

NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program (CAP)

Introduction to the Cooperative Agreements Program

An overview of the Cooperative Agreements Program (CAP) and its role in assisting organizations to implement the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI).





Learning Objectives

After completing this lesson the student can:

- ▶ explain the purpose, role and cooperative character of the NSDI CAP
- ▶ identify projects and activities that are eligible for CAP support
- ▶ locate and access the CAP Web site, individuals, and informational resources available to support proposal development and submittal
- ▶ assess their own ability to address CAP proposal and deliverable processes and requirements



What is the NSDI CAP?

The NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program (CAP) is:

- ▶ an annual program to assist the geospatial data community through funding and other resources in implementing the components of the NSDI
- ▶ sponsored by the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC), Geospatial One-Stop (GOS), and the USGS National Map programs

To date the NSDI CAP has provided over \$18M in funding to more than 600 NSDI-related projects



Why is there an NSDI CAP?

The NSDI CAP is intended to:

- ▶ support NSDI outreach & communications
- ▶ market NSDI concepts
- ▶ seed small efforts
- ▶ reach new organizations & disciplines
- ▶ initiate tool implementations
- ▶ create points of contact
- ▶ build goodwill for NSDI concept
- ▶ serve as the impetus for institutionalizing NSDI
- ▶ provide a model for international Spatial Data Infrastructure development



What is a 'Cooperative Agreement'?

A Cooperative Agreement differs from a traditional grant because there is substantial involvement by the federal government in the form of:

- ▶ regular teleconferences
- ▶ technical support
- ▶ administrative assistance in resolving issues



What is a 'Cooperative Agreement'?

While the federal government is not involved in daily project business it does support:

- ▶ standards implementation through guided development and training
- ▶ participation in the NSDI Clearinghouse, Geospatial One-Stop (GOS) Portal, and The National Map
- ▶ implementing OpenGIS Web Mapping and Web Feature Services
- ▶ demonstrating to Federal business managers the value of incorporating geospatial approaches into business processes
- ▶ building organizational collaboration and cooperation among organizations



Who can participate in the NSDI CAP?

The NSDI CAP Program is open to all organizations

- ▶ State
- ▶ Local governments
- ▶ Tribal governments
- ▶ Academia
- ▶ Commercial
- ▶ Non-profit



NSDI CAP Funding Categories

CAP Funding Categories vary from year to year 2008 NSDI CAP Funding Categories include:

- ▶ **Category 1: Metadata Trainer and Outreach Assistance**

This category provides assistance to organizations with NSDI expertise knowledge and experience in assisting other organizations with the training and implementation of metadata, clearinghouse or Web mapping services.

- ▶ **Category 2: Best Practices in Geospatial Service Oriented Architecture (SOA)**

In support of the goals of the Geospatial Line of Business (LoB), the effective design and deployment of Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) using Web Services will determine the success of shared access to geospatial data and applications. This category seeks joint proposals from federal government and industry leaders to design, deploy, and document reusable geospatial services and applications using SOA. Solutions are sought that satisfy multi-agency requirements through the modeling and deployment of business processes through related data and service components. Documentation of implemented best practices is required to identify and educate federal agencies on the issues of design, implementation, and application for use in future government-wide services associated with the Geospatial LoB.



NSDI CAP Funding Categories

2008 NSDI CAP Funding Categories (con't):

- ▶ **Category 3: Fifty States Initiative**

Strategic and Business Plan Development in Support of the NSDI Future Directions Fifty States Initiative. Projects will develop and implement statewide strategic and business plans that will facilitate the coordination of programs, policies, technologies, and resources that enable the coordination, collection, documentation, discovery, distribution, exchange and maintenance of geospatial information in support of the NSDI and the objectives of the Fifty States Initiative Action Plan.

- ▶ **Category 4: Joint Canadian and United States Spatial Data Infrastructure Project**

The awarded project will stimulate cross-border cooperation over a geographic area through the use of connected, distributed data and services. The themes of interest are Public safety and security (situational awareness, management of consequence, and critical infrastructure identification) and Aboriginal and Native American peoples (land and resource management or community planning).



NSDI CAP Funding Categories

2008 NSDI CAP Funding Categories (con't)

- ▶ **Category 5: Building data stewardship for The National Map and the NSDI**
This category will focus on fostering stewardships for either structures data or for transportation data through best business practices. Primary needs for structures data are the geospatial location, classification, and other characteristics of manmade facilities, based on homeland security requirements. Primary needs for transportation data are updates for features, attributes, and geometry to the baseline roads data developed through Census MAF/TIGER Accuracy Improvement Project (MTAIP) sources. The data will be part of a national data inventory of consistent, seamless, integrated data that is continuously improved through the incorporation of data updates from the data community.
- ▶ **Category 6: FGDC-Endorsed Standards Implementation Assistance and Outreach (excluding Metadata Standards)**
This category will provide funding to organizations to assist in the implementation of FGDC- endorsed standards (excluding metadata standards, see category 1 above). For many FGDC-endorsed standards, there are few, if any, resources that guide organizations in implementing standards. Without resources that document best practices, provide experienced advice, and new techniques, the implementing organization has a steep learning curve.



- ▶ The amount of funding available varies each year
- ▶ Some level of in-kind match from the proposing organization is required
- ▶ The performance period is one year
- ▶ In 2008 CAP will fund:
 - 26 projects
 - awards ranged from \$25,000 to \$100,000



CAP funds can be used to support:

- ▶ training
- ▶ travel
- ▶ labor
- ▶ software
- ▶ *limited* equipment
- ▶ fees for consultants, facilitators or recorders
- ▶ publications
- ▶ project presentations



CAP funds cannot be used to support:

- ▶ data collection
- ▶ data purchases
- ▶ *some* equipment purchases

Individual CAP categories may include additional limitations on use of funds so it is important to read the CAP announcement carefully



‘In kind’ match:

- ▶ is required to support the cooperative spirit of the grant program
- ▶ can be in the form of salaries, funds, equipment dedicated to the project, software, and other resources
- ▶ requirements range between 50% to 100% and vary with each category

For complete information see [OMB Circular A-110](#)



The CAP Coordinator:

- ▶ plans and prepares the annual CAP announcement
- ▶ facilitates communication among:
 - Category leads
 - FGDC Secretariat Director
 - USGS grants officer
 - Project primary investigators
- ▶ manages project reporting and requirements
- ▶ coordinates program kickoff workshops
- ▶ manages Web information and postings
- ▶ performs program assessment



The CAP Category Lead:

- ▶ defines category goals, requirements, and outcomes
- ▶ leads review of category proposals
- ▶ organizes and leads category kickoff meeting
- ▶ coordinates federal participation and resources
- ▶ serves as the technical point of contact for project work
- ▶ monitors work plan development and implementation
- ▶ assesses project deliverables and outcomes
- ▶ fosters regular communication among awardees



CAP Proposal Requirements

Required documents:

- ▶ Project Narrative – a short (5 page max) description of the project goals, methods, expected outcomes and experience of the applicant
- ▶ Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424) – a basic application form that documents the applicants contact information, organization type, and the expected geographic impact of the project



CAP Proposal Requirements

Required documents :

- ▶ Budget Breakdown Attachment (SF 424A) – a budget summary
- ▶ Assurances (SF 424B) – a legal declaration of eligibility and commitment to meet program requirements
- ▶ Other possible requirements as specified by each CAP funding category, e.g., letters of commitment



CAP Proposal Requirements

Optional documents:

- ▶ Letters of support from partner/benefiting organizations:
 - Federal, State, local, tribal government
 - USGS Geospatial Liaisons
 - Academia
 - Private company
- ▶ Resumes, Curriculum Vitae
- ▶ Supporting documentation of experience, related products, methodologies, etc.



CAP Proposal Submission

Three easy steps:

1. Register with Grants.gov at:

<http://www.grants.gov/>

Registration takes 1 to 3 weeks **so start early**. Once registered, your organization can use the same information for all other Grant.gov applications

2. Prepare proposal with careful attention to CAP and Category specific requirements

3. Submit proposal via:

<http://www.grants.gov/>



CAP Proposal Submission

Proposal Submission Notes:

- ▶ electronic submissions only
- ▶ no hardcopy proposals accepted
- ▶ help is available from

<http://www.usgs.gov/contracts/grants/grantsgov.html>



Proposal Review and Selection

After the CAP announcement closing date:

1. Category Leads distribute proposals to a review panel comprised of national experts from various geographies; members may include past CAP participants
2. Each proposal is scored based on the criteria outlined in the CAP announcement
3. Scored proposals are given to FGDC Secretariat Director to make the final selections
4. Awarded proposals are announced
5. The review process takes about four to six weeks



CAP Project Deliverables:

- ▶ Interim and final technical reports
- ▶ Quarterly financial reports
- ▶ Presentations and/or publications describing the project outcomes
- ▶ Category specific products, e.g. Web applications. training materials, strategic plans, etc.



The NSDI CAP supports NSDI infrastructure plans and programs that :

- ▶ lead to sustainable state/regional/community projects
- ▶ introduce and extend the NSDI
- ▶ implement proven solutions for metadata, clearinghouse, standards, etc.
- ▶ encourage partnerships and leveraged resources
- ▶ focus on infrastructure development, not data collection or GIS startup
- ▶ produce measurable results



<http://www.fgdc.gov/grants>

Provides access to:

- ▶ contact information for the CAP Coordinator and Category Leads
- ▶ current and past CAP announcements
- ▶ CAP administration guidance
- ▶ information about previous awards
- ▶ schedules for proposal submissions and reviews