

COASTAL AND ESTUARINE LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM

CONSERVING THREATENED COASTAL AREAS



Healthy coastal lands can improve water quality, positively impact the economy, and provide flood protection, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities. Maintaining these resources in their natural state may help protect coastal communities from sea level rise and increasing storm activity.

More than 100,000 acres of threatened coastal lands have been protected using NOAA's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP, pronounced "kelp") funding. Authorized under the National Coastal Zone Management Act, funding is provided to states and communities as appropriated, with a minimum 1:1 match. Priority is given to threatened areas with significant ecological value.

To date, this program has supported projects in 29 states.

Funding Information

The program accepts applications each year funding is available.

To learn more, see the reverse of this page, and visit coast.noaa.gov/czm/landconservation.



Program Goals

This conservation program provides matching funds to state and local governments to purchase threatened coastal and estuarine lands, or to obtain conservation easements. To be considered, the land must be important ecologically or possess other coastal conservation values such as historic features, scenic views, or recreational opportunities.

Other important considerations include lands that

- Protect coastal ecosystems, wetlands, corals, and natural shorelines;
- Preserve natural features that provide storm protection, such as dunes and barrier islands;
- Minimize loss of life and property by directing development out of high-risk areas;
- Safeguard coastal water quality;
- Preserve historic, cultural, and archaeological features;
- Protect aesthetic coastal features and scenic vistas; and
- Provide opportunities for public access to the coast.

Project Eligibility

To compete for funding, prospective projects must

- Be in a state, trust territory, or commonwealth with a federally approved coastal zone management program or national estuarine research reserve, and that has developed a Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program plan for NOAA approval;
- Complement (not conflict with) working waterfront needs;
- Advance the goals, objectives, or implementation of federal, regional, state, or local coastal management initiatives, including the state's coastal management program, Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program plan, and other applicable plans;
- Be submitted by an eligible public entity, that is, a state agency, local government, or other authority, such as a park district;
- Provide for nonfederal public ownership in perpetuity; and
- Provide nonfederal matching resources in the form of cash or in-kind contributions at a 1:1 ratio.

Process

Each year, subject to available funding, NOAA runs a funding competition with two phases—a state competition and a national competition. NOAA initiates the competition by issuing a federal funding opportunity notice that includes eligibility information, including who may apply, how many proposals each eligible coastal state or territory may submit, and how much funding may be requested for each project.

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