

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

2009 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.

▶ **Category 2: Behind the Portal - Use of GOS Map and Data Services**

The objective of this category is to promote the development and sharing of client or server-mediated applications (e.g. desktop GIS, decision support software, models, other portals) that can access and exploit the geospatial data and services referenced by GOS in support of a specific transferable and popular geographic or discipline requirement.



NSDI CAP Funding Categories

2009 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: Enabling Use of Government Tabular Data in a Geographic Context**

The objective of this CAP Category is to develop, demonstrate, and operate a high-performance, public standards-based Web Service to create geospatial datasets automatically from tabular government data merged with geospatial features. Resulting data and services will allow the data to be discovered, accessed, and applied in its geographic context. A demonstration by the awardee of the process with at least three strategic Federal government data sets is also an expected outcome.



NSDI CAP Funding Categories

2009 NSDI CAP Funding Categories (con't)

► **Category 5: Building data stewardship for The National Map and the NSDI**

This category will assist organizations and consortia to develop stewardship agreements and capabilities that provide long term maintenance of transportation geospatial information that serves Federal, State, Tribal, regional and local community needs. Participation is sought from those organizations with existing transportation data and services considering long-term maintenance of the data that is of interest to The National Map and its users. Funds may help participants overcome impediments to participation and improvements to their data and services as part of the NSDI.

Primary needs for transportation data are updates for features, attributes, and geometry of roads, railroads, trails and airports in The National Map. 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.



NSDI CAP Funding Categories

2009 NSDI CAP Funding Categories (con't)

▶ **Category 6: FGDC Standards Development and Implementation Assistance and Outreach**

This category will provide funding to organizations to assist in the development of and/or implementation of standards in the FGDC standards program of work other than those for metadata (see category 1 above). This category can provide support that will assist in advancing a draft standard through the FGDC standards process or implementing an FGDC-endorsed standard. In many cases, there are few, if any, materials that can be used to guide others when implementing an FGDC-endorsed standard in their organization. Without materials that document best practices, provide experienced advice, and new techniques, an implementing organization has a steep learning curve. This category can provide materials that provide step-by-step assistance, or at least, a roadmap for implementing FGDC-endorsed standards.

▶ **Category 7: Demonstration of Geospatial Data Partnerships across Local, State and Federal Government**

The vision for the NSDI includes the integration of all levels of government including the processes for local data to feed into State holdings, which then feed into Federal programs such as The National Map. This category will support further development and documentation of partnerships and processes to implement this nested approach for one or more data themes of NSDI using The National Map.



- ▶ 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 2009 CAP will fund:
 - 26 projects
 - awards ranged from \$25,000 to \$150,000



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 Information (SF 424A) – a budget summary
- ▶ Budget Breakdown Attachment
- ▶ Assurances (SF 424B) – a legal declaration of eligibility and commitment to meet program requirements
- ▶ Negotiated Rate Agreement – State and university applicants
- ▶ 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