



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Washington, DC 20460

6/27/2022

OFFICE OF  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

**MEMORANDUM**

SUBJECT: Annual Solicitation for FY23 Regional-ORD Applied Research Proposals

FROM: H. Christopher Frey, Ph.D.  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Research and Development  
EPA Science Advisor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "HCF", is placed to the right of the "FROM" line.

TO: Regional Administrators

I am pleased to announce the Office of Research and Development's (ORD) second annual solicitation for proposals for the Regional-ORD Applied Research (ROAR) program. The ROAR program is a mechanism to advance collaborative ORD and regional research partnerships that address high priority near-term Regional, State, Tribal and strategic Agency research needs. FY22 was the pilot year for the [ROAR program](#). ROAR integrates previous ORD/Regional collaborative research programs ([RARE](#), [RESES](#), and [RSTIP](#)). ROAR provides an opportunity for ORD and regional staff to collaborate on research projects that address priority regional research needs across a wide range of environmental issues.

The ROAR program is supported by ORD and addresses regional science needs across the entire range of environmental and public health issues for which ORD has expertise and capabilities. This includes research on the health and environmental effects of contaminants, exposure and risk assessment, analytical methods development, environmental justice and community issues, and scientific and engineering solutions to environmental stressors, including chemical stressors, nonchemical stressors, and climate change.

Working with the ORD Office of Science Advisor, Policy and Engagement (OSAPE), Regional Science Liaisons (RSLs) will coordinate the ROAR processes in each Region. The RSLs can assist Regional staff in identifying ORD scientists to partner with Regional scientists in developing proposals.

All proposals must align with the [FY22 – FY26 EPA Strategic Plan](#), [ORD's draft FY23-FY26 Strategic Research Action Plans](#) for its national research programs, and the Administrator's priorities. We are particularly interested in supporting projects with state, tribal, or community partner engagement and/or projects using innovative research approaches. Please consider state science priorities, as well as the needs of our tribal and community partners, as Regional and ORD teams develop proposals.

Regions may submit ROAR proposals that will be reviewed and selected through one of the three following funding selection tracks. Selections are subject to the availability of funds.

- *OSAPE Track* – Each Region may submit up to two proposals nominated for consideration under OSAPE’s strategic selections. This year, proposals in this track should address one or more of the following topics: innovative research that addresses environmental justice and/or climate change issues and their impacts to States, Tribes, or communities. Proposals received for this track will be reviewed by an ORD/Regional relevancy review team and selected by OSAPE’s Director. Anticipated funding for FY23 is \$800K, to be allocated among selected projects. This funding will be provided by OSAPE.
- *SHC Track* – Proposals submitted to the Sustainable and Healthy Communities (SHC) Track must align with at least one of the three Topics of the ORD SHC Research Program portfolio: (1) advancing remediation and restoration of contaminated sites; (2) materials management and beneficial reuse of waste; and (3) integrated systems approach to building healthy and resilient communities. Projects will be selected for funding by the National Program Director for SHC. Anticipated funding for FY23 is \$600K-\$700K, to be allocated among selected projects. This funding will be provided by the SHC program.
- *Regional Track* – Proposals submitted to this track support applied, near-term Regional research needs and are selected by each Region. Anticipated funding is \$260K per Region. This funding will be provided by OSAPE.

**ROAR Proposals will be due to ORD by October 28, 2022.** The schedule for the program is attached for your reference. Regional staff can direct questions to the associated RSL or Nick Geroux, Regional Science Program Coordinator ([geroux.nicholas@epa.gov](mailto:geroux.nicholas@epa.gov), 202-564-4093). Please encourage your staff to take advantage of this opportunity for collaborative research products through the ROAR program.

#### Attachment

Schedule for FY23 ROAR program

Cc: Deputy Regional Administrators  
 ORD Executive Council  
 ORD Management Council  
 Maggie LaVay, ORD/OSAPE  
 Valerie Blank, ORD/OSAPE  
 Nicholas Geroux, ORD/OSAPE  
 Sarah Mazur, ORD/SHC  
 Charles Maurice, ORD/SHC  
 Lisa Matthews, ORD  
 Laboratory Services and Applied Science Division Directors  
 Regional Science Liaisons  
 Superfund and Technology Liaisons  
 ORD Program Support Coordinators  
 ORD Assistant Center Directors  
 Amy Johansen, Region 3

<b>Schedule for FY23 Regional-ORD Applied Research (ROAR) Program</b>	
<b>Programmatic Action</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Solicitation Phase</b>	
Solicitation announced	6/27/2022
<b>Proposal Development Phase</b>	
Proposal teams submit a draft proposal concept/overview to the ROAR proposal web form no later than this date.	8/5/2022
Proposal teams submit all finalized and approved* ROAR proposals to RSLs no later than this date.	10/21/2022
RSLs send proposals to OSAPE and enter into RSP Tracker and Regional and SHC review processes begin.	10/28/2022
<b>Proposal Review and Selection Phases</b>	
Regions complete review and ranking process; RSLs submit OSAPE Track nominations to OSAPE, along with priority ranking of proposals submitted to all Tracks.	12/9/2022
OSAPE convenes Internal Relevancy Review Team to score OSAPE Track nominations.	12/16/2022
RSP Briefs OSAPE management on recommendations; OSAPE makes OSAPE Track selections.	2/1/2023
OSAPE and SHC Brief ORD management on OSAPE and SHC Track selections	2/15/2023
OSAPE Notifies RSLs of OSAPE and SHC Track Selections	3/3/2023
RSLs meet with DRAs to select final Regional Track selections; RSLs submit Regional Track selections to OSAPE no later than this date	3/17/2023
OSAPE holds briefing for ORD and Regional Senior Leadership Group on all ROAR project selections.	3/29/2023
ORD announces project selections and notify RSLs and ORD and Regional Leads to begin project planning. OSAPE begins scheduling kick-off calls.	4/7/2023

\* This is approval by the ORD and Regional Proposal Lead's first-line supervisors for proposal submission; this approval does not imply that a project has been selected for funding.