



POSITION PAPER ON FUNDING

National Priorities Water Research Program

Recommendation

Provide \$5 million in funding to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Priorities Water Research Program for Fiscal Year 2018.

Background

To tackle the nation's greatest challenges with water quality and supply, Congress established the National Priorities Water Research Grant Program, a competitive grant program, in 2011. Since then, not-for-profit organizations like the Water Environment & Reuse Foundation and the Water Research Foundation have leveraged more than \$20 million in federal funding to produce \$25 million in applied research projects that offer real-world solutions for a variety of challenges, including:

- systemwide nutrient management,
- water scarcity due to severe and sustained weather events such as drought,
- impact of aging infrastructure on water quality, and
- life-cycle cost of green and gray infrastructure.

Funding History

Funding Year	Funding in Millions
2012	\$4.2
2013	\$4.2
2014	\$4.2
2015	\$4.1
2016	\$4.1
2017	\$4.1
Recommended for 2018	\$5

Benefits

- Investing in research can reduce the cost of water infrastructure projects.
- The competitive grant program ensures the most important research projects are funded.

- Research provides the science needed to develop next-generation technology and innovative solutions to meet the growing demand for clean water.
- Peer-reviewed, applied research provides the best available science to ensure utilities meet stringent federal and state standards for water quality.
- Grant recipients leverage federal funding with private sector revenue, including state funding, membership dues, charitable contributions and in-kind professional services, to generate, on average, \$4 in total funding for every \$1 of federal investment (source: WE&RF).