

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

Funding Opportunity Title: FY11 Coastal Resilience Networks

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: NOAA-NOS-CSC-2011-2002464

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

Dates: Letters of Intent (LOIs). The deadline for receipt of LOIs is 5:59 p.m. Hawaii Time on August 2, 2010. For LOIs submitted by e-mail, the date and time indication of the receiving server will be the basis of determining timeliness. Note that receipt may be delayed if e-mail servers are not functioning efficiently. Applicants submitting multiple LOIs must use a unique project title for each LOI and may send all LOIs in one e-mail or in multiple e-mails. For hard copy submission of LOIs, they will be date and time stamped when they are received. LOIs may not be considered if received by the Pacific Services Center after 5:59 p.m. Hawaii Time on August 2, 2010.

Full Proposals. Full proposals must be received no later than 5:59 p.m. Hawaii Time,

September 15, 2010. For proposals submitted through Grants.gov, a date and time receipt indication by Grants.gov will be the basis of determining timeliness. If an applicant does not have Internet access, one set of originals (signed) and one electronic copy on CD of the proposals and related forms should be mailed to NOAA Pacific Services Center, Stephanie Bennett, Suite 1550, 737 Bishop St, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813. Hard copy applications will be date and time stamped when they are received. Full proposals received after the submission deadline will not be reviewed or considered.

Applicants may not submit full proposals unless they submitted an LOI. The final decision to submit a full proposal will be made by the principle investigator.

Please note: Validation or rejection of your application by Grants.gov may take up to 2 business days after submission. Please consider this process in developing your submission timeline.

Funding Opportunity Description: The purpose of this notice is to solicit grant proposals from eligible organizations to implement activities that enhance resilience of coastal communities to natural hazard and climate risks. Proposals submitted in response to this announcement should provide beneficial public outcomes for coastal communities to address existing and potential future risks to coastal infrastructure, local economies, vulnerable populations, and the natural environment. Eligible funding applicants are regional authorities, nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, and state, territorial, and county/local governments from the U.S. Flag Pacific Islands (Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands), Gulf Coast (Alabama, Gulf Coast of Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas) and West Coast (California, Oregon, and Washington).

## FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT

### I. Funding Opportunity Description

#### A. Program Objective

As demonstrated by the devastating impacts of recent tsunamis, floods, and hurricanes, coastal communities across the nation need improved products and services to help them manage and adapt to increasing coastal risk. The objective of this program is to support coastal communities in addressing priorities related to managing and adapting to natural hazard and climate risks in a comprehensive way. The program is specifically focused on supporting local or community scale activities that connect, integrate, and/or leverage existing federal, state, and/or local programs within a region. Activities solicited under this competition are intended to directly contribute to local efforts while contributing to increased regional capacity for training, assessment, and planning.

The need for collaborative regional approaches for building resilient coastal communities is undeniable. Such approaches provide tremendous value to local communities by improving coordination across agencies, disciplines, jurisdictions, and sectors. For example, regional entities such as the Pacific Risk Management `Ohana (PRiMO), Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA), and the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health support broad professional networks that provide a forum and mechanism for connecting, integrating, and leveraging programs and their human and financial resources at a regional scale. In addition, technical networks and systems such as the Digital Coast ([www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast)) support regional approaches by integrating data and services and promoting data access and interoperability. Activities solicited under this competition are intended to leverage existing professional and technical networks to move beyond fragmented approaches to addressing coastal risk and toward more integrated, regional approaches.

The projects associated with this announcement will directly support the following objectives:

1. An informed society anticipating and responding to a changing climate and its impacts. (NOAA's Next Generation Strategic Goal)
2. Society is prepared for and responds to sudden and prolonged high impact

events. (NOAA's Next Generation Strategic Goal)

3. Pursue risk-wise strategies based on sound risk and vulnerability assessment methods and risk behavior and communication principles. (NOAA Coastal Services Center Strategic Objective)

4. Protect ecosystem services through conservation strategies to improve climate adaptation and hazard resilience. (NOAA Coastal Services Center Strategic Objective)

## B. Program Priorities

Proposals must demonstrate how they promote opportunities for increased public engagement in managing and adapting to coastal risks in consideration of local traditional and cultural values and perceptions of risk. Proposals also must provide beneficial public outcomes for coastal communities to address existing and potential future risks to coastal infrastructure, local economies, vulnerable populations, and/or the natural environment. Proposals should seek to develop capacity in the following programmatic priorities:

1. Preparedness: Coastal communities that are prepared for natural hazards and climate impacts have greater capacity to manage risk and adapt to changing conditions. Individual, family, and community-scale preparedness all contribute to community resilience.

2. Recovery: Coastal communities that have developed comprehensive plans for long-term recovery and redevelopment before being impacted have greater capacity to recover and take advantage of windows of opportunity. Plans that address social, environmental, and economic recovery contribute to community resilience.

3. Risk and vulnerability: Coastal communities that are able to access, understand, and incorporate information about risks and vulnerabilities into decision-making and planning activities have an increased capacity to direct strategies and actions that reduce current and potential future risks. Risk-based approaches contribute to community resilience.

4. Adaptation: Coastal communities that understand and plan for changing environmental, economic, and social conditions have greater capacity to avoid or reduce future impacts.

5. Underserved/under-represented populations: Coastal communities with underserved/under-represented populations may be particularly vulnerable to the impacts of coastal hazards because of a lack of information, services, and capacity. Increasing the risk-related knowledge and capacity of these populations, and fostering networking within and among underserved/under-represented areas, can increase community resilience.

Proposed outcomes should include one or more of the following;

i. Leveraging of an existing regional framework or forum to develop and implement subregional assessments or plans relating to the above priorities.

ii. The creation of frameworks and/or forums for communities to bring together stakeholders from multiple jurisdictions and disciplines to define and address local priorities for training, data and information, and technical or process tools.

iii. Development, identification, and execution of training for community-based groups supporting the above priorities.

iv. Collection and management of physical and social science data to support the above priorities.

v. Development of technical tools or process guides to support the above priorities.

#### C. Program Authority

16 U.S.C. 1456c

### II. Award Information

#### A. Funding Availability

Total anticipated funding for all awards is approximately \$1,000,000 and is subject to the availability of fiscal year (FY) 2011 appropriations. The anticipated federal funding per award (min-max) is approximately \$100,000 to \$350,000 per year. Multi-year proposals will be considered but limited to three years. The anticipated number of awards ranges from three (3) to six (6), approximately, and will be adjusted based on available funding.

## B. Project/Award Period

This is a multi-year funding opportunity. Proposed projects may request funding for one to three years. Multi-year awards may be funded incrementally on an annual basis; however, once projects have been awarded, those awards may not compete for funding in subsequent 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 organization.

## C. Type of Funding Instrument

The funding instrument for these awards may be grants or cooperative agreements. If a cooperative agreement is awarded, the federal government will agree to be substantially involved by (for example) acquiring, increasing access to, and enhancing capacity to use data and tools; convening partners and building diverse teams to accomplish broad based work; providing meeting planning and facilitation; developing spatial databases, models, and analyses to address the identified management needs; and/or guiding in the development of social, economic and other human dimension information and analyses. 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, regional authorities, nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, Indian Tribal governments, and state, territorial, and county/local governments from the U.S. Flag Pacific Islands (Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands), Gulf Coast (Alabama, Gulf Coast of Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas) and West Coast (California, Oregon, Washington). The following types of organizations are encouraged to either submit proposals or participate in proposal development and provide in-kind services: land use authorities, port authorities, housing authorities, public works authorities, transportation authorities, critical facility authorities, emergency management authorities, community service organizations, stewardship organizations, and conservation organizations.

Federal agencies are not allowed to receive funds under this announcement but may

serve as collaborative project partners and may contribute services in kind.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

No cost sharing or matching is required under this program.

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 NOAA Pacific Services Center, Stephanie Bennett at Suite 1550, 737 Bishop St, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813; or contact her at 808-532-3200 or via e-mail < Stephanie.Bennett@noaa.gov >.

B. Content and Form of Application

Letters of Intent

Applicants must follow the LOI and full proposal application requirements stated in this announcement or LOIs and full proposal applications will not be considered. The Letter of Intent (LOI) process is intended to provide potential funding applicants with information regarding the relevance of their project idea to the program objectives in advance of preparing a full proposal. A LOI is required before submitting a full proposal. The LOI should provide a concise description of the proposed work and its relevance to program objectives. The LOI should include the components listed below. If these components are not included, the funding applicant will not be encouraged to submit a full proposal application. The LOI must include the following information on a cover page:

1. Identification of the NOAA Coastal Services Center as the target of the LOI.
2. Project title.
3. Names and institutions of all principal investigators (PI), and specification of the Lead PI and contact information for that person.

The body of the LOI must be no more than 2 pages, single-spaced, 12-point font, and

should include the following components:

1. Statement of the Purpose: state the intent, goal, and outcome of proposed work.
2. Budget Summary
3. Description of intended benefits to a local community.
4. Description of the partnerships to be employed in the development and completion of the proposed work.

### Full Proposal

Full proposal applications must total no more than 10 pages (single-spaced, 12-point font and exclusive of appendices). The 10-page limit does not include the proposal title page, a table of contents if one is included, the project summary referenced below under item two (2), and any appendices. Appendices should be limited to materials that directly support the main body of the proposal (for example, 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 separate 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 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 clear, concise 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 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. 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 efforts.
- c. Audience. Identify specific 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 users are involved in the planning and design process. The work plan must clearly address data management requirements, and the steps to be taken to achieve efficient and effective data access and archive that is compliant with federal regulations. 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 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.
- 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 SF-424A 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 if sufficient funding is not available for all proposed activities.

The budget narrative must also provide, to the extent possible, detailed information on travel, including costs, a description of anticipated travel, destinations, the number of travelers, and a justification of how the requested travel is directly relevant to the successful completion of the project. If actual trip details are unknown, applicants must state the basis for the proposed travel charges. Applicants should allocate travel funds for any coordination meetings at regional or national levels. Foreign travel must receive prior approval, and therefore, should be included in the proposal to avoid having to request prior approval after the project starts. Applicants may factor in travel costs for participation in a NOAA Grants Management Division workshop for recipients.

#### 4. Appendices

a. Mandatory Detailed Budget Information, including budgets of subawards and contracts. Information should include the name of the entity receiving funds, the location of the entity receiving the funds (for example, city, state, and Congressional district), the location of the entity receiving funds (city, state, and Congressional district), and the location of the primary place of performance under the contract/subaward.

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 website: < <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/> > including our NOAA Administrative Order 216-6 for NEPA,

< [http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/NAO216\\_--6\\_--TOC.pdf](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](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 for example, 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 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 members 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 (for example, 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 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. Cristi Reid, NOAA Office of Program Planning and Integration, SSMC 3, Room 15700, 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 Dates and Times

LOIs. The deadline for receipt of LOIs is 5:59 p.m. Hawaii Time on August 2, 2010. For LOIs submitted by e-mail, the date and time indication of the receiving server will be the basis of determining timeliness. Note that receipt may be delayed if e-mail servers are not functioning efficiently. Applicants submitting multiple LOIs must use a unique project title for each LOI and may send all LOIs in one e-mail or in multiple e-mails. For hard copy submission of LOIs, they will be date and time stamped when they are received. LOIs may not be considered if received by the Pacific Services Center after 5:59 p.m. Hawaii Time on August 2, 2010.

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September 15, 2010. For proposals submitted through Grants.gov, a date and time receipt indication by Grants.gov will be the basis of determining timeliness. If an applicant does not have Internet access, one set of originals (signed) and one electronic copy on CD of the proposals and related forms should be mailed to NOAA Pacific Services Center, Stephanie Bennett, Suite 1550, 737 Bishop St, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813. Hard copy applications will be date and time stamped when they are received. Full proposals received after the submission deadline will not be reviewed or considered.

Applicants may not submit full proposals unless they submitted an LOI. The final decision to submit a full proposal will be made by the principle investigator.

Please note: Validation or rejection of your application by Grants.gov may take up to 2

business days after submission. Please consider this process in developing your submission timeline.

#### D. 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 (SPOC) 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 on the Office of Management and Budget's website

< <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/spoc.html> >.

#### E. Funding Restrictions

Please note the following funding restrictions:

1. The Coastal Resilience Networks Program should not be considered a long-term source of funds. Explain your strategy for long-term sustainability after NOAA funding ends.

2. Funding may not be used to support endowments; individuals; building campaigns or capital construction; deficit financing; annual giving; or fund-raising.

#### F. Other Submission Requirements

NONE

Letters of intent (LOI) may be sent via e-mail to < [nos.psc.crest@noaa.gov](mailto:nos.psc.crest@noaa.gov) >. Insert FY 2011 Adapting to Coastal Risks as the subject line of the e-mail. If hard copy LOIs are submitted, an original and electronic copy on CD should be sent to NOAA Pacific Services Center, Stephanie Bennett, Suite 1550, 737 Bishop St, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813.

Full proposal application packages, including any letters of support, should be submitted through Grants.gov APPLY. If an applicant does not have Internet access, one set of originals (signed) and one electronic copy on CD of the proposals and related forms should

be mailed to NOAA Pacific Services Center, Stephanie Bennett, Suite 1550, 737 Bishop St, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813.

## V. Application Review Information

### A. Evaluation Criteria

#### A. Evaluation Criteria for LOIs

1. Importance and/or relevance and applicability of proposed project to the program objectives (50 percent): This ascertains whether there is intrinsic value in the proposed work and/or relevance to NOAA, federal, regional, state, territorial, or local activities. Questions related to this criterion include: Does the project effectively enhance resilience of a coastal community through addressing one of the program priorities? Do project outcomes contribute to regional capacity in one of the program priorities? Does the project demonstrate integration of federal, state, territorial, and/or local activities? Does the project leverage or establish a professional network? Does the project engage the public and local and regional stakeholders? Does the project contain an outreach component which considers audience perceptions of risk? Does the project demonstrate linkages across the three geographic regions? Does the project serve under-represented or underserved populations?

2. Technical and scientific merit (50 percent): This criterion assesses whether the approach is technically sound, 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? Does the proposed approach incorporate current guidance, scientific, and/or technical advancements in the design and implementation of the proposed work? Does the proposal promote interoperability or integration with components of regional and national systems or networks?

#### B. Evaluation Criteria for Full Applications

1. Importance and/or relevance and applicability of proposed project to the program objectives (25 percent): This ascertains whether there is intrinsic value in the proposed work and/or relevance to NOAA, federal, regional, state, territorial, or local activities. Questions related to this criterion include: Does the project effectively enhance resilience of a coastal community through addressing one of the program priorities? Do project outcomes contribute to regional capacity in one of the program priorities? Does the project demonstrate integration of federal, state, territorial, and/or local activities? Does the project leverage or establish a professional network? Does the project engage the public and local

and regional stakeholders? Does the project contain an outreach component which considers audience perceptions of risk? Does the project demonstrate linkages across the three geographic regions? Does the project serve under-represented or underserved populations?

2. Technical and scientific merit (25 percent): This criterion assesses whether the approach is technically sound, 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? Does the proposed approach incorporate current guidance, scientific, and/or technical advancements in the design and implementation of the proposed work? Does the proposal promote interoperability or integration with components of regional and national systems or networks?

3. Overall qualifications of the funding applicants (20 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 Communications (15 percent): This criterion assesses whether the project provides a focused and effective education and communication strategy regarding the strategic objectives listed in this proposal. Questions relevant to this criterion include: Does the proposal demonstrate that the target user community has been engaged in development of the desired project outcomes? Does the proposal demonstrate that information generated by the project will reach its target audience and have a positive impact in the local community and the region?

## B. Review and Selection Process

LOI Review Process: All LOIs will be evaluated by federal and nonfederal staff members in accordance with the assigned weights of the above evaluation to determine whether the proposed project is responsive to the goals as advertised in this notice. It is NOAA's intent to invite representatives from each region to assist with the process. Appropriate mechanism will be established to avoid conflict of interest. The Coastal Services Center will respond to each LOI by e-mail informing the applicant (i.e., the lead PI) whether or not they are encouraged to submit a full proposal. We anticipate sending responses by August 16, 2010.

Full Proposal Review and Selection Process: An initial administrative screening is conducted to determine compliance with requirements/completeness. Applicants may not submit full proposals unless they submitted an LOI. The final decision to submit a full proposal will be made by the investigator. 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 through a full merit review process (i.e., a mail and panel review process). It is NOAA's intent to invite representatives from each geographic region to assist with the merit review process. Appropriate mechanisms will be established to avoid conflicts of interest during the proposal merit review process. 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. The merit review ratings shall provide a rank order to the Selecting Official for final recommendation to the Grants Officer.

## C. Selection Factors

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 (as set out in sections I.a. and I.b. of this funding announcement)

5. Applicant's prior award performance

6. Partnerships with/Participation of targeted groups

7. Adequacy of information necessary for NOAA staff members to make a NEPA determination and draft necessary documentation before recommendations for funding are made to the Grants Officer.

The Selecting Official or designee may negotiate the funding level of the proposal.

#### D. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

The start date on proposals should be on October 1, 2011; or the first day of any proceeding month after October 1, 2011, but no later than January 1, 2012.

### VI. Award Administration Information

#### A. Award Notices

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. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by e-mail that their application was not recommended for funding no later than 15 days after selection packages have been approved.

## B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

### 1. 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 February 11, 2008 (73 FR 7696). A copy of the notice may be obtained at < <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/search.html> >.

2. 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.

3. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). See the NEPA information in Section IV, B, of this announcement.

## C. 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 Contacts

For administrative questions, contact Stephanie Bennett, NOAA Pacific Services Center: Suite 1550, 737 Bishop St, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813; or contact her at 808-532-3200 or via e-mail at < [Stephanie.Bennett@noaa.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Bennett@noaa.gov) >.

For technical questions regarding this announcement, contact Adam Stein, NOAA Pacific Services Center: Suite 1550, 737 Bishop St, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813, or by phone at 808-532-3962 or by fax 808-532-3224, or via e-mail at < Adam.Stein@noaa.gov >.

## VIII. Other Information

After electronic submission of the application through Grants.gov, 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 before transmission to the grantor agency or has been rejected because of 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.

Official notification of an award notice is provided by the Grants Management Division, not the program office. If one incurs any costs before 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 online at

< <http://www.rdc.noaa.gov/~foia/> >.

Successful applicants will be requested to ensure that all interim progress reports

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 a) clearly state the resulting impact of their project and products in the coastal management community; and b) 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 before transmission to the grantor agency or has been rejected because of 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.