

## **Request for Proposals:**

### **Global Urban Quality: An Analysis of Urban Indicators—Phase II**

#### **UCGIS RFP 0201**

**Funding Level:**       **\$50,000**

**Deadline:**           **November 15, 2002**

**Performance Period:****December 15, 2002—September 15, 2003**

UCGIS solicits proposals from individuals at its member institutions to (1) evaluate and (2) categorize training materials that were developed during Phase I (<http://www.ucgis.org/hudgrant/>), through funding provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and (3) disseminate these training materials through a series of workshops, targeted at Mexico and Central America (for instance, Nicaragua and El Salvador). This call for proposals is expected to result in funding for one project by academic researchers.

#### **Project deliverables**

- 1 Evaluation of materials developed in Phase I for inclusion into the workshop training materials.
- 2 Categorization of training materials from Phase I into application groups.
- 3 Development of training program for two workshops.
- 4 Instruction of two workshops using developed materials.
- 5 Delivery of web-based materials to UCGIS.
- 6 Final written report on materials and workshops, including suggestions for further dissemination.

#### **Funding amount**

Each proposal should include a budget of no more than \$50,000 including university indirect cost for a 9-month project period. Cost share in the amount of 25% (i.e., \$12,500) is required.

#### **Who may apply**

Scientists, engineers, and educators from UCGIS member institutions only are invited to prepare proposals, which must be officially submitted by their employing organization. An institution may submit more than one proposal. Graduate students are not encouraged to submit research proposals, but should arrange to serve as research assistants to faculty members.

Universities that participated in Phase I are ineligible for Phase II.

Delegates who are on the UCGIS Executive Committee, the UCGIS Board of Directors, and the UCGIS Research Projects Committee cannot apply as investigators. This restriction does not exclude other delegates from member institutions represented on these committees.

Only proposals from UCGIS members in good standing, with all dues paid, will be reviewed. Upon request, the UCGIS Executive Director ([ucgis@mindspring.com](mailto:ucgis@mindspring.com)) will provide information about the standing of a proposer's institution.

The institution of the winning proposal must remain in good standing throughout the entire award period in order to be reimbursed for project expenses.

### **Phase I (completed)**

UCGIS has completed research on a HUD grant, *Global Urban Quality: An Analysis of Urban Indicators Using Geographic Information Science*. The project supported five university efforts in the development of urban indicators at the sub-city level. Each university collaborated with academic institutions and government agencies in emerging nations to develop web-based training and analysis programs on the application of geographic information systems for urban indicator modeling.

One of the deliverables for this grant was proof of concept training materials. Full details on these training materials can be found at <http://www.ucgis.org/hudgrant/>.

### **Phase II**

The goals of the Phase II are to:

- Evaluate the training materials developed in the first year and to determine their usefulness for practical applications.
- Categorize the training materials into application groups so that they can be used for more than one city within the country, with a country-wide system as the overall goal.
- Sponsor student and faculty exchanges for intense training through a workshop program.

The GIS and spatial analysis methods used in this project were adapted to developing countries that are characterized by poor data and where local authorities have limited capacity to monitor urban growth and change. The emerging *colonias* settlements along the US-Mexican border are a case in point. The Department of Housing and Urban Development defines *colonias* as “rural communities and neighborhoods located within 150 miles of the US-Mexican border.” Their conditions mirror those of informal settlements on the urban fringe in developing countries in that they lack adequate infrastructure and other basic facilities. The selected UCGIS team will design workshop training materials to include applications of these border communities. Participants from the communities will be included in the workshops.

The selected team will compare the original approaches and methods in Phase I, and work toward a common look and feel of training materials, while at the same time allowing for unique features needed for different types of analyses and differing local needs. This university team will take the best examples from each of the five original universities, categorize the training materials into application groups, and present application driven workshops. Assisting workshop participants to apply the materials to real-world problems is an important part of the deliverables. These applications—from determining the extent and speed of urban sprawl (change detection) to working with neighborhood, local and national indicators (issues of scale)—are problems facing most urban planners. An additional focus to this research will be ensuring that the materials address the unique problems of developing countries, particularly in the American hemisphere. The training materials will be used in two workshops and must be convertible to web-based training materials.

The selected university will be responsible for evaluation of the existing training materials, development and presentation of materials for two workshops, and delivery to UCGIS of the training materials in web-based format.

UCGIS will develop the participant list, arrange the workshops, organize travel, and manage the workshops. All approved travel will be paid by UCGIS. These workshops will bring participants from developing countries together with the original research team. The resulting exchange through training sessions and personal contact will allow participants to apply GIS to real urban problems. The training materials will be put on the UCGIS web site following the workshops.

The first workshop will be held in the United States Southwest. It will include principal investigators from the original five universities, participants from Mexico and Central America urbanized areas, and the evaluation team from the selected UCGIS member institution.

The second workshop will be held one and one-half months following the first. The participants from the first workshop may be augmented by international agencies with an interest in GI Science and urban indicators. It will be held in a location convenient to international participants from Mexico and Central America (for example, in Nicaragua or El Salvador).

UCGIS private affiliate, ESRI, will provide ArcView 8 and virtual campus courses to the workshop participants.

The selected university principal investigator will work directly with the UCGIS Executive Director.

## **Additional guidelines**

- The proposal should start with a cover sheet listing the institution submitting the proposal, and the names and affiliations of the PI and any other relevant team members.
- The main body of the proposal should include a discussion of how the proposers anticipate addressing the Global Urban Quality: An Analysis of Urban Indicators Using Geographic Information Science project and demonstrating the proposer's experience. This section must not exceed 3 single-spaced pages at 12pt font, including all figures, tables, and charts.
- One additional page is allocated for the budget and the budget explanation. Travel should **not** be included in the proposal.
- To the proposal, attach brief biographical sketches (maximum 2 pages) of the Principal Investigator and other relevant team members, including up to five related publications over the past three years.
- Cover sheet, body, budget, and biosketches must be formatted as a single PDF file and submitted electronically.
- Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the overall quality of the proposal, the feasibility of the work plan addressing grant deliverables, documented experience in managing an activity such as training material development, and documented qualifications of the principal investigator and the team.
- In order that UCGIS can plan a timely review process, prospective applicants should send a letter of intent by November 1, 2002, indicating the Principal Investigator's name and affiliation, and a tentative list of names and affiliations of other team members. Letters of intent are not required, however. Send letters of intent by e-mail to the Chair of the UCGIS Research Projects Committee at max@spatial.maine.edu.
- Proposals are due **November 15, 2002 by 5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time**. Submit proposals as a PDF file by e-mail to max@spatial.maine.edu.
- A hard copy letter or form, with the original signatures of the principal investigator and an official authorized to commit the organization in business and financial affairs, must be received by **December 1, 2002** at

Max J. Egenhofer  
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Questions about the RFP may be directed by e-mail to the Chair of the UCGIS Research Projects Committee, Max Egenhofer (max@spatial.maine.edu), or the UCGIS Executive Director, Suzy Jampoler (ucgis@mindspring.com).