

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Federal Agency Name: National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce

Funding Opportunity Title: FY 2008 Integrated Ocean Observing System Regional Association Support

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: NOS-CSC-2008-2001073

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 11.473, Coastal Services Center

Dates: Proposals must be received by no later than 5:00 p.m. ET, August 22, 2007.

Funding Opportunity Description: The Integrated Ocean Observing System Development Plan (OceanUS, 2006) calls for an integrated system of observations that support national and regional priorities. Regional priorities are to be determined by a comprehensive effort to engage stakeholders at the local and regional level. The responsibility for such engagement is directed to IOOS Regional Associations.

With the guidance of Regional Associations to understand regional priorities and coordinate regional observing implementation, regional coastal ocean observing systems RCOOSs provide the types of data, information, and products needed to address the estuarine and coastal issues experienced by the different regions. IOOS Regional Associations provide the network and organization to ensure that local and regional data collection meets national as well as local needs.

For the past few years, NOAA has been funding entities, through competitively awarded cooperative agreements, to engage stakeholders in the formation of IOOS Regional Associations. Proposals submitted under this announcement will further engage stakeholders in the formalization of the IOOS Regional Association. Projects funded under this announcement are expected to build on previous progress of the IOOS Regional Association and engage stakeholders in the conduct of the regional association, design a regional system to optimize deployment to meet regional needs, and coordinate with stakeholders (data providers, information users, and other interested parties) to achieve a unified network of data acquisition, management, and product development.

FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT

I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Program Objective

The Integrated Ocean Observing System Development Plan (OceanUS, 2006) calls for an integrated system of observations that support national and regional priorities. Regional priorities are to be determined by a comprehensive effort to engage stakeholders at the local and regional level. The responsibility for such engagement is directed to IOOS Regional Associations. Eleven such Regional Associations (RAs), presently in differing stages of formation, are addressing stakeholder needs for data and information products. The IOOS Development Plan distinguishes between those observing and data infrastructure components managed directly by federal agencies to meet national priorities (termed the National Backbone) and those infrastructure components managed at the regional level, termed Regional Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (RCOOS). The two are co-dependent components of one IOOS.

The IOOS is envisioned as a sustained and operational coastal and ocean observing system with Regional Associations (RAs) providing coordination at the regional level. Development of regional observing system capacity has taken place largely at the sub-regional level, through the efforts of individual institutions, companies, and organizations. Under guidance by the RAs, the RCOOS shall be developed in a manner that addresses the regional priorities. These priorities will guide the design of the regional system to optimize the data collection infrastructure, data delivery, and product development for the region. It is imperative that the RCOOS be developed in concert with National Backbone assets if we are to achieve the goals of the Integrated Ocean Observing System. This entails that system design, operation, and information delivery be done in a manner that takes advantage of existing federal assets within the region as well as observing and data management capabilities already established and those presently being improved through community efforts. This responsibility falls to the Regional Associations, working in concert with local data providers and the federal agencies.

Through this funding announcement NOAA desires to maintain momentum achieved through prior investment in development of Regional Associations. It is NOAA's intent, that by FY10, Regional Associations have reached a maturity to provide routine quality controlled data that meets local, regional and national priorities. During the course of this project, NOAA expects that Regional Associations will complete all steps necessary toward certification, in the event that NOAA is given the authority to certify Regional Associations. Steps toward implementation include development of a system design for the collection and delivery of data and information products. Previous investment by NOAA in sub-regional observing systems should be incorporated, as practical, into regional designs. Applicants are encouraged to work closely with potential applicants to other NOAA funding opportunities for IOOS support, as NOAA desires close coordination between the Regional Associations and deployment of observing system assets.

Applicants are expected to be cognizant of and in compliance with the standards and protocols for sharing and archiving of data in support of IOOS. Applicants should be familiar with the Ocean.US Development Plan and the Ocean.US/DMAC guidance documents (see Section VIII for References). Recipients are expected to participate in community endeavors to advance the DMAC component of IOOS.

B. Program Priorities

Under this announcement, IOOS Regional Association Support, the Center seeks to fund projects that will build on the substantial progress made in engaging regional IOOS stakeholders and establishing IOOS Regional Associations. NOAA is particularly interested to receive proposals that firmly establish IOOS Regional Associations, consistent with the Ocean.US plan for an Integrated Ocean Observing System, as key elements in the development of a regional ocean observing systems.

Proposals should clearly articulate an approach and time line to engage stakeholders to achieve the following objectives:

- Formalization and active engagement of the Regional Association governance structure, including a stakeholder council;
- Refinement and updating of an organizational operating plan (e.g., business plan) that guides the Regional Association's communications, management, and operations;
- Completion and refinement of a needs assessment for IOOS information in the region;
- Development and refinement of a website that displays a common identity with other components of IOOS, including other regional associations and has common pathways to obtain information.
- Refinement and documentation of regional priorities and requirements for observing system information;
- Design of a regional observing system to address the priorities; this plan should articulate types and locations of sensors, data management and distribution operations, and product development;
- Concept of Operations document prepared and approved by governance body.
- Communication and coordination with other Regional Associations and with federal agencies to ensure interoperability of data and information products.

For the past few years, NOAA has invested in the development of IOOS Regional Associations as a means to engage stakeholders at the local and regional level in the pursuit of a comprehensive IOOS. NOAA expects that, during the course of this award period, Regional Associations will achieve the maturity required to implement regional observing systems.

The program priorities for this opportunity support NOAA's mission goals to:

- Serve society's needs for weather and water information;

- Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management;
- Understand climate variability and change to enhance society's ability to plan and respond;
- Support the Nation's commerce with information for safe, efficient, and environmentally sound transportation.

C. Program Authority

Statutory authority for this program is provided under Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1456c (Technical Assistance); 33 U.S.C. 883d; and 33 U.S.C. 1442 (Research program investigating possible long-range effects of pollution, overfishing, and anthropogenically-induced changes of ocean ecosystems).

D. Cost Principles

N.A.

II. Award Information

A. Funding Availability

Total anticipated funding for all awards is approximately \$4,500,000 and is subject to the availability of FY 2008 and FY 2009 appropriations. Multiple awards are anticipated from this announcement. The anticipated federal funding per award (min-max) is approximately \$300,000 to \$400,000 per year. The anticipated number of awards is approximately eleven (11).

B. Project / Award Period

This is a multi-year funding opportunity. Proposals may be for one to two years with an option for a third year. Funding for years two and three are subject to availability of funds in those years.

When a multi-year proposal is approved, funding initially will be provided for only the first year of the program. Funding in years two and three is contingent upon availability of funds from Congress, satisfactory performance, and is at the sole discretion of the agency.

C. Type of Funding Instrument

Applications should be written as cooperative agreements and the proposal should clearly identify this funding instrument in the proposal abstract. A cooperative agreement is appropriate to indicate a substantial role of the federal government in the development of IOOS. Under this mechanism, the federal government has agreed to be substantially involved by enhancing capacity to achieve project goals. Examples of federal

involvement include enhancing use of data and tools; convening partners and building diverse teams to accomplish broad based work; meeting planning and facilitation; instructional design; familiarity with coastal issues and coastal resource managers; development of spatial databases, models, and analyses to address the identified management needs; guidance in the development of social, economic and other human dimension information and analyses; and design of Geographic Information System (GIS), Internet products, and system architectures. Applicants should discuss prospective roles in the project with those federal partners and clearly articulate those roles and responsibilities in the proposal. If the NOAA Coastal Services Center is proposed as a partner in a cooperative agreement, applicants should clearly articulate those roles and responsibilities and discuss prospective roles in the project after notification that the proposal is successful.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

Eligible funding applicants are institutions of higher education, non-profit and for-profit organizations, and state, local and Indian tribal governments. Federal agencies or institutions and foreign governments may not be the primary recipient of awards under this announcement, but are encouraged to partner with applicants when appropriate. Federal partners must identify the relevant statutory authorities that will allow for the receipt of funds.

If applicants will have partners who would receive grant funds, the lead grantee will be expected to provide funds using subcontracts or other appropriate mechanisms to the project partners. If the partners are federal agencies other than NOAA, the grantee and the federal partner must use interagency agreements or otherwise take steps relevant to their organizations to ensure that funds can be transferred by the primary grantee and received by any federal partners.

If a federal partner is a NOAA office, the funds will be transferred internally. Before non-NOAA Federal applicants may be funded, they must demonstrate that they have legal authority to accept funds in excess of their appropriation. Because of the nature of this competition, the Economy Act (31 USC 1535) is not an appropriate authority.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

N.A.

C. Other Criteria that Affect Eligibility

None

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Address to Request Application Package

Application packages for full proposals are available through Grants.gov APPLY. If an applicant does not have Internet access, application packages can be requested from Lisa Holmes. Contact her by mail at 2234 South Hobson Avenue, Charleston, South Carolina, 29405-2413; or by phone at 843-740-1256 or via e-mail at < *Lisa.Holmes@noaa.gov* >.

B. Content and Form of Application:

Applicants must follow the proposal application requirements stated in this announcement or applications will not be considered.

Applications must total no more than 20 pages (double-spaced, 12-point font and exclusive of appendices). The 20-page limit does not include the proposal title page, a table of contents if one is included, and any appendices, but it does include the project summary referenced below under item two (2). Appendices should be limited to materials that directly support the main body of the proposal (e.g., detailed budget information, support letters, resumes, references, lists of data sources, and maps).

Applicants should paginate their proposal and any appendices. Appendices may be paginated as stand alone documents (individually) or collectively.

All funding application packages must contain the following components:

1. Title Page (Proposal Cover Sheet). Include proposal title, complete contact information for the Lead Principal Investigator and Financial Representative, duration of proposed project, funding type (grant or cooperative agreement), and funding request by year (as appropriate).
2. Project Summary. Provide a one to two-page summary of the proposed project. The summary should be prepared to be readable to a broad audience and contain the following sections:
 - a. Project Name/Title
 - b. Primary Contact (name, address, phone, fax, e-mail)
 - c. Recipient Institution
 - d. Other Investigators (name, affiliated institution or agency)
 - e. Brief Project Summary including objectives and intended benefits
 - f. Partners
3. Project Description.

All project descriptions (proposals) must include the following sections:

 - a. Goal(s) and Objective(s). Describe in the narrative the specific project goals and objectives to be achieved. Goals and objectives should be specific for each year of the work plan presented. Project goals and objectives must include objectives specific to the coordination and design of a regional component of IOOS. Recipients will be required to submit

semi-annual progress reports in which progress against these goals and objectives will be reported.

- b. **Background.** Provide sufficient background information for NOAA and non-NOAA reviewers to independently assess the significance of the proposed project. Summarize the problem to be addressed and the status of ongoing efforts to address the identified needs. Summarize the relationship of the proposed work to other regional or national efforts to develop IOOS.
- c. **Audience.** Identify potential users of the results of the project, describe how they will use the results, and identify any training that will be needed for users to make full use of the results.
- d. **Approach.** Provide a work plan that: identifies specific tasks to be accomplished; explains the technical approach (including quality assurance) needed to accomplish the tasks; identifies the roles of partners and cooperators; and identifies potential obstacles to successful completion of the goals and objectives. Describe how potential users are involved in the planning and design process. Describe the specific steps that will be taken to ensure that the proposed project is consistent with, and supportive of the IOOS development plans. If the project includes federal partners, the roles and responsibilities of the federal partners must be clearly identified.
- e. **Benefits.** Identify, with a high degree of specificity, the potential users of the information derived from the work, and the benefits that will be achieved for those users, as well as society as a whole. Document how valid user requirements are guiding the proposed work. Describe how the information from the project will be delivered to those users, and any special considerations or requirements for ensuring or improving the delivery of information. Explain how this project contributes to the establishment of IOOS at the regional and national level.
- f. **Milestone Schedule.** Display time lines for major tasks, target milestones for important intermediate and final products, and key project outcomes.
- g. **Project Budget.** Provide a budget description that follows the categories and formats in the NOAA grants package (Standard Form 424-A) and a brief narrative justification of the budget.

Detailed budget information, such as a repeat of the information in Form SF424A along with more details should be included in an appendix. In this appendix, the budget narrative also shall clearly identify the cost of separable elements of the proposed work and shall identify the elements of the project that the cooperator would recommend for revision or elimination in the event that sufficient funding is not available for all proposed activities. Applicants must itemize and describe the intended use of equipment greater than \$5,000 in value to be purchased under the award. The budget narrative must also provide the cost and description of

anticipated travel. Applicants should allocate travel funds for IOOS coordination meetings at regional and national levels. Foreign travel must receive prior approval and should be anticipated in the proposal to the extent possible.

If NOAA is requested to perform any work as part of the project, please be advised that the work to be performed must be reflected in the project description and budget. The budget should clearly show where all funds will go and how the funds will be used. Applications for federal assistance (form 424 and 424a) must show the total amount LESS what goes to NOAA partner. Detailed budget and budget justification in proposal should show the total amount including that which goes to NOAA partner and should include text stating that the applicant wishes for NOAA to retain those funds and have these funds used by the NOAA partner office.

4. Appendices

- a. Mandatory Detailed Budget Information, including budgets of subawards.
- b. Resumes. Provide resumes of the Principal Investigator for the project and other key personnel critical to the success of the project. Ensure that resumes address qualifications relevant to conducting the proposed work. Please limit resumes to a maximum of two pages for each key investigator.
- c. 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. Detailed information on NOAA compliance with NEPA can be found at the following NOAA NEPA Web site < <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).

NOAA may require follow-up information after the application process has been completed. 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 and implementing 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 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.

Applicants are required to answer the questions indicated in this Announcement of Federal Funding Opportunity. Applicants should answer the NEPA questions to the best of their ability with as much detail as possible. If the applicant does not answer all of the questions indicated in the Announcement of Federal Funding Opportunity the application may be considered incomplete.

Some of the questions may overlap with material provided in other parts of the application. This overlap occurs because the answers to the questionnaire are provided to NOAA staff who do not review the other parts of the application. If appropriate, the applicant may copy the information from other parts of the application and paste it into the answers to the questionnaire. Many questions have a “yes” or “no” response. If the response is “no” the applicant does not need to elaborate on their answer. If the response is “yes” the question will have a second part asking the applicant to provide more information.

Applicant NEPA questions are as follows:

Question C1. Is the proposed activity going to be conducted in partnership with NOAA or would the proposed activity require NOAA’s direct involvement, activity, or oversight? If yes, describe NOAA’s involvement, activity, or oversight, including the name of the office or program that is involved.

Question C2. Would the proposed activity involve any other federal agency(ies) partnership, direct involvement, activity, or oversight? If yes, provide the name(s) of the agency(ies) and describe its involvement, activity, or oversight.

Question D1. Provide a brief description of the location of the proposed activity.

Question E1. List any federal, state, or local permits, authorizations, or waivers that would be required to complete the proposed activity. Provide the date the permit, authorization, or waiver was obtained or will be obtained. Provide copies of the permit, authorization, or waiver as appropriate. Was a NEPA analysis prepared for the permit, authorization, or waiver? If yes, state the title of the NEPA analysis and provide copies of the NEPA analysis.

Question F1. Is there the potential for the proposed activity to cause changes that would be different from normal ambient conditions (e.g., temperature, light, turbidity, noise, other human activity levels, etc.)? If yes, describe the changes and the circumstances that would cause these changes.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

Public reporting burden for this collection of NEPA information is estimated to average 3 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other suggestions for reducing this burden to Ms. Shelby Mendez, NOAA Office of Program Planning and Integration, SSMC 3, Room 15718, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD, 20910. The information collection does not request any proprietary or confidential information. No confidentiality is provided.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subjected to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

C. Submission Date and Time

Proposals must be received through Grants.gov no later than 5:00 p.m. ET, August 22, 2007. If applicants do not have Internet access and submit through surface mail, proposals must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. ET, August 22, 2007. For proposals submitted through < <http://www.grants.gov> >, a date and time receipt indication by Grants.gov will be the basis of determining timeliness. Hard copy applications delivered by mail will be date and time stamped when they are received. Applications received after that time will not be reviewed or considered.

C. Intergovernmental Review

Funding applications under the Center are subject to Executive Order 12372,

“Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.” It is the state agency’s responsibility to contact their state’s Single Point of Contact (SPCO) to find out about and comply with the state’s process under EO 12372. To assist the applicant, the names and addresses of the SPOCs are listed in the Office of Management and Budget’s home page at < <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/spoc.html> >.

E. Funding Restrictions

None

F. Other Submission Requirements

Proposal application packages should be submitted through Grants.gov APPLY.

If an applicant does not have Internet access, the applicant must submit through surface mail one set of originals (signed) and two copies of the proposals and related forms to the Coastal Services Center. No e-mail or fax copies will be accepted. Proposal application packages submitted by mail must be received by NOAA Coastal Services Center no later than 5:00 p.m. ET, August 22, 2007. Any U.S. Postal Service correspondence should be sent to the attention of Lisa Holmes, NOAA Coastal Services Center, 2234 South Hobson Avenue, Charleston, South Carolina, 29405-2413.

All proposal package material must be submitted through Grants.gov or through surface mail by the submission deadline, including any letters of support.

V. Application Review Information

A. Evaluation Criteria

1. Importance/relevance and applicability of proposal to the program goals. This criterion ascertains whether there is intrinsic value in the proposed work and/or relevance to NOAA, federal, regional, state, or local activities. (30 percent).

This criterion ascertains whether there is intrinsic value in the proposed work and relevance to NOAA’s activities and objectives for designing and coordinating the regional component of the IOOS. Proposals will be evaluated on how well the proposed project will achieve the specific goals of the announcement.

2. Technical and scientific merit (30 percent). 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. Questions relevant to this criterion include: Is the approach appropriate for the stated goals and objectives? Are the project goals and objectives achievable within the proposed time-frame? Does the proposed approach have a high probability of engaging appropriate stakeholders and producing an appropriate and flexible design of a regional observing system?

3. Overall qualifications of the funding applicants (10 percent). This criterion ascertains whether the funding applicant possesses the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to accomplish the project. Questions relevant to this criterion include: Does the proposal demonstrate regional and institutional support for the project? Are the investigators qualified and is the organizational framework appropriate to conduct a project of the nature and scope proposed? Are investigators from other agencies and institutions within the region included as key personnel on the project to capitalize on available expertise and promote a regional approach?
4. Project costs (15 percent). This criterion evaluates the budget to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the project needs and time-frame. Questions relevant to this criterion include: Does the proposal demonstrate that the budget is commensurate with project needs? Is the cost effectiveness of the project optimized through strategic partnerships with collaborating institutions, agencies, or private sector partners?
5. Outreach and education (15 percent). This criterion assesses whether the project provides a focused and effective education and outreach strategy regarding NOAA's mission to understand and protect the Nation's natural resources. Questions relevant to this criterion include: Does the proposed project demonstrate that the target user community has been fully engaged in development of the desired project outcomes? Does the proposal demonstrate that information generated by the project will be shared broadly and have a positive impact on the development of regional and national observing system capacity?

B. Review and Selection Process

An initial administrative screening is conducted to determine compliance with requirements/completeness. All proposals will be evaluated and individually ranked in accordance with the assigned weights of the above evaluation criteria by at least three independent peer reviewers. The merit reviewer's ratings are used to produce a rank order of the proposals. The Selecting Official will award in the rank order unless proposals are justified to be selected out of rank order based upon one or more of the selection factors provided below. The Selecting Official may negotiate the funding level of the proposal. The Selecting Official will make the final recommendation for award to the Grants Officer, who is authorized to obligate the funds and execute the award.

C. Selection Factors

The merit review ratings shall provide a rank order to the Selecting Official for final recommendation to the Grants Officer. The Selecting Official shall award according to rank order unless the proposal is justified to be selected out of rank order based upon one or more 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 areas
 - 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 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.

D. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

The start date on proposals should be on May 1, 2008; or the first day of the month of a month after May 2008.

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notice

Applications recommended for funding by the selecting official will be forwarded to the NOAA Grants Management Division (GMD) by the Program Office. The applicant will be notified by the program office by e-mail that their application was recommended for funding. The applicant must be aware that the notification by the program office is NOT the official award notice. Official notification happens only when the applicant receives an award notice from the Grants Officer either by postal mail or electronically.

Unsuccessful applications for all Coastal Services Center programs will be destroyed and not returned to the applicant.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

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

Administrative and national policy requirements for all Department of Commerce awards are contained in 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). A copy of the notice may be obtained at < <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/search.html> >.

Limitation of Liability: In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be

responsible for proposal preparation costs if these programs are cancelled because of other agency priorities. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project or to provide special fishing privileges.

C. Reporting

Reporting: Grant recipients will be required to submit financial and performance (technical) progress reports electronically through the NOAA Grants On-Line System. Instructions for submitting financial and progress reports will be provided by NOAA Grants Management Division.

VII. Agency Contact(s)

For administrative questions, contact Lisa Holmes, NOAA CSC; 2234 South Hobson Avenue, Room 1-141; Charleston, South Carolina, 29405-2413, or by phone at 843-740-1256, or by fax 843-740-1313, or via e-mail at < Lisa.Holmes@noaa.gov >.

For technical questions regarding this announcement, contact Geno Olmi, NOAA CSC; 2234 South Hobson Avenue, Room 1-132, Charleston, South Carolina, 29405-2413, or by phone at 843-740-1230, or by fax 843-740-1313, or via e-mail at < Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov >.

VIII. Other Information

Official notification of an award notice is provided by the Grants Management Division, not the program office. If one incurs any costs prior to receiving an award agreement from an authorized NOAA grant official, one would do so solely at one's own risk of these costs not being included under the award.

The Coastal Services Center will not release the names of applicants submitting LOIs or proposals unless ordered by a court or requested to do so by an appropriate NOAA official and administrative protocol. Applicants can use a NOAA public search feature to find out information about NOAA awards < <https://grantsonline.rdc.noaa.gov/flows/publicSearch/begin.do;jsessionid=GbZDVT7JqmXqNlm84y2DBn5CpmGR2vJvQKfnX5CLd94YvywZQTZq!-1742093309> > or go through the Freedom of Information Act process to request more information about grant competitions. More information about the NOAA FOI process is on-line at < <http://www.rdc.noaa.gov/~foia/> >.

Successful applicants will be requested to ensure that all progress reports a) clearly state the resulting impact of their project and products in the coastal management community; and b) indicate whether financial reports have been submitted to NOAA's Grants Management Division and are up-to-date. Applicants in their final progress report will be asked to certify that "Final financial reports have been submitted to NOAA's Grants Management Division

and a final funding draw-down has been made through the Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP).”

Please be advised that potential funding applicants must register with Grants.gov before any application materials can be submitted. An organization’s one time registration process may take up to three weeks to complete so please allow sufficient time to ensure applications are submitted before the closing date. To use Grants.gov, applicants must have a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and be registered in the Central Contractor Registry (CCR). Allow a minimum of five days to complete the CCR registration. (Note: Your organization’s Employer Identification Number (EIN) will be needed on the application form.)

The Grants.gov site contains directions for submitting an application, the application package (forms), and is also where the completed application is submitted. Applicants using Grants.gov must locate the downloadable application package for this solicitation by the Funding Opportunity Number or the CFDA number (11.473). Applicants will be able to download a copy of the application package, complete it off line, and then upload and submit the application via the Grants.gov site.

After electronic submission of the application, the person submitting the application will receive within the next 24 to 48 hours two e-mail messages from Grants.gov updating them on the progress of their application. The first e-mail will confirm receipt of the application by the Grants.gov system, and the second will indicate that the application has either been successfully validated by the system prior to transmission to the grantor agency or has been rejected due to errors. After the application has been validated, this same person will receive another e-mail when the application has been downloaded by the federal agency.

References:

Ocean.US, 2002. Building Consensus: Toward an Integrated and Sustained Ocean Observing System (IOOS). Ocean.US, Arlington, VA. 175pp.
< http://www.ocean.us/documents/docs/Core_lores.pdf >.

Hankin, S. and the DMAC Steering Committee, 2005. Data Management and Communications Plan for Research and Operational Integrated Ocean Observing Systems: Interoperable Data Discovery, Access, and Archive. Ocean.US, Arlington, VA. 304 pp.
< http://dmac.ocean.us/dacsc/imp_plan.jsp >.

Ocean.US 2006. The First Integrated Ocean Observing System Development Plan: A Report of the National Ocean Research Leadership Council and the Interagency Committee on Ocean Science and Resource Management Integration. Ocean.US, Arlington, VA. 86 pp.
< <http://www.ocean.us/documents/docs/FINAL-ImpPlan-NORLC.pdf> >.