

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Federal Agency Name(s): Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), National Oceanic And Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce

Funding Opportunity Title: Climate Program Office for FY 2010

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: NOAA-OAR-CPO-2010-2001720

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 11.431, Climate and Atmospheric Research.

Dates: Full applications for all Competitions must be received by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, August 31, 2009.

Funding Opportunity Description: NOAA's Climate Mission is to understand climate variability and change to enhance society's ability to plan and respond. The long-term climate efforts of NOAA are designed to develop a predictive understanding of variability and change in the global climate system, and to advance the application of this information in climate-sensitive sectors through a suite of process research, observations and modeling, and application and assessment activities.

The NOAA Climate Program Office coordinates climate activities across all NOAA in fulfillment of NOAA's Climate Mission. The Program partners with Federal, academic, private, and international research institutions; the Program is also a key contributing element of the U.S. Climate Change Science Program (CCSP).

## FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT

### I. Funding Opportunity Description

#### A. Program Objective

Changing climate confronts us with significant economic, health, safety, and national security implications. NOAA has a significant responsibility in operational observation, research, prediction, and information management efforts for the climate and global change study effort.

NOAA's climate mission is to "understand climate variability and change to enhance society's ability to plan and respond." This is an end-to-end endeavor whose overall objective is to provide decision-makers with a predictive understanding of the climate and to communicate climate information so that the public can incorporate it into their decisions.

The NOAA Climate Program Office (CPO) enhances NOAA's ability to achieve its climate mission through: 1) managing a competitive research program that funds high-priority climate science to advance understanding of atmospheric and oceanic processes as well as impacts and opportunities associated with changing climate conditions; 2) providing of strategic guidance and oversight for the agency's climate science and services programs; and 3) assisting in the lead of NOAA's climate communication, education, and professional development and training activities. CPO builds on NOAA's long-standing capabilities in climate variability and change research and prediction and partners with Federal, academic, private, and international organizations and agencies.

NOAA's climate programs are key contributing elements of the interagency U.S. Climate Change Science Program (CCSP) and are addressing climate initiatives outlined in the CCSP that encompasses both the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) and the Climate Change Research Initiative (CCRI).

#### B. Program Priorities

In FY 2010, NOAA will accept individual applications for the Competitions listed below. The names and contact information of relevant Competition Managers are also provided. Investigators are highly encouraged to visit the Climate Program Office (CPO) website (<http://www.climate.noaa.gov>) for general program information prior to submitting applications.

##### 1. Atmospheric Composition and Climate (ACC):

The Atmospheric Composition and Climate (ACC) Program pursues research to improve the predictive understanding of the radiative forcing of the climate system by aerosols and by chemically active greenhouse gases, including the role of water vapor in the upper troposphere in altering the radiative forcing directly and via its influence on aerosols and

other chemically active greenhouse gases. The integrated research activities that address these objectives involve field and laboratory studies, instrument development, regional to global observations, and theoretical modeling by NOAA and extramural partners. Primary emphasis is on utilizing process research to contribute to the improvement of climate modeling ability for decision support.

In FY 2010, the ACC Program is soliciting proposals for research in the following areas:

1) Participation in the proposed CalNex field campaign in California in 2010 (<http://www.arb.ca.gov/research/fieldstudy2010/fieldstudy2010.htm>);

2) Innovative research pertaining to the improvement of understanding of aerosol direct and indirect (aerosol-cloud) forcings, through studies targeting processes or measurements related to atmospheric composition or studies aimed at improving the capability of climate models to simulate the influence of aerosol effects on the Earth's radiative balance.

An information sheet containing further details on FY 2010 ACC priorities can be found at <http://www.climate.noaa.gov/opportunities/acc.html>. For additional information, investigators should contact Edward Dunlea ([edward.dunlea@noaa.gov](mailto:edward.dunlea@noaa.gov), 301-734-1202).

## 2. Climate Change Data and Detection (CCDD):

The goal of the Climate Change Data and Detection (CCDD) Program is to provide data and information management support to assure the availability and analysis of critical data sets for a variety of programs and assessments, both national and international, e.g., the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and the U.S. Climate Change Science Program (CCSP). The data and resulting products will extend the existing long-term climate record and serve as essential input (initialization, calibration, validation) for predictive models. CCDD provides support for documenting variations in climate on time scales ranging from less than one year to periods of 100 years and longer. Support is also provided for the analysis of observed climate variations and changes to monitor the state of the climate system and to identify causes that are consistent with Earth's long-term climate history.

In FY 2010, the CCDD Program is soliciting proposals for research in the following areas:

1) Development of climate reference data sets and analyses of these data sets to identify variability and trends;

2) Climate change detection and attribution studies, in joint sponsorship with the Department of Energy's Climate Change Prediction Program;

3) Paleoclimate studies, with an emphasis on high-resolution, multiproxy reconstructions of key climate variables for the period of the Holocene to support the interpretation of the modern climate record.

Each of the three theme areas incorporates the broad use of observational data and modeling results at global and regional scales and the development of uncertainty estimates. Historical and projected weather and climate extremes that have significant impacts on natural and human systems are an area of emphasis across the themes.

Information sheets containing further details on FY 2010 CCDD priorities can be found at <http://www.climate.noaa.gov/opportunities/ccdd.html>. For additional information, investigators should contact the NOAA program managers, Chris Miller ([christopher.d.miller@noaa.gov](mailto:christopher.d.miller@noaa.gov), 301-734-1241) or Bill Murray ([william.l.murray@noaa.gov](mailto:william.l.murray@noaa.gov), 301-734-1243), and, for detection and attribution studies, the NOAA program managers and/or Anjuli Bamzai at DoE ([anjuli.bamzai@science.doe.gov](mailto:anjuli.bamzai@science.doe.gov), 301-903-0294, fax: 301-903-8519).

### 3. Climate Prediction Program for the Americas (CPPA):

The Climate Prediction Program for the Americas (CPPA) is a competitive research program with a goal to improve operational intraseasonal to interannual climate and hydrologic predictions for the Americas with quantified uncertainties sufficient for making informed decisions. To achieve its goal, CPPA has the following major objectives: to improve the predictive understanding and model simulation of ocean, atmosphere and land-surface processes, to quantify the sources and limits of predictability of climate variations on intra-seasonal to interannual time scale, to advance NOAA's operational climate forecasts, monitoring, and analysis systems and to develop climate-based hydrologic forecasting capabilities for decision support and water resource applications.

In FY2010, CPPA is soliciting proposals for research in the following areas:

- 1) Climate predictability and process studies;
- 2) Modeling and prediction studies;
- 3) Climate-based application development.

An information sheet containing further details on FY 2010 CPPA priorities can be found at [http://www.climate.noaa.gov/cpo\\_pa/cppa/](http://www.climate.noaa.gov/cpo_pa/cppa/). For additional information, investigators should contact Jin Huang ([jin.huang@noaa.gov](mailto:jin.huang@noaa.gov), 301-734-1226,) or Annarita Mariotti ([annarita.mariotti@noaa.gov](mailto:annarita.mariotti@noaa.gov), 301-734-1237).

### 4. Climate Test Bed (CTB) Research Program:

The National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) and the Climate Program

Office are jointly sponsoring the Climate Test Bed (CTB) Research Program. The objective of the NCEP's CTB is to improve operational methodologies and techniques leading to improved quality and applicability of NOAA operational climate forecasts, products, and applications. The goal of the CTB Research Program is to support research that forms a foundation for potential transition of research advancements into the CTB. The CTB will provide a testing environment for short-term competitive applied research and development projects. Scientists from the broad research community, other NOAA organizations and NCEP are expected to jointly carry out competitive CTB Research Program projects. For further details on the Climate Test Bed, visit <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/ctb/>.

In FY 2010, the CTB Research Program is soliciting proposals for research in the following areas:

- 1) Climate Forecast System Improvements;
- 2) Evaluation of Multi-Model Ensembles;
- 3) Drought Forecast Products with an emphasis on support of the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS).

An information sheet containing further details on FY 2010 CTB priorities can be found at <http://www.climate.noaa.gov/opportunities/CTB.html>. For additional information, investigators should contact Jin Huang ([jin.huang@noaa.gov](mailto:jin.huang@noaa.gov), 301-734-1226,) or Annarita Mariotti ([annarita.mariotti@noaa.gov](mailto:annarita.mariotti@noaa.gov), 301-734-1237).

#### 5. Climate Variability and Predictability (CVP):

In support of NOAA's prediction mission, the Climate Variability and Predictability (CVP) Program seeks to understand the role and inherent predictability of coupled ocean-atmosphere interactions in the global climate system over sub-decadal and longer timescales with an emphasis on climatic impacts over North America.

For FY 2010, in consideration of the upcoming Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fifth Assessment, the CVP Program is soliciting proposals that aim to advance our understanding of decadal climate predictability, with a particular focus on coupled ocean-atmosphere interactions in the Atlantic and Pacific sectors that influence North American climate. Priority will be given to those proposals that have the greatest likelihood to contribute directly to NOAA's goal of developing a decadal climate prediction system.

An information sheet containing further details can be found at <http://www.climate.noaa.gov/opportunities/cvp.html>. For additional information, investigators should contact James Todd ([james.todd@noaa.gov](mailto:james.todd@noaa.gov), 301-734-1258).

## 6. Global carbon Cycle (GCC):

The goal of the Global Carbon Cycle (GCC) Program is to improve our ability to predict the fate of anthropogenic carbon dioxide and future atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations using a combination of atmospheric, terrestrial and oceanic observations, process-oriented field studies and modeling.

In FY 2010 the GCC Program is soliciting proposals for research in the following areas:

- 1) Research leading to better understanding of key processes and sources of uncertainty for projections of future greenhouse gas concentrations, such as the impacts of ocean acidification on the carbon cycle, or CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> fluxes from rapidly warming high latitudes.
- 2) Specific improvements on how key processes or parts of the carbon cycle are represented in climate or earth system models so that the models are not limited to the present day conditions but can perform well under scenarios involving significant change.
- 3) Novel ways to measure biogeochemical variables crucial for the global carbon cycle in the ocean or the atmosphere, which would drastically reduce the cost per measurement and enable much higher spatial and temporal resolution than what is feasible today. These may include but are not limited to low-power, stable sensors that could be deployed in large numbers on autonomous platforms, drifters, profiling floats, towers or commercial aircraft.

An information sheet containing further details on FY 2010 GCC priorities can be found at <http://www.climate.noaa.gov/opportunities/gcc.html>. For additional information, investigators should contact Kenneth Mooney ([kenneth.mooney@noaa.gov](mailto:kenneth.mooney@noaa.gov), 301-734-1242).

## 7. Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA):

The Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) program supports integrated, place-based research across a range of social, natural, and physical science disciplines to expand decision makers' options in the face of climate change and variability at the regional level. It does this in a manner that is cognizant of and analyzes the context decision-makers function within and the constraints they face in managing their climate sensitive resources. RISA possesses three distinct qualities: (1) fostering interdisciplinary research and assessment synthesis; (2) improving our understanding of and bridging the gap among climatic, environmental and societal interactions on different temporal and spatial scales; and (3) contributing to regional decision support and climate information service. A successful RISA program requires innovative and embedded long-term partnerships among a spectrum of interested parties including Federal, State, Native, regional, local and private entities. Proposals must demonstrate partnership among institutions focused on the region and build on existing efforts within the region to study the impacts of climate and expand integrated social, physical, and natural science

research in support of climate services. Projects can be up to 5 years in duration.

For FY 2010, the RISA program is soliciting proposals to fund one RISA team per region in up to 6 regions of the U.S. Proposals from the following regions will not be considered (the RISAs in these regions are not up for re-competition at this time):

- a. Alaska/Arctic;
- b. Carolinas;
- c. Southern Plains;
- d. Desert Southwest.

A region is defined as 2 or more adjacent states, a state plus adjacent islands, or a basin that crosses more than one state.

An information sheet containing further details on FY 2010 RISA priorities can be found at <http://www.climate.noaa.gov/opportunities/risa.html>. For additional information, investigators should contact Caitlin Simpson ([caitlin.simpson@noaa.gov](mailto:caitlin.simpson@noaa.gov), 301-734-1251).

#### 8. Sector Applications and Research Program (SARP):

The Sector Applications Research Program (SARP) is designed to catalyze and support interdisciplinary applied research, outreach and education activities that enhance the capacity of key socio-economic sectors and systems to respond to and plan for climate variability and change through the use of climate information and related decision support resources. SARP pursues its objectives through the establishment of sector projects that are composed of a combination of competitive applications research, decision support resource development, outreach and community building, and establishing productive partnerships with sector-specific decision-making and scientific entities. These research projects and partnership efforts must: a) involve stakeholders in the design and assessment of the research; and b) develop and communicate innovative and transferable methods, knowledge, information, and/or tools for understanding and adapting to a changing climate. The program serves as a mechanism for the creation, dissemination and exchange of climate-related research findings and decision support resources critical for understanding and addressing resource management challenges in vital social and economic sectors.

In FY 2010, the SARP Program is soliciting proposals in the following sectors/areas:

- 1) Coasts
- 2) Water
- 3) Coping with Drought in support of the National Integrated Drought Information

## System (Drought)

An information sheet containing further details on FY 2010 SARP priorities can be found at <http://www.climate.noaa.gov/opportunities/sarp.html>. For additional information regarding SARP - Coasts, investigators should contact Adrienne Antoine ([Adrienne.Antoine@noaa.gov](mailto:Adrienne.Antoine@noaa.gov) (301) 734-1201) and for SARP – Water or Drought investigators should contact Nancy Beller-Simms ([nancy.beller-simms@noaa.gov](mailto:nancy.beller-simms@noaa.gov), 301-734-1205).

## 9. U.S. CLIVAR Climate Process Teams

As part of its activities, the U.S. CLIVAR Interagency Group (IAG) has proposed the concept of Climate Process Modeling Teams (CPTs), whose purpose is to speed development of global coupled climate models by bringing together theoreticians, observationalists, process modelers and the large modeling centers to concentrate on the leading problems confronting models.

It is the objective of the CPTs to bridge the gaps among the field and remote sensing observation programs, process models, and global modelers by building new communities, in which those with observational expertise and data, those with highly detailed process models, and those building global models work together to address systematically the critical issues that limit progress in improving global climate models. The CPT is envisioned to support collaborations that will accelerate progress in climate model development.

In collaboration with interagency partners, in FY 2010, NOAA CPO is soliciting proposals for one or more CPTs. An information sheet containing further details can be found at <http://www.climate.noaa.gov>. For additional information, investigators should contact Jin Huang ([jin.huang@noaa.gov](mailto:jin.huang@noaa.gov), 301-734-1226) or James Todd ([james.todd@noaa.gov](mailto:james.todd@noaa.gov), 301-734-1258).

### C. Program Authority

49 U.S.C. 47720(b), 15 U.S.C. 2904, 15 U.S.C. 2931-2934

## II. Award Information

### A. Funding Availability

In FY 2008, approximately \$14M in first-year funding was available for 102 new awards. While similar funds and number of awards are anticipated in FY 2010, the number of new awards and funding levels depends upon the final FY 2010 budget appropriations. It is anticipated that awards will depend upon the program, but for the office as a whole be up to three years in length and cost between \$50,000 and \$200,000 per year (e.g., awards from the Sector Applications Research Program are limited to \$150,000 per year.) Federal funding for FY 2011 may be used to fund some awards submitted under this



Competition. Current or previous grantees are eligible to apply for a new award that builds on, but does not replicate, activities covered in the current or previous award. Current grantees should not apply for supplementary funding through this announcement.

#### B. Project/Award Period

This Program Announcement is for projects to be led by principal investigators outside the Federal Government, primarily over a 1, 2, or 3 year period, though this timeframe is program-specific as well (e.g., awards from the Sector Applications Research Program are limited to 2 Years).

#### C. Type of Funding Instrument

The funding instrument for awards will be a grant. If however, it is anticipated that NOAA will be substantially involved in the implementation of the project, the funding instrument should be a cooperative agreement. Examples of substantial involvement may include, but are not limited to, applications for collaboration between NOAA scientists and a recipient scientist or technician or contemplation by NOAA of detailing Federal personnel to work on proposed projects. NOAA will make decisions regarding the use of a cooperative agreement on a case-by-case basis. Funding for contractual arrangements for services and products for delivery to NOAA is not available under this announcement.

### III. Eligibility Information

#### A. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, other nonprofits, commercial organizations, international organizations, and state, local and Indian tribal governments. Federal agencies or institutions are not eligible to receive Federal assistance under this notice.

#### B. Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

None

#### C. Other Criteria that Affect Eligibility

None

### IV. Application and Submission Information

#### A. Address to Request Application Package

Application packages are available at Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>) "Apply for Grants". For applicants without Internet access, please contact the CPO Grants Manager Diane Brown by mail at NOAA Climate Program Office (R/CP1), SSMC3, Room 12112, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 to obtain an Application Package.

Please allow two weeks after receipt for a response.

## B. Content and Form of Application

### 1. Full Application

Full applications are limited to 30 pages using 12-pitch type with one-inch margins on standard 8.5 by 11 inch paper. For full applications with 3 or more Principal Investigators the page limitation is increased to 35. The page limit includes figures, itemized budget, vitae, abstract, references, current and pending support and appendices. Appended information may not be used to circumvent the page length limit. Federal Forms (SF424, SF424A, SF424B, CD511), the NEPA Statement and other Federally mandated forms are not included within the page count.

The following forms and elements are required in each application. Failure to comply with these provisions will result in applications being returned without review.

(1) Title page: The title page shall identify the Principal Investigator (PI) and the institutional representative and should clearly indicate which Competition is being addressed. If more than one investigator is listed on the title page, please identify the lead investigator. The PI and institutional representative should be identified by full name, title, organization, telephone number and address. For paper submissions, the PI and the institutional representative must sign the title page. The total amount of Federal funds being requested should be listed for each budget period.

(2) Abstract: An abstract must be included and should contain an introduction of the problem, rationale and a brief summary of work to be completed. The abstract should appear on a separate page, headed with the application title, institution(s), investigator(s), total proposed cost and budget period.

(3) Results from prior research: The results of each prior research project by the Principal Investigators (during the last 3 years) relevant to the proposed effort should be summarized in brief paragraphs. This section should not exceed two pages.

(4) Statement of work: The proposed project must be completely described, including identification of the problem, scientific objectives, proposed methodology, relevance to the goal of the Climate Program and the priorities of the Program to which you are submitting the proposal (listed above). Benefits of the proposed project to the general public and the scientific community and data sharing procedures should be discussed. The statement of work, including references, but excluding figures and other visual materials, must not exceed 15 pages of text. Applications from 3 or more investigators may include a statement of work containing up to 15 pages of overall project description plus up to 5 additional pages for individual project contributions.

(5) Budget Justification: A brief description of the expenses listed on the budget and how they address the proposed work. Item justifications must include salaries, equipment, publications, supplies, tuition, travel, etc. Note that these justifications are considered

part of the 30-page limit, while the required SF424 and SF424A are not part of the page limitation.

(6) Budget: Budget numbers corresponding with the descriptions contained in the statement of work must be included. In addition to including the total budget on the SF424, the application must include the total budget and budgets for years 1, 2, and 3 in separate columns in Section B on page 1 on the SF424A. (Note that this revised 424A Section B format is a NOAA requirement that is not reflected in the Instructions for the SF 424A).

A copy of the institutions current Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, a detailed itemized budget for all years and a total itemized budget must also be included. Travel must be itemized to include destination, airfare, per diem, lodging and ground travel.

(7) Vitae: Abbreviated curriculum vitae are sought with each application. Reference lists should be limited to all publications in the last three years with up to five other relevant papers.

(8) Current and pending support: For each Principal Investigator and Co-Principal Investigator(s), submit a list of all current and pending Federal support that includes project title, supporting agency with grant number, investigator months per year, dollar value and duration. Requested values should be listed for pending support.

(9) DUNS Number: All applications must have a DUNS (Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System) number when applying for Federal. No application is deemed complete without the DUNS number and only the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) may grant exceptions.

(10) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): NOAA must analyze the potential environmental impacts, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), of each applicant's project that is seeking NOAA federal funding opportunities. Detailed information on NOAA's compliance with NEPA can be found at the following NOAA NEPA website: <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/>, including the NOAA Administrative Order 216-6 for NEPA, [http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/NAO216\\_6\\_TOC.pdf](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](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 project 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 an 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 application. The failure to do so shall be grounds for not selecting an application. In some cases if additional information is required after an application is selected, funds can be withheld by the Grants Officer under a special award condition requiring the recipient to submit additional environmental compliance information sufficient to enable NOAA to make an assessment on any impacts that a project may have on the environment.

No NEPA information is required with the initial application. NEPA information may be requested after review of the application if NOAA determines such information is required (as discussed above).

### C. Submission Dates and Times

#### 1. Full Application

Full applications for all Competitions must be received by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, August 31, 2009. Applications received after that time will not be considered for funding. For applications submitted through grants.gov a date and time receipt indication is included and will be the basis of determining timeliness. Hard copy submissions will be date and time stamped when they are received in the Climate Program Office. Faxed or emailed copies of applications will not be accepted.

Important: All applicants, both electronic and paper, should be aware that adequate time must be factored into applicant schedules for delivery of the application. Electronic applicants are advised that the volume on Grants.gov is currently extremely heavy, and if Grants.gov is unable to accept applications electronically in a timely fashion, applicants are encouraged to exercise their option to submit applications in paper format. You should contact the Grants.Gov office in the event you are having difficulty submitting an application electronically. Paper applicants should allow adequate time to ensure a paper application will be received on time, taking into account that guaranteed overnight carriers are not always able to fulfill their guarantees.

### D. Intergovernmental Review

Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of federal programs.

### E. Funding Restrictions

Fees and Profit are disallowed.

### F. Other Submission Requirements

None.

## V. Application Review Information

## A. Evaluation Criteria

### 1. Importance/Relevance and Applicability of Application to the Program Goals (50%)

This criterion ascertains whether there is intrinsic value in the proposed work and/or relevance to NOAA, federal, regional, state, or local activities. For the CPO Grant Program Competition, this includes importance and relevance to the scientific priorities of the selected Competition(s).

### 2. Technical/Scientific Merit (50%)

This criterion assesses whether the approach is technically sound and/or innovative, if the methods are appropriate, and whether there are clear project goals and objectives.

### 3. Overall Qualifications of Applicants (0%)

This criterion assesses whether the applicant, and team members, possess the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to accomplish the project. For the CPO Grant Program Competition, this criterion is not scored.

### 4. Project Costs (0%)

This criterion evaluates the budget to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the project needs and time frame. For the CPO Grant Program Competition, this criterion is not scored.

### 5. Outreach and Education (0%)

This criterion assesses whether the project provides a focused and effective education and outreach strategy regarding NOAA's mission to protect the Nation's natural resources. For the CPO Grant Program Competition, this criterion is not scored.

## B. Review and Selection Process

Once a full application has been received, an administrative review will be conducted to determine compliance with requirements and completeness of the application.

Independent peer mail reviewers and/or independent peer panel reviewers consisting of both Federal and non-Federal experts will evaluate full applications in accordance with the evaluation criteria listed above. The panel will not give consensus advice. The identity of mail reviewers and panel reviewers are privileged.

If a peer panel review is conducted, the scores from each peer panel reviewer for each application will be averaged to produce a single numerical score for the application. Occasionally a reviewer may, due to lack of familiarity in a particular area, choose not to

score a particular application. The average scores for all applications result in a numerical rank order within each Competition.

If peer mail review and peer panel review are both conducted, the available peer mail reviews will be provided to the peer review panel for use in its deliberations prior to providing its ratings.

If only a peer panel review or both a peer panel review and a peer mail review are conducted, the Competition Manager will use the numerical rank order of the peer review panel to determine funding recommendations.

If only a mail peer review is conducted, the Competition Manager will use the rank numerical order of the mail reviews to determine funding recommendations.

The Competition Manager will recommend applications to the Selecting Official in numerical rank order unless a recommendation out of rank order is justified based upon any of the factors listed in the following section. The Competition Manager will review the amounts requested for each selected application (including costs for computing and networking services) and recommend the total duration and the amount of funding, which may be less than the application and budget requested. The Selecting Official will review the recommendations.

### C. Selection Factors

The Selecting Official shall select award in rank order unless a selection out of rank order is justified based upon any of the following factors:

1. Availability of funding
2. Balance/distribution of funds
  - a. Geographically
  - b. By type of institutions
  - c. By type of partners
  - d. By research area
  - e. By project types
3. Duplication of other projects funded or considered for funding by NOAA/Federal agencies
4. Program priorities and policy factors
5. Applicant's prior award performance
6. Partnerships with/Participation of targeted group

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.

The Selecting Official makes final recommendations for award to the Grants Officer who is authorized to obligate the funds.

#### D. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

Subject to the availability of funds, review of applications will occur during the 5 months following the full applications due date. CPO anticipates that funding decisions on applications will be made by January 31, 2010 subject to/contingent on the final FY 2010 appropriation for NOAA by Congress and final allocation of funds to CPO by NOAA. Funding for successful applicants are expected to begin during spring 2010 for most approved projects. Applications should use May 1, 2010, as the Start Date unless otherwise directed by the Competition Manager.

### VI. Award Administration Information

#### A. Award Notices

Successful applicants will receive notification that the application has been recommended for funding by an official of the NOAA Climate Program Office. This notification is not an authorization to begin performance of the project. Official notification of funding, signed by a NOAA Grants Officer, is the authorizing document that allows the project to begin. Notifications will be issued to the Authorizing Official and the Principle Investigator of the project. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified that their application was not selected for recommendation.

#### B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

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 February 11, 2008 (73 FR 7696) is applicable to this solicitation.

#### Limitation of Liability

In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for application preparation costs. Publication of this announcement in no way obliges NOAA to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

#### National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

The National Environmental Policy Act is applicable to the Notice. See Section IV above for the necessary information.

### C. Reporting

Award recipients are required to submit financial and technical progress reports. These reports are to be submitted electronically via grants.gov unless the recipient does not have Internet access, in which case hard copy submissions will be accepted. All hard copy financial reports shall be submitted in triplicate (one original and two copies) to the NOAA Grants Officer. All hard copy technical progress reports shall be submitted to the identified Competition Manager. The first technical progress report covering the first 9 months of a multi-year award is due 10 months after the start date of the award. Each subsequent technical progress report covering a period of 12 months is due 12 months after the previous report. The comprehensive final technical progress report is due 90 days after the expiration date of the award.

### VII. Agency Contacts

Please visit the CPO website for further information <http://www.climate.noaa.gov/> or contact the CPO Grants Manager, Diane Brown by mail (see address above). Please allow up to two weeks after receipt for a response.

### VIII. Other Information

None