

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

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Executive Summary

Federal Agency Name

Fisheries Habitat Conservation Program Office (HCPO)

Funding Opportunity Title

DARRP Restoration Implementation Grants (2026)

Announcement Type

Competitive

Funding Opportunity Number

NOAA-NMFS-HCPO-2026-33781

Assistance Listing Number(s)

11.463

Dates

Applications must be postmarked, provided to a delivery service, or received by www.grants.gov by 11:59 PM EST on November 18th, 2026. Use of a delivery service must be documented with a receipt. No facsimile or electronic mail applications will be accepted.

Funding Opportunity Description

The principal objective of the Damage Assessment, Remediation and Restoration Program (DARRP) Restoration Implementation Grants is for NOAA to collaborate with non-federal partners to implement marine and coastal habitat restoration and conservation in order to accomplish common goals related to oil spills, hazardous substance releases, and other natural resource damages. Successful applicants will support and implement restoration activities authorized under the Oil Pollution Act, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, Clean Water Act, National Marine Sanctuaries Act, and other federal agencies' authorities related to oil spills, hazardous substance releases, and natural resource damages, such as the RESTORE Act. Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) will be for those capable of implementing restoration and conservation activities across a wide geographic scale.

Restoration activities may include actions that rebuild productive and sustainable fisheries; contribute to the recovery and conservation of threatened and endangered species; and improve economic vitality, including local employment. Recipients will be implementing activities identified in consent decrees or natural resource damage assessment and restoration plans, and may be developing or soliciting projects to meet restoration goals. This may include recipients reviewing restoration plans and: collaborating with the trustee to select activities to be contracted or sub-awarded by the recipient; collaborating with the trustee to select projects for which the recipient has direct implementation responsibility; competition management to sub-award projects; and implementing pre- and post-restoration project evaluation and monitoring. Projects may also include restoration planning and technique development activities that further the mutual interests of DARRP and of funding recipient partners, such as environmental compliance analyses or restoration planning for potential, future incidents.

Applications selected for funding through this solicitation will be funded through cooperative agreements. As individual settlements and restoration plans can have funds committed for multiple decades into the future, the activities established under this competition may have long term planning goals and objectives common to the programmatic needs of both NOAA and the recipients. As such, the intent of the DARRP is to maintain a long-term partnership with recipients by establishing cooperative agreements in relevant situations as “institutional awards”. If a cooperative agreement is established as an institutional award, the initial cooperative agreement will be established for no more than five years and NOAA may issue new cooperative agreements to the recipient for similar or related activities through a non-competitive selection process based on the results of periodic independent merit reviews to validate the effectiveness and continued desirability of the use of institutional awards for the program.

Funding is expected to be provided on an as-available basis to maintain the initial cooperative agreement for up to five years, and is dependent upon the level of funding made available by trustee councils and NOAA. Total anticipated funding for initial cooperative agreements under this competition is up to \$100 million. NOAA anticipates that a typical, awarded cooperative agreement will range from \$2.5 million to \$50 million, with a maximum award of \$100 million. NOAA will not accept proposals with a first year budget less than \$500,000 or more than \$20 million under this solicitation.

Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, non-profits, and commercial (for-profit) organizations. Applications from federal, state, or tribal governments will not be considered, due to their potential role as trustee council members. Applications from local governments will only be considered if they identify potential large scale restoration opportunities based on current or anticipated restoration plans. Applications from individuals or employees of federal agencies will not be considered. Non-eligible organizations are encouraged to work with those that are eligible to apply.

Full Text of Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Program Objective

The principal objective of the Damage Assessment, Remediation and Restoration Program (DARRP) Restoration Implementation Grants is for NOAA to collaborate with non-federal partners to implement marine and coastal habitat restoration and conservation in order to accomplish common goals related to oil spills, hazardous substance releases, and other natural resource damages. Successful applicants will support and implement restoration activities authorized under the Oil Pollution Act; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, Clean Water Act; and other federal agencies' authorities related to oil spills, hazardous substance releases, and natural resource damages, such as the RESTORE Act. NOAA acts as a trustee on behalf of the public to protect and restore coastal and marine resources. NOAA established the DARRP in 1992 after the Exxon Valdez oil spill. The DARRP provides technical and legal expertise within NOAA to protect and restore injured natural resources. These Restoration Implementation Grants will be administered by the NOAA Restoration Center:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/habitat-conservation/how-we-restore>.

NOAA's DARRP has worked to restore natural resources harmed by oil spills and releases of hazardous waste. NOAA works with responsible parties (the individuals, companies, or government agencies responsible for an oil spill or hazardous substance release), and trustee councils (teams of state, tribal, and other federal agencies) to respond to a specific spill or release. If an incident diminishes the services that natural resources provide, including human services (e.g., fishing, boating, beach-going, and wildlife viewing) and ecological services (e.g., providing habitat, nutrient cycling, and energy transfer through food webs), the co-trustees will seek to recover funds from responsible parties in order to implement projects to restore those lost services. NOAA and co-trustees have recovered more than \$10.8 billion since 1992 from responsible parties to protect and restore coastal resources, including migratory fish, marine mammals, wetlands, reefs, and other coastal habitats.

Applicants selected through this NOFO will be those capable of identifying, selecting, implementing and overseeing restoration activities across a wide geographic scale to meet restoration goals common to NOAA and the applicant. This may include implementing activities identified in natural resource damage assessment and restoration plans, or developing or soliciting projects to meet restoration goals.

Project identification may include recipients, in collaboration with NOAA and trustees, reviewing established restoration plans and developing restoration planning activities. Project selection may include collaborating with NOAA and trustees to select activities to be sub-awarded by the recipient (e.g., competition management to sub-award projects); and collaborating with NOAA and trustees to select projects for which the recipient has direct implementation responsibility. Project implementation may include direct implementation by the recipient, or by the recipient administering a contract or sub-award. Project oversight may include pre- and post-restoration project evaluation and monitoring and financial and project oversight of activities, contracts and sub-awards while the project is ongoing. Projects may also include restoration planning activities that further the mutual interests of DARRP and of funding recipient partners, such as environmental compliance analyses or restoration planning for potential, future incidents. Selected applicants will not become trustee council members. More information about DARRP is available at: <http://www.darrp.noaa.gov>.

Selected applications may be designated as "institutional awards." As individual settlements and restoration plans can have funds committed for multiple decades into the future, the activities established under this competition may have long term planning goals and objectives common to the programmatic needs of both NOAA and the recipients. As such, the intent of the DARRP is to maintain a long-term partnership with recipients by establishing the option for cooperative agreements to be "institutional awards." Institutional award recipients under this competition will be able to apply for future awards for related or similar activities on a non-competitive basis if the results of periodic independent merit reviews validate the effectiveness and continued desirability of the use of institutional awards for the program.

B. Program Priorities

NOAA will support Restoration Implementation Grants in order to implement marine and coastal habitat restoration and conservation, including activities that offset injuries related to specific releases of oil or hazardous substances, and other natural resource damages. NOAA and its co-trustees seek to develop and implement plans and projects to restore, rehabilitate, replace, or acquire the equivalent of the injured natural resources and services under their trusteeship. Examples of past project types that the selected applicant may need to oversee include: habitat restoration or creation, habitat protection, species protection, public access to coastal properties, land acquisition, removal of debris and grounded vessels, removal of invasive/exotic species, enhancing species reproduction, stocking and transplanting target species, and recreational and educational projects. Specifically, actions may include restoration of wetlands and reefs, floodplains and streams, sea grasses, corals, and other fish or shellfish and their habitats, as well as restoring bird and other wildlife populations.

The program priorities for this opportunity primarily support NOAA's "Ecosystems" mission goal of "Protect, Restore, and Manage Use of Coastal and Ocean Resources through Ecosystem-Based Management."

1. *Desirable Recipient Capabilities*

Selected Restoration Implementation Grants are expected to thoroughly address the Evaluation Criteria (Section V.A.) below, and the capabilities outlined in this section. Restoration Implementation Grant applications that incorporate a combination of the capabilities identified below will be a higher priority for funding consideration. NOAA seeks recipients that:

Demonstrate Experience and Technical Knowledge of Marine and Coastal Resources, Restoration Activities and the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) Process:

- Organizational commitment to achieving marine and coastal conservation and restoration goals related to oil spills, hazardous substance releases, and other natural resource damages;
- Ability to work across a wide variety of geographies and habitat types;
- Ability to work, and experience working, with a broad array of partners, including trustee councils, state agencies, and federal agencies;
- Ability to solicit restoration projects based on typical NRDA criteria: technical feasibility; extent to which the projects meet goals and objectives the recipient shares with the trustees, that is, in returning the injured natural resources and services to baseline conditions; and/or compensating for interim service losses; likelihood of success of each project; extent to which each project will prevent future injury as a result of the incident, and avoid or minimize collateral injury as a result of implementing a project; extent to which each project benefits more than one natural resource and/or human or ecological service; cost effectiveness; and effect of each project on public health and safety; and
- Ability to evaluate project success in collaboration with the relevant trustee council. Project evaluation and/or monitoring may be conducted by the successful applicant, or be sub-awarded.

Demonstrate Effective Ability to Manage Funds:

- Existing staff with federal funds management experience;
- Organizational history of federal funds management and clean audits;
- Ability to scale administrative costs to maximize restoration (see Evaluation Criteria Section V.A.); and
- Ability to maintain an administrative record to document expenditures of federally awarded funds.

Demonstrate Capacity to Manage Multiple Projects and Sub-awards:

- Manage multiple restoration projects (e.g., 5 - 10 new projects per year) at a variety of scales (typically \$100,000-\$3,000,000);
- Complete reporting requirements in a timely fashion, as well as other award conditions; and

Document Experience in Soliciting Projects:

- Ability to solicit proposals through a competitive process; and
- Encourage potential applicants in local communities to respond to Requests for Proposals (RFPs).

2. *Examples of Existing Injuries and Areas under Active Restoration*

The following are examples of past injuries that have occurred and related Restoration Plans that could result in projects to be funded through this grant. Please also see the NOAA DARRP website for Restoration Plan details as well as other examples (<http://www.darrp.noaa.gov/>). Applicants should be able to demonstrate shared conservation and restoration goals, and be capable of implementing actions and overseeing sub-awards in response to a range of injuries similar to those outlined in the cases below, with priority being placed on organizations with the widest geographic reach.

Northeast

Cornell-Dubilier: Cornell-Dubilier Electronics, Inc. manufactured electronic components on a 26-acre property in South Plainfield, NJ from 1936 to 1962. PCBs, metals, and other hazardous substances were released into the surrounding environment, including a stream on the property which flows into Bound Brook, a tributary of the Lower Raritan River, which ultimately discharges to Raritan Bay. PCBs and other hazardous substances have contaminated soils, surface water, sediments, fish, and groundwater at the Cornell-Dubilier site. Impacts extend throughout the Bound Brook corridor, including forested wetlands, marshes, and floodplain soils. Due to elevated levels of PCBs, the state of New Jersey issued a fish consumption advisory along the entire length of Bound Brook and its tributaries. The advisory, banning the consumption of all species of fish has been in effect since 1997. More than \$27 million has been recovered from the potentially responsible parties in compensation for injuries to natural resources due to contamination from the Cornell-Dubilier facility. In October 2021, NOAA and co-trustees released a Restoration Plan that identifies appropriate restoration projects throughout the Raritan River watershed. Potential projects could include dam removal/fish passage to restore anadromous fish populations, riparian and wetland restoration, and recreational use improvements.

Southeast

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill: On April 20, 2010, an explosion occurred on the Deepwater Horizon drilling platform in the Gulf of Mexico. The explosion caused the rig to sink and started a catastrophic oil leak from the well. Before it was capped three months later, approximately 134 million gallons of oil had spilled into the Gulf, the largest offshore oil spill in U.S. history. The trustees assessed injuries to natural resources—such as fish, bottom-dwelling organisms, nearshore ecosystems, birds, sea turtles, and marine mammals—and lost recreation resulting from the spill. On April 4, 2016, the court approved a settlement with BP for natural resource injuries stemming from the spill. The trustees are now planning, implementing, and monitoring restoration as laid out in the final comprehensive restoration plan. Restoration projects are selected through Restoration Plans developed by seven Trustee Implementation Groups and posted to the Trustees' website (www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov). NOAA is the lead implementing Trustee for over 50 approved restoration and monitoring projects, which include coastal habitat construction, restoration for marine mammals, sea turtles, and mesophotic and deep benthic communities, and regional-scale monitoring and assessment activities.

Northwest / Alaska

Selendang Ayu: The M/V Selendang Ayu vessel grounded on December 8, 2004 in rough seas off Unalaska Island, Alaska. Following attempted rescue operations, the M/V Selendang Ayu broke in half, resulting in the immediate release of approximately 350,000 gallons of oil. A Restoration Plan was released September 2025 that focuses on the restoration of shoreline habitats, including gravel beaches, rocky shores, vegetated habitats, and stream channels and flats. The identified restoration project – the Aleutian Watch Program and Communication Upgrades Project - would support four inter-related efforts aimed at preventing future oil spills by providing upgrades to existing infrastructure and establishing new programs that are above and beyond what is currently in place. The efforts would include 1) Communication upgrades by increasing transmission capabilities at up to six existing Marine Safety Sites (MSS); 2) Administrative staffing to develop a communications plan and database for vessels in *innocent passage* status; 3) Establish the Aleutian Watch Program, a 24-hour dedicated watch of and automatic identification system (AIS)-transmitted vessel locations; 4) Maintain and enhance the operations of the Aleutian Islands Waterway Safety Committee. [Additional restoration activities to address remaining injuries may be proposed in future Restoration Plans.]

Lower Duwamish River: The waterfront of downtown Seattle is situated along Elliott Bay and the Lower Duwamish River. These two water bodies receive most of the stormwater runoff from 67 square kilometers of metropolitan Seattle and have become increasingly degraded by channelization and multiple industrial facilities. What was once a wide meandering river with thousands of acres of mudflats is now a highly industrialized area including port facilities, manufacturing plants, chemical and solid waste recycling companies, ship repair yards, and numerous city combined sewer overflows. Contaminants of concern include polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), phthalates, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), metals, pesticides, dioxins/furans. The resources at risk include flatfish, salmon and steelhead. In particular, the Chinook salmon and steelhead are listed as threatened under the ESA. To date, more than \$30 million in settlements has resulted in 15 restoration projects; and additional funds remain to establish a stewardship program for restoration in the bay.

Southwest

Refugio: The Refugio Trustee Council was established in response to the 2015 pipeline rupture involving a pipeline owned and operated by Plains All American Pipeline, which occurred near Refugio State Beach. This incident resulted in the spillage of over 100,000 gallons of crude oil, a significant portion of which entered the ocean via a storm drain and a ravine beneath the freeway. A settlement of \$22.3 million was achieved for the restoration of natural resources that incurred damage, including shoreline habitats, marine mammals, subtidal habitats, and recreational use. NOAA serves as the lead implementing Trustee, managing over \$8 million in restoration funds allocated to the Abalone Restoration Project, the Marine Mammal Rehabilitation Project, the Whale Disentanglement Project, and the Santa Monica Dune Restoration Project.

3. Areas of Highlighted Expertise

In establishing these Restoration Implementation Grants, NOAA seeks to support recipients' restoration-related efforts and to collaborate with recipients to meet multiple trustee council priorities through the desirable capabilities stated above (see Section I.B). Restoration Implementation Grant applicants may highlight their expertise in areas such as geographic reach and specific locations, target habitats or coastal communities, project sizes, long-term ecological monitoring or site maintenance, or specific natural resources (i.e. fish, marine mammals, birds, corals).

NOAA intends to select one or more Restoration Implementation Grants applications in anticipation of needs related to existing injuries (see Section I.B.2) and past experience with injuries under the Oil Pollution Act; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, Clean Water Act; and other federal agencies' authorities. In addition to considering where existing injuries and restoration needs exist, NOAA intends to select the fewest applicants necessary to fulfill the program priorities described in this NOFO to best ensure administrative costs are minimized while still maintaining a high level of preparedness for future unknown injuries. Once applications are approved by NOAA's Grants Management Division, NOAA will distribute funds based on the needs identified by NOAA, trustee councils, and the highlighted areas of expertise stated by the Restoration Implementation Grant recipients. Consequently, funds may not be distributed equally between award recipients.

C. Program Authority

The Secretary of Commerce is authorized under the following statutes to provide grants and cooperative agreements for habitat restoration and conservation: Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act 16 U.S.C. 661, as amended by the Reorganization Plan No. 4 of 1970; Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, 16 U.S.C. 1891a; and Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1535. In addition, restoration activities authorized under the Oil Pollution Act, 33 U.S.C. 2701; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. 9601; Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1251; and other federal agencies' authorities related to oil spills, hazardous substance releases, and natural resource damages may arise under this program, such as the RESTORE Act, 33 U.S.C. 1321(t).

II. Award Information

A. Funding Availability

Funding is expected to be provided on an as-available basis to maintain the initial cooperative agreement for up to five years, and is dependent upon the level of funding made available by trustee councils and NOAA. Total anticipated funding for initial cooperative agreements under this competition is up to \$100 million. NOAA anticipates that a typical, awarded cooperative agreement will range from \$2.5 million to \$50 million. NOAA does not anticipate accepting proposals under this solicitation with a first-year budget less than \$500,000 or more than \$20 million, and with a total five-year budget less than \$2.5 million or more than \$100 million.

Any funds provided to successful applicants will be at the discretion of NOAA as described in Sections V. and VI. of this Announcement. For reference, between FY07 and FY25, the NOAA Restoration Center used grants to provide over \$125 million to implement projects selected by over 20 trustee councils and implementation groups. There is no guarantee that sufficient funds will be available to make awards for all top-ranked Restoration Implementation Grants applications. The number of awards to be made as a result of this solicitation will depend on the number of eligible applications received, the areas of expertise proposed by the applicants, the merit and ranking of the applications, and the financial amount of damages anticipated based on documented natural resource injuries at the time of award selection.

The exact amount of funds that may be awarded will be determined in pre-award negotiations between the applicant and NOAA representatives, and multi-year funding requests are expected to be funded on an as-available basis. Publication of this document does not obligate NOAA to award any specific project or obligate all or any portion of any available funds. In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for application preparation costs if programs fail to receive funding or are cancelled because of other agency priorities.

B. Project/Award Period

Applications should cover a project period of five budget years. Award start dates will be determined in pre-award negotiations between the applicant and NOAA. The earliest start date for Restoration Implementation Grant awards is anticipated to be June 1, 2027. As described in Section II.A. Funding Availability, funding from NOAA will be provided on an incremental basis within the five-year project period.

Pre-award costs will be considered during pre-award negotiations between the applicant and NOAA. Incurring pre-award costs before NOAA GMD provides an award document is at the applicant's own risk. Permission to extend the period of performance beyond that stated in award documentation should be requested in writing at least 60 days in advance of an award's expiration date. Instructions will be provided in award conditions. Once Restoration Implementation Grant funds are awarded, recipients will not need to compete for funding in subsequent years within the timeframe of the award. NOAA expects to, but is not obligated to, provide additional funding in connection with awarded grants in subsequent years. A recommendation to NOAA GMD to continue an award in subsequent years, to extend the period of performance, or to determine annual Restoration Implementation Grants funding levels is at the discretion of the Selecting Official (SO), per Section II.A, above.

Receipt of funding increments is contingent upon the availability of additional funds, satisfactory performance, continued relevance to program objectives, and will be at the sole discretion of the Department of Commerce. The Department of Commerce is not liable for any obligations, expenditures, or commitments which involve any amount in excess of the Federal amount obligated. The recipient will be responsible for any and all termination costs it may incur should prospective funding not become available. No legal liability will exist or result on the part of the Federal Government for payment of any portion of the remaining funds that are not made available under the award. Notifications affecting funding or notice of non-availability of additional funding for prospective years will be made only by the Grants Officer.

NOAA anticipates reviewing the grant program within five years to validate the effectiveness and continued desirability of the use of institutional awards and may elect to continue the program issuing non-competitive award(s), hold a competition, revise the program, or discontinue the program.

C. Type of Funding Instrument

The words "grant" and "cooperative agreement" are used interchangeably in this announcement for convenience. However, the funding instrument between NOAA and a selected funding recipient will be a cooperative agreement. A "cooperative agreement" is distinguished from a grant in 2 C.F.R. Sec. 200.1 meaning that NOAA expects to be substantially involved in many aspects of the awards. Substantial involvement may include, but is not limited to, participation by NOAA Fisheries staff (e.g. NOAA technical monitor and federal program officer), such as collaboration on the scope of work including restoration site selection, providing assistance with technical aspects of the program, review and comment on strategies and plans, review and comment on proposed subawards, review of procurement materials to the extent authorized by 2 C.F.R. Sec. 200.325, and tracking the progress towards the successful completion of the program and its related projects. This participation may occur in meetings and via emails between the recipient, sub-recipients and NOAA Fisheries. General DARRP partnership process guidance materials will be provided by the FPO to each recipient.

As previously described, successful applications may be designated as "institutional award" cooperative agreements.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, non-profits, and commercial (for-profit) organizations. Applications from federal, state, or tribal governments will not be considered, due to their potential role as trustee council members. Applications from local governments will only be considered if they identify potential large scale restoration opportunities based on current or anticipated restoration plans. Applications from individuals or employees of federal agencies will not be considered. Non-eligible organizations are encouraged to work with those that are eligible to apply. Organizations with a financial relationship or other conflict with a responsible party may apply, but financial or organizational participation may not be feasible if conflicts of interest are not effectively addressed by recusal, mitigation, divestiture, or other action.

NOTE: We strongly encourage all prospective applicants to begin required registrations as early as possible. Completing the required registrations can take six weeks or longer. Submission due dates will not be extended because of registration delays. Submissions received after the due date will be considered late and will not be accepted.

Applicant organizations and individuals must register for three different Federal systems prior to submitting an application through Grants.gov (SAM.gov, eRA Commons, and Grants.gov).

Registration Requirements: Applicant organizations and individuals must first register with SAM.gov and obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). After you obtain your UEI, you can complete your Grants.gov and eRA Commons registrations concurrently.

See Section IV(G) for detailed instructions on required registrations. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the Agency Contacts listed in this NOFO for submission instructions.

B. Cost Share or Matching Requirement

Matching funds are not required. Applicants who contribute funds that could be counted as cost share, including waiving receipt of Federal funds for all or part of their Federally approved indirect costs, can document those funds as “leverage.” Leveraged funds will not be included in the award documentation as official match.

C. Other Criteria that Affect Eligibility

NOAA does not anticipate accepting applications requesting less than \$2.5 million or more than \$100 million in federal funds from NOAA under this solicitation. Applications must be submitted by the due date and time provided in Section IV.D. Late applications will not be considered for funding. Submission time will be documented by electronic submission to Grants.gov, a U.S. Postal Service postmark, or a delivery service receipt. Information regarding electronic submission through Grants.gov is contained in Section IV.G. No facsimile or electronic mail applications will be accepted. Applications submitted via the U.S. Postal Service must have an official postmark; private metered postmarks are not acceptable. Applications received later than seven (7) business days following the closing date will not be accepted. All applications MUST contain ALL required forms; if these forms are not signed via the www.Grants.gov application process, they MUST be signed in ink (SF-424, SF-424b, CD-511). Failure to submit necessary signed forms shall result in disqualification from this competition.

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Address to Request Application Package

Complete application packages, including required federal forms and instructions, and Supplemental Guidance for Prospective Applicants can be found on Grants.gov (www.grants.gov). If a prospective applicant is having difficulty downloading the application forms from Grants.gov, contact Grants.gov Customer Support at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov.

B. Content and Form of Application

Applicants should apply through the Grants.gov website (www.grants.gov). A complete standard NOAA grant application package should be submitted in accordance with the guidelines in this document. Each application must include the application forms from the SF-424 form family:

- Application for Federal Assistance: SF-424 (7-97 version or newer)
- Budget Information for Non-construction Programs: SF-424A (prior to award, an SF- 424A for each year of funding will be required)
- Assurances for Non-construction Programs: SF-424B
- Certification Regarding Lobbying: CD-511
- Disclosure of Lobbying Activities: SF-LLL (if applicable)

In addition to the Federal application forms, NOAA recommends the following as part of a complete application package: (1) Summary, Narrative, and Data Management Plan; (2) Detailed Budget Justification; and (3) Supplemental Information. Applications submitted through the www.Grants.gov website should include a maximum of these three files (PDF files only; page limits assume a 12-point font and 1-inch margins).

1. *Summary, Narrative, and Data Management Plan:*

Summary (2 pages)

- Applicant Organization
- Restoration Implementation Grants Title
- Restoration Implementation Grants Areas of Expertise – Describe organizational commitment to achieving marine and coastal conservation and restoration goals related to oil spills, hazardous substance releases, and other natural resource damages. Also, state any and all highlighted areas of expertise as described in Sec. I.B.3.
- Project Identification, Selection, Implementation, and Oversight- Briefly describe the process that will be used to identify, select, implement and oversee projects. Project identification may include recipients, in collaboration with NOAA and trustees, reviewing established restoration plans and developing restoration planning activities, such as environmental compliance analyses or restoration planning for potential, future incidents. Project selection may include collaborating with NOAA and trustees to select activities to be sub-awarded by the recipient (e.g., competition management to sub-award projects); and collaborating with NOAA and trustees to select projects for which the recipient has direct implementation responsibility. Project implementation may include direct implementation by the recipient or by the recipient administering a contract or subaward, and may include meeting National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements as defined in V.D.4. Project oversight may include pre- and post-restoration project evaluation and monitoring; and financial and project oversight of activities, contracts and subawards while the project is ongoing. Please include a proposed timeline for project identification, selection, implementation and oversight.
- Example of Funds Management Capabilities - Provide one or two examples of significant awards that your organization has managed. Significance can be determined by the amount of award, complexity of the restoration project(s), importance of the effort, or for a reason of your choosing.
- Summary of Award Management Experience - State the total amount of funds that your organization has managed over the past five years and include the number of projects that those funds supported.
- Federal Funds Requested
- Letters of Support - List those included with the application.

Narrative (10 pages)

The Restoration Implementation Grants narrative should closely follow the organization of the evaluation criteria (see Section V.A Evaluation Criteria) for the application to receive a consistent review. The narrative should:

- Include a description of the applicant's relevant experience and technical capacity related to Program Priorities in Section I.B;
- Include any assumptions your organization has made related to the total funding available and the number of sub-awards to be managed;
- Process for Project Identification, Selection, Implementation, and Oversight - In detail, describe the process that will be used to identify, select, implement and oversee projects; and

- Projects and Detailed Work Plans – if the recipient has identified specific proposed project(s) or activity(ies) for implementation, summaries of the projects can be provided in the Narrative and detailed Work Plans.
- Note: this is optional as specific projects may also be developed in collaboration with NOAA Fisheries staff during the negotiation process.]
- Work Plans should be developed for specific projects from Restoration Plans that the recipient is proposing to implement
- The Work Plan should include the following information: Purpose, start/end dates, description of actions including goals and milestones, subawards and contracts, expected outcomes and monitoring plan, timeline, environmental compliance plan, points of contact, and a complete budget which must follow NOAA's Restoration Center [Budget Narrative Guidance](#) (pages 10-20, see link in Budget section below)
- Respond to all the Evaluation Criteria (below), focusing particular attention on the highest-weighted criteria.

Data Management and Sharing Plan (2 pages)

Proposals submitted in response to this NOFO should include a Data Management Plan of up to two pages describing how data management requirements will be satisfied. For additional details on Data Sharing Plan requirements, see section VI.B – Data Sharing Plan.

The following template may be used to satisfy the Data Management Plan requirement.

Template

The [project name (award #)], implemented by [applicant name] will generate environmental data and information, including [type(s) of data that will be collected]. Datasets will include [additional detail regarding data collection methods, quality control and metadata]. Data will be collected by [person/group collecting data] according to the procedures described in [application/manual/published article], and stored [location/method of data storage]. The data will be available [where/how] starting on [date no later than two years after data collected/created]. In the past, we have shared similar data by [past data sharing methods, if any]. All future sub-awardees not identified in this plan will have as a condition of their contract acceptance of this data sharing plan. Contact [name] at [phone/email] for more information.

2. Budget Justification:

The narrative budget justification must include a detailed breakdown by cost categories matching those found in the SF-424A form as they relate to specific aspects of the project, with appropriate narrative justification. While an SF-424A for each of the anticipated five years of work is required, NOAA does not expect the description of expenditures to change significantly between funding years, and recommends a full narrative for the first year, accompanied by a table that shows how costs might increase in future years (e.g., annual salary and benefits increases). Additional budget development guidance is available on page 10 of the Supplemental Application Guidance Document: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/s3/2023-08/Supplemental-Application-Instructions-and-Budget-Guidance.pdf#page=10>

The NOAA Restoration Center and Grants Management Division staff will review budget information for recommended applications to determine if costs are allowable, allocable, reasonable, and realistic. The narrative budget justification should be sufficiently detailed to enable a clear understanding of the cost breakdown and calculations used to derive the line-item subtotals in each object class of the 424A budget form.

3. Supplemental information (not to exceed 40 pages):

Supplemental information may include brief curriculum vitae or resume for up to five (5) key Restoration Implementation Grants personnel (maximum of 1 page per person); and any other relevant supporting materials such as letters of support, indirect cost rate agreements, restoration planning or prioritization documents, Work Plans, etc.

Proposals submitted in response to this Announcement must include a Data Management Plan (up to 2 pages). See Section VI.B., Administrative and National Policy Requirements, below for additional information on what the plan should contain.

No reference to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) questionnaire is required in the proposal.

C. Unique entity identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)

To enable the use of a universal identifier and to enhance the quality of information available to the public as required by the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act, 31 U.S.C. 6101 note, to the extent applicable, any proposal awarded in response to this announcement will be required to use the System for Award Management (SAM), which may be accessed online at SAM.gov.

SAM.gov registration is required to do business with the U.S. government. Applicant organizations must first register with SAM.gov and obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) that will be used throughout the application process. You must update your SAM.gov registration any time your entity's information changes. You must also renew and revalidate your entity's SAM.gov registration at least every 12 months from the date you last certified to and submitted the registration. The renewal process may take up to two weeks. After you obtain your UEI, you can complete your Grants.gov and eRA Commons registrations concurrently. Additional information on SAM.gov registration is available here:

<https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration>

Each applicant (unless the applicant is an individual or Federal awarding agency that is excepted from those requirements under 2 CFR 25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the Federal awarding agency under 2 CFR 25.110(d)) is required to: (i) Be registered in SAM before submitting its application; (ii) Provide a valid unique entity identifier (UEI) in its application; and (iii) Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal awarding agency. NOAA may not make a Federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable unique entity identifier and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time NOAA is ready to make a Federal award, NOAA may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal award to another applicant.

D. Submission Dates and Times

Applications must be postmarked, provided to a delivery service, or received by www.grants.gov by 11:59 PM EST on November 18, 2026. Use of a delivery service must be documented with a receipt. No facsimile or electronic mail applications will be accepted.

E. Intergovernmental Review

Applications submitted by state and local governments are subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs." Any applicant submitting an application for funding is required to complete item 19 on SF-424 regarding clearance by the State Single Point of Contact (SPOC) established as a result of EO 12372. To find out about and comply with a State's process under EO 12372, contact the official listed in Section VII of this announcement for referral information.

F. Funding Restrictions

There are no explicit funding restrictions on these projects.

G. Other Submission Requirements

NOTE: We strongly encourage all prospective applicants to begin required registrations as early as possible. Completing the required registrations can take six weeks or longer. Submission due dates will not be extended because of registration delays. Submissions received after the due date will be considered late and will not be accepted.

Applicant organizations and individuals must register for three different Federal systems prior to submitting an application through Grants.gov (SAM.gov, eRA Commons, and Grants.gov). See below for more detailed information on each required registration process. Additional information on the grant application process an associated webinar is available here:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/funding-financial-services/grant-application-process>

1. System for Award Management (SAM.gov)

SAM.gov registration is required to do business with the U.S. government. After registering with SAM.gov, you will receive a 12-character Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) that you will use throughout the application process.

We recommend allowing at least three weeks for initial SAM.gov registrations and at least two weeks for SAM.gov registration renewals. Additional information on SAM.gov registration is available here: <https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration>

You must update your SAM.gov registration any time your entity's information changes. You must also renew and revalidate your entity's SAM.gov registration at least every 12 months from the date you last certified to and submitted the registration. The renewal process may take up to two weeks. Your SAM.gov account's primary point of contact will receive an email message alerting them to the renewal requirement at 60 days, 30 days, and 15 days prior to expiration. If you do not renew your registration by the deadline, it will expire.

2. eRA Commons

After completing your SAM.gov registration and receiving your Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), you must register with eRA Commons and create several required user accounts. NOAA uses eRA Commons to process grant applications and manage grant awards.

NOTE: eRA Commons requires applicants to create one ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE and two USER ACCOUNTS before submitting an application. These requirements are described in detail below.

We recommend allowing at least three weeks for eRA Commons registration. This process can be completed concurrently with your Grants.gov registration. Additional information on the eRA Commons registration process is available here: <https://www.commerce.gov/ocio/key-initiatives/gems/register-your-organization-era-commons>

After creating an overall account for your "institution", which may be for your organization or yourself as an individual, eRA Commons requires you to set up at least two user accounts: one Signing Official (SO) account and one Program Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI) account.

- The Signing Official (SO) user account must be assigned to an individual with signature authority to legally bind the organization in grants administration matters. The SO will receive 4-5 emails throughout the registration process.
- The Program Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI) account must be assigned to an individual with primary responsibility for the project(s) described in the grant application. The eRA Commons User ID (Username) for the PD/PI must also be listed on the SF-424 form for item 4 (Applicant Identifier).

Your SO and PD/PI user accounts must be active before you submit an application. Both accounts can be assigned to the same individual if appropriate.

3. Grants.Gov

After completing your SAM.gov registration and receiving your Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), you must complete a one-time registration process with Grants.gov. Grants.gov is a government-wide portal used to solicit and accept grant applications.

We recommend allowing at least two weeks for Grants.gov registration. This process can be completed concurrently with your eRA Commons registration. Additional information on the Grants.gov registration process is available here: <https://www.grants.gov/applicants/applicant-registration>

Submission Validation

The Grants.gov and eRA Commons validation processes for a submitted application can take up to two business days after submission. Only validated applications are sent to NOAA to review. To ensure successful submission of an application, we strongly recommend that you submit a final and complete application at least two business days prior to the submission deadline.

- Grants.gov and eRA Commons will not accept submissions if the applicant has not been authorized or if credentials are incorrect. Submissions may also be rejected if:
- The Project Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI)'s account username within eRA Commons is not provided on the SF-424 form for item 4 (Applicant Identifier).
- The Universal Entity Identifier (UEI) from SAM.gov is not provided on the SF-424 form for item 8.c (UEI).
- The Congressional District is not entered in the correct format on the SF-424 form for item 16 (Congressional Districts). The correct format is: [State Abbreviation]-[three digit district number]. For example, Virginia's 1st Congressional District would be listed as VA-001.
- PDF files are not flattened. To flatten a fillable PDF, you can use the "Print to PDF" function from any web browser or PDF reader application.
- File sizes exceed 100 MB.
- Page sizes are greater than 8.5x11.
- File names exceed 50 characters (including spaces).
- File names include special characters.

After you submit your application, you will receive an automatic acknowledgment of receipt that contains a Grants.gov tracking number. This notification indicates receipt by Grants.gov only, not receipt by NOAA. Applications submitted through Grants.gov will be accompanied by FOUR automated responses (1-Grants.gov Submission Receipt; 2-Grants.gov Submission Validation Receipt for Application; 3-Grants.gov Grantor Agency Retrieval Receipt for Application; 4-Grants.gov Agency Tracking Number Assignment for Application).

In addition to the Grants.gov automated notification messages, once an electronic application is accepted in eRA Commons, you will receive an automated notification from eRA Commons that the completed application was received and that an application number will be assigned. If there are errors in the application, eRA Commons will send an automated email notification(s) of any errors or warnings identified by eRA Commons. You must resolve all eRA Commons errors prior to the application due date in order for the application to be processed.

You should save and print the proof of submission messages from both Grants.gov and eRA Commons. If you do not receive an acceptance message from both Grants.gov and eRA Commons, you should follow up with the eRA Helpdesk at 1-866-504-9552 and the agency contact listed in Section VII to confirm NOAA's receipt of the complete submission.

H. Address for Submitting Proposals

Electronic applications are strongly encouraged; however, paper applications will also be considered. Paper applications should be sent to: NOAA Restoration Center, NOAA Fisheries (F/HC3), 1315 East West Highway, Rm. 14853, Silver Spring, MD 20910. ATTN: DARRP Restoration Implementation Grants. All applications MUST contain ALL required forms. Failure to submit forms may result in disqualification from this competition. Applicants are responsible for tracking their own applications. Proposal application packages, including all letters of collaboration or support, shall be submitted together in one package. Please notify the contact official in Section VII of this announcement by email regarding any paper submissions by mail, and/or for any technical difficulties using Grants.gov.

V. Application Review Information

1. Importance/relevance and applicability of proposed projects to the program goals	Maximum Points: 30
This criterion ascertains whether there is intrinsic value in the proposed work and/or relevance to NOAA activities. For this competition, applications will be evaluated based on the following: a) Organizational commitment to, and experience with, achieving marine and coastal conservation and restoration goals related to oil spills, hazardous substance releases, and other natural resource damages; b) Ability to identify, select, implement (directly or through a subaward or contract), and oversee coastal and marine habitat restoration projects similar to those project types outlined in Section I.A and I.B; c) Capacity to act across wide geographic areas, especially in areas with a history of existing injuries and established trustee councils, both those listed as examples in section I.B.2, and those listed on the NOAA DARRP website (http://www.darrp.noaa.gov); and d) Complete description of any highlighted area(s) of expertise that your organization possesses, per section I.B, including experience with direct implementation and oversight of contracts and subawards, and experience with coordination with multiple trustee councils and federal agencies.	
2. Technical/scientific merit	Maximum Points: 20
This criterion assesses whether the approach is technically sound and/or innovative, if the methods are appropriate, and whether there are clear project goals and objectives. For this competition, applications will be evaluated based on the extent to which the applicant has described a realistic and thorough implementation plan which includes: a) The adequacy of proposed strategies for coordination with NOAA throughout all phases of project selection, design, implementation and monitoring, including a plan for the timely submission of project specific progress reports and outputs; b) Thorough description of past coastal restoration and conservation project successes, including how your organization represents the capabilities described in section I.B.1, including project identification, selection, implementation and oversight. This may include funds management, project tracking and reporting for multiple simultaneous efforts, project solicitation, and technical expertise; c) Thorough description of the process that will be used to identify, select and implement high-quality projects including a proposed time line for solicitation, contracting of sub- awards, initiation of on-the-ground implementation, and post-project evaluation;	

d) Thorough description of the process that will be used to provide oversight of restoration projects, including a description of in-progress oversight as well as pre- and –post project evaluation, and/or monitoring; and e) The ability to provide public access to data, including whether the application includes a Data Management Plan including descriptions of the types of environmental data and information created during the course of the project; the tentative date by which data will be shared; the standards to be used for data/metadata format and content; policies addressing data stewardship and preservation; procedures for providing access, sharing, and security; and prior experience in publishing such data.	
3. Overall qualifications of applicants	Maximum Points: 20
This criterion ascertains whether the applicant possesses the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to support the proposed award. For this competition, applications will be evaluated based on the following, as demonstrated by attached resumes, past project experience, and accomplishments of the key technical and financial staff: a) Financial Management Skills: Organization employs staff with administrative skills to manage contracts and financial aspects, and is prepared to adhere to requirements including reporting award conditions for invoicing and the Federal Financial Accountability and Transparency Act; b) Organization has a history as a recipient of federal funds, and can demonstrate to reviewers their experience managing federal funds including a clean audit history; c) Restoration and Conservation Background: organization has the ability to effectively identify, select, implement and oversee all phases of coastal conservation and restoration activities with minimal need for guidance from NOAA, and a thorough understanding of the NRDA process; and d) Administrative resources and capabilities: outline resources available to the applicant to support and successfully manage overall award requirements including efficiently managing a significant number of projects simultaneously and the financial and administrative management of sub-awards.	
4. Project costs	Maximum Points: 20
This criterion evaluates the budget to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the project needs and time-frame. For this competition, applications will be evaluated on the following: a) The reasonableness of the costs anticipated to implement restoration activities, including: collaborating with the trustee to select projects previously identified to be sub- awarded by the recipient; collaborating with the trustee to select projects for which the recipient has implementation and significant oversight responsibility; competition management to sub-award projects; and implementing project evaluation and monitoring pre- and post-restoration; b) Whether the applicant proposes a cost-effective strategy to direct resources toward habitat restoration and limit administrative costs. For instance, an applicant may propose that, as a percent of the total project, administrative costs charged to the Federal award for a large, sub-awarded project may be smaller than the administrative costs of a small project for which they have direct oversight; and c) Whether the proposed budget is realistic and sufficiently detailed, with appropriate budget breakdown and justification of both federal and optional non-federal shares, by object class as listed on form SF-424A, and by annual budget period. Section IV.B.3 describes the form and format for the budget narrative.	

5. Outreach and Education	Maximum Points: 10
This criterion assesses whether the Restoration Implementation Grants can deliver a focused and effective education and outreach strategy regarding NOAA's mission to protect the nation's natural resources. For this Restoration Implementation Grants competition, applications will be evaluated based on the following: a) The potential of the Restoration Implementation Grants to leverage NOAA's capacity to foster long-term stewardship for living marine resources and generate increased community interest in conservation; b) The extent to which an outreach component will be part of the Restoration Implementation Grant's goals to disseminate information on habitat restoration and protection that will increase awareness and transfer knowledge on lessons learned, and to publicly advance the Restoration Implementation Grants and its goals and objectives; and c) The level of support for the Restoration Implementation Grants as demonstrated by other contributing partners, letters of support from these partners, and/or from local entities, state, local or federal governments and/or members of Congress.	

Evaluation Criteria

Reviewers will assign scores to applications ranging from 0 to 100 points based on the following five evaluation criteria and respective weights specified. Applications that best address these criteria will be most competitive. Except as otherwise specified, the subcriteria are viewed holistically rather than receiving sub-weights.

Review and Selection Process

Applications will undergo an initial administrative review to determine if they are eligible and complete. NOAA, in its sole discretion, may continue the review process for applications with non-substantive issues that may be easily rectified or cured. Eligible applications will undergo a technical review, ranking, and selection process to determine how well they meet the program priorities and evaluation criteria of this solicitation and the mission and goals of NOAA.

Eligible applications will be evaluated by three or more merit reviewers as part of a technical review based on the Evaluation Criteria listed above. After the technical review, a panel may meet to make final recommendations to the Selecting Official (SO) regarding which proposals best meet the program objectives and priorities (Sections I.A. and I.B.). The panel will be comprised of federal employees and may convene in person or by teleconference, video conference, or other electronic means to discuss applications.

The panel will be presented with the top-ranked applications, per the results of the technical review, technical review scores, and comments for each application. The panel will rate all top-ranked proposals on the following scale:

3-Excellent – Application exceptionally addresses program priorities outlined in Sections I.A and I.B., and was highly responsive to Evaluation Criteria;

2-Good – Application partially addresses program priorities outlined in Sections I.A. and I.B and was strongly responsive to Evaluation Criteria; or

1-Fair – Application marginally addresses program priorities outlined in Sections I.A. and I.B. and was moderately responsive to Evaluation Criteria.

This rating will be presented to the SO for funding consideration and will be the primary consideration of the SO in deciding which applications will be recommended to the NOAA GMD, pending the application of selection factors in Section V.C. below.

NOAA may select all, some, or none of the applications, or part of any application, ask applicants to work together or combine projects, defer applications to the future, or reallocate funds to different funding categories, to the extent authorized. Applicants may be asked to modify objectives, work plans or budgets, and provide supplemental information required by the agency prior to the award. The exact amount of funds to be awarded, the final scope of activities, the project duration, and specific NOAA cooperative involvement with the activities of each project will be determined in pre-award negotiations among the applicant, the NOAA Grants Office, and NOAA program staff.

As described in previous sections of this Announcement, after the initial five-year award period, selected projects may be subject to renewed non-competitive funding as institutional awards due to the long-term partnership nature of this program, subject to an independent merit review and at the discretion of the Department of Commerce.

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified that their application was not among those recommended for funding. Notifications will be delivered in written form after the selection process is complete, approximately in spring or summer 2027. The notification will describe the selection decision based on the evaluation criteria and selection factors outlined in the funding opportunity announcement. Unsuccessful applications submitted will be kept on file in accordance with NOAA records requirements and then destroyed.

Selection Factors

The Selecting Official shall award in the rank order unless the proposal is justified to be selected out of rank order based on one or more of the following factors:

1. Availability of funding.
2. Balance/distribution of funds:
 - a. geographically
 - b. by type of institution
 - c. by type of partners
 - d. by research priority
 - e. by project types
3. Duplication of other projects funded or considered for funding by NOAA/Federal agencies.
4. Program priorities and policy factors.
5. Applicant's prior award performance.
6. Partnerships with/Participation of targeted groups.
7. Adequacy of information necessary for NOAA staff to make a NEPA determination and draft necessary documentation before recommendations for funding are made to the Grants Officer.

Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

NOAA will attempt to notify highly-ranked applicants by March 1, 2027. The earliest anticipated start date for awards will be June 1, 2027. Applicants that initiate award activities in anticipation of federal funding do so at their own risk, and are advised not to begin award-related work until a notice of award is received electronically from the NOAA GMD in eRA.

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notices

PRE-AWARD COSTS. Written pre-approval is required from NOAA for pre-award costs but prior approval will be waived for awards designated by NOAA as research. Award recipients expend pre-award costs up to 90 days before the period of performance start date at the applicant's own risk and in accordance with the applicant's internal policies and procedures. Such costs are allowable only to the extent that they would have been allowable if incurred after the date of the Federal award. This does not include direct proposal costs (as defined at 2 CFR 200.460). In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for direct proposal preparation costs. Pre-award costs will be a portion of, not in addition to, the approved total budget of the award. Pre-award costs expended more than 90 days prior to the period of performance start date require approval from the Grants Officer. This does not change the period of performance start date.

GRANTS OFFICER SIGNATURE. Proposals submitted in response to this solicitation are not considered awards until the Grants Officer has signed the grant agreement. Only Grants Officers can bind the Government to the expenditure of funds. The Grants Officer's digital signature constitutes an obligation of funds by the federal government and formal approval of the award.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY. Funding for programs listed in this notice is contingent upon the availability of funds. Applicants are hereby given notice that funds may not have been appropriated yet for the programs listed in this notice. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS, COST PRINCIPLES, AND AUDIT REQUIREMENTS. Through 2 C.F.R. § 1327.101, the Department of Commerce adopted Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards at 2 C.F.R. Part 200, which applies to awards in this program. Refer to <http://go.usa.gov/SBYh> and <http://go.usa.gov/SBg4>.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PRE-AWARD NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS. The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the Federal Register notice of December 30, 2014 (79 FR 78390) are applicable to this solicitation and may be accessed online at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-30/pdf/2014-30297.pdf>.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (DOC) TERMS AND CONDITIONS. Successful applicants who accept a NOAA award under this solicitation will be bound by the DOC Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions. This document will be provided in the award package in eRA at <https://www.commerce.gov/oam/policy/financial-assistance-policy>.

BUREAU TERMS AND CONDITIONS. Successful applicants who accept an award under this solicitation will be bound by bureau-specific standard terms and conditions. These terms and conditions will be provided in the award package in the eRA system. For NOAA awards only, the Administrative Standard Award Conditions for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Financial Assistance Awards U.S. Department of Commerce are applicable to this solicitation and may be accessed online at <https://www.noaa.gov/organization/acquisition-grants/financial-assistance>

HUMAN SUBJECTS RESEARCH. For research projects involving Human Subjects an Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval or an exemption determination will be required in accordance with DOC Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions Section G.05.i "Research Involving Human Subjects" found at <https://www.commerce.gov/oam/policy/financial-assistance-policy>.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA). NOAA must analyze the potential environmental impacts, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for applicant projects or proposals which are seeking NOAA federal funding opportunities. Detailed information on NOAA compliance with NEPA can be found at the following NOAA NEPA website: <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/>, including our NOAA Administrative Order 216-6 for NEPA, http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/NAO216_6.pdf, and the Council on Environmental Quality implementation regulations, http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/NEPA-40CFR1500_1508.pdf. Consequently, as part of an applicant's package, and under their description of their program activities, applicants are required to provide detailed information on the activities to be conducted, locations, sites, species and habitat to be affected, possible construction activities, and any environmental concerns that may exist (e.g., the use and disposal of hazardous or toxic chemicals, introduction of non- indigenous species, impacts to endangered and threatened species, aquaculture projects, and impacts to coral reef systems). In addition to providing specific information that will serve as the basis for any required impact analyses, applicants may also be requested to assist NOAA in drafting an environmental assessment, if NOAA determines an assessment is required. Applicants will also be required to cooperate with NOAA in identifying feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of their proposal. Failure to do so shall be grounds for not selecting an application. In some cases if additional information is required after an application is selected, funds can be withheld by the Grants Officer under a special award condition requiring the recipient to submit additional environmental compliance information sufficient to enable NOAA to make an assessment on any impacts that a project may have on the environment.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT. Department of Commerce regulations implementing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. Sec. 552, are found at 15 C.F.R. Part 4, Public Information. These regulations set forth rules for the Department regarding making requested materials, information, and records publicly available under the FOIA. Applications submitted in response to this Notice of Funding Opportunity may be subject to requests for release under the Act. In the event that an application contains information or data that the applicant deems to be confidential commercial information that should be exempt from disclosure under FOIA, that information should be identified, bracketed, and marked as Privileged, Confidential, Commercial or Financial Information. In accordance with 15 CFR § 4.9, the Department of Commerce will protect from disclosure confidential business information contained in financial assistance applications and other documentation provided by applicants to the extent permitted by law.

DATA SHARING PLAN. 1. Environmental data and information collected or created under NOAA grants or cooperative agreements must be made discoverable by and accessible to the general public, in a timely fashion (at the time of publication or within two years of the project ending), free of charge or at no more than the cost of reproduction, unless an exemption is granted by the NOAA Program. Data should be available in at least one machine-readable format, preferably a widely-used or open-standard format, and should also be accompanied by machine-readable documentation (metadata), preferably based on widely used or international standards. 2. Proposals submitted in response to this Announcement must include a Data Management Plan of up to two pages describing how these requirements will be satisfied. The Data Management Plan should be aligned with the Data Management Guidance provided by NOAA in the Announcement. The contents of the Data Management Plan (or absence thereof), and past performance regarding such plans, will be considered as part of proposal review. A typical plan should include descriptions of the types of environmental data and information expected to be created during the course of the project; the tentative date by which data will be shared; the standards to be used for data/metadata format and content; methods for providing data access; approximate total volume of data to be collected; and prior experience in making such data accessible. The costs of data preparation, accessibility, or archiving may be included in the proposal budget unless otherwise stated in the Guidance. Accepted submission of data to the NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) is one way to satisfy data sharing requirements; however, NCEI is not obligated to accept all submissions and may charge a fee, particularly for large or unusual datasets. 3. NOAA may, at its own discretion, make publicly visible the Data Management Plan from funded proposals, or use information from the Data Management Plan to produce a formal metadata record and include that metadata in a Catalog to indicate the pending availability of new data. 4. Proposal submitters are hereby advised that the final pre-publication manuscripts of scholarly articles produced entirely or primarily with NOAA funding will be required to be submitted to NOAA Institutional Repository after acceptance, and no later than upon publication. Such manuscripts shall be made publicly available by NOAA upon publication by the journal.

More information can be found on NOAA's Data Management Procedures at: [NOAA Administrative Order \(NAO\) 212-15B: Management of NOAA Data and Information, Data Management Handbook.pdf](#) and at NAO 212-15 Management of Environmental Data and Information:

<https://www.noaa.gov/organization/administration/nao-212-15-management-of-environmental-data-and-information>

NOAA SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE POLICY. NOAA requires organizations receiving federal assistance to report findings of sexual harassment, or any other kind of harassment, regarding a Principal Investigator (PI), co-PI, or any other key personnel in the award.

NOAA expects all financial assistance recipients to establish and maintain clear and unambiguous standards of behavior to ensure harassment free workplaces wherever NOAA grant or cooperative agreement work is conducted, including notification pathways for all personnel, including students, on the awards. This expectation includes activities at all on- and offsite facilities and during conferences and workshops. All such settings should have accessible and evident means for reporting violations and recipients should exercise due diligence with timely investigations of allegations and corrective actions.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.noaa.gov/organization/acquisition-grants/noaa-workplace-harassment-training-for-contractors-and-financial>.

SCIENCE INTEGRITY. 1. Maintaining Integrity. The non-Federal entity shall maintain the scientific integrity of research performed pursuant to this grant or financial assistance award including the prevention, detection, and remediation of any allegations regarding the violation of scientific integrity or scientific and research misconduct, and the conduct of inquiries, investigations, and adjudications of allegations of violations of scientific integrity or scientific and research misconduct. All the requirements of this provision flow down to subrecipients. 2. Peer Review. The peer review of the results of scientific activities under a NOAA grant, financial assistance award or cooperative agreement shall be accomplished to ensure consistency with NOAA standards on quality, relevance, scientific integrity, reproducibility, transparency, and performance. NOAA will ensure that peer review of "influential scientific information" or "highly influential scientific assessments" is conducted in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review and NOAA policies on peer review, such as the Information Quality Guidelines. 3. In performing or presenting the results of scientific activities under the NOAA grant, financial assistance award, or cooperative agreement and in responding to allegations regarding the violation of scientific integrity or scientific and research misconduct, the non-Federal entity and all subrecipients shall comply with the provisions herein and NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 202-735D, Scientific Integrity, and its Procedural Handbook, including any amendments thereto. That Order can be found at <https://www.noaa.gov/organization/administration/nao-202-735d-2-scientific-integrity>. 4. Primary Responsibility. The non-Federal entity shall have the primary responsibility to prevent, detect, and investigate allegations of a violation of scientific integrity or scientific and research misconduct. Unless otherwise instructed by the grants officer, the non-Federal entity shall promptly conduct an initial inquiry into any allegation of such misconduct and may rely on its internal policies and procedures, as appropriate, to do so. 5. By executing this grant, financial assistance award, or cooperative agreement the non-Federal entity provides its assurance that it has established an administrative process for performing an inquiry, investigating, and reporting allegations of a violation of scientific integrity or scientific and research misconduct; and that it will comply with its own administrative process for performing an inquiry, investigation, and reporting of such misconduct. 6. The non-Federal entity shall insert this provision in all subawards at all tiers under this grant, financial assistance award, or cooperative agreement.

REVIEW OF RISK. After applications are proposed for funding by the Selecting Official, the Grants Office will perform administrative reviews, including an assessment of risk posed by the applicant under 2 C.F.R. 200.206. These may include assessments of the financial stability of an applicant and the quality of the applicant's management systems, history of performance, and the applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on non-Federal entities. Special conditions that address any risks determined to exist may be applied. Applicants may submit comments about any information concerning organizational performance listed in the Responsibility/Qualification section of SAM.gov for consideration by the awarding agency.

REVIEWS AND EVALUATION. The applicant acknowledges and understands that information and data contained in applications for financial assistance, as well as information and data contained in financial, performance and other reports submitted by applicants, may be used by the Department of Commerce in conducting reviews and evaluations of its financial assistance programs. For this purpose, applicant information and data may be accessed, reviewed and evaluated by Department of Commerce employees, other Federal employees, and also by Federal agents and contractors, and/or by non-Federal personnel, all of whom enter into appropriate conflict of interest and confidentiality agreements covering the use of such information. As may be provided in the terms and conditions of a specific financial assistance award, applicants are expected to support program reviews and evaluations by submitting required financial and performance information and data in an accurate and timely manner, and by cooperating with the Department of Commerce and external program evaluators. In accordance with §200.303(e), applicants are reminded that they must take reasonable measures to safeguard protected personally identifiable information and other confidential or sensitive personal or business information created or obtained in connection with a Department of Commerce financial assistance award.

REQUIRED USE OF AMERICAN IRON, STEEL, MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS, AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS. If applicable, and pursuant to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act ("IIJA"), Pub.L. No. 117-58, which includes the Build American, Buy American (BABA) Act, Pub. L. No. 117-58, §§ 70901-52 and OMB M-22-11, recipients of an award of Federal financial assistance from the Department of Commerce (DOC) are hereby notified that none of the funds provided under this award may be used for a project for infrastructure unless: 1) all iron and steel used in the project are produced in the United States—this means all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States; 2) all manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States—this means the manufactured product was manufactured in the United States; and the cost of the components of the manufactured product that are mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States is greater than 55 percent of the total cost of all components of the manufactured product, unless another standard for determining the minimum amount of domestic content of the manufactured product has been established under applicable law or regulation; and 3) all construction materials¹ are manufactured in the United States—this means that all manufacturing processes for the construction material occurred in the United States. The Buy America preference only applies to articles, materials, and supplies that are consumed in, incorporated into, or affixed to an infrastructure project. As such, it does not apply to tools, equipment, and supplies, such as temporary scaffolding, brought to the construction site and removed at or before the completion of the infrastructure project. Nor does a Buy America preference apply to equipment and furnishings, such as movable chairs, desks, and portable computer equipment, that are used at or within the finished infrastructure project but are not an integral part of the structure or permanently affixed to the infrastructure project.

WAIVERS. When necessary, recipients may apply for, and DOC may grant, a waiver from these requirements. DOC will notify the recipient for information on the process for requesting a waiver from these requirements. 1) When DOC has made a determination that one of the following exceptions applies, the awarding official may waive the application of the domestic content procurement preference in any case in which DOC determines that: a. applying the domestic content procurement preference would be inconsistent with the public interest; b. the types of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality; or c. the inclusion of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent. A request to waive the application of the domestic content procurement preference must be in writing. DOC will provide instructions on the format, contents, and supporting materials required for any waiver request. Waiver requests are subject to public comment periods of no less than 15 days and must be reviewed by the Made in America Office.

DEFINITIONS. "Construction materials" includes an article, material, or supply—other than an item of primarily iron or steel; a manufactured product; cement and cementitious materials; aggregates such as stone, sand, or gravel; or aggregate binding agents or additives—that is or consists primarily of: non-ferrous metals; plastic and polymer-based products (including polyvinylchloride, composite building materials, and polymers used in fiber optic cables); glass (including optic glass); lumber; or drywall. "Domestic content procurement preference" means all iron and steel used in the project are produced in the United States; the manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States; or the construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States. "Infrastructure" includes, at a minimum, the structures, facilities, and equipment for, in the United States, roads, highways, and bridges; public transportation; dams, ports, harbors, and other maritime facilities; intercity passenger and freight railroads; freight and intermodal facilities; airports; water systems, including drinking water and wastewater systems; electrical transmission facilities and systems; utilities; broadband infrastructure; and buildings and real property. Infrastructure includes facilities that generate, transport, and distribute energy. "Project" means the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of infrastructure in the United States. – 1 Excludes cement and cementitious materials, aggregates such as stone, sand, or gravel, or aggregate binding agents or additives. 2 IIJA, § 70917(c)(1).

INDIRECT COST RATE. If an applicant has not previously established an indirect cost rate with a Federal agency they may choose to negotiate a rate with the Department of Commerce or use the de minimis indirect cost rate of 15% of MTDC (as allowable under 2 C.F.R. §200.414). The negotiation and approval of a rate is subject to the procedures required by NOAA and the Department of Commerce Standard Terms and Conditions. The NOAA contact for indirect or facilities and administrative costs is: Jennifer Jackson, NOAA Grants Management Division, 1325 East West Highway, 9th Floor, Silver Spring, MD 20910, or jennifer.jackson@noaa.gov.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 14173. Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity. This award term implements Executive Order 14173, 90 FR 8633 (Jan. 21, 2025), Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity. By accepting this U.S. Department of Commerce financial assistance award, the recipient: (1) agrees that compliance in all respects with all applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws is material to the government's payment decisions for purposes of section 3729(b)(4) of Title 31 United States Code; and (2) certifies to the Department that it does not operate any programs promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion that violate any applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws.

RESTORING AMERICAN SEAFOOD COMPETITIVENESS. Pursuant to Executive Order (EO) 14276, Restoring American Seafood, the United States aims to address unfair trade practices, eliminate unsafe imports, level the unfair playing field that has benefited foreign fishing companies, promote ethical sourcing, reduce regulatory burdens, and ensure the integrity of the seafood supply chain. As applicable, the purpose, policies, and requirements of EO 14276 apply to awards made under this notice.

GOLD STANDARD SCIENCE. In performing activities under Federal awards, applicants should commit to complying with administration policies, procedures, and guidance respecting Gold Standard Science. As detailed in Executive Order 14303, Restoring Gold Standard Science (May 23, 2025), Gold Standard Science refers to science conducted in a manner that is:

- Reproducible.
- Transparent.
- Communicative of error and uncertainty.
- Collaborative and interdisciplinary.
- Skeptical of its findings and assumptions.
- Structured for falsifiability of hypotheses.
- Subject to unbiased peer review.
- Accepting of negative results as positive outcomes.
- Without conflicts of interest.

PROHIBITION ON USING FEDERAL AWARDS TO PROMOTE OR SUPPORT THEORIES OF DISPARATE-IMPACT LIABILITY. In accordance with Executive Order 14281, Restoring Equality of Opportunity and Meritocracy (April 23, 2025), it is the policy of the Federal Government to eliminate the use of disparate-impact liability in all contexts to the maximum possible and permitted by law.

TERMINATION. In accordance with 2 CFR § 200.340(a), this federal award may be terminated in part or in its entirety as follows:

1. By DOC or the pass-through entity if the recipient or subrecipient fails to comply with the terms and conditions of this federal award.
2. By DOC or the pass-through entity with the consent of the recipient or subrecipient, in which case the two parties must agree upon the termination conditions. These conditions include the effective date and, in the case of partial termination, the portion to be terminated.
3. By the recipient or subrecipient upon sending DOC or the pass-through entity a written notification of the reasons for termination, the effective date, and, in the case of partial termination, the portion to be terminated. If DOC or the pass-through entity determines that the remaining portion of this federal award will not accomplish the purposes for which this federal award was made, DOC or the pass-through entity may terminate this federal award in its entirety.

4. By DOC or the pass-through entity to the extent authorized by law, if the award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities.

C. Reporting

In accordance with 2 CFR 200.328-9 and the terms and conditions of the award, financial reports are to be submitted semiannually on Oct. 30 and April 30 and performance (technical) reports are to be submitted on the same schedule as financial reports. Reports are submitted electronically through eRA.

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act, 31 U.S.C. 6101 note, includes a requirement for awardees of applicable Federal grants to report information about first-tier subawards and executive compensation under Federal assistance awards. All awardees of applicable grants and cooperative agreements are required to report to the FFATA Subaward Reporting System (FSRS) available at <https://www.fsrs.gov/> on all subawards over \$30,000. Refer to 2 CFR Part 170.

Performance (technical) reports shall use the NOAA Restoration Center's progress report narrative format and form approved by OMB under control number 0648 0718, or a successor form. This form will be provided to awardees by the NOAA Federal Program Officer. In addition, award recipients proposing multiple site locations, activities and/or subawards, may be required to submit individual reports for each, or provide a project/site list including status and expenditures. A comprehensive final report covering all activities during the award period is required and must be received by NOAA within 120 days after the end date of this award.

Due to NOAA's commitments under individual settlements and DARRP financial guidelines, recipients will be responsible for tracking expenditures according to identified DARRP fund sources. All expenditures and draw downs, including direct management fees and individual sub-awards, will be made according to identified DARRP funds sources via ASAP Control Detail Account codes. The recipient will maintain project invoices for 3 years after the award has been completed and as required in 2 C.F.R. 200.334. Each invoice will be labeled with the associated DARRP financial task code and corresponding Control Detail Account code. Receipts supporting sub-recipient invoices should be maintained by the sub-recipient in their files for 3 years and as required in 2 C.F.R. 200.334 after project implementation has been completed. Failure to do so may result in suspension of funds, and may jeopardize the availability of future funds. Refer to 2 C.F.R. 200.339-.343 Remedies for Non-compliance.

Performance Measures: NOAA will evaluate project performance based on alignment with administration priorities, including but not limited to, domestic economic expansion, infrastructure modernization, capacity building, and national food security, alongside adherence to Executive Orders and 'Gold Standard Science.' These overarching criteria are assessed through a framework that measures a project's contribution to fishery economic optimization, domestic seafood utilization, infrastructure capacity, supply chain resilience, and national maritime strategy. To ensure effective implementation, NOAA reserves the right to incorporate specific quantitative and qualitative metrics into the award agreement (i.e. Notice of Award; Specific Award Conditions). These metrics will be focused on the project's objectives and its ability to foster industry growth, technical modernization, and workforce readiness.

VII. Agency Contacts

Supplemental Guidance regarding application writing, a checklist to submit a complete application, and FAQs about this NOFO can be found at:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/habitat-conservation/resources-noaa-restoration-center-applicants>.

For further information, contact David Landsman by e-mail at David.Landsman@noaa.gov.

Prospective applicants are invited to contact NOAA staff before submitting an application to discuss their DARRP Restoration Implementation Grants ideas with respect to technical merit and NOAA's objectives. NOAA will make every effort to respond to prospective applicants on a first come, first served basis. These discussions will not include review of draft proposals or site visits during the application period.

VIII. Other Information

Funds awarded cannot necessarily pay for all the costs that the recipient might incur in the course of carrying out an award. Generally, costs that are allowable include salaries, equipment and supplies, as long as these are "necessary and reasonable" specifically for the purpose of the award. Allowable costs are determined by reference to the OMB Uniform Guidance at 2 C.F.R. Part 200, codified by the Department of Commerce at 1327.101. All cost reimbursement sub-awards (e.g. subgrants, contracts) are subject to those federal cost principles applicable to the particular type of organization concerned.