

U.S. Geological Survey

Notice of Funding Opportunity

2026 National Geological & Geophysical Data Preservation Program

Funding Opportunity Number

G26AS00024

Table of Contents

BASIC INFORMATION.....	2
ELIGIBILITY	3
Cost Sharing Requirement	4
GET READY TO APPLY	4
Required System Registrations	4
PROGRAM OVERVIEW	5
Program Goals.....	5
Program Description	6
FY 2026 Priority 1 – Preserve Geoscience Resources Including Digital and Physical Infrastructure	6
FY 2026 Priority 2 – Critical Minerals Data Preservation.....	9
Legislative Authority	11
Type of Award	12
PREPARE YOUR APPLICATION	12
Application Content and Format.....	12
Guidelines and Requirements	12
Changes to Proposal Requirements and Conditions.....	17
Application Documents.....	18
SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES	25
Address to Request Application Package	25
Submission Dates and Times	25
Submission Instructions	25
APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION.....	28
Eligibility Review	28
Merit Review.....	29
Review and Selection Process.....	29
Risk Review	30
AWARD NOTICES	30
POST AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION	32
Administration and National Policy Requirements	32
Reporting.....	32
General Information.....	35
Summary	35

Award Information	35
Key Dates.....	35
Eligibility Information	36
Additional Information	36

BASIC INFORMATION

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: G26AS00024

Assistance Listing Number(s): 15.814

Estimated Total Program Funding: \$2,000,000

Expected Number of Awards: 35

Award Ceiling: \$200,000

Award Floor: \$5,000

Cost Sharing Required?

Yes

Closing Date Explanation

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 6:00pm EST, February 17, 206.

OMB Control Number:

Have Questions?

For **programmatic technical assistance**, contact:

First Name: Margaret

Last Name: Eastman

Telephone: (703) 648-7366

Email: mrussell@usgs.gov

Executive Summary

The USGS National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Program (NGGDPP) issues this annual Program Announcement for assistance to support preservation, cataloging of and access to geological and geophysical data and materials for research and education use and address the Department of Interior's Secretarial priorities. This activity is authorized by Section 351 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58, Sec. 351) which was amended by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Public Law 117-58). To read the authorization, visit:

<https://www.usgs.gov/core-science-systems/national-geological-and-geophysical-data-preservation-program/authorizing>

The objectives of the Program as outlined in the Acts are to:

1. archive geologic, geophysical, and engineering data, maps, well logs, and samples;
2. provide a national catalog of such archival material; and
3. provide technical and financial assistance related to the archival material.
4. provide for preservation of samples to track geochemical signatures from critical mineral (as defined in section 7002(a) of the Energy Act of 2020 (30 U.S.C. 1606(a))) ore bodies for use in provenance tracking frameworks.

For more information about the NGGDPP, read the “Implementation Plan for the National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Program” (2006) which is available at: <https://www.usgs.gov/programs/national-geological-and-geophysical-data-preservation-program/implementation-plan>.

The two NGGDPP FY 2026 Priorities include:

1. Priority 1 - Preserve Geoscience Resources Including Digital and Physical Infrastructure Development: preservation of geoscience resources including development and/or improvement of digital and/or physical infrastructure supporting the preservation, archiving, and/or delivery of geological and geophysical data, samples, and/or related historical materials; and
2. Priority 2 - Critical Minerals Data Preservation: preservation of geoscience materials and data focused on critical minerals; development of a strategic plan for critical minerals; development of a strategic plan for critical minerals specific to mine waste and mine lands; and submission for analysis of existing geochemical samples relevant to critical minerals assessments.

Funded projects require submission of metadata records describing preserved resources in conformance with the NGGDPP metadata schema to ReSciColl to increase discovery, access and reuse by researchers, resource managers, decision-makers, and the public for the benefit of society. Priority 1 projects that are solely physical infrastructure development (construction/remodel) or digital infrastructure (e.g. databases, web services) will not require submission of metadata records.

The proposal must describe projects that address the FY 2026 priorities and requirements to complete comprehensive activities to inventory, describe, and preserve specific collections. It is possible for proposed Priority 1 and/or 2 projects to receive reduced or no funding.

Preserving USGS assets (e.g. maps, reports, photos etc.) using NGGDPP funds is **not allowed**; collections proposed for preservation should be owned by your state geological organization. Strong justification and documentation that the data will be made public (e.g., data sharing agreement or transfer of ownership), is required for preserving collections owned by a private or another state entity (for example, state oil and gas commission).

Non-allowable expenses under the NGGDPP include preservation of USGS assets, duplicate digitization/conversion of artifacts produced and preserved by other agencies, tuition, computer maintenance or travel to a conference or workshop.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Applicants

[State governments](#)

Additional Information on Eligibility

Only state geological surveys are eligible to apply to this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) under the National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Program pursuant to the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 105-58, Sec. 351). A university may submit a proposal on behalf of a state geological survey if the state geological survey is organized under a state university system.

Cost Sharing Requirement

Cost Sharing Required?

Yes

- **All Federal funds requested for Priority 1 must be matched at 100% (minimum) with state funds for Priority 1 activities. If there are multiple objectives or projects under Priority 1, each must be matched with state funds.**
- **All Federal funds requested for Priority 2 must be matched at 100% (minimum) with state funds for Priority 2 activities. If there are multiple objectives or project under Priority 2, each must be match with state funds.**
- Verify the federal share of the cost of the proposed activities is no more than **50 percent of the total cost for each Priority individually**. The state portion can be larger than the federal portion. Priority activities must be budgeted separately and within the itemized budget for that Priority.
- **Review and verify budget numbers prior to proposal submission.**
- In-kind services proposed as match, e.g., software or volunteer time, must have documentation of value of the contribution.

GET READY TO APPLY

Required System Registrations

Unique Entity Identifier and SAM.gov Registration

Before applying, all **applicants** except individuals applying as a natural person **must be registered in SAM.gov**. During the SAM.gov registration the entity will obtain their Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

The SAM.gov registration process can take several months. If your organization is not already registered in SAM.gov, begin the registration process as soon as possible.

To register in SAM.gov, go to the [SAM.gov website](https://sam.gov) and use the available resources to complete registration.

- **Financial assistance registrants** must review and certify compliance with the SAM.gov “Financial Assistance General Representations and Certifications”.
- **Already registered?** You already have a Unique Entity ID. Before applying, check that your “Financial Assistance General Representations and Certifications” on SAM.gov is complete. Remember to renew your registration every year to keep it active while you have an award or application in progress. You can update your registration whenever you need, including during renewal.

- **Need help?** For additional information and contact information on the [SAM.gov Help page](#).

GRANTS.GOV

This program accepts applications through [Grants.gov](#) so once you receive your UEI return to [Grants.gov](#) to register with [Grants.gov](#). Please allow 30 days to register and set up a Workspace in [Grants.gov](#). See Submission Instructions section below for additional details.

Refer to Attachment – Submission Instructions & Tips.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Program Goals

- The two NGGDPP FY 2026 Priorities include:
 1. Priority 1 - Preserve Geoscience Resources Including Digital and Physical Infrastructure Development: preservation of geoscience resources including development and/or improvement of digital and/or physical infrastructure supporting the preservation, archiving, and/or delivery of geological and geophysical data, samples, and/or related historical materials; and
 2. Priority 2 - Critical Minerals Data Preservation: preservation of geoscience materials and data focused on critical minerals; development of a strategic plan for critical minerals; development of a strategic plan for critical minerals specific to mine waste and mine lands; and submission for analysis of existing geochemical samples relevant to critical minerals assessments.

Funded projects require submission of metadata records describing preserved resources in conformance with the NGGDPP metadata schema to ReSciColl to increase discovery, access and reuse by researchers, resource managers, decision-makers, and the public for the benefit of society. Priority 1 projects that are solely physical infrastructure development (construction/remodel) or digital infrastructure (e.g. databases, web services) will not require submission of metadata records.

The proposal must describe projects that address the FY 2026 priorities and requirements to complete comprehensive activities to inventory, describe, and preserve specific collections. It is possible for proposed Priority 1 and/or 2 projects to receive reduced or no funding.

Preserving USGS assets (e.g. maps, reports, photos etc.) using NGGDPP funds is not allowed; collections proposed for preservation should be owned by your state geological organization. Strong justification and documentation that the data will be made public (e.g., data sharing agreement or transfer of ownership), is required for preserving collections owned by a private or another state entity (for example, state oil and gas commission).

Non-allowable expenses under the NGGDPP include preservation of USGS assets, duplicate digitization/conversion of artifacts produced and preserved by other agencies, tuition, computer maintenance or travel to a conference or workshop.

Program Description

Proposed work must demonstrate alignment with the two NGGDPP FY 2026 priorities.

PLEASE NOTE: Proposals that do not specifically address NGGDPP fiscal year (FY) 2026 priorities will NOT be considered for an award.

1. Priority 1 - Preserve Geoscience Resources Including Digital and Physical Infrastructure Development: preservation of geoscience resources including development and/or improvement of digital and/or physical infrastructure supporting the preservation, archiving, and/or delivery of geological and geophysical data, samples, and/or related historical materials; and
2. Priority 2 - Critical Minerals Data Preservation: preservation of geoscience materials and data focused on critical minerals; development of a strategic plan for critical minerals; development of a strategic plan for critical minerals specific to mine waste and mine lands; and submission for analysis of existing geochemical samples relevant to critical minerals assessments.

Funded projects require submission of metadata records describing preserved resources in conformance with the NGGDPP metadata schema to ReSciColl to increase discovery, access and reuse by researchers, resource managers, decision-makers, and the public for the benefit of society. Priority 1 projects that are solely physical infrastructure development (construction/remodel) or digital infrastructure (e.g. databases, web services) will not require submission of metadata records.

The proposal must describe projects that address the FY 2026 priorities and requirements to complete comprehensive activities to inventory, describe, and preserve specific collections. It is possible for proposed Priority 1 and/or 2 projects to receive partial or no funding.

FY 2026 Priority 1 – Preserve Geoscience Resources Including Digital and Physical Infrastructure

In FY 2026, state geological surveys may request funds to inventory, preserve, archive, and/or modernize geologic, geophysical, and engineering data, maps, notebooks, publications, well logs, photographs, and samples, and develop and/or improve digital and/or physical infrastructure supporting preservation, archiving, compilation, integration, and/or delivery of geological and geophysical data, samples, and/or related historical materials.

NGGDPP seeks proposals that prioritize the preservation of historical assets relevant to geological characterization (including critical minerals, oil/gas, coal) and facilitate data and sample access through improved data archive and delivery systems and buildings that house samples.

All Federal funds requested for Priority 1 must be matched at 100% (minimum) with state funds for Priority 1 activities. The state portion can be larger than the federal portion.

Projects may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Conversion of paper records and/or analog data to 508-compliant, machine-readable, digital formats for preservation and digital access with optical character recognition (OCR) when applicable.

- Updating digital data to modern and sustainable formats to maintain accessibility and machine readability.
- Conversion of paper or scanned previously published geologic maps, not available in a GIS format, to the Geologic Mapping Schema (GeMS) format database (see <https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/Info/standards/GeMS/>); proposals must include an appendix table listing the proposed maps for preservation with the associated NGMDB product listing, eg., https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/Prodesc/proddesc_78420.htm, conversion to GeMS Level-III is required, and GeMS deliverables must be submitted following the guidance on the NGMDB Connect web site.
- Preserving subsurface data and sample resources including drill core/borehole information in support of the National Index of Borehole Information (NIBI) and National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program (NCGMP) subsurface mapping.
- Preserving and/or rescuing time-dependent, irreplaceable geologic data or collections of significant value in imminent danger of loss from deteriorating physical surroundings, threat of disposal, loss of institutional knowledge, or rapidly deteriorating media on which they reside (e.g., data stored on magnetic tape or aerial photos).
- Creating rich metadata for collections and child items registered in ReSciColl, using standard profiles.
- Construction, remodel, or repair of buildings (or parts thereof) that house geological or geophysical data and/or samples and/or related archival materials that are made publicly available. Funds must be used only for relevant portions of the building.
- Creation or updating of digital systems that improve the access to and delivery of geological and geophysical data (e.g. databases, web services, websites, APIs, etc.). If web services or databases create or change access to a collection, the collection needs to be created or updated in ReSciColl.
- Purchase and/or installation of equipment that facilitates the production of data from historical samples or documents (e.g. scanners, hyperspectral scanners, X-Ray Diffraction scanners, photographic equipment, etc.). The proposed purchase must include planned file formats and methods for providing access to the acquired data in the Data Management Plan. The file formats must be in non-proprietary, industry standards. Data preparation methods and delivery systems must be described associated with the new equipment.
- Development of workflows and methodologies for new equipment. Note: This activity does not support new research. Collected data cannot be embargoed. They must be released to the public in a usable state with the least amount of processing within three months of data acquisition. If data is produced as part of a pilot project, a Data Management Plan must be submitted and collection metadata records describing the data collection must be created in ReSciColl adhering to the current ReSciColl metadata requirements.

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

As required by Section 70914 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act), P.L. 117-58, on or after May 14, 2022, none of the funds under a federal award that are part of Federal financial assistance program for infrastructure may be obligated for a project unless all of the iron, steel, manufactured products,

and construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States, unless subject to an approved waiver. The requirements of this section must be included in all subawards, including all contracts and purchase orders for work or products under this program. The details for the Buy America Domestic Procurement Preference are provided in the 2026 NGGDPP Terms and Conditions (Attachment C, Section F).

Subsurface Data and Physical Resource Inventories

Subsurface data and physical resource inventories (e.g., samples, drill core/borehole, etc.) should be compiled using prescriptive formats with guidance on the NGGDPP website. The current Borehole template for drill hole/core data compilation is available for download (<https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/file/get/5baa94ade4b08583a5cd878e?name=NGGDPP%20borehole%20template.xlsx>) on the NGGDPP site, Grants: Tips and Examples, and will include location (in decimal degrees) and total depth, and should include if the information is available: identification of stratigraphic tops, lithology, driller's logs, construction information, imagery, geophysical data, and analytical results. The compiled borehole spreadsheet containing point and interval data must be documented as a collection and uploaded to ReSciColl.

National Index of Borehole Information (NIBI)

Details to ingest and connect subsurface resources to the National Index of Borehole Information (NIBI) are available from the NIBI website. Options are available for both spreadsheet (*.xlsx) and RESTful (Application Programming Interface (API)) uploads.

Any state requesting Priority 1 funding must update all existing ReSciColl collection and item records to the current ReSciColl metadata standard.

Required Update of Collections and Child Item Metadata in ReSciColl

States may request up to \$5,000 to update metadata to the new ReSciColl metadata requirements (formerly the National Digital Catalog (NDC). The NGGDPP has re-architected and rebranded the former National Digital Catalog (NDC), which has served as the metadata catalog for projects funded through the Program. ReSciColl (Registry of Scientific Collections, <https://webapps.usgs.gov/rescoll/>) has been launched and requires richer descriptions of collections and child items which should result in improved discovery and reuse of these assets. ReSciColl can only be a valuable discovery tool if it contains rich information about collections and child items.

States may request up to \$5,000 (including fringe rates and indirect costs) to update existing metadata records from previous preservation efforts harvested into ReSciColl to the new ReSciColl standards for collection and item level metadata. A description of the scope of this activity must be provided. All states requesting these funds will receive them. **This Priority 1 activity request requires a 1:1 state to federal match.** The funding requested and matched must be documented separately in Attachment A as part of the Priority 1 activities. The \$5,000 requested includes fringe rates and indirect costs.

Local tools and applications that had been developed to follow the *.csv/*.xml NDC metadata convention will need to be revamped to conform to the new ReSciColl metadata convention with guidance for submission to the new ReSciColl provided on the NDDGPP site (<https://www.usgs.gov/core-science-systems/national-geological-and-geophysical-data->

[preservation-program/data-submission](#)).

Collection metadata records describing the preserved materials must be submitted to ReSciColl adhering to the current ReSciColl metadata requirements. If applicable to the proposed activity, metadata for individual collection items should also be submitted. NGGDPP-required metadata attributes for collection metadata and item metadata, as well as upload and/or access protocols, are available on [ReSciColl](#).

FY 2026 Priority 2 – Critical Minerals Data Preservation

Background

In FY 2019, the USGS established an initiative, known as Earth MRI (Mapping Resources Initiative) with a goal of modernizing the surface and subsurface geologic mapping of the United States focusing on identifying areas that may have the potential to contain mineral resources. The minerals on the 2025 Final List of Critical Minerals^[1] are the current focus of the USGS component of Earth MRI.

In FY 2019, the NGGDPP established a new program priority, critical mineral resources, supporting states to preserve and make publicly available online mineral deposit, drill core, geochemical, geophysical, and other relevant data, in support of the Earth MRI effort.

FY 2026 Funding Requests

NGGDPP's aim is to facilitate and promote the availability of preserved data and materials to further geoscientific research. Therefore, all attempts should be made to publicly expose the preserved data and materials sponsored by NGGDPP grants, avoiding copyrights and restrictions.

All Federal funds requested for Priority 2 must be matched at 100% (minimum) with state funds for Priority 2 activities. The state portion can be larger than the federal portion.

If requesting Federal funds for multiple themes, each theme must be matched at 100% (minimum) with state funds for Priority 2 activities. The state portion can be larger than the federal portion.

In FY 2026, state geological surveys may request funds, up to \$50,000 of federal match, to support the process of preserving and making publicly available data and information on critical minerals in the United States through the following types of activities that meet the intent of Priority 2.

Priority 2 focuses on 4 main themes:

- (1) making publicly available drill hole/core data through the ReSciColl,
- (2) development of a preservation plan for critical minerals-related data and materials,
- (3) development of a preservation plan and list of critical minerals in mine waste, and
- (4) preservation and submission of geochemical samples relevant for evaluating critical mineral content.

The themes are defined as follows:

- **State compilation of borehole data with metadata to ReSciColl** - identifying and providing digital access to publicly available drill hole/core data and information for areas with the potential for hosting critical mineral resources. Drill hole/core data will be compiled in the borehole template and will include location (in decimal degrees) and total depth and should include, if the information is available, identification of stratigraphic tops, lithology, driller's logs, construction information, imagery, geophysical data, and analytical results. If applicable, depth to bedrock and identification of basement rock relevant to the terrane, including depth to Precambrian basement, depth to consolidated rock beneath Quaternary deposits, or depth to consolidated rock beneath coastal plain deposits should be documented. The compiled borehole spreadsheet containing point and interval data must be documented as a collection and uploaded to ReSciColl. Compiled subsurface information should be connected in the National Index of Borehole Information (NIBI).
- **Preservation Plan for Critical Minerals** – States that have not previously requested to develop a strategic plan for critical minerals data preservation for their state may request up to \$5,000 (including fringe rates and indirect costs) to complete the plan. A detailed description of the activity must be provided. Only new states requesting these funds will be considered. **This Priority 2 activity request requires a 1:1 state to federal match.** The funding requested and matched must be documented separately in Attachment A as part of the Priority 2 activities.
- **Preservation Plan and List of Critical Minerals in Mine Waste** – States may request up to \$5,000 (including fringe rates and indirect costs) to develop a strategic plan for critical minerals data preservation focused on mine waste for their state. Available funding for a mine waste strategic preservation plan is in addition to the more general critical mineral science plan described above. A detailed description of the activity must be provided. Only new states requesting these funds will be considered. **This Priority 2 activity request requires a 1:1 state to federal match.** The funding requested and matched must be documented separately in Attachment A as part of the Priority 2 activities.
- **Preserving samples for Geochemical Analyses for Characterizing Critical Mineral Resources** – For FY2026 the USGS will support the whole-rock analytical geochemical needs required to characterize preserved samples relevant to characterizing critical mineral resources by providing analyses generated on samples submitted to the USGS through a “credit” system. These samples may include material from borehole, outcrop, or other materials associated with critical mineral resources. The source for the existing samples may include public repositories including other state, federal, and USGS repositories or collections, e.g., the USGS National Uranium Resource Evaluation (NURE) Sample Collection.

The state geological survey will be credited with 200 unknown samples of any type over the period of performance of the award. The state geological survey will be credited with an additional 100 unknown samples related specifically to boreholes. Borehole materials may include core samples, cuttings, and (or) unconsolidated sedimentary material provided they were previously collected through drilling activity and have a distinct critical mineral association. The source for the existing borehole materials may include public repositories including other state, federal, and USGS repositories or collections,

e.g., the USGS Core Research Center. The funds to support the analyses being transferred internally to the USGS Geology, Geophysics, and Geochemistry Science Center in Denver, CO. Funds will not be transferred to the state geological survey for this effort. The USGS assumes the responsibility of sample processing for whole-rock major and trace element analyses for the samples, acquiring the data through the contract laboratory, appropriate QA/QC protocols and data review, submitting QC duplicates, and data validation. The collection of samples must be documented to include item-level metadata for submittal to ReSciColl. The laboratory data are combined into the periodic USGS data releases hosted on the Earth MRI website (see <https://doi.org/10.5066/P9WHRLXH>) to assure all geochemical data processed are released to the public.

Earth MRI offers analyses for major elements by wavelength dispersive x-ray fluorescence spectrometry (WDXRF). A 61-element ICP-OES-MS sodium peroxide fusion (ICP-60) package is to support minor and trace element analyses, including the rare earth elements. Samples and borehole materials cannot be submitted if they have already been analyzed by another state geological survey, federal agency, or the USGS with the same parent sample or borehole material, depth interval, host rock type with critical mineral potential for the same suite of analyses. Processing, costs, and publication of results associated with non-standard samples (e.g., heavy mineral separates, specialty sample processing, etc.) are the responsibility of the State Geological Surveys. Upon approval of the proposed effort, please communicate to the USGS sample control group lead by Jamie Azain (jsazain@usgs.gov) prior to submittal of the samples under this effort to obtain the sample submittal forms and procedures.

Collection metadata records describing the preserved materials must be submitted to ReSciColl using the current ReSciColl metadata profile. If applicable to the proposed activity, metadata for individual collection items should also be submitted. NGGDPP-required metadata attributes for collection metadata and item metadata, as well as upload and/or access protocols, are available on [ReSciColl](#).

[1] Federal Register, 2025, 2025 Final List of Critical Minerals, accessed December 23, 2025, at Federal Register :: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/11/07/2025-19813/final-2025-list-of-critical-minerals>.

The NGGDPP Program supports DOI and Administration priorities for the nation including:

- EO 14154 "Unleashing American Energy"
- EO 14156 "Declaring a National Energy Emergency;"
- EO 14220 "Addressing the Threat to National Security From Imports of Copper;"
- EO 14241 "Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production;"
- SO 3417 "Addressing the National Energy Emergency;" and
- SO 3418 "Unleashing American Energy."

Legislative Authority

The National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Program (NGGDPP) was established and authorized in Section 351 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58, Sec. 351) and reauthorized in Section 7002 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260), and amended by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, 2021 (Public Law

117-58) which recognizes the need for the preservation, cataloging of, and access to geological and geophysical data and materials for research and educational use. To read the authorization, visit:

<https://www.usgs.gov/core-science-systems/national-geological-and-geophysical-data-preservation-program/authorizing>.

Type of Award

Projects will be funded through G (Grant).

PREPARE YOUR APPLICATION

Application Content and Format

Pre-Application Requirements

Guidelines and Requirements

The following guidelines and requirements are provided to help you submit a strong, competitive, and compliant proposal. *The Review Panel membership changes from year to year and you should not assume that reviewers will be aware of your previous work.* Following these guidelines and requirements will allow the Review Panel to assess your proposed project efficiently and effectively. **Failure to meet the requirements will result in disqualification.**

Guidelines:

- Include a table of contents for the proposal.
- In your proposal, please address feedback received from previous NGGDPP panel reviews, as relevant to the newly proposed project. The feedback provided to you is intended to help improve your proposal and chance of being funded.
- Briefly describe previous work or pilot projects that have informed your estimate of the level of effort and/or expertise needed to successfully complete the proposed work.
- Provide a clear justification for the project. Explain how the results of the project meet the priorities of your organization and benefit your stakeholders and society. Please be specific and provide examples.
- Figures, images, or diagrams with captions may be included in a **Figure Appendix (2-page limit not included in overall page limit)**.
- Begin submitting your proposal to Grants.gov well in advance of the due date as **there is no possibility of late submissions**. See Part III, Section A for more information.

Requirements:

- Request funding for one or both Priorities: Priority 1: Preserve Geoscience Resources Including Digital and Physical Infrastructure Development; and Priority 2: Critical Minerals Data Preservation. Projects cannot be combined across Priorities; each Priority should have discrete projects without dependencies on activities in other Priorities. Separate budgets are required for each Priority.
- Verify the federal share of the cost of the proposed activities is no more than 50 percent of the total cost for each Priority individually. The state portion can be larger than the

federal portion; however, if the federal contribution is more than the state portion - regardless of the difference (even \$0.01) - the **grant proposal shall be disqualified** and will not be evaluated by the grant review panel. Each Priority must be budgeted separately and within the itemized budget for that Priority. Review and verify budget numbers prior to proposal submission.

- The project description for Priority 1 & 2 is limited to 5 pages per Priority. You may not submit supporting documents (e.g. long-range plans) that are not explicitly requested in this funding opportunity. These forms, tables, documents, appendices, or attachments do not count toward the page limit:

- Standard Forms 424s,
- Table of contents,
- Project summary sheet (Attachment A),
- Project abstract summary,
- Project personnel and contractor justification and expertise table or list,
- CVs or resumes (max 2 pages per CV) and Common Disclosure Forms as set forth in the Forms/Assurances/Certifications chart above (see also Attachment E)
- Selection criteria for non-state survey staff, collaborators (e.g., universities or state agencies), or contractors
- Letters of support from stakeholders and/or advisory committees,
- Figures, images, or diagrams submitted within the Figure Appendix (2-page limit),
- Data Management Plan (DMP)
(https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/file/get/5baa94ade4b08583a5cd878e?name=StateSurveyAbbrev_NGGDPP_DMPForm.docx),
- Budget tables (Attachment B),
- Negotiated rate, internal memo, cost agreements, and
- Equipment justifications and equipment/supply and contracted services quotes.

- Standard 424 Forms: Proposals **with no construction projects** must include the following documents:
Standard Form 424, Application for Federal Assistance (mandatory form provided in grants.gov). The person who electronically submits the SF-424 must have the authority to bind the state to the terms of the assistance award.
Standard Form 424A, Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs (mandatory, if applicable, form provided in grants.gov).
Standard Form 424B, Assurances – Non-Construction Programs (mandatory, if applicable, form provided in grants.gov).

Proposals **with construction projects** must include the following documents:
Standard Form 424, Application for Federal Assistance (mandatory form provided in grants.gov). The person who electronically submits the SF-424 must have the authority to bind the state to the terms of the assistance award.
Standard Form 424C, Budget Information – Construction Programs (mandatory, if applicable, form provided in grants.gov).

Standard Form 424D, Assurances – Construction Programs (mandatory, if applicable, form provided in grants.gov).

- Describe the project and the process you expect to follow (workflows, including methods and level of effort) to complete the required work. If you are proposing multiple activities to complete the project, clearly state the work you will do for each activity. Please note that if partial funds are awarded, the scope of work may require modification.
- *Common Disclosure Forms*: DOI-PGM-POL-0017, issued in accordance with “National Security Presidential Memorandum (NSPS-33) Supported Research and Development National Security Policy”, states “the purpose of this policy is to require the use of the Department of the Interior (DOI) common disclosure forms of potential conflicts of interest and commitment from research and development project applicants and recipients subject to 2 CFR 200.” Accordingly, DOI PGM instructs that all recipients of research financial assistance awards are required to submit the following two forms (see Attachment E for templates):
 - Biographical Sketch Common Form
 - Current and Pending (Other) Support Common Form

NOTE: Please note that the Biographic Sketch Common Form and Current and Pending Support Common Forms are not actually forms but rather formats for submission of information. Please submit all required information. If there is no in-kind contributions associated with project, please include a statement to this effect. The certification at the end of each form requires an actual signature not just "signed" and the typed name.

- A primary objective of the Program is to increase public accessibility of geological and geophysical data and samples. Ideally, digital resources should be made readily, freely, and publicly available through digital means. Physical resources should be discoverable through digital means. Please describe how the materials and data will be made available. If materials will not be made publicly available and/or free, provide a clear justification.
- The Program does not support interpretive activities, including derivative products, nor research under any Priority. Development of non-experimental workflows that result in improved public access or preservation efficiency are within scope of the Program. Proposed deliverable products under any of the Priorities must be non-interpretive and for data capture, e.g., hyperspectral, pXRF, must be the closest to raw, but useable data (level 0 or 1). Collected data cannot be embargoed.
- Collection metadata records describing the preserved materials must be submitted to ReSciColl, the Registry of Scientific Collections, using the ReSciColl metadata profiles.
- A *Data Management Plan (DMP)* is required for all projects that produce data, create or enhance digital products (e.g. database, web service, web portals, etc.), or preserve physical objects and must be provided in the NGGDPP format using the DMP Form located at the bottom of the NGGDPP Proposal Tips and Examples Webpage (<https://www.usgs.gov/programs/national-geological-and-geophysical-data-preservation-program/proposal-tips-and-examples>) to conform with the Executive Order of February 22, 2013, “Increasing Access to the Results of Federally Funded Scientific Research”. Photos are not permitted in the DMP. Photos may be provided in the optional Figure Appendix (2-page limit). All proposals submitted to the USGS seeking funding for Priorities 1 and 2 must include a DMP, in the format linked above, which explains how data and metadata generated by the proposed project will be disseminated and shared

with other researchers and the public. If no data are produced as part of the project, e.g., physical infrastructure construction, then no DMP is required. A DMP should document data handling throughout the lifecycle of the project from planning through release and archive. A data management plan also describes roles and responsibilities. These can be formalized through data sharing agreements. When there are questions regarding data access or copyright issues, these should be addressed and documented in the DMP. The DMP includes:

- Description of the types of collections, materials, and data that are expected to be preserved and made publicly accessible by the proposed project.
- Standards and best practices that will be used for the data and metadata formats, including justifications for deviations from the prescribed standards. As described in section F2, NGGDPP Products and Reports, metadata describing rescued and preserved data and materials must conform to the NGGDPP metadata schema (<https://www.usgs.gov/programs/national-geological-and-geophysical-data-preservation-program/prepare-metadata-files>).
- Policies for access and sharing, including provision for appropriate protection of privacy, confidentiality, security, intellectual property, and other rights or requirements. If your state is preserving data and materials with restricted access rights, explain these limitations.
- Provisions for re-use, re-distribution, and production of derivatives from your preserved data and artifacts.
- Plans for archiving and maintaining free public access to preserved data, samples, and other research products in your state facilities and on the Web. Please describe how the materials and data will be made available. If materials will not be made publicly available, provide a clear justification. The metadata records you submit to ReSciColl will be archived by the USGS and remain freely and publicly accessible.

The DMP does not count toward the page limit of the proposal's project narrative.

- Preserving U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) assets (e.g. maps, reports, photos etc.) using NGGDPP funds is **not allowed**; collections proposed for preservation should be owned by your state geological organization. Strong justification and documentation that the data will be made public (e.g., data sharing agreement or transfer of ownership), is required for preserving collections owned by a private or another state entity (for example, state oil and gas commission).
- The Detailed Budget Template, Attachment _B.docx, is required and must be submitted with your proposal. The Detailed Budget Template is provided with the package on grants.gov.
- If multiple objectives/projects are proposed under a Priority, each objective/project must have project personnel roles, responsibilities, and hours broken out specific to the objective. The objectives under each Priority must also be broken out independently in the Detailed Budget (Attachment B). Include descriptions of project personnel and their experience and skills relevant to their proposed objectives. Extended supervisory hours performed by senior staff or other management activities for which funding is requested must be well justified. Submit Curriculum Vitae (CV) or resumes (2-page maximum) for primary personnel. CVs and resumes do not count toward the proposal page limit.

- If collaborating with non-state survey staff (e.g., universities or other state agencies), or hiring contractors, roles and project hours must be detailed within the proposal narrative, detailed budget, and personnel tables for both requested funding or state match. Proposed contractors and the activities supported by the contractor (individual or corporate) must be identified in the proposal. Quotes for contracted work must be provided. Contracted work will not be funded without quotes. The selection criteria used or planned for their selection must be provided. Selection criteria and/or CVs do not count toward the proposal page limit.
- In-kind services proposed as match, e.g., software, must have documentation of value of software. The proof of value does not count toward the proposal page limit.
- All supplies and equipment must be itemized, and a vendor or manufacturer quote provided. Supplies and equipment will not be funded without quotes (See section D2. Detailed Budget Narrative, section d. *Other Direct Costs*). In addition, equipment funding requests of \$10,000 or more per item must be supported by a thorough justification. Quotes must be provided for supplies and equipment whether proposed funding requested, or match proposed. The equipment requests including scanners, computers, storage media, and relevant software licenses are acceptable if the equipment is reasonable and necessary for the successful completion of the work funded by the NGGDPP. If no justification is included, the cost will be disallowed. The NGGDPP will not fund general software licenses, database software systems, or equipment required for your organization's IT infrastructure and operation, regardless of your proposed NGGDPP-related work. Equipment justification and quotes are not included in the project description page limit.
- Non-allowable expenses under the NGGDPP include duplicate digitization/conversion of artifacts produced and preserved by other agencies, tuition, computer maintenance or travel to a conference or workshop.
- Buy America requirements for construction projects have changed, providing greater flexibility for construction projects under \$250,000. Please see the 2026 NGGDPP Terms and Conditions (Attachment C, Section F) for the full provision.
- All geospatial data collected for or produced using the Department of the Interior (DOI) financial assistance funds must meet all relevant standards established by the Federal Geospatial Data Committee (FGDC) as authorized by Geospatial Data Act of 2018, Pub. L. 115-254, Subtitle F – Geospatial Data, §§ 751-759C, codified at 43 U.S.C. §§ 2801–2811. DOI requires fully compliant metadata on all Geographic Information Systems files developed for financial assistance projects. If a funded financial assistance project involves acquiring or collecting geospatial data, the recipient is required to search GeoPlatform.gov and Data.gov to determine that no existing Federal, State, local or private data meet the Government's needs and are available at no cost before acquiring or collecting additional geospatial data.
- If geospatial datasets are part of a proposed activity, the data must be documented with feature-level FGDC-compliant metadata and be provided with the open-format compiled geospatial dataset(s). Free metadata tools such as the USGS Metadata Wizard may be utilized for populating metadata.

- The following regulations and requirements apply under §1402.315 of Financial Assistance Interior Regulation, Supplementing the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements For Federal Awards.

(a) All data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, valuation products or other scientific assessments in any medium or form, including textual, numerical, graphic, cartographic, narrative, or audiovisual, resulting from a financial assistance agreement is available for use by the DOI, including being available in a manner that is sufficient for independent verification.

(b) The Federal Government has the right to:

(1) Obtain, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, or other scientific assessments, produced under a Federal award; and

(2) Authorize others to receive, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use such data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, or other scientific assessments, for Federal purposes, including to allow for meaningful third-party evaluation.

- The Final Technical Report (FTR) must use the Final Technical Report template, FinalTechnicalReport_Template.docx which may be found using the following link: (https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/file/get/5baa94ade4b08583a5cd878e?name=FinalTechnicalReport_Template.docx). Using the template, the FTR must include a 500-word summary with specific examples of user success stories and/or other societal benefits that highlight accomplishments in this project. A png image, 300 DPI or greater, is required to capture the essence of the project. Please note the summary and image may be shared in news releases, communications, or websites as examples of success stories and project types.
- Infrastructure projects may be subject to the Buy American requirements described in the Terms and Conditions (Attachment C, Section F). The Davis Bacon Act also may apply.

Please contact the Contracting Officer if you have any questions regarding the proposal process and/or scope of the Program. However, questions specific to your proposal as to what will or will not be funded cannot be addressed.

Changes to Proposal Requirements and Conditions

The following changes are being implemented in the FY 2026 funding opportunity:

- Awards may start as early as May 1, 2026 and no later than August 1, 2026.
- **Any state requesting Priority 1 funding must update all existing ReSciColl collection records to the current ReSciColl metadata standard.** States may request up to \$5,000 to update metadata to the new ReSciColl requirements (formerly the National Digital Catalog (NDC)). This Priority 1 activity request requires a 1:1 state to federal match and will be awarded to all requestors. The funding requested and matched must be documented separately in Attachment A as part of the Priority 1 activities. The \$5,000 requested includes fringe rates and indirect costs.

- As NGGDPP does not fund research, states may not use a Research indirect rate unless their organizational policy explicitly states that this is the applicable rate.
- Geologic map conversions to the Geologic Map Schema (GeMS) must conform to Level 3 requirements.

Application Documents

Applicants must submit the following forms with their application as specified below. Instructions for accessing and submitting application forms are provided in the [Submission Instructions](#) section of this document below. For instructions on completing form fields, see the form instructions on the [Grants.gov Forms Repository](#).

Forms/Assurances/Certifications	Submission Requirement
SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance Note: For applicants requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funds, the Authorized Representative's signature (or electronic equivalent) on the Application for Federal Assistance form also represents their certification of the statements in Appendix A to 43 CFR 18-Certification Regarding Lobbying	Required from all applicants
SF-424A, Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs	Required for non-construction projects
SF-424C: Budget Information – Construction Programs	Required for construction projects
SF-429 (Cover Page & Attachment B), Request to Acquire, Improve, or Furnish Real Property Note: The SF-429 forms are only available in the Grants.gov Forms Repository . Applicants must download the form and include the completed form as an application attachment.	Required if requesting to acquire, improve, or furnish real property.
SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	Required if requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funds <u>and</u> the applicant has used or plans to use funds other than Federal appropriated funds for lobbying related to the proposed project.
Project Abstract Summary (OMB 4040-0019). Must include, in plain language: • Award purpose, • Activities to be performed, • Expected deliverables or outcomes,	Required from all applicants

Forms/Assurances/Certifications	Submission Requirement
Intended beneficiaries, Subrecipient activities (if known or specified at time of award)	
DOI Research and Development (R&D) – Current and Pending (Other) Support Note: This form is available on the DOI website . Applicants must download the form and include the completed form as an application attachment.	Required for research projects.
DOI Research and Development (R&D) – Biographical Sketch Note: This form is available on the DOI website . Applicants must download the form and include the completed form as an application attachment.	Required for research projects.

Project Narrative

Proposals must be arranged according to the format provided below. Following this format ensures that every proposal contains all essential information and is evaluated equitably. Provide the requested information in the correct locations within the format below. Failure to do so may result in disqualification of the proposal. The proposal may be in PDF or MS Word format. The proposal and associated forms shall be submitted to www.grants.gov.

Include a table of contents for the proposal. Each Priority 1 and 2 has a specific page limit (see below) that applies to the project description only. You may not submit any supporting documents (e.g. long-range plans) that are not explicitly requested in this funding opportunity.

These forms, tables, and documents **do not count toward the page limits**, including:

- Standard Forms 424s,
- Table of contents,
- Project summary sheet (Attachment A),
- Project abstract summary,
- Project personnel and contractor justification and expertise table or list,
- CVs or resumes (max 2 pages per CV) and Common Disclosure Forms as set forth in the Forms/Assurances/Certifications chart above (see also Attachment E)
- Selection criteria for non-state survey staff, collaborators (e.g., universities or state agencies), or contractors
- Letters of support from stakeholders and/or advisory committees,
- Figures, images, or diagrams submitted within the Figure Appendix (2-page limit),
- Data Management Plan (DMP)
(https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/file/get/5baa94ade4b08583a5cd878e?name=StateSurveyAbbrev_NGCDPP_DMPForm.docx),
- Budget tables (Attachment B),
- Negotiated rate, internal memo, cost agreements, and equipment justifications and equipment/supply and contracted services quotes.

1. FY 2026 NGGDPP Proposal Information Sheet. (Attachment A). Summary sheet shall clearly list project and budget summary for all priorities. Please include e-mail addresses for the Principal Investigator and authorized institution representative. Outcome notifications will be sent via e-mail to the authorized institution representative and the Principal Investigator. The Proposal Information Sheet is NOT included in the page limit.
2. Project Abstract Summary for the Proposal. The proposal package must include a 1-page Project Abstract Summary as a separate document using the file, AbstractTemplate.docx. The Project Summary is not included in the page limit per priority. States must use this abstract template, AbstractTemplate.docx. to summarize ALL proposal Priorities. The Project Abstract Summary will meet Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requirements and NGGDPP proposal needs.

In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memoranda M-21-20 and M-22-02, Federal agencies are now required to provide complete and accurate financial assistance award descriptions within USAspending.gov. As such, the Department of the Interior is requiring its bureaus and offices to request that all potential award recipients provide the below information as part of this proposal package for the NGGDPP and to the Contracting Officer for posting to USAspending.gov. The Project Abstract Summary limitation is 1 page or less (no more than ~4000 characters) and must use of 12 pt. font and Times New Roman is recommended. Your description should include a response that is in plain language after the bulleted title, avoiding acronyms but used they must be spelled out, avoiding Federal or agency-specific terminology, and should be written in third person, thus avoiding personal pronouns. **(INCLUDE EACH OF THE 5 BULLET TITLES LISTED BELOW FOLLOWED BY DESCRIPTIVE TEXT - DO NOT SUBMIT IN PARAGRAPH FORMAT.)**

Project Title:

Project Period:

Project Description (use plain language and avoid acronyms or Federal or agency-specific terminology and pronouns):

Activities to be performed:

Deliverables and expected outcomes:

Intended beneficiary(ies):

Subrecipient activities, if known or specified at the time of award:

NOTE: If recommended for award, upon issuance of the financial assistance award, this Project Abstract Summary will be publicly available at USAspending.gov.

3. Project Description for Priority 1 projects only. The project description of the proposal is limited to 5 single-space pages (including figures, tables) with font size no smaller than 11-point (regular, must not be narrow, e.g., Arial or Times New Roman) and 1-inch margins. The font size in figures and tables must be no smaller than 8-point (regular, must not be narrow, e.g., Arial or Times New Roman). All text, figures, and tables shall be sized to fit on 8½” x 11” paper. The project description section of your proposal should include the following:

1. *Introduction:* The introduction should provide a brief overview of the project activities, methods, and goals. Provide background information about the preserved artifacts, primary users, and frequency of use of the preserved materials and data. Preserving USGS assets using NGGDPP funds is not allowed; collections proposed for preservation should be owned by your state geological organization. Strong justification is required for preserving collections owned by a private or another state entity (for example, state oil and gas commission). Explain the societal and scientific benefits and the importance of the proposed preservation activities to your state. A statement of use or a letter of support from a stakeholder may be included. Letters of support from stakeholders do not count toward the page limit.
 2. *Project narrative:* Follow the guidelines and requirements listed in section A2 of this NOFO. Describe the procedures and workflows that will be carried out to preserve materials and data. Include descriptions of the separate activities for the designated processes, including the quality assurance and control methods to ensure accuracy and quality of products. Guidance and best practices for managing data quality can be found on the USGS Data Management site: <https://www.usgs.gov/products/data-and-tools/data-management/manage-quality>. Discuss the generated products (other than the final technical report), such as metadata for specific collection and items or an improved database. Provide a table or list that includes information about the Principal Investigator, staff, and support positions (such as geologist, information technologist, or database developer) and detail the estimated time **by person for each objective** if multiple objectives/projects per Priority. Briefly discuss each person's role on the project so that it links to the budget. For each person, provide a brief statement of their background, define their roles and responsibilities, and provide a CV for primary personnel (no more than two pages) that includes skills and expertise relevant to the proposed activities, and indicate whether the person works for your organization or elsewhere (contractor or volunteer). If the contractor has not yet been hired, describe experience and skills necessary for completing the work. CVs do not count toward the page limit.
4. **Project Description for Priority 2 projects only.** The project description of the proposal is limited to 5 single-spaced pages (including figures, tables), with font size no smaller than 11-point (regular, must not be narrow, e.g., Arial or Times New Roman) and 1-inch margins. The font size in figures and tables must be no smaller than 8-point (regular, must not be narrow, e.g., Arial or Times New Roman). All text, figures, and tables shall be sized to fit on 8½" x 11" paper. The project description section of your proposal should include the following:
1. *Introduction:* The introduction should provide a brief overview of the project activities, methods, and goals. Provide background information about the preserved artifacts, primary users, and frequency of use of the preserved materials and data. Preserving USGS assets using NGGDPP funds is not allowed; collections proposed for preservation should be owned by your state geological organization. Strong justification is required for preserving collections owned by a private or another state entity (for example, state oil and gas commission). Explain the societal and scientific benefits and the importance of the proposed

preservation activities to your state. A statement of use or a letter of support from a stakeholder may be included. Letters of support from stakeholders do not count toward the page limit.

2. *Project narrative*: Follow the guidelines and requirements listed in section A2 of this NOFO. Describe the procedures and workflows that will be carried out to achieve the listed activities under Priority 2 and how they will result in the products for Priority 2, including the quality assurance and control methods to ensure accuracy and quality of products. Guidance and best practices for managing data quality can be found on the USGS Data Management site: <https://www.usgs.gov/products/data-and-tools/data-management/manage-quality>. Provide a table or list that includes the roles and responsibilities of the Principal Investigator, staff, and support positions (such as geologist, information technologist, or database developer) and detail the estimated time **by person for each objective** if multiple objectives/projects under this Priority. Briefly discuss each person's role on the project so that it links to the budget. The FY 2026 project narrative may also propose to develop a strategic plan for critical minerals data preservation activities.

Budget Narrative

Applicants must describe and justify items and costs listed in their budget. The budget narrative must identify the following cost items: total estimated costs, non-Federal cost share, third-party contributions, and any pre-award costs. Total project cost is the sum of all allowable costs, including required and voluntary cost share and third-party contributions.

Budget items must be:

- Reasonable, allowable, allocable, and necessary
- Compliant with 2 CFR §200 Subpart E cost principles

Indirect Costs: Applicants must indicate in their budget narrative how they will charge indirect costs, including the rate to be applied:

- **De Minimis Rate**: If eligible, state if your organization is opting to use the de minimis rate of up to 15% of total modified direct costs. Entities that do not have a current Federal negotiated indirect cost rate (including provisional rate) may propose to use the de minimis rate. For more information, refer to 2 CFR 200.414(f).
- **Negotiated Rate**: State if you will negotiate with your cognizant agency. If your organization has previously negotiated a rate, attach a copy of the most recently negotiated rate agreement (active or expired).

Your proposal must include completed detailed budget sheets (Attachment B). You may **NOT** create your own budget sheet. Attachment B.docx, Detailed Budget Template, is required and must be used with your proposal submission. The Detailed Budget Template is provided with the package on grants.gov.

If applicable, one budget sheet must include expenses for Priority 1 preservation activities and ancillary costs (fringe rates, direct and indirect costs). If there are multiple objectives or projects per Priority, the budget must include breakout by objectives or projects. Federal funds requested for Priority 1 must be matched with state funds. If requesting Federal funds for multiple

objectives in Priority 1, each must be matched with state funds. Federal funds for ReSciColl collections and items update must be documented separately within the Priority 1 budget and matched with state funds. The \$5,000 cap in requested funds for the ReSciColl update includes fringe rates and indirect costs.

If applicable, a separate budget sheet must include expenses for Priority 2 and ancillary costs (fringe rates, direct and indirect costs). If there are multiple objectives or projects per Priority, the budget must include breakout by objectives or projects.

The detailed proposed budget(s) must be summarized and provided in the “Amount Requested” on the NGGDPP Proposal Information Summary Sheet (Attachment A). Attachments A and B provide format guidance. In the budget sheet, individual federal requests do not have to be matched by state funds line by line. However, the total funding contributed by a state geological survey must be equal to or greater than the amount requested from the NGGDPP for each Priority and shall be derived from non-federal sources (direct and indirect costs). Failure to provide a detailed budget itemizing state expenditures will result in rejection of the proposal.

Please read each category description below and provide the detailed breakdown for each cost. This information will help avoid delays processing a funded proposal as an award will not be issued until all required information is provided. Please double-check your calculations as they will be meticulously analyzed for consistency and accuracy.

The detailed budget **shall** include the amount proposed for each of the following:

1. Salaries and wages. List names, positions, number of hours individuals will spend on various activities, their rates of compensation and project roles. Salaries or wages for student assistants (undergraduate and/or graduate students) working on the project are an acceptable cost to the Program. If a position is vacant, indicate the position title. Include only personnel actively involved in the project. If senior management salary/time is covered by the overhead (indirect cost) portion of the budget, senior management salary/time should not be included. If senior management personnel participate in project work, include an explanation of their roles. Non-state survey staff working on the project should also be included if they are being supported by other state funding. The detailed proposed budget shall include the total time worked on the project (in units of hours), rate-of-compensation (hourly, monthly, or annually), and job title or role of **each person by objective. If there are multiple objectives or projects per Priority, then include the information for each person by objective/project.**
2. Fringe benefits. Indicate the rates/amounts in conformance with normal accounting procedures. Explain what costs are covered in this category and the basis of the rate computations. Indicate whether rates are used for proposal purposes only or whether they are also fixed or provisional rates for billing purposes. Include a copy of the Negotiated Rate Agreement or internal memo supporting the proposed rates. The Negotiated Rate Agreement and internal memo **do not** count toward the page limit.
3. Travel expenses. State the purpose of the trip(s) and itemize estimated travel costs. Include number of people, number of travel days, per diem rate, mileage rate, airfare, or other travel costs necessary to perform the activities in your proposal.
- d. Other direct costs.

- Supplies. List costs for office and laboratory/facility supplies. Itemize by including the number and cost for each item and provide a dealer, manufacture quote, or product description page with a current price. Supplies will not be funded without quotes. Quotes must be provided for supplies whether proposed as funding requested or match.
- Equipment. NGGDPP funds may be used to purchase computer hardware, GPS, or other non-expendable property required for the project. Non-expendable equipment has a useful life of more than one (1) year and an acquisition cost of \$10,000 or more per item. If necessary, NGGDPP funds may be used to purchase software site licenses needed to complete data preservation projects. Show the cost of all proposed equipment/software site licenses necessary for achieving project goals. Each item must be itemized and include a **full justification** and a dealer or manufacturer quote. Quotes must be provided for equipment whether proposed as funding requested or match. Equipment will not be funded without quotes. If full justification for equipment is not provided, equipment costs will not be supported. General-purpose equipment must be purchased from the applicant's operating funds. Routine computer maintenance contracts and charges for computer time are not acceptable direct costs under this program. Explain and justify any extraordinary items included in the proposed project budget.
- Contractual services. Identify the activities for which such services would be used. Identify proposed contractors (individual or corporate) and provide criteria by which contractors will be, or have been, selected. For each individual, include their job title, total labor hours, and rate of compensation. Quotes for contracted work must be provided.

e. Total direct costs. Total items (a) through (d).

6. Indirect charges. Show the proposed rate, cost base, and proposed amount for allowable indirect costs based on the cost principles applicable to the applicant's organization. If applicant has separate rates for recovery of labor overhead and general and administrative costs, each charge should be shown. Explain the distinction between items included in the two cost pools. Applicant should propose rates for evaluation purposes, which they are also willing to establish as fixed or ceiling rates in any resulting award. A copy of the indirect negotiated cost agreement with the Federal Government must be included. If one is not established, applicants may charge 10% indirect costs. A copy of the Indirect Negotiated Cost Agreement does not count against the page limit.
7. Total charges. Total items (a) through (g). The total budget proposed must show that the federal share of the cost of the activity does not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the activity as required by Public Law 109-58, Energy Policy Act of 2005. The non-federal share may be more than the federal contribution.

Conflict of Interest and Unresolved Matters Disclosures:

If any actual or potential conflict of interest exists related to this project at the time of application, the applicant must provide sufficient information to support a program determination of significance per 2 CFR 1402.112. Refer to 2 CFR 200.112 Conflict of Interest and 2 CFR 200.113.

Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement:

Applicants must state in their application if the activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel proposed in this application overlap with those in any other Federal proposal or award or not. If no overlap exists, include a statement to that effect. If any overlap exists, provide:

- Activities: Description any overlapping activities.
- Costs: Description of any overlapping costs.
- Time: Description of any overlapping key personnel time.
- A copy of any overlapping or duplicative proposal submitted to any other potential funding entity.
- Details on when any overlapping proposal was submitted, to whom, and the expected date of the funding decision.

Other Required Information

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

Address to Request Application Package

The application package is available from Grants.gov. General information on the grant process is available on the National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Program website.

Program Website Link

[NGGDPP Grants | U.S. Geological Survey](#)

Submission Dates and Times

Closing Date for Applications: 02/17/2026

Closing Date Explanation

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 6:00pm EST, February 17, 2026.

Submission Instructions

Apply Through Grants.gov

To apply through Grants.gov, please follow the instructions in the Quick Start Guide for Applicants. Before applying, ensure that at least one person at your organization is registered and has the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR). Only the AOR can submit the application. If you need more users, they must create their own Grants.gov account. Follow these steps below to apply:

- Create a Workspace: Creating a workspace allows you to complete it online and route it through your organization for review before submitting.
- Complete a Workspace: Invite participants to the workspace so you can collaborate on the application. Required applications forms are included in the Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Package and can be completed in the Workspace, unless noted otherwise in the Required Forms table above. Check for errors before submission.
- Submit a Workspace: An application may be submitted through workspace by clicking the Sign and Submit button on the Manage Workspace page, under the Forms tab

- Track a Workspace Submission: After successfully submitting a workspace application, a Grants.gov Tracking Number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) is automatically assigned to the application.

The system generates a date and time stamp and sends it to the applicant's AOR via email as proof of submission. Make sure your application passes the Grants.gov validation checks. Do not encrypt, zip, or password-protect any files. Only registered individuals in SAM as both a user and an AOR can submit applications. Please allow 30 days to register in Grants.gov.

Application System Technical Support: For Grants.gov technical registration and submission, downloading forms, and application packages, contact Grants.gov Customer Support at 1-800-518-4726 or by email at Support@grants.gov.

A. Electronic Proposal Submission Requirement

Applicants are responsible for electronically submitting the proposal to www.grants.gov by 6:00pm, EDT, February 17, 2026. Be sure to **read the instructions carefully**. Only proposals submitted through grants.gov will be acceptable. Paper copies will NOT be accepted.

Please be aware the electronic submission process requires first-time users to register using an eAuthentication process. This registration process can be complex and take up to 3 weeks to complete. Be advised that you may not be successful in completing an electronic submission for the first time if you begin the process only a few days before the due date. If your organization is affiliated with a university, contact the Office of Sponsored Programs, which may be familiar with the federal grant process and can work with you to submit the proposal.

If you have any questions or problems with the registration process, or the completion of the application package, please contact the grants.gov help desk at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov.

When you submit a grant application package to Grants.gov, you will receive 4 notifications from Grants.gov including a confirmation screen and three additional emails over two business days informing you of your application processing status. The 4 notifications include:

1. Confirmation screen
2. Submission Receipt (with "Track My Application" link)
3. Submission Validation (or Rejection with Errors)
4. Agency Retrieval

1. NOTIFICATION 1: Submission Confirmation Screen. After a grant application package is submitted, a confirmation message will appear on the computer screen. This screen confirms that an application has been submitted to Grants.gov. This page contains a tracking number and a "Track My Application" link for monitoring the progress of the submission.

2. NOTIFICATION 2: Submission Receipt Email. Within two business days after the application package has been received by the Grants.gov system, a submission receipt email (first email) will be sent that indicates the submission has entered the Grants.gov system and is ready for validation. This email contains the same tracking number and a "Track My Application" link that is shown in submission confirmation screen for monitoring the progress of the submission.

3. NOTIFICATION 3: Submission Validation Receipt Email – This is the important one!

This second email will include a message validating or rejecting the submitted application package due to errors. The Grants.gov system is designed to check for technical errors within the submitted application package. Grants.gov does not review application content for award determination.

4. NOTIFICATION 4: Grantor Agency Retrieval Email. Once the application package has passed validation, it is delivered to the grantor for award determination and further approval. After the grantor has confirmed receipt of the application, a third and final email will be sent from Grants.gov. The grantor may also assign the application package an agency-specific tracking number for use within their internal system. **IF THIS E-MAIL HAS NOT BEEN RECEIVED WITHIN FOUR DAYS OF THE CLOSING DATE, PLEASE CONTACT THE CONTRACTING OFFICER,**

Margaret Eastman, (703) 648-7366, mrussell@usgs.gov.

If you need help entering your proposal, you can reach the **Grants.gov Contact Center at: 1-800-518-4726**. Their hours of operation are Monday-Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Eastern Time, and they are closed on federal holidays.

When contacting the Grants.gov Contact Center, please have the following information available to help expedite the inquiry:

- Funding Opportunity Number (FON)
- Name of Agency You Are Applying To
- Specific Area of Concern

The electronic submission will consist of required forms SF-424, SF-424a, and SF-424b, plus the additional items described in Section C of this Announcement.

During the application period, an applicant may submit a revised or corrected proposal through grants.gov. Include a cover letter as the first page of the proposal stating that the proposal is revised, and the previous submittal is to be withdrawn from consideration. Revised proposals must be completed and submitted by February 17, 2026, **at 6:00 pm EDT**.

Please allow sufficient time for the proposal to be submitted electronically through Grants.gov and allow time for possible computer delays. Applicants are strongly advised not to wait until the last minute for submission. A proposal received after the closing date and time will NOT be considered for award. If the USGS determines that a proposal will not be considered for award due to lateness, the applicant will be notified immediately.

B. Involvement of Federal Employees

Federal employees, including USGS employees, are prohibited from assisting in any capacity (paid or unpaid) with preparation of any proposal submitted under this Announcement. Proposals that have a real, or apparent, conflict of interest related to federal employees will not be processed for evaluation.

C. Rejection of Proposals after Initial Review

If the proposal does not meet all requirements specified in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), as determined by the Contracting Officer in consultation with the NGGDPP

management, the applicant will be promptly notified in writing of the rejection along with the reason for the rejection. Furthermore, if the federal share of the cost of the proposed activities is more than 50 percent of the total cost, the proposal shall be rejected.

D. Award recipients must comply with the 2026 NGGDPP Terms and Conditions (Attachment C). Submittal of an application constitutes the applicant's acceptance of these terms and conditions for inclusion in any award resulting from their application. Any concerns with the requirements of the 2026 NGGDPP Terms and Conditions shall be presented to the Contracting Officer at least seven (7) days prior to the closing date of the announcement.

As required by Section 70914 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act), P.L. 117-58, on or after May 14, 2022, none of the funds under a federal award that are part of Federal financial assistance program for infrastructure may be obligated for a project unless all of the iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States, unless subject to an approved waiver. The requirements of this section must be included in all subawards, including all contracts and purchase orders for work or products under this program. See the 2026 NGGDPP Terms and Conditions (Attachment C, Section F) for the full provision.

APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

Eligibility Review

During the eligibility review, the application is checked for timely submission, completed packages (see [Application Documents](#) above) and alignment with the requirements of this announcement. The Federal agency may remove an application if it does not pass the eligibility review.

Only state geological surveys are eligible to apply to this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) under the National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Program pursuant to the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 105-58, Sec. 351). A university may submit a proposal on behalf of a state geological survey if the state geological survey is organized under a state university system.

If an applicant selected for funding hasn't finished their SAM.gov registration (see [2 CFR 25.200](#) and [2 CFR 25.110](#)) when the federal agency is ready to make an award, we may decide that the applicant is ineligible for the award and choose to grant it to someone else. Please refer [2 CFR 25.205](#) for more information.

Prior to making an award, the DOI checks the anticipated recipient and their key project personnel against the current list of prohibited or restricted persons or entities in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Exclusions database. We are prohibited from making an award if a recipient or any key personnel are found ineligible, prohibited, restricted, or otherwise excluded from receiving or participating in an award, as their ineligibility condition applies to this program.

If removed from consideration for ineligibility, the Federal agency will notify the applicant in writing.

Merit Review

Technical Merit - Weight 25%

Maximum Points: 0

This factor assesses the technical approach of the proposed work and the probability of achieving positive results within the designated period. Assessment includes analysis of methodologies, technology, and workflows.

Societal Benefits - Weight 25%

Maximum Points: 0

This factor assesses the value of the proposed preservation products to advancing scientific understanding, enhancing environmental health, improving the knowledge base in underserved communities, and increasing economic growth and/or public safety.

Knowledge, Performance, and Experience - Weight 25%

Maximum Points: 0

This factor considers knowledge, performance, and experience of the principal investigator and coworkers, including demonstrating the ability to successfully complete data preservation objectives, and satisfying NGGDPP reporting requirements. This factor includes the capability to provide necessary facilities and support to ensure satisfactory completion of the proposed work.

Appropriateness and Reasonableness of the Budget - Weight 25%

Maximum Points: 0

This factor considers whether the proposed budget is commensurate with the level of effort needed to accomplish the project and reasonable relative to the value of the anticipated results.

Review and Selection Process

This program reviews proposed budgets to ensure:

- figures are correct
- estimated costs are necessary and reasonable and clearly linked to project narratives
- avoid obviously unallowable costs
- identify costs requiring prior approval
- ensure indirect cost rates are applied correctly
- confirm cost sharing requirements are reflected in the budget.

This program reviews applications for potential overlap or duplication between the proposed project and any other funded or proposed project. Depending on the circumstances, DOI may choose to not make an award.

NGGDPP proposals for Priority 1 projects will be reviewed by a seven-member peer panel, consisting of three state geological survey representatives, three USGS representatives, and one non-USGS representative. These panel members represent the professional areas of science, data management, and preservation.

NGGDPP proposals for Priority 2 projects will be reviewed by a three-member panel with expertise in geoscience materials and critical minerals, consisting of two state geological survey and one USGS representative.

Evaluation Criteria. All proposals for projects will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria listed in Section E1 and the Important Guidelines and Requirements listed on pages v – vii. NOTE: To avoid conflict of interest, no panelist may vote on a proposal from his or her state geological survey or state agency, nor may any panelist discuss with other panel members his or her state’s proposal. This does not prohibit collaboration between USGS and state scientists once a grant is in place.

Risk Review

Prior to making an award, the applicant will be assessed for their level of risk per 2 CFR 200.206. This assessment includes the applicant's financial management capabilities, project delivery experience, staffing resources, past award performance, administration and reporting compliance records, and overall project complexity and potential for challenges. If an award will be made, special conditions may be applied to the award corresponding to the assessed risk. For awards over the simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$350,000), a review of the applicant's eligibility and financial integrity information in the applicant's SAM.gov records will also be performed per 2 CFR 200.206.

AWARD NOTICES

Notices of Federal Award are sent electronically via GrantSolutions or e-mail. These notices outline the terms, conditions, and payment instructions per 2 CFR 200.211. The Notice of Federal Award signed by an authorized Grants Officer is the legal instrument obligating financial assistance to a recipient. Any other prior notice is not an authorization to begin work. If the program allows pre-award costs per 2 CFR 200.458, beginning performance before receiving a Notice of Federal Award is at the applicant’s own risk.

Anticipated Project Start Date: 05/01/2026

Anticipated Project End Date: 09/30/2027

Anticipated Award Date: May 1, 2026 to August 1, 2026

Proposal Announcement Date: January 14, 2026

Closing Date and Time for Proposal Submission February 17, 2026, 6:00 p.m. EST

Proposals received after the deadline will NOT be considered for an award.

The earliest start date will be May 1, 2026 and the latest start date is August 1, 2026.

For applications that include Priority 2 projects, the start date will be after USGS receives its final FY 2026 appropriation. All deliverables are due 90 days after the end of the grant period of performance.

Awards will be for a 12-month period of performance.

NGGDPP Information Products: The following information products will be required as a condition of receiving federal funds:

1. Metadata submitted to ReSciColl (Registry of Scientific Collections). Collection metadata records describing the preserved materials must be submitted to ReSciColl. If applicable to the proposed activity, metadata for individual collection items should also be submitted. NGGDPP-required metadata attributes for collection metadata are available

here: [Data Submission | U.S. Geological Survey](#). Metadata describing digitized geologic maps submitted to the NGMDB shall also be cataloged in ReSciColl.

2. If applicable, data and image files, with accompanying metadata, are uploaded to ReSciColl.
3. If applicable, geospatial datasets are documented with FGDC-compliant metadata and uploaded to ReSciColl.
4. If applicable, preserved digital geologic map files are documented with FGDC-compliant metadata and submitted to NGMDB Connect (<https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/connect/>).
5. If applicable, compiled drill hole/core data compiled in the borehole template with accompanying metadata are uploaded to ReSciColl.
6. If applicable, funded recipients for Priority 2 projects shall submit the following types of information products:
 - Contact information for the technical lead(s) at the state geological survey for mineral resource matters.
 - Summary description and digital access to publicly available drill core data containing relevant information to aid in identification of priority areas with potential for hosting critical mineral resources and compilation of subsurface data and resources. Such data would include drill core location, footage intervals with stratigraphic intercepts, depth to Precambrian basement, identification of the Precambrian basement rock, and total depth, for example. The data compiled in the [borehole template](#), FY 2026 Priority 2 – Critical Minerals Data Preservation, with accompanying metadata are uploaded to ReSciColl.
 - Samples preserved for analysis must be inventoried with the sample number and item-level documentation. The IGSN, if available, should also be provided. These must be submitted for registry in ReSciColl. Documentation and publication of analytical results are handled under the USGS data release, <https://doi.org/10.5066/P9WHRLXH>.

7. Final Technical Report

Following project completion, all awards made under the NGGDPP require submittal of a final technical report (FTR) that must document and summarize the results of the work. The final technical report must be submitted using the NGGDPP Final Technical Report template, https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/file/get/5baa94ade4b08583a5cd878e?name=FinalTechnicalReport_Template.docx, and must contain:

- Cover page
 - Award Number
 - Title
 - Author and affiliation with address and zip code
 - Author's telephone number and e-mail address
 - Term covered by the award (start and end dates)
 - Submittal date of final technical report
 - Abstract
- Main body
 - Comparison of actual accomplishments to the goals established for the period.
 - If established goals were not met, explanation of circumstances and impediments.

- Required: 500-word summary with specific examples of user success stories and/or other societal benefits that highlight accomplishments in this project. A png image, 300 DPI or greater, is required to capture the essence of the project. Please note the summary and image may be shared in new releases, communications, or websites as examples of success stories and project types.

The Final Technical Report template is available on the NGGDPP site with guidance within the document accessed at:

https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/file/get/5baa94ade4b08583a5cd878e?name=FinalTechnicalReport_Template.docx .

The final technical report is limited to no more than five pages. A final technical report must be submitted within 90 days after the end of the grant performance period. Failure to submit a final technical report may hinder receipt of future NGGDPP funds. Final technical reports shall be submitted electronically to the general NGGDPP email box, nggdpp@usgs.gov. A courtesy copy shall be submitted to Margaret Eastman, USGS Contract Specialist, mrussell@usgs.gov.

POST AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

Administration and National Policy Requirements

For award administration and national policy requirements, see the [DOI General Terms and Conditions](#). Infrastructure projects require the use of American iron, steel, manufacture products, and construction materials per [2 CFR 184](#).

Geospatial Data

If you receive financial assistance from the Department of the Interior (DOI), recipient must follow these rules for geospatial data:

Follow Federal Standards: All geospatial data you collect or create must meet the standards set by the Federal Geospatial Data Committee (FGDC) or the Department of the Interior. This is required by the Geospatial Data Act of 2018, which is part of Public Law 115-254, specifically in Subtitle F (Geospatial Data), sections 751-759C (codified at [43 U.S.C. §§ 2801–2811](#)).

Include Metadata: Your Geographic Information Systems (GIS) files must include complete metadata. Metadata is information that describes the data, such as where it came from, how accurate it is, and how it should be used. This is to ensure that anyone using the data understands its context and quality.

Check for Existing Data: Before you start collecting new geospatial data, you need to check GeoPlatform.gov. This is to see if there is already existing geospatial data from federal, state, local, or private sources that can meet your needs and is available for free. If such data is available, you should use it instead of gathering new data.

These rules help ensure that geospatial data is reliable, high-quality, and that resources are used efficiently.

Reporting

The recipient's Notice of Award will detail all reporting requirements, including frequency, due dates, and instructions for requesting extensions. In general, but not limited to, recipients must:

- Submit Federal Financial reports and Program Performance reports.

- Use the Federal Financial Report (SF-425) form for financial reporting,
- Monitor award activities and report on program performance per 2 CFR 200.329,
- Promptly notify the awarding program in writing of any issues, delays, or conditions impairing award objectives per 2 CFR 200.329(e),
- Disclose any conflicts of interest related to their award that arise during the award period per 2 CFR 1402.112,
- Report on the status of real property acquired under the award in which the Federal government retains an interest per 2 CFR 200.330, and
- Report all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award per 2 CFR 200.113.
- Report any matters related to recipient integrity and performance to SAM.gov per Appendix XII to 2 CFR 200.
- If the Federal share of the award is more than \$100,000 and the recipient makes or agrees to make any payment using non-appropriated funds for lobbying in connection to the award, disclose those activities using the Disclosure of Lobbying (SF-LLL) form per 43 CFR 18.100.
- Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA) requires certain recipients to report information on executive compensation through SAM.gov and information on all sub-awards, subcontracts, and consortiums over \$30,000 to the FFATA Subaward Reporting System (FSRS).

Other Information

Geospatial Data Notification/Requirement: The following notification/requirement is provided in the event that your project requires the use of geospatial data.

If you receive financial assistance from the Department of the Interior (DOI), you must follow these rules for geospatial data: Follow Federal Standards: All geospatial data you collect or create must meet the standards set by the Federal Geospatial Data Committee (FGDC) or the Department of the Interior. This is required by the Geospatial Data Act of 2018, which is part of Public Law 115-254, specifically in Subtitle F (Geospatial Data), sections 751-759C (codified at 43 U.S.C. §§ 2801– 2811). Include Metadata: Your Geographic Information Systems (GIS) files must include complete metadata. Metadata is information that describes the data, such as where it came from, how accurate it is, and how it should be used. This is to ensure that anyone using the data understands its context and quality. Check for Existing Data: Before you start collecting new geospatial data, you need to check GeoPlatform.gov. This is to see if there is already existing geospatial data from federal, state, local, or private sources that can meet your needs and is available for free. If such data is available, you should use it instead of gathering new data. These rules help ensure that geospatial data is reliable, high-quality, and that resources are used efficiently.

2 CFR § 1402.315

(a) All data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, valuation products or other scientific assessments in any medium or form, including textual, numerical, graphic, cartographic, narrative, or audiovisual, resulting from a financial assistance agreement is available for use by the Department of the Interior, including being available in a manner that is sufficient for independent verification.

(b) The Federal Government has the right to:

(1) Obtain, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, or other scientific assessments, produced under a Federal award; and

(2) Authorize others to receive, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use such data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, or other scientific assessments, for Federal purposes, including to allow for meaningful third-party evaluation.

Significant Development Reports

Events may occur between the scheduled performance reporting dates which have significant impact upon the supported activity. In such cases, recipients are required to notify the Bureau in writing as soon as the recipient becomes aware of any problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will materially impair the ability to meet the objective of the Federal award. This disclosure must include a statement of any corrective action(s) taken or contemplated, and any assistance needed to resolve the situation. The recipient should also notify USGS in writing of any favorable developments that enable meeting time schedules and objectives sooner or at less cost than anticipated or producing more or different beneficial results than originally planned.

Payments

Domestic recipients are required to register in and receive payment through the U.S. Treasury's Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP), unless approved for a waiver by the USGS program. Foreign recipients receiving funds to a final destination bank outside the U.S. are required to receive payment through the U.S. Treasury's International Treasury Services (ITS) System. Foreign recipients receiving funds to a final destination bank in the U.S. are required to enter and maintain current banking details in their SAM.gov entity profile and receive payment through the Automated Clearing House network by electronic funds transfer (EFT). The Bureau will include recipient-specific instructions on how to request payment, including identification of any additional information required and where to submit payment requests, as applicable, in all Notices of Award.

Authors may need to provide additional instructions based on legislative or program requirements. If applicable, provide the additional instructions within the text box below. Text field can be left blank if additional instructions are not needed.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: The Paperwork Reduction Act says that the agency must tell you why we are collecting this information, how we will use it, and whether you have to give it to us. This information is being collected to determine the eligibility of the applicant and as a basis for approval or disapproval of the proposed research. The purpose of the National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Program, which was established under the Energy Policy Act of 2005, is to (1) to archive geologic, geophysical, and engineering data, maps, well logs, and samples; and (2) to provide a national catalog of such archival material. Public report burden for this collection is estimated to average 80 hours per grant application and 10 hours to prepare a final technical report. The OMB Control Number is 1028-0087 for this information collection; the expiration date is currently January 31, 2026 to be extended monthly pending renewal approval. Direct comments regarding this collection of information may be sent to the Bureau Clearance Officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS807, Reston VA 20192.

Synopsis

G26AS00024

2026 National Geological & Geophysical Data Preservation Program

General Information

Summary

Bureau or Office

U.S. Geological Survey

Announcement Type

Initial

Fiscal Year

2026

Opportunity Category

D (Discretionary)

Opportunity Category Explanation**Assistance Listing Number(s)**

15.814

Funding Instrument Type

G (Grant)

Funding Activity Category

NR (Natural Resources)

Funding Category Explanation

Award Information

Cost Sharing Requirement

Yes

Expected Number of Awards

35

Estimated Total Program Funding

\$2,000,000

Award Ceiling

\$200,000

Award Floor

\$5,000

Award Floor/Ceiling Explanation

Key Dates

Estimated Post Date

01/14/2026

Closing Date for Applications

02/17/2026

Closing Date Explanation

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 6:00pm EST, February 17, 2026.

Project Period | Expected Duration in Months

35

Estimated Project Start Date

May 01, 2026

Estimated Project End Date

September 30, 2027

Archive Date

03/17/2026

Eligibility Information

Eligibility Category

State governments

Additional Information on Eligibility (Grants.gov 4,000/GMM 2,500 character limit)

Only state geological surveys are eligible to apply to this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) under the National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Program pursuant to the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 105-58, Sec. 351). A university may submit a proposal on behalf of a state geological survey if the state geological survey is organized under a state university system.

Additional Information

Executive Summary

The USGS National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Program (NGGDPP) issues this annual Program Announcement for assistance to support preservation, cataloging of and access to geological and geophysical data and materials for research and education use and address the Department of Interior's Secretarial priorities. This activity is authorized by Section 351 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58, Sec. 351) which was amended by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Public Law 117-58). To read the authorization, visit:

<https://www.usgs.gov/core-science-systems/national-geological-and-geophysical-data-preservation-program/authorizing>

The objectives of the Program as outlined in the Acts are to:

1. archive geologic, geophysical, and engineering data, maps, well logs, and samples;
2. provide a national catalog of such archival material; and
3. provide technical and financial assistance related to the archival material.
4. provide for preservation of samples to track geochemical signatures from critical mineral (as defined in section 7002(a) of the Energy Act of 2020 (30 U.S.C. 1606(a))) ore bodies for use in provenance tracking frameworks.

For more information about the NGGDPP, read the “Implementation Plan for the National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Program” (2006) which is available at: <https://www.usgs.gov/programs/national-geological-and-geophysical-data-preservation-program/implementation-plan>.

The two NGGDPP FY 2026 Priorities include:

1. Priority 1 - Preserve Geoscience Resources Including Digital and Physical Infrastructure Development: preservation of geoscience resources including development and/or improvement of digital and/or physical infrastructure supporting the preservation, archiving, and/or delivery of geological and geophysical data, samples, and/or related historical materials; and
2. Priority 2 - Critical Minerals Data Preservation: preservation of geoscience materials and data focused on critical minerals; development of a strategic plan for critical minerals; development of a strategic plan for critical minerals specific to mine waste and mine lands; and submission for analysis of existing geochemical samples relevant to critical minerals assessments.

Funded projects require submission of metadata records describing preserved resources in conformance with the NGGDPP metadata schema to ReSciColl to increase discovery, access and reuse by researchers, resource managers, decision-makers, and the public for the benefit of society. Priority 1 projects that are solely physical infrastructure development (construction/remodel) or digital infrastructure (e.g. databases, web services) will not require submission of metadata records.

The proposal must describe projects that address the FY 2026 priorities and requirements to complete comprehensive activities to inventory, describe, and preserve specific collections. It is possible for proposed Priority 1 and/or 2 projects to receive reduced or no funding.

Preserving USGS assets (e.g. maps, reports, photos etc.) using NGGDPP funds is **not allowed**; collections proposed for preservation should be owned by your state geological organization. Strong justification and documentation that the data will be made public (e.g., data sharing agreement or transfer of ownership), is required for preserving collections owned by a private or another state entity (for example, state oil and gas commission).

Non-allowable expenses under the NGGDPP include preservation of USGS assets, duplicate digitization/conversion of artifacts produced and preserved by other agencies, tuition, computer maintenance or travel to a conference or workshop.

Awarding Officer Contact Name

Margaret Eastman

Awarding Officer Contact Phone

703-648-7366

Awarding Officer Email Address

mrussell@usgs.gov

Awarding Officer Email Description

mrussell@usgs.gov

Link to Additional Information