

Information about NOAA Office for Coastal Management Grants (September 2016)

Grant announcements for continuing and new programs, including any amendments to announcements, are posted on Grants.gov.

Grants.gov allows organizations to find and apply for competitive grant opportunities not only from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), but also from all federal grant-making agencies. Grants.gov is the single access point for more than 1,000 grant programs and provides access to approximately \$500 billion in annual awards offered by the 26 federal grant-making agencies.

The Office for Coastal Management's competitive grant announcements can be found on Grants.gov by searching under the following Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) numbers:

- 11.419 – Coastal Zone Management Administration (Projects of Special Merit, Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program, NERR Collaborative Science Program)
- 11.420 – Coastal Zone Management Estuarine Research Reserves
- 11.473 – Office for Coastal Management (Bay Watershed Education and Training, Great Lakes Areas of Concern Land Acquisition, Regional Coastal Resilience)
- 11.482 – Coral Reef Conservation Program

NOAA grant applications should be submitted electronically using Grants.gov. Applicants without Internet access may submit hard copy application packages according to the directions stated in the announcement.

The following are common grant terms used by NOAA.

Grant – the legal instrument reflecting a relationship between NOAA and a recipient whenever (a) the principal purpose of the relationship is to transfer money, property, services, or anything of value to accomplish a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by federal statute and (b) no substantial involvement is anticipated between NOAA and the recipient during the performance of the contemplated activity.

Cooperative agreement grant – a project with substantial involvement (e.g., collaboration, participation, or intervention by NOAA or the federal government in the management of the project) anticipated between the government and the recipient during performance of the contemplated activity. Cooperative agreements are subject to the same Office of Management and Budget, Treasury, and other federal agency laws and policies as grants. See 31 U.S.C. 6305.

Letter of intent (LOI) – a concise description of a proposed project and its relevance to program objectives. These descriptions are usually two pages or less, may require specific components, and may be optional or mandatory, all according to guidance in the grant announcement.

Multi-year award – an award with a project period of more than 12 months that is partially funded in year one and subsequently funded in increments. Funding for each year's activity is contingent upon the availability of funds from Congress and satisfactory performance, and is at the sole discretion of the agency.

Multiple year award – a one-year funded award that disperses all funds in year one for a project period that may cover multiple years.

Grant applicants will need to provide assurances in their proposals that reflect applicable federal statutes, regulations, and executive orders.. Recipients will also need to follow any terms and conditions subject to the award. Recipient award letters will identify provisions, terms, and conditions incorporated into awards. NOAA award letters commonly address the following:

- Department of Commerce financial assistance standard terms and conditions
- NOAA administrative standard award conditions
- Grants Online award action request guidance
- Special award conditions
- Line item budget
- Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Award (OMB Uniform Guidance codified under at 2 C.F.R. Part 200)
- Department of Commerce pre-award notification requirements for grants
- Other provisions (as noted in financial assistance awards or amendments – CD-450 and CD-451)

Table 3.0 OMB Uniform Guidance

Regulations (see notes 1 and 2)	State and local governments, Indian tribes, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations
Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards	2 C.F.R. Part 200

Note 1. The Uniform Guidance government-wide requirements, affecting Federal awards to non-Federal entities may also apply to for-profit entities in limited circumstances and to foreign entities as described in this guidance and the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

Note 2. Uniform Guidance applies to all awards and award amendments made on or after December 26, 2014. The award date for a Federal award determines which guidance governs subawards. Subawards must follow the same guidance and requirements as the Federal award.

The audit requirements of the OMB Uniform Guidance apply to audits of non-Federal entities beginning on or after December 26, 2014.

The Uniform Guidance does not apply retroactively to existing awards; therefore, non-Federal entities should continue to follow the award terms and conditions of those awards. The Office of Management and Budget has stated that non-Federal entities that have awards following previous grant requirements and 2 CFR 200 may make entity-wide system changes to comply with the Uniform Guidance without penalty.

Non-Federal entities with awards issued under 2 CFR 200 must immediately comply with the administrative requirements, found in Subpart D of 2 CFR 200, and the cost principles, found in Subpart E of 2 CFR 200. There is one exception to this requirement. OMB has granted a one-year grace period for non-Federal entities to comply with the procurement requirements found at 2 CFR 200.317-.326.

Table 4.0. Common rules applicable to awards made prior to December 26, 2014, to certain types of organizations

Regulations	State, Local, and Indian Tribal Governments	Educational Institutions	Nonprofit Organizations and Individuals	Commercial Organizations
Uniform Administrative Requirements	15 CFR 24	15 CFR 14 (formerly A-110)	2 CFR 215	15 CFR 14 (formerly A-110)
Cost Principles	2 CFR 225 (formerly A-87)	2 CFR 220 (formerly A-21)	2 CFR 230 (formerly A-122)	48 CFR 31.2
Audits	A-133 (\$500K)	A-133	A-133	DCAA

NOAA Standard Evaluation Criteria

Applicants should be aware that NOAA uses five standard evaluation criteria for its competitive assistance programs. A complete explanation of evaluation criteria and the selection process is outlined in all federal funding opportunities, specifically Section V, which is entitled, “Applicant Review Information.”

Evaluation Criteria for Projects

- Importance, relevance, and applicability of proposed project to the program goals. This ascertains whether there is intrinsic value in the proposed work or relevance to NOAA, federal, regional, state, or local activities.
- Technical and scientific merit. This assesses whether the approach is technically sound or innovative, whether the methods are appropriate, and whether there are clear project goals and objectives.
- Overall qualifications of applicants. This ascertains whether the applicant possesses the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to accomplish the project.
- Project costs. The budget is evaluated to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the project needs and time frame.
- Outreach and education. 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.

Successful Grant Proposal Components

- Outline of a collaborative plan between the cooperator and the Office for Coastal Management that makes effective use of each organization's strengths and capabilities.
- Cooperative agreement proposals have explicitly stated the roles and responsibilities of the NOAA Office for Coastal Management, the cooperator, the cooperator's partners, and how these roles will be collectively applied to an effective examination of coastal management issues; investigators have included a plan for the Office for Coastal Management and the cooperator to work together to fully develop more detailed tasks early in the project when roles are unknown.
- An itemized budget and a detailed budget narrative of project costs, including labor, travel, supplies, and other costs.
- Description of a clear quality-control strategy.
- Details on how a broad range of coastal managers will use the products once the project is completed.
- Clear statement of the planned impacts of the project and products in the coastal management community. Information on outputs and outcomes can be found in an on-line course developed by the [University of Wisconsin-Extension](#) (see Section 2, "More about Outcomes").

Impact Statements

Recipients of awards sponsored by the NOAA Office for Coastal Management are commonly requested to clearly state any products developed under financial assistance awards and the resulting impact and outcomes of the project on the coastal management community (e.g., how did or will the recipient's accomplishments make a positive difference?).

Guidance on impact statements, including their importance, what is impact, and ways to write impact statements is provided by Virginia Tech University, Office of Communications and Marketing.

www.communications.cals.vt.edu/resources/impact-statements.html

Guidance on and examples of impact statements are provided by the NOAA Sea Grant Program:

- *www.seagrants.noaa.gov/NetworkResources/EvaluationandReporting/ImpactStatementGuidance.aspx*
- *http://seagrants.noaa.gov/Portals/0/Documents/network_resources/reporting_evaluation/ImpactGuidanceWebinar_May192016_Final.pdf*