



## Request for Proposal Water Program - Urban Water Strategy

### Overview:

The Pisces Foundation is announcing a new funding opportunity as part of the Pisces Foundation Urban Water Strategy. Pisces will award grants to motivated organizations within communities interested in and in need of assistance moving to a new smart water (One Water or Integrated Water Management) approach to water management. This approach is a system of water management that emphasizes treating all water as valuable and protecting water holistically. It integrates across water management and other disciplines, focuses on long-term sustainability, meets needs of multiple users, provides multiple benefits, supports community access and revitalization, and can be more cost effective than more narrowly focused efforts to protect water quality or water supply alone. Possible elements of a smart water strategy include rainwater harvesting, water efficiency, water reuse, green infrastructure, watershed protection, groundwater replenishment, and other nature-based solutions to water challenges. Pisces is looking to support use of these and other smart water techniques as part of a systematic approach to addressing a community's water challenges, not as an isolated project.

### Grant Amount:

Up to \$125,000 will be available per grantee in 2018, with potential additional funding available for an additional 1–2 years. The Pisces Foundation expects to make awards totaling between \$500,000 and \$600,00 in year one.

### Timeline:

- Concept Note deadline: January 29, 2018
- Selected applicants invited to submit a full proposal: February 12, 2018
- Full Proposal deadline: February 26, 2018
- Review and notification period: March – May 2018
- Awards announced: June 2018
- Project start date: Summer 2018

### Background and Objectives:

At the Pisces Foundation, we believe if we act now and boldly, we can quickly accelerate to a world where people and nature thrive together. We support innovators who know what it takes and are doing what's necessary to have clean and abundant water, a safe climate, and kids with the environmental know-how to create a sustainable world. By mainstreaming powerful new solutions, we will spark immediate gains and lasting benefits for people and nature.

Our Water Program aims to mainstream new thinking, technologies, and ready-to-go solutions that can provide all of us with safe water from the tap, farms that nourish us while using water wisely, and cities strengthened by reimagining their relationship to their waterways.



Within the Water Program, the urban water strategy aims to invest in experts who can guide promising urban watersheds to a smart water management approach that systematically protects freshwater in urban watersheds for use by people and nature. Smart water approaches can create breakthroughs for urban watershed management, solve a range of complex problems cities face when managing their natural water resources, and create stronger communities by improving access to both natural water resources and clean and safe drinking water.

Cities in our program will be strategically chosen to reflect diverse geographies, readiness to adopt a smart water management approach, and potential to serve as bellwethers for making smart water the standard approach for urban watersheds in the U.S.

### **Criteria for Project Selection:**

- Primary grantee must be a U.S.-based charitable institution recognized as a public charity pursuant to Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3)
- Project would take advantage of strong community interest in or drivers for moving to a smart water approach and would complement and help to accelerate existing efforts
- Project has a clear theory of change to describe how project activities will drive institutionalization of smart water approaches, demonstrate the value of smart water approaches, tackle difficult water challenges, and provide multiple benefits for people and nature
- Grantee and/or partner organizations have expertise related to smart water policies and practices
- Project includes involvement and financial support for at least one grassroots community-based organization
- Project includes meaningful engagement of communities within the watershed, including projects that would serve the greater needs of underserved communities
- Project city/county or urban watershed has a population of at least 200,000
- Project proponent is willing to participate in Pisces-funded networks or other venues for sharing their experience with other interested communities
- Project's smart water strategy would be instructive for other urban watersheds facing similar water challenges

### **Concept Note Guidelines:**

The Concept Note should not exceed 1000 words and must include:

1. Name of the organization seeking funding (If a consortium is applying, please list all members of the consortium)
2. Grant purpose (1–2 sentences)
3. Organizational background as it relates to the project, including expertise and experience of the key staff participating in the project
4. Other project partners, if any, and their role
5. Context of the project, including an explanation of why the project is particularly compelling now in the geography in which it would be undertaken, any steps already



taken to implement smart water (One Water), work already completed, and partnerships already formed in preparation for moving the project community towards a smart water management approach in the next 2–3 years

6. Project goals and objectives
7. Project strategy and activities
8. Amount of grant requested and full project budget estimate, if different
9. Total annual organizational budget amount
10. Existing and potential funding partners, including any opportunities to leverage Pisces funding

Please include complete contact information for the prospective grantee(s).

#### **How to Apply:**

- Please submit concept note as a single PDF
- Submissions can be emailed to [water@piscesfoundation.org](mailto:water@piscesfoundation.org)

#### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

- Who can apply? Any effort within the bounds of this RFP. If two or more participating organizations apply jointly, at least one should be an organization with a determination letter from the IRS showing exempt status as a public charity described in Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3).
- Can an individual group be on multiple proposals? Yes.
- What types of projects are eligible for funding? The Pisces Foundation uses a diverse set of approaches to philanthropy; therefore, different types of strategies are eligible for funding including education, outreach, advocacy, planning, meeting expenses, technical analysis, and project implementation. The Foundation typically does not support capital projects (e.g., purchase of land, construction of infrastructure) since the dollar amount of the grants are smaller than most capital projects.
- Can groups apply for general support? No, these are project support grants.
- Can an organization submit a proposal if it has a current grant with the Pisces Foundation? Yes.

#### **Assistance:**

For more information about the program or questions about this RFP, please contact:

Andrea Fritsch  
Water Program Consultant  
[andrea@springafterwinter.com](mailto:andrea@springafterwinter.com)