

# National Ground-Water Monitoring Network Cooperative Agreements

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Data Collection

**Question:**

Can funding be used to support costs of data collection?

**Answer:**

No, data collection is not an allowable objective of the 2016-17 NGWMN Program Announcement.

### Data in USGS databases

**Question:**

We are collecting data and working with the local USGS office to put it into the NWIS database. Could we get funding to connect our database to the NGWMN Data Portal?

**Answer:**

Yes, but would be lower priority because the data is already available.

### Eligibility

**Question:**

Can funding go to Universities to participate as a data provider?

**Answer:**

If a state agency that collects groundwater data is under the University, then it is allowed. State Geological Surveys are sometimes organized this way. Otherwise, Universities cannot receive funding under this Program. They can, however, still participate as a data provider.

**Question:**

Why are federal agencies, such as USEPA, ineligible for this funding?

**Answer:**

Federal agencies can be data providers but are not eligible for funding because the legislation specifically targets state and local water resource agencies. Connections to the USGS NWIS and EPA STORET databases to the Portal are already available. USGS wells can be added to the network very easily and we have been working with USGS Water Science Centers to do this.

**Question:**

Are local water-resources associations or watershed associations eligible for funding?

**Answer:**

Yes, if they are collecting data and storing it in an accessible database they would be eligible.

### Wells in the Network

**Question:**

Are you interested in including inactive wells in the network or do you only want wells that are sampled/measured currently or in a future cycle?

**Answer:**

We only want active wells for the network. Wells that are planned to be sampled within the next 5 years or have water-levels measured within the next 3 years could fit in a Surveillance network.

**Question:**

Can public supply wells be used for the water-quality network?

**Answer:**

Yes, Monitoring or unused wells are preferred, but Public supply wells are allowable. However, water-quality networks with monitoring wells may get preference.

**Question:**

Can you use inactive public supply wells for water-level measurement?

**Answer:**

Yes. However, the the location of the well should be considered. If it is located near active wells it may not be the best location (especially for a continuously monitored Trend well).

**Question:**

We have older wells that need to be replaced. Could the current cooperative funding opportunity help with this?

**Answer:**

No. Drilling wells is not an allowable objective of the 2016-17 NGWMN Program Announcement.

**Question:**

How often do water-level monitoring sites need to be tested for water quality, if at all?

**Answer:**

Water-level network sites do not necessarily ever need to be sampled. However, water-quality sites should have water levels measured each time they are sampled.

**Question:**

Do you have a preference if water-level and water-quality data are coming from the same well or are they considered independently?

**Answer:**

You can have separate networks. You could have a WL network and a WQ network that had wells that were completely different or some that overlap. The water-level and water-quality data could come from different agencies.

**Question:**

The USGS collects a lot of data in our state. Will we need to select data and wells that complement USGS data or should we classify and prioritize sites without regard to USGS data and wells?

**Answer:**

The data from various agencies will all be combined to form a single network regardless of its' source. When we directed the USGS offices to select wells for the Network, we asked them to work with their cooperators if possible. State data providers are also encouraged to work with the local USGS office when selecting wells for the network. We would not want to have two wells at essentially the same location just because one is measured by the USGS and one by a state agency. We want the best well available at a location, regardless of the source.

**In-Kind Services****Question:**

What can be used as In-kind services?

**Answer:**

Work to support the allowed objectives listed in the 2-16-18 NGWMN Program Announcement.

**Question:**

Can data-collection efforts be used as matching in-kind services?

**Answer:**

Only work related to the objectives of the Program Announcement can be used as in-kind services. In the NGWMN FY2016-17 Program Announcement, data-collection is not an allowed objective so it cannot be used for in-kind services.

**Question:**

Can state agencies demonstrate in-kind services by funding contractors to the amount matched by USGS?

**Answer:**

Yes, if the work that the contractor would be doing matches the objectives of the NGWMN FY2016-17 Program Announcement.

**Future Funding****Question:**

We are not ready to join the Network at this time (for a variety of reasons). Will funding be available in future years to add new data providers?

**Answer:**

Yes. Future Program Announcements may include additional objectives, but funding for new data providers and data provider support will continue to be allowable objectives.