



United States Department of the Interior
Office of the Secretary



NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE A NONCOMPETITIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AWARD

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), Office of the Secretary, intends to award a Cooperative Agreement to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). Award of this agreement shall be made on a noncompetitive basis as a discretionary financial assistance award. The purpose of this agreement is for the NFWF to serve as General Administrator (GA), and have fiduciary responsibility for the Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grants Program. The total estimated value of this award is \$102.5 million, of which \$100 million shall be used for subawards issued directly by NFWF to support Hurricane Sandy restoration efforts. Funding for this program shall be made available through Title X, Chapter 7 of the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013; Public Law 113-2.

NFWF was established in 1984 by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act, 16 U.S.C. §3701, and operates as a private nonprofit corporation focused on the conservation and management of natural resources. NFWF is governed by a 30-member Board of Directors appointed by the Secretary of the Interior and includes the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the Administrator of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Through its history, NFWF has been a leader in developing public-private sector partnerships that achieve measurable natural resource conservation outcomes, working closely with federal, state, and local governments, private for-profit and not-for-profit entities, and individuals with expertise in conservation. Under the forthcoming Cooperative Agreement, NFWF will work with DOI, Fish and Wildlife Service, and others as desired, to develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the competitive Hurricane Sandy relief funding. The RFP will include conservation criteria developed by DOI in the context of the overall conservation strategy of the program. NFWF will widely release the RFP through its grantee network, prominently display the RFP on its website and, if desired, advertise the availability of funding through social and traditional media outlets. NFWF will then make grant awards and monitor ongoing performance of projects, support project implementation through targeted technical assistance, and disburse funds per the terms of the agreements. NFWF will also prepare detailed reports for DOI on an annual basis with additional information provided as needed.

This Cooperative Agreement will be entered into with NFWF on a noncompetitive basis in accordance with the criteria set forth in Chapter 2.14 (B) (4) & (5) of the Departmental of the Interior Departmental Manual; Federal Assistance Programs Series; Part 505, Chapter 2. This Departmental Manual sets forth various criteria in which a financial assistance agreement can be entered into on a noncompetitive basis. In this instance, the NFWF meets the criteria in item (4) Unique Qualifications. The NFWF is uniquely qualified to perform this project based upon having the technical expertise and resources to effectively administer the Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grants Program. Furthermore, this award is being made to the NFWF due to item (6) Unusual and Compelling Urgency. Due to the urgent and compelling need for Hurricane Sandy relief funding to be allocated, there is insufficient time available for adequate competitive procedures to be followed.

The anticipated award date of this agreement is August 9th, 2013. Please direct any questions or inquiries to Anthony Jasper of DOI's Acquisition Services Directorate; Anthony_Jasper@ibc.doi.gov.