

FREQUENT QUESTIONS



Coastal Resilience Networks (CRest) Grant Program

**FY 2013 Disaster Appropriations Act for Coastal Resilience Networks
Federal Funding Opportunity
Number NOAA-NOS-CSC-2013-2003866**

August 2013

NOAA Coastal Services Center
(843) 740-1200
<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/funding>

This special competition of the Coastal Resilience Networks (CRest) grant program is for communities impacted by Hurricane Sandy. Eligible organizations are encouraged to submit projects that will help their communities or region recover from the storm, as well as increase preparedness and resilience for future hazard events. Each project should include both a networks and a programmatic focus. This frequently asked questions document is to help eligible organizations understand the requirements of the grant. Please refer to the full federal funding opportunity for complete application instructions, package, and funding requirements. The full funding opportunity can be found by searching for NOAA-NOS-CSC-2013-2003866 on Grants.Gov or visiting www.csc.noaa.gov/funding.

Who is eligible to apply?

Eligible funding applicants are institutions of higher education, regional authorities, nonprofit and for-profit organizations, Indian tribal governments, and state, county, and local governments conducting projects that support the recovery of communities impacted by Hurricane Sandy in Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, or Maryland.

How much funding is available?

Total anticipated funding for this special competition is approximately \$1,700,000 and is based on congressional appropriations. Proposed projects can be up to 24 months, ranging from \$200,000 to \$500,000 in funding per project. Approximately four to six awards will be selected. No-cost extensions beyond a project period of 24 months will not be approved for this competition. All grant funds under this competition must be expended within 24 months, and any unexpended funds after that 24 month period will be recaptured by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

When are applications due?

Full proposals must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern time on September 30, 2013, using the Grants.gov online system. Please see the full funding opportunity for all application dates and proposal requirements. Proposals received after the submission deadline will not be reviewed or considered.

What do you mean by “networks”?

Each project should create or leverage a human or technical network that improves communication, cooperation, coordination, or collaboration among multiple agencies, organizations, disciplines, jurisdictions, and/or sectors. The ideal project will include a strong collaboration component to bring together all of the stakeholders and players into a project during the early stages. The projects should aim to develop or strengthen a network in which the relationships and collaborative efforts that are created can be leveraged or engaged to solve future problems beyond the life of these grants.

Examples may include professional networks or associations, regional entities, sector-based or topical coordinating bodies, community-based or civic working groups, online communities of practice, data-sharing or interoperability mechanisms, decision-support tools, or other technical systems that connect and leverage a wide range of resources.

Does my project need to create a network?

Some projects may require the creation of an entirely new network or collaborative group to solve the complex problems for a community. If there is an existing collaborative group or network, you may choose to leverage, improve, or use this group instead of “reinventing the wheel.” All projects should directly tie in and engage with either this new, modified, or existing group.

What programmatic area should my project cover?

In addition to leveraging or creating a network, the project must fall into one of two focus areas: ***Hazard Resilient Communities*** or ***Resilient Coastlines***. Each of these focus areas includes an array of different types of projects. There is no one ideal project for each focus area; it all depends on the specific community or region and the issues that the project is trying to solve.

What types of projects fall within the *Hazard Resilient Communities* focus?

Projects in this focus area must enhance the capacity of communities to plan for and implement recovery actions that enhance their resilience to coastal hazards, including the following:

- a. provide tools and information that support the development of comprehensive community recovery and redevelopment plans;
- b. help communities understand, access, analyze, and incorporate information about environmental, economic, and social risk; and
- c. enhance the capacity of communities to understand and plan for changing environmental, economic, and social conditions.

What types of projects fall within the *Resilient Coastlines* focus?

Projects in this focus area must enhance the resilience of coastal areas by providing decision makers with baseline information and technical assistance that support the identification and implementation of natural shoreline restoration.

Can my project include aspects of both *Hazard Resilient Communities* and *Resilient Coastlines*?

While there may be some overlap and direct connections to a project in both of these focus areas, the project should clearly focus on and address only one focus area. Please identify the primary focus of your project in the application cover page.

Can I submit two proposals, one for each focus area?

Yes, an eligible organization can submit multiple proposals for different projects or focus areas. Although your organization may submit multiple proposals, NOAA does have a limited amount of funds available; therefore, NOAA may choose to not fund more than one project from any one entity, organization, or community to allow multiple projects and regions to benefit.

Can I use CRest funds to rebuild a building, road, or do other construction?

Unfortunately, no. CRest funds CANNOT be used for construction. However, funds can be used for planning purposes that may lead up to a community rebuilding of specific areas or buildings.

Will the funding be through cooperative agreements? What does that mean?

Yes, all proposals will be submitted as cooperative agreements. A cooperative agreement is a type of grant that requires federal government involvement. Your proposal should include any activities or roles within your project for any federal entity, and should clearly explain the importance of these activities or roles. In many cases, federal entities, including NOAA, U.S. Geological Survey, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of the Interior, or other agencies, are invited to be a part of a network and may be an integral part of a project team.

How will my project be scored and reviewed?

Each proposal will be reviewed by at least three experts. They may be experts from within your region or community, as well as representatives involved in nationwide efforts. The reviewers will be asked to score and provide comments as outlined in the evaluation criteria that can be found under section V, part A, titled "Evaluation Criteria," of the full federal funding opportunity. We encourage you to review the scoring guidelines as it will help identify important aspects and factors the reviewers will be looking for.

Can NOAA tell me who else is interested in this program from my community?

To avoid conflict of interest and protect your proposal and organization, we will not share your proposal or intent to develop a proposal with any other entity.

Will there be any special reporting or monitoring requirements?

All federal grants require financial and progress reporting, monitoring, and oversight from the granting agency, and this competition will require *quarterly* reporting. This competition is funded through the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act (DRA) of 2013, Public Law 113-2, which requires quarterly financial and progress reports and monitoring by NOAA. If awarded, you should anticipate and plan for staff time to meet with your federal program officer and other NOAA staff members on a quarterly basis.

How do I find more information, download the application package, and submit my proposal?

Please take a thorough look at the full federal funding opportunity. This can be found on the Grants.gov system by searching for number **NOAA-NOS-CSC-2013-200866**. Here you will find the full application package and instructions. The full funding opportunity can also be found by visiting www.csc.noaa.gov/funding.

If I have questions or problems submitting the application into the Grants.gov system, who should I call?

Please visit the Grants.gov Applicant Resources webpage or contact the Grants.gov help desk at support@grants.gov or (800) 518-4726 for any issues or problems uploading or submitting your application.

Who can I call for other programmatic questions?

For questions relating to the *Hazard Resilient Communities* focus, please call or email Darlene Finch at (410) 260-8899 or darlene.finch@noaa.gov.

For questions relating to the *Resilient Coastlines*, please call or email Randy Schneider at (301) 713-3155, ext. 110, or randall.schneider@noaa.gov.

For other questions, or if you don't know who to contact, please call or email James Lewis Free at (843) 740-1185 or james.l.free@noaa.gov, or Penny Larin at (808) 532-3973 or penny.larin@noaa.gov.

Who can I call for grant- and proposal-specific questions?

For questions about the grant application, government forms, or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) questionnaire, please call or email Penny Larin at (808) 532-3973 or penny.larin@noaa.gov.

To see if this FAQ has been updated, or for more information, please visit www.csc.noaa.gov/funding.