected proposals.

4. How many studies will be funded in the 2023 FSA funding round?

Up to 8 pilots or studies will be funded in the 2023 round of funding

5. What happens if proposal requests exceed the \$3 million program funding authorization?

This RFP round is not to exceed \$3 million dollars in funding or a maximum of 8 studies.

6. Will the answers given at the pre-proposal workshop be posted on the website?

Yes, since the workshop is not mandatory, responses to questions will be posted on the website.

7. Where do I submit my proposal?

Proposals must be submitted via e-mail at FSAfundingprogram@mwdh2o.com.

8. What do I need to submit?

Proposal in PDF format with a file size no larger than 20 MB.

9. When are the proposals due?

February 5th, 2024, at 02:00 pm. Key dates and notices are indicated on the first page of the RFP.

10. What criteria will the proposals be evaluated by?

1. Reduces Barriers to Future Production: 30 percent
2. Regional Benefit/Applicability: 20 percent
3. Innovative Process, Approach, or Technology: 20 percent
4. Work Plan/Schedule: 15 percent

5. Costs: 15 percent

11. Will my proposal be rejected if it is missing any information?

A proposal may be rejected if information is missing. Proposals must address all content requirements to be considered.

12. Do I need to follow the format indicated in the RFP?

Yes, for consistency in the review process, the format should be followed. Any deviations in the format may be deemed “non-responsive” and may be rejected.

13. How will the proposals be reviewed?

Proposals will be reviewed by a panel comprised of both Metropolitan and non-Metropolitan experts. The panel will review each proposal based on the selection criteria described in the RFP.

14. The RFP states that if similar proposals are submitted, only one eligible proposal may be selected for funding. Will Metropolitan facilitate discussion among member agencies?

Metropolitan strongly encourages the Member Agencies to take the initiative to communicate among themselves for collaboration opportunities. Metropolitan staff may not have an active role in facilitating discussions between Member Agencies but may assist if there is a viable compromise.

15. What is the maximum grant amount?

Up to \$500,000 per Metropolitan Member Agency or per proposal. A non-Metropolitan monetary match equal or exceeding the Metropolitan funded amount is required.

16. Can a Member Agency submit multiple proposals that together exceed the \$500,000 threshold

While it is possible to submit more than a single application Member Agencies may only submit proposal funding requests of up to \$500,000 per agency or up to \$500,000 for a single study. It is at the Member Agencies' discretion how they prioritize the proposals submitted to the FSA Funding Program funding requests. The 500,000 limit per agency includes match funding for studies where a member agency is a partner and not the lead agency.

Possible Funding Scenarios for the Future Supply Actions Program				
	Funding Scenario 1	Funding Scenario 2	Funding Scenario 3	Funding Scenario 4
Lead of Study #1	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$500,000	\$200,000
Lead of Study #2	\$200,000	\$200,000	N/A	N/A
Lead of Study #3	\$80,000	\$100,000	N/A	N/A
Regional Partner of study #1	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$50,000
Regional Partner of Study #2	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$50,000
Total	\$500,000	\$520,000	\$520,000	\$300,00
Can all projects be funded	Does not exceed FSA funding match	Exceeds FSA Funding match for agency	Exceeds FSA funding match for agency	Does not exceed FSA funding match

17. How many proposals can be submitted by each Member Agency?

A maximum of three proposals per Member Agency can be submitted. Metropolitan strongly encourages partnerships among agencies to maximize the number of agencies participating.

18. Why are “full-scale projects” ineligible for funding?

The FSA Program is only intended for technical studies or pilot tests. However, a pilot project or technical study that meets the RFP criteria may also generate data applicable for other phases of water resources development.

19. What constitutes an existing study?

Existing studies can be defined as any study that has already started, is active, or ongoing. Existing studies will not be funded in under this RFP.

20. Would a pilot study be eligible if it is an additional phase of an existing/active study?

The pilot study must be separate and produce results that do not rely on other studies. A proposal that is an expansion of an existing study may be eligible if the study or pilot is adding new phase, approach or alternative.

21. Can a pilot study apply if it has already begun?

Pilot study that have already begun may be eligible for funding if a new phase or component is added. Any part of the pilot that has begun before signing of the agreement is not eligible.

22. How will Metropolitan ensure that proposed studies are not existing projects?

Both staff and the review panel will inspect all proposals using its collective knowledge of water resource management in the region.

23. With regard to technical studies, does that include studies for project feasibility and design?

Design studies are ineligible. Feasibility studies for a specific project may meet FSA Program requirements if the study results are innovative and transferrable to other projects in the region.

24. When enclosing support letters from participating agencies in the RFP proposal, what does Metropolitan require? (i.e. board resolutions, board president's signature, general manager's signature)

Please enclose a support letter from the respective agency's general manager. Metropolitan is looking for a statement of commitment and designation of matching funds. Board resolutions are not required.

25. How does the 5% Regional Partnership scoring bonus work?

When three or more member agencies work together on a project that project can receive a 5% scoring bonus. Each partnering agency must each contribute a minimum of \$10,000 to the study funding. A project that does not have three or more agencies working together and contributing the required funding match will not receive the 5% scoring bonus

26. Does the 5% Regional Scoring bonus stack?

No, the bonus does not stack for example an agency will not receive 10% for 6 Member agencies working together.

27. What is the planned award date?

Staff is currently targeting Quarter 2 of 2024 for awarding proposals and executing agreements.

28. What dates should permits and permitting exemptions be scheduled for?

Permit applications and permitting exemptions should be included in the schedule of the proposal. The FSA program does not fund permitting or CEQA.

29. Who needs to be included on the list of proposal participants and cooperating agencies?

The proposal should include key study participants regardless of whether they are with the lead, cooperating, or associated consulting agency. From the examples provided, the Key Individual List should include the Project Manager, Management Team Lead, and key study participants. It is at the Member Agency's discretion to determine which support staff are required for proposal completeness.

30. Can the FSA funds be used to cover all of a task or phase of a study of the Member Agency contributes the same funds to a separate phase or task.

No, Metropolitan and Member Agency funds must be used as a 1:1 match for any phase or task of the study.