



NOAA 2006 State and Territory Coral Reef Management Grants

Summary

The NOAA Coral Reef Management Grant Program, as authorized under the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, provides matching grants to Governor–appointed point of contact agencies for the jurisdictions of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI), Florida, Hawaii, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and American Samoa for State and Territory Coral Reef Management activities.

The objective of the State and Territory Coral Reef Management Grant program is to support comprehensive programs for the conservation and management of coral reefs and associated fisheries in these jurisdictions.

2006 Program Priorities

NOAA's National Ocean Service, (NOS), and DOI Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) are jointly providing funding for cooperative agreements to support state and territorial coral reef and coral reef fishery management and conservation activities under the priority areas listed below.

- Climate Change, Coral Bleaching, Diseases of Coral Reef Organisms, and Extreme Biotic and Storm Events
- Overfishing, Destructive Fishing, and the Harvest and Collection of Marine Ornamental coral reef species
- Tourism and Recreational Overuse and Misuse, and Vessel Groundings and Anchorings
- Lack of Public Awareness
- Land Based Sources of Pollution, including Sedimentation, Runoff, and Nonpoint Source Pollution
- Increasing Development Pressure, Unmanaged Land Use, and Population Growth
- Alien and Invasive Species
- Marine Pollution, and Marine Debris
- National Security Activities

Due Date for Applications

- Pre-applications must be received by NOAA by 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on November 15, 2006.
- Final applications must be received by NOAA by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, on March 3, 2006.

Typical Awards

OCRM and DOI/OIA may provide approximately \$4,000,000 in FY 2006 for cooperative agreements to support Coral Reef Management activities that address program priority areas. Each eligible jurisdiction can apply for a maximum \$685,000. A minimum of 40% of the final award amount must be dedicated to the implementation and support of the Local Action Strategy initiative in each jurisdiction.

Applicants may submit multi-year applications covering a 12 to 36- month period with an anticipated start date(s) of either July 1, 2006 or October 1, 2006. FY 2006 funding is expected to cover 12-18 months of any multi-year grant. Subsequent funding is contingent on the availability of out year funding performance under the current award.

Cost Sharing or Match Requirements

Federal funds for any coral conservation project funded under this Program may not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the projects. Therefore, any coral conservation project under this program requires a 1:1 match.

As per section 6403(b)(2) of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, the NOAA Administrator may waive all or part of the matching requirement if no reasonable means are available through which an applicant can meet the matching requirement, and the probable benefit of such project outweighs the public interest in such matching requirement. In accordance with 48 U.S.C. 1469a(d), this match requirement is waived for local matching funds for any project under \$200,000 (including in-kind contribution) to the governments of Insular Areas (jurisdictions of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands).

Full Funding Announcement

The Full Funding Announcement for the State and Territory Coral Reef Management Grant Program can be found at: <http://www.Grants.gov>. Search for the Funding Opportunity Number NOS-OCRM-200602000369.

Agency Points of Contact

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Additional Information

For additional information on NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program and the State and Territory Coral Reef Management Grants visit the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program website at: <http://www.coralreef.noaa.gov/grants.html>.



ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Federal Agency Name): Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Ocean Service (NOS); National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); U.S. Department of Commerce

Funding Opportunity Title: NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program – State and Territory Management Grant

Announcement Type: Initial Announcement

Funding Opportunity Number:

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:
11.419 - Coastal Zone Management Program

Dates: Pre-applications must be received by NOAA by 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on November 15, 2006. Final applications must be received by NOAA by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, on March 3, 2006.

Funding Opportunity Description: The NOAA Coral Reef Management Grant Program, as authorized under the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, provides matching grants to Governor–appointed point of contact agencies for the jurisdictions of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI), Florida, Hawaii, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and American Samoa for State and Territory Coral Reef Management activities

Agency Contact(s)

Technical point of contact for State and Territory Coral Reef Management is Dana Wusinich-Mendez at 301-713-3155, extension 159 or e-mail at dana.wusinich-mendez@noaa.gov , or Jennifer Kozlowski at 301-713-3155 extension 243 or e-mail at jennifer.kozlowski@noaa.gov.

A. Funding Opportunity Description

1. Program Objective

Pursuant to the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (Act), the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary), through the NOAA Administrator (Administrator), and subject to the availability of funds, is authorized to provide matching grants of financial assistance for coral reef conservation projects through the Coral Reef Conservation Program (Program). As such, the objective of the Program is to provide financial assistance for coral reef conservation projects consistent with the Act and “A National Coral Reef Action Strategy” (Strategy). A copy of the Strategy and the Act can be found at: <http://www.coralreef.noaa.gov/>.

Pursuant to the Act, NOAA published the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program Implementation Guidelines (Guidelines) in the Federal Register Vol. 67, No. 76, page 19396, on Friday, April 19, 2002. The Guidelines can be also found at: <http://www.coralreef.noaa.gov/>.

The Guidelines provide broad eligibility criteria, pursuant to Section 6403(g) of the Act, for coral reef conservation activities, and also created the following six program categories under the Program for awarding financial assistance:

1. State and Territory Coral Reef Management;
2. State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring;
3. Coral Reef Ecosystem Research;
4. General Coral Reef Conservation;
5. Projects to Improve or Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans; and,
6. International Coral Reef Conservation.

From year to year, specific priorities of the above listed program categories change due to Congressional appropriations and direction, and priorities of NOAA, the Program, and the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force. Each of the categories listed above has its own FFO announcement, which describes the following specific requirements and criteria: program priorities, applicant and project eligibility, funding availability, application content and submission, application review and selection, and award administration. The criteria provided herein are specific only to the State and Territory Coral Reef Management category.

The objective of the State and Territory Coral Reef Management Grant program is to support comprehensive programs for the conservation and management of coral reefs and associated fisheries in the jurisdictions of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI), Florida, Hawaii, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and American Samoa. The following description provides requirements for applying for funding appropriated by Congress to NOAA and DOI in FY 2006.

All applications submitted pursuant to this FFO must be consistent with the requirements stated herein, the Guidelines and the Strategy. Applicants may also request copies of the Strategy from the contacts listed below. Funding is subject to the availability of Federal appropriations.

2. Program Priorities

NOAA's National Ocean Service, (NOS), and DOI Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) are jointly providing funding for cooperative agreements to support state and territorial coral reef and coral reef fishery management and conservation activities under the priority areas listed below.

- a. Climate Change, Coral Bleaching, Diseases of Coral Reef Organisms, and Extreme Biotic and Storm Events, e.g., applied research, monitoring, or planning to better understand and manage impacts;
- b. Overfishing, Destructive Fishing, and the Harvest and Collection of Marine Ornamental coral reef species, including: (1) Assessment and monitoring of fish and fishery resources, collection of fishery information; (2) Analysis of fishery impacts on reefs and support for the implementation of fishery gear restrictions or other priority regulations; (3) Development and implementation of marine protected areas; (4) Activities to improve management of ornamental reef species for the aquarium industry; (5) Hiring or training of enforcement officers; and, (6) Outreach and education on fishery and endangered species issues.
- c. Tourism and Recreational Overuse and Misuse, and Vessel Groundings and Anchorings, e.g., coastal zone management activities, marine and land zoning, vessel grounding prevention and management, mooring buoy installation, recreational signage, development and implementation of marine protected areas, etc.;
- d. Lack of Public Awareness, e.g., tasks to increase general coral reef awareness, education about coral reefs, or outreach and educational materials targeted a specific user groups, including the development and distribution of brochures and other informational materials, public and stakeholder meetings and workshops, etc.;
- e. Land Based Sources of Pollution, including Sedimentation, Runoff, Nonpoint Source Pollution, including projects addressing: 1) Reducing sources and impacts of sedimentation, runoff, and other land-based/watershed nonpoint source pollution, e.g., design and implementation of best management practices (BMP), watershed restoration projects, etc.; and 2) reducing point-sources of pollution, e.g., planning and implementation.
- f. Increasing Development Pressure, Unmanaged Land Use, and Population Growth, e.g., tasks to forward the conservation and management of coral reefs through planning, designation, implementation and evaluation of land use and marine protected areas; including personnel training, equipment procurement, management plan development, signage, monitoring and enforcement, etc.;

- g. Alien and Invasive Species, e.g., policy development, mitigation projects, etc.
- h. Marine Pollution, and Marine Debris, e.g., tasks focused on: (1) Oil-spill prevention and response, e.g., developing response plans, personnel training, interagency coordination, etc.; and (2) Marine debris prevention and removal, e.g., developing prevention policies, collection and disposal of debris, etc.;
- i. National Security Activities, e.g., tasks intended to support coordination toward the management of impacts from national security activities; and,
- j. Other, e.g., activities that address other priority threats.

These priority areas are based on the threats identified and ranked by the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF) in their October 2002 meeting in Puerto Rico. More specifically, the USCRTF decided in their 2002 “Puerto Rico” Resolution that a-f above would be the focus for a three year effort to develop and implement Local Action Strategies to address these six priority areas. A copy of the Task Force “Puerto Rico” Resolution is available at <http://coralreef.gov/res1cfm>

3. Program Authority

Authority for the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program is provided by Section 6403 (Coral Reef Conservation Program) of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6401 *et seq*).

B. Award Information

1. Funding Availability for FY2006

OCRM and DOI/OIA may provide approximately \$4,000,000 in FY 2006 for cooperative agreements to support priority Coral Reef Management activities that address areas a-j above. Funding will be subject to the availability of federal appropriations. Support in out years after FY 2006 is contingent upon the availability of funds and the requirements of the Federal agency supporting the project. Each eligible jurisdiction can apply for a maximum \$685,000. A minimum of 40% of the final award amount must be dedicated to the implementation and support of the Local Action Strategy initiative in each jurisdiction.

In certain instances, when requested by the applicant and agreed upon by NOAA and DOI, NOAA may hold back a portion of any awarded funds in order to provide specific coral reef conservation technical assistance in the form of contractual or other services. This will only be allowed where such priority technical assistance and/or the lack of sufficient means to deliver it are unavailable at the local level. Such requests proposed herein will be reviewed on a case by case basis with respect to the specific management objectives of this and the local coral reef program.

If all available funds are not awarded, NOAA and DOI will consult with the eligible applicants on the use of any residual funds. NOAA and DOI will work with each jurisdiction to ensure the greatest degree of success in meeting local, state, territorial, and national coral reef management needs.

2. Project/Award Period

Applicants may submit multi-year applications covering a 12 to 36- month period with an anticipated start date(s) of either July 1, 2006 or October 1, 2006. FY 2006 funding is expected to cover 12-18 months of any multi-year grant. Subsequent funding is contingent on the availability of out year funding performance under the current award.

3. Type of Funding Instrument

Cooperative agreements will be awarded to each eligible jurisdiction. Examples of substantial involvement include:

- a. Requirements that the appropriate NOAA official collaborate with the recipient by working jointly with a recipient scientist or technician in carrying out the scope of work;
- b. Specify direction or redirection of the scope of work due to the relationships with other projects; and,
- c. Review scope of work and closely monitor the program operations during the performance period.

It is anticipated that OCRM will make awards to four of the seven jurisdictions and that DOI/OIA will make awards to the remaining three jurisdictions.

C. Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are the governor-appointed point of contact agencies for coral reef activities in each of the jurisdictions of American Samoa, Florida, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands.

2. Cost Sharing or Matching

As per section 6403(b)(1) of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, Federal funds for any coral conservation project funded under this Program may not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the projects. Therefore, any coral conservation project under this program requires a 1:1 match. Matching funds must be from non-Federal sources and can include in-kind contributions and other non-cash support. NOAA strongly encourages applicants to leverage as much investment as possible. Federal funds may not be considered as matching funds.

As per section 6403(b)(2) of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, the NOAA Administrator may waive all or part of the matching requirement if the Administrator determines that the project meets the following two requirements:

1. No reasonable means are available through which an applicant can meet the matching requirement, and,
2. The probable benefit of such project outweighs the public interest in such matching requirement.

Applicants must specify in their proposal the source and may be asked to provide letters of commitment to confirm stated match contributions. In the case of a waiver request, the applicant must provide a detailed justification explaining the need for the waiver including attempts to obtain sources of matching funds, how the benefit of the project outweighs the public interest in providing match, and any other extenuating circumstances preventing the availability of match.

Notwithstanding any other provisions herein, and in accordance with 48 U.S.C. 1469a(d), the Program shall waive any requirement for local matching funds for any project under \$200,000 (including in-kind contribution) to the governments of Insular Areas, defined as the jurisdictions of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Please Note: eligible applicants choosing to apply 48 U.S.C. 1469a(d) should note the use and amount in the matching funds section of the respective application.

D. Application and Submission Information

1. Address to Request Application Package

To request an application package, send requests to: Dana Wusinich-Mendez, 1305 East West Highway, 11th Floor, N/ORM3, Silver Spring, MD 20910, or telephone 301/713-3155 extension 159; or fax 301/713-4367.

The Federal financial assistance forms can also be obtained from the NOAA grants Website at <http://www.rdc.noaa.gov/~grants/pdf> and are available when submitting applications on www.grants.gov.

Any administrative questions should also be addressed to Dana Wusinich- Mendez.

2. Content and Form of Application Submission

Applications should reflect the “National Coral Reef Action Strategy”, the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force “National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs”, and local strategies for coral reef management, such as the 1999, “U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Initiative Strategy”, as modified by the events and activities of the last 4 years. In addition, proposed activities should be coordinated, where appropriate, with ongoing and proposed NOAA coral reef mapping, monitoring, coastal zone and fishery management initiatives, and DOI Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service coral reef activities.

In light of the October 2002 U.S. Coral Reef Task Force resolution to implement a regional process to address six key focus areas, jurisdictions are particularly encouraged to propose funding under this program for projects and associated management capacity to implement Local Action Strategies. In addition, proposed activities should be coordinated, where appropriate, with ongoing and proposed NOAA coral reef mapping, monitoring, coastal zone and fishery management initiatives, and DOI Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service coral reef activities.

In developing the application, applicants must consult with all relevant State and/or Territory governmental and non-governmental entities involved in coral reef activities in their respective jurisdictions. At a minimum, those agencies consulted must include coastal zone management, water quality, and wildlife and/or marine resource agencies.

Funding under this award is also intended to support jurisdictional participation in national coral reef planning activities, such as U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meetings. As such, applicants should include in their proposal, anticipated travel costs associated with attendance and participation at U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and other relevant meetings and conferences.

Applicants may submit applications covering up to a 3-year or 36-month period and must meet all applicable Department of Commerce (DOC) or DOI grant requirements.

Pre-applications and final applications must be submitted to NOAA by the due dates specified in Section C below "Submission Dates and Times". Federal financial assistance forms are not required to be submitted with the pre-application; however, all applicable Federal forms must be submitted with the final application. A list of the required Federal forms is provided later in this section.

In developing the application, applicants must organize proposed tasks into the following nine key threat management categories listed in Section A.2(a)-(j) above, which are based on those found in the threat and management action matrices developed by the states and territories. Each jurisdiction need only develop and submit one comprehensive coral reef management application for the funds available under this section. The Federal agencies will coordinate their reviews of each application to ensure comparability and continuity.

The first page of the application should consist of a cover page which provides:

- a. Project title;
- b. Applicant organization;
- c. Principal investigator or contact responsible for conducting the project;
- d. Contact information including address, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail address;
- e. Amount of federal grant funds requested;
- f. Amount of matching funds provided; and,
- g. One paragraph project summary.

In addition, for each category in Section A. 2(a-j) above in which one or more task is proposed, the applicant must include the following information:

- a. Brief introduction that describes the status of the issue in the jurisdiction as addressed by the proposed task; recent actions undertaken to address the issues, with a focus on the status of previous federally funded tasks; the jurisdiction's strategy to address critical needs over the medium term; and, a justification for the proposed task.
- b. Description of each proposed task that must include:
 - (1) The category of management action from the state and territory management action matrix under which the proposed activity falls;
 - (2) Clear identification of the work to be completed, who will perform the work, relationship to ongoing projects and how the project fits into the jurisdiction's strategy for addressing the issue;
 - (3) How the project coordinates with relevant local governmental and nongovernmental agencies and, if applicable, NOAA or DOI regional activities;
 - (4) Task timetable with interim benchmarks and clearly-defined work products;
 - (5) Project priority as compared to all other proposed projects; and,
 - (6) A Summary Budget that includes a detailed breakdown of costs by category and information regarding the amount of matching funds available to the applicant, as described in Section III. 2. Cost Sharing or Matching above. Intended sources of matching funds must be identified in the application, and applicants whose proposals are selected for funding will be required to submit with the final application, letter(s) of commitment to fund from the organization(s) providing matching funds.
- c. Each application must also include, on the last page, a summary budget table of all projects, which lists the name of each project proposed and the corresponding total cost and matching funds information.

For applications submitted in electronic format, acceptable formats are limited to Adobe Acrobat (.PDF), WordPerfect or Microsoft Word files. All applications must meet the information and formatting requirements specified in this FFO.

Applicants whose pre-applications are preliminarily selected and choose to submit a final application, must submit a final Federal financial assistance award application package, including proposed projects and supporting documentation, as described in the relevant program descriptions below, and all required Federal financial assistance forms. The required Federal financial assistance forms SF-424, SF-424A, SF-424B, CD-511, CD-512, and if applicable, CD-346 and/or SF-LLL, can be requested by mail, by telephone, or by fax (see this Section IV. Address to Request Application Package above), or obtained from the NOAA grants Website at <http://www.rdc.noaa.gov/~grants/pdf>.

C. Submission Dates and Times

Applications must be received by NOAA by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the dates specified below. If the application is not received by NOAA by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the dates specified below, the late application will not be reviewed or considered for FY 2006 funding.

Applicants should consider the delivery time when submitting their applications from international or remote areas.

The following review and selection are key dates in the application review timetable:

Pre-applications due to NOAA – November 15, 2005

NOAA returns proposal comments to applicants – January 16, 2006

Final Applications due to NOAA - March 3, 2006

D. Intergovernmental Review

Applications under the this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs

E. Funding Restrictions

Large equipment and/or infrastructure acquisitions are not a priority for funding under this program. Such purchases proposed herein will be reviewed on a case by case basis with respect to the specific management objectives of this and the local coral reef program.

F. Other Submission Requirements

Pre-applications may be submitted by surface mail or e-mail. Submissions by e-mail are preferred. If submitting by surface mail, applicants are encouraged to include an electronic copy of the pre-application or final application on disk or cd. Pre-applications must be sent to coral.grants@noaa.gov or to David Kennedy, NOAA National Ocean Service, NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program, Office of Response and Restoration, N/ORR, Room 10102, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Final applications should be submitted electronically to: www.grants.gov, the Federal grants portal. If internet access is unavailable, hard copies can be submitted David Kennedy, NOAA National Ocean Service, NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program, Office of Response and Restoration, N/ORR, Room 10102, 1305 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Applicants are required to include one original and two copies of the signed, hard/paper Federal financial assistance forms for each final application package that is not submitted through www.grants.gov.

E. Application Review Information

1. Evaluation Criteria

Once a full application has been received by NOAA, an initial administrative review is conducted to determine compliance with requirements and completeness of the application.

Merit review is then conducted by peer reviewers. Applications will be peer-reviewed by a minimum of 3 individuals with coral reef and fisheries management experience on the weighted evaluation criteria listed below, as evidenced by information in the application. Each reviewer will individually evaluate and rank proposals using the evaluation criteria provided below. A minimum of three merit reviewers per proposal is required. The merit reviewers' ratings are used to produce a rank order of the proposals.

- a) Importance and/or relevance and applicability of proposed project to the program goals (25%): This ascertains whether there is intrinsic value in the proposed work and/or relevance to NOAA, federal, regional, state, or local goals and priorities. For this competition, the proposal should demonstrate the need for the proposed coral reef management activity to fill gaps in the jurisdiction's management capacity;
- b) Technical/scientific merit (25%): This assesses whether the approach is technically sound and/or innovative, if the methods are appropriate, and whether there are clear project goals and objectives for this management activity.
- c) Overall qualifications of applicants (20%): This ascertains whether the applicant possesses the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to accomplish the project. For this competition, the proposal should demonstrate coordination with applicable ongoing local, state, territorial, and Federal coral reef management activities;
- d) Project costs (20%): The Budget is evaluated to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the project needs and time-frame. For this competition, the budget should reflect the ability of the work to be completed for the funding and timing proposed.
- e) Outreach and education (10%): NOAA assesses whether this project provides a focused and effective education and outreach strategy regarding NOAA's mission to protect the Nation's natural resources.

2. Review and Selection Process

Once the peer review has been completed, a Federal agency team of representatives from NMFS, OCRM, and OIA will review the applications, pursuant to equally weighted criteria described in Section X(3) of the Guidelines and comments received from peer reviewers. Based on this review, the team will make a preliminary funding recommendation for each jurisdiction. OCRM and DOI will provide the preliminary funding recommendation and application comments to each selected jurisdiction. These comments will include input from peer reviewers and the Federal agency team and are intended for use in the applicant's development of the final application.

Upon receipt of the final application, complete with the requisite Federal financial assistance forms, the Federal agency team will review the complete package and make final funding recommendations based on the response to comments that were returned to the applicant. The team will submit these funding recommendations to the NOAA review panel for final review, pursuant to Section X(4) of the Guidelines. The Federal Agency team may review the ranking of the proposals and make recommendations to the Selecting Official based on the mail and/or panel review(s) and selection factors listed below. The Selecting Official selects proposals after considering the mail and/or peer panel review(s) and recommendations of the Federal Agency

team. In making the final selections, the Selecting Official will award in rank order unless the proposal is justified to be selected out of rank order based upon one or more of the selection factors below. The Program Officials and/or Selecting Official may negotiate the funding level of the proposal. The Selecting Official makes final recommendations for award to the Grants Officer who is authorized to obligate the funds.

3. Selection Factors

In addition to the to equally weighted criteria described in Section X(3) of the Guidelines and comments received from peer reviewers, the following selection factors will be used:

1. Availability of funding
2. Balance/distribution of funds:
 - a. Geographically
 - b. By type of institutions
 - c. By type of partners
 - d. By research areas
 - e. By project types
3. Whether this project duplicates other projects funded or considered for funding by NOAA or other federal agencies
4. Program priorities and policy factors. These are listed in State and Territory Coral Reef Management section, A.2., above.
5. Applicant's prior award performance
6. Partnerships and/or Participation of targeted groups
7. Adequacy of information necessary for NOAA staff to make a NEPA determination and draft necessary documentation before recommendations for funding are made to the Grants Officer.

F. Award Administration Information

1. Award Notices

The NOAA Grants Officer will provide written notice of the award by postal mail to the appropriate business office of the recipient. Unsuccessful applications will be destroyed and not returned to the applicant. It is the goal of the NOAA Program Officer to also provide written notice to each unsuccessful applicant before September 30, 2006.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Indirect Costs

The budget may include an amount for indirect costs if the applicant has an established indirect cost rate with the Federal government. Indirect costs are essentially overhead costs for basic operational functions (e.g., utilities, rent, insurance) that are incurred for common or joint objectives and, therefore, cannot be identified specifically within a particular project. For this solicitation, the Federal share of the indirect costs awarded will not exceed the lesser of either the indirect costs that the applicant would be entitled to if the negotiated Federal indirect cost rate were used or 25 percent of the Federal direct costs proposed. For those situations in which the

use of the applicant's indirect cost rate would result in indirect costs greater than 25 percent of the Federal direct costs proposed, the difference may be counted as part of the non-Federal share. A copy of the current, approved negotiated indirect cost agreement with the Federal Government must be included with the application. If the applicant does not have a current negotiated rate and plans to seek reimbursement for indirect costs, documentation necessary to establish a rate must be submitted within 90 days of receiving an award.

If an application is selected for multi-year funding, NOAA has no obligation to provide any additional prospective funding in connection with that award in subsequent years. Any subsequent proposal to continue work on an existing project must be submitted to the competitive process for consideration and will not receive preferential treatment. Renewal of an award to increase funding or to extend the period of performance is at the total discretion of NOAA.

The recipients must comply with Executive Order 12906 regarding any and all geospatial data collected or produced under grants or cooperative agreements. This includes documenting all geospatial data in accordance with the Federal Geographic Data Committee Content Standard for digital geospatial data.

The Program uses only the existing NOAA Federal financial assistance awards package requirements per 15 CFR parts 14 and 24.

The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements

The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the Federal Register notice of December 30, 2004 (69 FR 78389) are applicable to this solicitation.

Limitation of Liability

In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs if these programs fail to receive funding or are cancelled because of other agency priorities. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

NOAA must analyze the potential environmental impacts, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for applicant projects or proposals which are seeking NOAA Federal funding opportunities. NOAA has completed a programmatic Environmental Assessment of the NOAA Coral Grants Program. This document streamlines NOAA's review of coral grant applications.

Detailed information on NOAA compliance with NEPA can be found at the following NOAA NEPA website: <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/>, including our NOAA Administrative Order 216-6

for NEPA, http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/NAO216_6_TOC.pdf, and the Council on Environmental Quality implementation regulations, http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/regs/ceq/toc_ceq.htm).

Consequently, as part of an applicant's package, and under their description of their program activities, applicants are required to provide detailed information on the activities to be conducted, locations, sites, species and habitat to be affected, possible construction activities, and any environmental concerns that may exist (e.g., the use and disposal of hazardous or toxic chemicals, introduction of non-indigenous species, impacts to endangered and threatened species, aquaculture projects, and impacts to coral reef systems).

In addition to providing specific information that will serve as the basis for any required impact analyses, applicants may also be requested to assist NOAA in drafting of a project-specific environmental assessment, if NOAA determines an assessment is required. Applicants will also be required to cooperate with NOAA in identifying feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of their proposal. The failure to do so shall be grounds for the denial of an application.

3. Reporting

Performance and Financial Reports - Recipients receiving funding will be required to submit semiannual performance reports and copies of all products that are developed under the award. The specific information, products, or data contained in the performance report can be determined by the NOAA office responsible for the program and applicant in pre-award negotiations or, the recipient will submit performance reports according to the Department of Commerce, Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions. Performance reports must be submitted to the NOAA office responsible for the program within 30 days after each semi-annual performance period via NOAA Grants Online.

Unless otherwise authorized, semi-annual financial reports will be submitted in accordance with the Department of Commerce, Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions to the Grants Officer at NOAA Grants Management Division.

G. Agency Contact(s)

Technical point of contact for State and Territory Coral Reef Management is Dana Wusinich-Mendez at 301-713-3155, extension 159 or e-mail at dana.wusinich-mendez@noaa.gov, or Jennifer Kozlowski at 301-713-3155 extension 243 or e-mail at jennifer.kozlowski@noaa.gov. FAX; 301-713-4367. Address: OCRM/NOAA, N/-ORM3, 1305 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD, 20910.