

**State of New Jersey
Department of Environmental Protection
Coastal & Land Use Planning**

Notice of Request for Participation in a Project Partnership with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to apply for project funding available through Coastal Resilience grant program offered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

A. BACKGROUND ON NOAA GRANT OPPORTUNITY

As part of its national effort to build resilient coastal ecosystems, communities and economies, NOAA has announced the availability of up to \$15 million in funding for coastal community and habitat restoration projects in 2017.

Funding Opportunity Title: FY 2017 NOAA Coastal Resilience Grants Program
Funding Opportunity Number: NOAA-NOS-NRPO-2017-2005159

The NOAA funding opportunity seeks project proposals from nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, regional organizations, private entities, and local, state, and tribal governments. The primary focus of this grants program is to implement projects that build resilience coastal communities, economies, and ecosystems. The NOAA Coastal Resilience Grants program will support two categories of activities:

- 1) **Strengthening Coastal Communities:** activities that improve capacity of multiple coastal jurisdictions to prepare and plan for, absorb the impacts of, recover from, and/or adapt to extreme weather events and climate-related hazards; or
- 2) **Habitat Restoration:** activities that restore habitat to strengthen the resilience of coastal ecosystems and decrease the vulnerability of coastal communities to extreme weather events and climate-related hazards.

NOAA will accept proposals requesting between \$100,000 and \$2 million. More information can be found online at grants.gov or from <https://coast.noaa.gov/resilience-grant/>. The deadline for applications to NOAA for the Coastal Resilience grants funding opportunity is March 15, 2017.

NOAA will give high priority for the funding of projects that:

- 1) **Strengthening Coastal Communities**
 - Enhance civic capacity and maintain or establish collaborative efforts through engagement with appropriate stakeholders, development of collaborative projects and leveraging of resources;
 - Increase stakeholder understanding and awareness of the impacts of extreme weather and climate-related hazards on coastal communities and economic sectors that depend on the ocean and coasts;
 - Improve planners and decision makers' access to data and information related to current and future environmental, economic, and social conditions and their capacity to integrate information into sound, science-based planning and decision making;
 - Increase planners and decisions makers' knowledge of the costs, benefits, and tradeoffs of the use of natural and nature-based solutions for a potential ranges of purposes including but not

limited to coastal infrastructure protection, water quality enhancement, habitat creation, and increased recreational use.

2) Habitat Restoration

- Result in socio-economic benefits associated with the restoration of healthy and resilience coastal ecosystems, such as increased economic activity, enhanced recreation including fishing, changes in human well-being, improved or protected infrastructure, decreased flooding impacts, elimination of safety hazards, and/or reduced maintenance costs.
- Restore habitat within the Blueprint Habitat Focus Areas (<https://www.habitat.noaa.gov/habitatblueprint>) or habitat for Listed species including Species in the Spotlight (http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/stories/2015/05/05_14_15species_in_the_spotlight.html);
- Implement on-the-ground restoration activities that will begin within 24 months of the proposed award start date, will result in beneficial impacts, and achieve the stated ecosystem resilience and habitat goals;
- Demonstrate collaboration and alignment among multiple stakeholders, including state and federal agencies, by proposing projects and implement ecosystem-based multi-benefit restoration recommendations and site-specific strategies outlined in existing coastal vulnerability or resilience studies and comprehensive planning efforts such as fisheries recovery and/or management plans.

B. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Request for Partners

In response to this Federal Funding Opportunity, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Coastal and Land Use Planning ("Department"), is offering to enter into partnerships with eligible entities submitting proposals for the NOAA Coastal Resilience Grant Program. Eligible entities are: nonprofit organizations; private (for profit) entities; institutions of higher education; and state, territorial, tribal, and local governments as defined at 2 C.F.R. 200.64, which includes counties, municipalities, and cities; and regional organizations (as defined in the NOAA announcement).

The Department may propose a project of its own, and partner in a project led by eligible entities, in response to the NOAA FFO.

The Department is considering submittal of an application in response to the NOAA FFO to fund a collaboration of partners to develop and implement activities to advance a common framework for coastal resilience and apply those actions at the local and regional scale.

The Department is also offering to provide support within a partnership of entities seeking funding for projects in New Jersey that propose to build resilience to coastal hazards, including activities that protect life and property, safeguard people and infrastructure, strengthen the economy, or conserve and restore coastal and marine resources. The Department is offering support to develop the grant application to NOAA, substantive support during the project including but not limited to completion of specific project tasks, technical and regulatory compliance assistance, and in-kind match through staff support for projects that meet the eligible applicant requirements and demonstrate that they clearly address the NOAA project evaluation criteria as well as those set forth below.

Entities seeking to partner with the Department must provide the following information to the Office of Coastal and Land Use Planning on or before **February 15, 2017**.

The Department will notify eligible entities of its acceptance of their offer to partner on or before **March 1, 2017**.

Proposal/Applicant Information

- Qualifying entity's name, mail address, and phone number;
- Qualifying entity's primary contact person's name, mail address, phone number, and e-mail address;
- Names, mail addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of all qualifying project partners, subcontractors, or agents serving as a contact for the proposed project;
- Proposed project details including:
 - For Department-led project:
 - Activity(s)/task(s) the eligible entity proposes to develop and implement, as part of the collaboration of partners, to advance a common framework for coastal resilience and application of those actions at the local and regional scale;
 - Budget for the proposed activity(s);
 - Statement of Qualifications of the perspective grantee which details the experience of the entity successfully implementing resiliency planning, tool development, data collection, ecological creation, restoration or enhancement projects, and/or coastal hazards resiliency projects;
 - For eligible entity-led projects:
 - Present an overview of the project scale and scope;
 - Site location maps that provide both regional and site specific details;
 - Narrative description of how the proposed project addresses each of the NOAA application evaluation criteria;
 - Narrative description of how the proposed project addresses each of the Factors considered by the Department identified below;
 - Overall budget for the project;
 - Statement of Qualifications of the lead perspective grantee which details the experience of the entity or grantee partnership successfully implementing resiliency planning, tool development, data collection, ecological creation, restoration or enhancement projects, and/or coastal hazards resiliency projects;
 - Proposed activity(s) of the Office of Coastal and Land Use Planning;
 - Additionally, for eligible entity-led Habitat Restoration projects:
 - Sketch plan or engineered designed drawing that details', to the extent possible, the proposed project elements and location of the project elements within the project site, for Habitat Restoration projects;
 - Proposed plan to ensure pre- and post-construction site monitoring plan, for Habitat Restoration projects;
 - Federal and or State permit authorizations currently valid for the project or the readiness and feasibility of the project obtaining such requisite permits in a timely fashion, for Habitat Restoration projects.

C. FACTORS CONSIDERED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN SELECTING PARTNERSHIPS TO PURSUE THE NOAA FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

For a Department-led project:

- The extent to which the proposed activity/task directly supports a collaboration of partners to develop and implement activities to advance a common framework for coastal resilience and application of those actions at the local and regional scale; and
- The stated objectives and priorities of the funding for Strengthening Coastal Communities or Habitat Restoration categories; and
- Whether the project builds on, informs, or otherwise improves ongoing Office of Coastal and Land Use Planning activities; and
- Budget for the proposed activity(s); and
- The experience of the prospective grantee or grantee partnership successfully implementing other similar projects.

For all eligible entity-led projects:

- The extent to which a project directly addresses the stated objectives and priorities of the funding for Strengthening Coastal Communities or Habitat Restoration categories; and
- The extent to which a project is likely to provide sustainable and lasting benefits and resiliency to extreme weather events and climate-related hazards; and
- Whether the project is consistent with the strategies identified in the *New Jersey Coastal Management Program Section 309 Assessment & Strategy 2016-2020* found at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/cmp/docs/njcmp-309-strategy-assessment-2016-2020.pdf>; and
- Whether the project builds on, informs, or otherwise improves ongoing Office of Coastal and Land Use Planning activities; and
- Whether the project demonstrates collaboration and alignment among multiple stakeholders; and
- Whether the project includes a focused and effective education and outreach strategy; and
- The experience of the prospective grantee or grantee partnership successfully implementing other similar projects, and

Additionally, for eligible entity-led Habitat Restoration projects:

- Whether Federal and State permit authorizations requisite to conduct a habitat restoration project have been obtained, or existing permits can be modified to reflect the project elements and remain valid; or
- Where no proposed project permits are currently valid, whether project activities requiring permit authorizations are included within current Federal and State Nationwide and General Permits; or
- Where no proposed project permits are currently valid, whether the proposed project activities requiring an Individual permit authorization under either or both Federal and State jurisdictions are likely to gain approvals that will enable the project to be completed by September 30, 2020.

Partnership offerings submissions shall be provided via mail to:

**Elizabeth Semple, Manager
Office of Coastal and Land Use Planning
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
401 East State Street, 7th Floor
PO Box 420, Mail Code 401-07C
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420**

Or via email to:

NJCZM@dep.nj.gov