

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Federal Agency Name(s): Office of Finance and Administration (NFA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce

Funding Opportunity Title: FY 2010-FY2011 Broad Agency Announcement

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: NOAA-NFA-NFAPO-2010-2002272

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: Multiple

Dates: Full applications can be submitted from the publication date of the Federal Register Notice up to 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time September 30, 2011. Applications received after this time will not be reviewed or considered for funding.

Funding Opportunity Description: The purpose of this notice is to request proposals for special projects and programs associated with the Agency's strategic plan and mission goals, as well as to provide the general public with information and guidelines on how NOAA will select proposals and administer discretionary Federal assistance under this BAA. This BAA is a mechanism to encourage research, education and outreach, innovative projects, or sponsorships that are not addressed through our competitive discretionary programs. It is not a mechanism for awarding congressionally directed funds. Funding for potential projects in this notice is contingent upon the availability of Fiscal Year 2010, Fiscal Year 2011 and Fiscal Year 2012 appropriations. Applicants are hereby given notice that funds have not yet been appropriated for any proposed activities in this notice. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NOAA to review an application beyond an initial administrative review, or to award any specific project, or to obligate any available funds.

FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT

I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Program Objective

The purpose of this notice is to request proposals for special projects and programs associated with the Agency's strategic plan and mission goals, as well as to provide the general public with information and guidelines on how NOAA will select proposals and administer discretionary Federal assistance under this BAA. This BAA is a mechanism to encourage research, education and outreach, innovative projects, or sponsorships that are not addressed through our competitive discretionary programs. It is not a mechanism for awarding congressionally directed funds. Funding for potential projects in this notice is contingent upon the availability of Fiscal Year 2010, Fiscal Year 2011 and Fiscal Year 2012 appropriations. Applicants are hereby given notice that funds have not yet been appropriated for any proposed activities in this notice. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NOAA to review an application beyond an initial administrative review, or to award any specific project, or to obligate any available funds.

B. Program Priorities

As an agency with responsibilities for maintaining and improving the viability of marine and coastal ecosystems, for delivering valuable weather, climate, and water information and services, for understanding the science and consequences of climate change, and for supporting the global commerce and transportation upon which we all depend, NOAA must remain current and responsive in an ever-changing world. We do this in concert with our partners and stakeholders in federal, state, and local governments and private organizations, applying a systematic approach that links our strategic goals through multi-year plans to the daily activities of our employees. Every year we are committed to re-evaluate our progress and priorities, look for efficiencies, and take advantage of new opportunities to improve our information, products, and services. In furtherance of this objective, NOAA issues this BAA for extramural research, innovative projects, and sponsorships (e.g., conferences, newsletters etc.) that address one or more of the following five mission goal descriptions contained in the NOAA Strategic Plan:

1. Protect, Restore, and Manage the Use of Coastal and Ocean Resources through an Ecosystem Approach to Management;

2. Understand Climate Variability and Change to Enhance Society's Ability to Plan and Respond;

3. Serve Society's Needs for Weather and Water Information;

4. Support the Nation's Commerce with Information for Safe, Efficient, and Environmentally Sound Transportation; and

5. Provide Critical Support for NOAA's Mission.

C. Program Authority

The specific program authority will vary depending on the nature of the proposed project. A list of the most prevalent assistance authorities are 15 U.S.C. 1540; 15 U.S.C. 2901 et. seq.; 16 U.S.C. 661; 16 U.S.C. 1456c; 33 U.S.C. 883a-d; 33 USC 893a(a); 33 U.S.C. 1442; 49 U.S.C. 44720(b).

II. Award Information

A. Funding Availability

There are no funds specifically appropriated by Congress for this BAA. Funding for potential projects in this notice is contingent upon the availability of Fiscal Year 2010, Fiscal Year 2011 and Fiscal Year 2012 appropriations. Applicants are hereby given notice that funds have not yet been appropriated for any proposed activities in this notice.

B. Project/Award Period

Anticipated start date, if found meritorious and funding is made available to support the project, generally will be 3-6 months after receipt by NOAA. Applications should generally be submitted for a one year award period, but this may be negotiated if the application is recommended for funding.

C. Type of Funding Instrument

Selected applicants will either enter into a grant or a cooperative agreement depending upon the amount of NOAA's involvement in the project - substantial involvement by NOAA in the project would require a cooperative agreement.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants may be institutions of higher education, nonprofits, commercial organizations, international or foreign organizations or governments, individuals, state, local and Indian tribal governments. Eligibility also depends on the statutory authority that permits NOAA to fund the proposed activity. Refer to the CFDA in order to determine an applicant's

eligibility.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

Cost sharing is not required unless it is determined that a project can only be funded under an authority that requires matching/cost sharing funds.

C. Other Criteria that Affect Eligibility

None

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Address to Request Application Package

Electronic application packages are strongly encouraged and are available through grants.gov and can be searched for using Funding Opportunity Number NOAA-NFA-NFAPO-2010-2002272. Grants.gov requires applicants to register with the system prior to submitting an application. This registration process can take several weeks and involves multiple steps. In order to allow sufficient time for this process, you should register as soon as you decide to apply even if you are not ready to submit your proposal. For those applicants without internet access, application forms can be acquired by contacting the individuals listed under the FOR INFORMATION CONTACT section.

B. Content and Form of Application

1. Format Requirements.

All pages should be single-spaced and should be composed in at least 11-point font with one-inch margins on 8 x 11 paper. The project description may not exceed 15 pages, exclusive of title page, project synopsis, literature cited, budget information, resumes of investigators, and letters of support (if any). Failure to follow the requirements may result in the rejection of the application and subsequent return.

Any PDF or other attachments that are included in an electronic application must meet the above format requirement when printed out.

2. Content Requirements.

The following information should be included:

a. Signed SF-424: The SF-424 must be signed by the authorized representative. Electronic signatures submitted through grants.gov satisfy this requirement.

b. Title Page (1-page limit): The title page identifies the project's title, total budget, start

and end dates; and the PI's and co-PI's names, affiliations, complete mailing addresses, email addresses, telephone numbers and fax numbers. The title page must also identify the specific NOAA office (e.g., NESDIS, NMFS, NOS, NWS, OAR or Office of Education) and the NOAA program targeted by the proposal.

c. Project Synopsis (1-page limit): It is critical that the project synopsis accurately describes the project being proposed and conveys all essential elements of the activities. It is imperative that potential applicants tie their proposals to one of the NOAA mission goals described in Section I.B. of this and state it here in the synopsis.

d. Project Description (15-page limit): The applicant should describe and justify the project being proposed and address each of the evaluation criteria as described below in Section V. Project descriptions should include clear objectives and specific approaches to achieving those objectives, including methods, timelines, and expected outcomes.

e. Literature Cited: If applicable

f. Budget and Budget Justification: The SF-424A must be completed, and there should be a detailed budget justification accompanying the SF-424 budget forms (SF-424A non-construction or SF-424C construction, as appropriate). Indicate matching funds if provided in a separate column. Provide justifications for all budget items in sufficient detail to enable the reviewers to evaluate the appropriateness of the funding requested. The budget justification should be broken out and detailed using the same budget categories as the SF-424 budget form (SF-424A or SF-424C).

g. Assurances: The SF-424B must be completed and submitted for all non-construction applications, and the SF-424D must be completed and submitted for all construction applications.

h. Certification regarding debarment, suspension and other responsibility matters; drug free workplace requirements and lobbying: The applicant must complete and submit the federal form CD-511.

i. Resumes for each major participant.

j. Standard Application Forms: Please refer to the application package available through Grants.gov. Please review each form to determine which are required with submission. Each applicant may not be required to submit all forms listed, depending on the project type or applicant type.

k. NEPA Questionnaire. Applicants do not need to provide answers to the NOAA NEPA Questionnaire at this time. However, NOAA may require additional information from the applicant regarding potential environmental impacts prior to reviewing the application.

C. Submission Dates and Times

Full applications can be submitted on a rolling basis starting from the publication date of this Federal Register Notice up to 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time September 30, 2011. Applications received after this time will not be reviewed or considered for funding. Applications shall be evaluated for funding generally within 3 to 6 months of receipt. An applicant can expect to receive either a rejection notice based on the initial prescreening review (if found ineligible), a rejection notice based on merit review or program restrictions, a request for additional information, and/or an award within that timeframe.

D. Intergovernmental Review

Applications submitted by state and local governments are subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs." Any applicant submitting an application for funding is required to complete item 16 on the SF-424 regarding clearance by the State Single Point of Contact (SPOC) established as a result of EO 12372. To find out about and comply with a State's process under EO 12372, the names, addresses and phone numbers of participating SPOC's are listed in the Office Management and Budget's home page at www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/spoc.html

E. Funding Restrictions

None, unless required by the statute under which the award is funded.

F. Other Submission Requirements

The CFDA number will vary depending on the nature of the proposed project. The applicant should consult the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance series 11.400 - 11.481 as well as 11.008, 11.011, and 11.012 and select from the subset of CFDA's applicable to this BAA to select the most accurate program for the proposed project. The CFDA will also provide the reader with the eligibility requirements in order to determine if an applicant can apply under that particular CFDA. Link to the catalog for NOAA programs:

<https://www.cfda.gov/index?s=agency&mode=form&tab=program&id=9b783860a3fa35875ee9755a486c438b>

CFDA	Line Office	CFDA	Line Office	CFDA	Line Office
11.008	OED	11.011	OAR	11.012	NOS
11.400	NOS/NMFS	11.437	NMFS	11.457	NMFS
11.417	OAR	11.438	NMFS	11.459	OAR
11.419	NOS	11.439	NMFS	11.460	NOS/OAR
11.420	NOS	11.440	NESDIS	11.462	NWS
11.426	NOS	11.441	NMFS	11.463	NMFS/NOS
11.427	NMFS	11.443	NWS	11.467	NWS
11.428	NESDIS	11.444	NMFS	11.468	NWS/OAR
11.429	NOS	11.445	NMFS	11.472	NMFS/NOS
11.430	OAR	11.449	OAR	11.473	NOS
11.431	OAR	11.450	NWS	11.477	NMFS
11.432	OAR	11.452	NMFS	11.478	NOS
11.433	NMFS	11.454	NMFS	11.480	NOS
11.436	NMFS	11.455	NMFS	11.481	OED

V. Application Review Information

A. Evaluation Criteria

A. Evaluation Criteria

NOAA has standardized evaluation criteria for all competitive assistance

announcements. The criteria for this BAA are listed below. Applicants are required to adhere to all the noted submission requirements and to provide a demonstrable link and/or to emphasize manner in which study objectives results will serve to support NOAAs mission goals/priorities. Since proposals responding to this BAA may vary significantly in their activities/objectives, assigning a set weight for each evaluation criterion is not feasible but is based on a total possible score of 100. The Program Office and/or Selection Official will determine which of the following criteria and weights will be applied. Some proposals, for example sponsorships, may not be able to address all the criteria like technical/scientific merit. However, it is in your best interest to prepare a proposal that can be easily evaluated against these five criteria.

1. Importance and/or relevance and applicability of proposed project to the mission goals:

This ascertains whether there is intrinsic value in the proposed work and/or relevance to NOAA, federal, regional, state, or local activities: i.e., How does the proposed activity enhance NOAA's strategic plan and mission goals? Proposals should also address significance/possibilities of securing productive results, i.e., Does this study address an important problem?; If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge be advanced?; What will be the effect of these studies on the concepts or methods that drive this field?; What effect will the project have on improving public understanding of the role the ocean, coasts, and atmosphere in the global ecosystem? Proposals may also be scored for innovation, i.e., Does the project employ novel concepts, approaches or methods? Are the aims original and innovative? Does the project challenge existing paradigms or develop new methodologies or technologies?

2. Technical/scientific merit:

This assesses whether the approach is technically sound and if the methods are appropriate, and whether there are clear project goals and objectives. Proposals should address the approach/soundness of design: i.e., Are the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well-integrated, and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics? This criterion should also address the applicant's proposed methods for monitoring, measuring, and evaluating the success or failure of the project, i.e., What are they? Are they appropriate?

3. Overall qualifications of applicants:

This ascertains whether the applicant possesses the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to accomplish the project. If appropriate, proposals should also address the physical environment and collaboration, if any, i.e., Does

the environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Do the proposed experiments or activities take advantage of unique features of the intended environment or employ useful collaborative arrangements?

4. Project costs:

The Budget is evaluated to determine if the cost is reasonable, allowable, allocable and necessary it is realistic, and commensurate with the project needs and time-frame.

5. 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 environmental resources. For example, how will the outcomes of the project be communicated to NOAA and the interested public to ensure it has met the project objectives over the short, medium or long term? Does the project address any of the goals or employ any of the strategies of the NOAA Education Plan (http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/NOAA_Ed_Plan.pdf)?

B. Review and Selection Process

Upon receipt of a full application by NOAA, an initial administrative review will be conducted to determine eligibility for award, compliance with requirements and completeness of the application. This review includes determining whether:

1. Sufficient funds are available in the budget of the program office receiving the application to support the proposed project;
2. Statutory authority exists to provide financial assistance for the project or organization;
3. A complete application package has been submitted;
4. The Project Description/Narrative is consistent with one or more of NOAA's mission goals; and,
5. The proposal falls within the scope of an existing NOAA competitive announcement (Federal Register Notices can be found at www.Grants.gov to find recent competitive announcements) or duplicates an existing nondiscretionary project announced or awarded in FY08, FY09, FY10 or FY11 (if it does, it cannot be funded under this announcement); and,
6. The work in the proposal directly benefits NOAA (if it will, it should be supported by a procurement contract, not a financial assistance award which cannot be

funded under this announcement, as provided in 31 U.S.C. 6303).

Applications not passing this initial review will not be considered further for funding through this BAA, and will not receive further review. NOAA will evaluate proposal(s) that pass this initial review and comply with all the requirements under this BAA individually (i.e., proposals will be not compared to each other). A merit review will be conducted by mail reviewers and/or peer panel reviewers. Each reviewer will individually evaluate the proposal(s) using the evaluation criteria provided above; a minimum of three merit reviewers per proposal is required. The reviewers may be any combination of Federal and/or non-federal personnel. The proposal(s) will be individually scored (i.e., a consensus is not reached) unless all reviewers are Federal employees. If all of the reviewers are Federal employees, the program officer has the discretion to authorize a score based on consensus. NOAA selects evaluators on the basis of their professional qualifications and expertise as related to the unique characteristics of the proposal. The NOAA Program Officer will assess the evaluations and make a fund or do-not-fund recommendation to the Selecting Official based on the evaluations of the reviewers. Any application considered for funding may be required to address the issues raised in the evaluation of the proposal by the reviewers, Program Officer, Selecting Official, and/or Grants Officer before an award is issued.

7. Applications

Applications not selected for funding in FY2010 or FY2011 may be considered for funding from FY2012 funds but may be required to revalidate the terms of the original application or resubmit in the next BAA cycle if one is published for FY2012. The Program Officer, Selecting Official and/or Grants Officer may negotiate the final funding level of the proposal with the intended applicant. The Selecting Official makes the final recommendation for award to the NOAA Grants Officer who is authorized to commit the Federal Government and obligate the funds.

C. Selection Factors

Not Applicable

D. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

Subject to the availability of funds, awards are expected to be made 3 to 6 months after

receipt by NOAA of the full application. Given this time frame, applicants applying in Fiscal Year 2011 should take into consideration that submissions received after March 31, 2011 may not be able to be awarded in FY2011.

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notices

The notice of award is signed by the NOAA Grants Officer and is the authorizing document. All recipients shall become enrolled in NOAA's Grants Online system if they have Internet access. Every effort will be made to electronically review, approve, and transmit for acceptance of the award to the appropriate authorized organization representative of the recipient organization.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

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 February 11, 2008 (73 FR 7696). 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. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

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.pdf, NEPA Questionnaire,

<http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/questionnaire.pdf>, and the Council on Environmental Quality implementation regulations, http://ceq.hss.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). 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 proposal. 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.

C. Reporting

Financial reports are to be submitted to the NOAA Grants Officer identified in the award and Performance (technical) reports are to be submitted to the Federal Program Officer. Unless otherwise specified by terms of the award, program and financial reports are to be submitted semi-annually. Program reports should include progress on identified milestones. Unless otherwise specified by the terms of the award, reports must be submitted electronically through NOAA Grants Online (<https://grantsonline.rdc.noaa.gov/flows/home/Login/LoginController.jspf>).

VII. Agency Contacts

National Environmental Satellite Data Information Service (NESDIS)

Guch, Ingrid

Phone Numbe: 301-763-8282

Hqtr. Route: E/RA1

Bldg: WWBG RM: 701

5200 Auth RD

Camp Springs MD 20746-4304

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

Namur, Daniel

Phone Number: 301-713-1364

Hqtr. Route: F/MB2

Bldg: SSMC3 Rm: 14358

1315 East-West Hwy

Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

National Ocean Service (NOS)

Piercy, Jane

Phone Number: 301-713-3050

Hqtr. Route: N/MB3

Bldg: SSMC4 Rm: 13250

1305 East-West Hwy

Silver Spring MD 20910-3281

National Weather Service (NWS)

Contorno, Sam

Phone Number: 301-713-3557

NWS Hqtr Route: W/CFO2

Bldg: SSMC2 Rm: 18394

1325 East-West Hwy

Silver Spring MD 20910

Office of Atmospheric Research (OAR)

Schroeder, Sharon

Phone Number: 301-713-2474

Hqtr. Route: R/OM61

Bldg: SSMC3 Rm: 11464

1315 East-West Hwy

Silver Spring MD 20910-3282

NOAA Office of Education (OED)

Schoedinger, Sarah

Phone Number: 704-370-3528

Bldg: HCHB Room: 6863

1401 CONSTITUTION AVE., NW

Washington DC 20230-0001

VIII. Other Information

FOIA- Freedom of Information Act

Department of Commerce regulations implementing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) are found at 15 C.F.R. Part 4, Public Information. These regulations set forth rules for the Department regarding making requested materials, information, and records publicly available under the FOIA. Applications submitted in response to this Federal Funding Opportunity may be subject to requests for release under the Act. In the event that an application contains information or data that the applicant deems to be confidential commercial information which is exempt from disclosure under FOIA, that information should be identified, bracketed, and marked as Privileged, Confidential, Commercial or Financial Information. Based on these markings, the confidentiality of the contents of those pages will be protected to the extent permitted by law.