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Presenters:

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NOAA's 2023 Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants

Under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act

Grants.gov Opportunity Number:
NOAA-NMFS-HCPO-2023-2008081

August 2023



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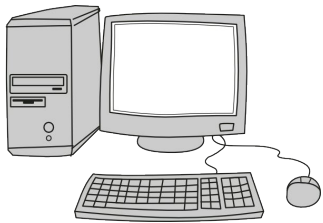


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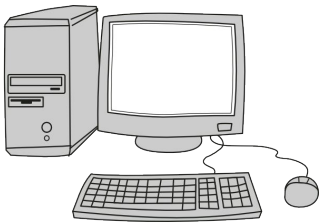


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Funding Opportunity

Executive Summary

- ★ NOAA anticipates **\$240M** in total funds to be available for this competition.
- ★ Proposals must be received through www.Grants.gov by 11:59 PM Eastern, **November 17, 2023.**





Additional Opportunities Under the BIL and IRA

NOAA Office of Habitat Conservation Grants:

- ★ Restoring Fish Passage Through Barrier Removal
- ★ Restoring Tribal Priority Fish Passage Through Barrier Removal
- ★ Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Tribes and Underserved Communities

NOAA Bipartisan Infrastructure Law:

noaa.gov/infrastructure-law



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Program Objective

Section I.A.

Objective: to support projects that restore marine, estuarine, coastal, or Great Lakes ecosystems, using approaches that enhance community and ecosystem resilience to climate hazards.



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Program Objective

Section I.A.

Key Terms:

- Ecosystem Resilience
- Community Resilience
- Underserved Communities
- Meaningful Engagement
- Indigenous Knowledge
- Habitat Restoration
- Co-benefits of Restoration
- Nature-based Solutions
- Coastal Areas



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Program Priority 1:

Section I.B.

Sustaining Productive Fisheries and Strengthening Ecosystem Resilience

- a.) Endangered Species Act: Listed Species
- b.) Magnuson-Stevens Act: Managed Species
- c.) Saltwater Recreational Fisheries
- d.) Great Lakes: Native Species



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Program Priority 2: *Section I.B.*

Enhancing Community Resilience to Climate Hazards and Providing Other Co-benefits

- ★ Benefit human populations
- ★ Reduce vulnerability to climate hazards
- ★ Provide other co-benefits



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Program Priority 3: *Section I.B.*

Fostering Regionally Important Habitat Restoration

- ★ Exhibit transformative potential within region
- ★ Align with comprehensive planning documents
- ★ Complement other restoration efforts



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Program Priority 4: *Section I.B.*

Providing Benefit to Tribal, Indigenous, and/or Underserved Communities, Including Through Partnerships

- ★ Outline project location
- ★ Outline project benefits
- ★ Align with Justice40 Initiative



Funding Availability

Section II



- ★ Up to **\$240M** overall available for new awards
- ★ Proposal requests must be between **\$1M** to **\$25M** over the entire award period
- ★ Award period up to **3 years**
- ★ Earliest start date: **October 1, 2024**



Eligibility

Section III

- ★ **Applicant Type:** institutions of higher education; non-profit and for-profit organizations; U.S. territories; and state, local, and tribal governments
- ★ **Project Location:** coastal, marine, or estuarine areas that benefit species or fisheries that are outlined within the program priorities





Eligibility

Section III

- ★ Non-federal match **not required**
- ★ Cost share is **encouraged**, and is an element within the evaluation criteria
- ★ Cost share may include **formal, non-federal match** funds and/or **informal leverage** from a broad range of sources





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Ineligibility

Section III

Proposals that **focus solely** on:

- ★ Marine debris prevention and removal
- ★ Acquisition of real property
- ★ Beach renourishment for recreation

Additional **ineligible** activities:

- ★ Hard infrastructure for water quality
- ★ Consent decree, court order, statute
- ★ Effectiveness monitoring and research

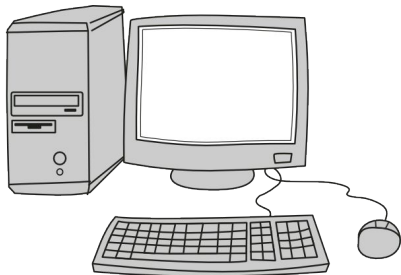


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Application and Submission Information

Section IV

- ★ Grants.gov and SAM registration
- ★ Standard Federal (SF)-424 forms
- ★ Proposal content: 3 PDFs
 1. Project Summary and Project Narrative
 2. Budget Narrative
 3. Supplemental Materials and Project Designs





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Application Review

Section V

Evaluation Criteria

1. Importance and Applicability (35 *pts*)
2. Technical / Scientific Merit (25 *pts*)
3. Applicant Qualifications (10 *pts*)
4. Project Costs (15 *pts*)
5. Outreach and Education (15 *pts*)





Application Review

Section V

1. Importance and Applicability (35 pts)

- a.) Sustaining Productive Fisheries and Strengthening Ecosystem Resilience (11 pts)
- b.) Enhancing Community Resilience to Climate Hazards and Providing Other Co-benefits (9 pts)
- c.) Fostering Regionally Important Habitat Restoration (10 pts)
- d.) Providing Benefit to Tribal, Indigenous, and/or Underserved Communities, Including Through Partnerships (5 pts)



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Application Review

Section V

2. Technical / Scientific Merit (25 pts)

- a.) Project Methodology (7 pts)
- b.) Project Detail (7 pts)
- c.) Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation (5 pts)
- d.) Sustainability (5 pts)
- e.) Data Management Plan (1 pt)



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Application Review

Section V

3. Applicant Qualifications (*10 pts*)

- a.) Restoration and Conservation Qualifications (*5 pts*)
- b.) Management Capacity (*5 pts*)



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Application Review

Section V

4. Project Costs (15 pts)

- a.) Budget Detail (3 pts)
- b.) Funding Allocation and Cost-effectiveness (7 pts)
- c.) Cost-sharing and Leveraging Funds (5 pts)



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Application Review

Section V

5. Outreach and Education (15 pts)

- a.) Stakeholder Support (5 pts)
- b.) Inclusive Planning and Engagement (5 pts)
- c.) Community Outreach and Education (5 pts)



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Application Review

Section V

Review and selection process:

- ★ Technical review
- ★ Panel review
- ★ Earliest start date: **October 1, 2024**





Reminders and Tips

- ★ Determine if you meet eligibility requirements
- ★ Start the application and registration processes early
- ★ Read the entire funding opportunity document
 - Pay close attention to the Evaluation Criteria
- ★ Verify that all requirements are met before submitting
- ★ Feel free to contact us with questions



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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is there a limit on the number of proposals from any one applicant, geographic area, or region?

A: No. There is no limit on the number of proposals from any one applicant, geographic area, or region.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is this the only Notice of Funding Opportunity from the Office of Habitat Conservation this year, to support restoration projects under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law or Inflation Reduction Act?

A: No. Our office released two opportunities on July 31st, to support fish passage efforts. We also anticipate that an additional opportunity focused on habitat restoration and resilience for tribes and underserved communities will be released later this year. Check our website for more information: fisheries.noaa.gov/habitat-BIL-IRA



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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How does this funding opportunity compare to others? Which funding opportunity should I apply to?

A: I recommend that you check all the relevant funding opportunities carefully, especially the Eligibility, Program Priorities, and Evaluation Criteria sections. Your organization can decide which opportunities are the best fit for your projects. I also recommend checking the NOAA webpage for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, to see if other grants programs would be applicable: [noaa.gov/infrastructure-law](https://www.noaa.gov/infrastructure-law)



Frequently Asked Questions

***Q:** Can an applicant apply to more than one NOAA funding opportunity for the same project?*

A: Yes. If a project has been submitted for funding consideration elsewhere, the amount requested or secured from other funding sources, and whether the funds are federal or non-federal in origin, should be included in the Project Summary in your application.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Will proposals that include project sites located across multiple states be competitive?

A: Potentially. All proposals should demonstrate how the projects will collectively contribute to the priorities within a given watershed or other geographically defined area. Proposals that do not show a collective contribution to a measurable outcome within a defined region might not be as competitive.



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Frequently Asked Questions

***Q:** I am interested in regional planning and project feasibility. Are pre-implementation project phases eligible for this funding?*

A: Proposals may include the following project phases: planning and assessments; feasibility studies; engineering design and permitting; on-the-ground implementation; pre- and/or post-implementation monitoring; or any combination thereof. Proposals that include on-the-ground implementation will be given priority compared to those that include only pre-implementation activities.



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Frequently Asked Questions

***Q:** Is funding available to hire a new staff person to help manage a restoration project?*

A: Yes. Applicants may include capacity-building and stakeholder engagement to support the proposed restoration. The proposal should demonstrate how capacity-building will support or catalyze subsequent on-the-ground restoration.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What level of detail is expected for the Budget Narrative?

A: The budget should be organized by the object classes listed on the SF-424A form, with all costs clearly justified. Detailed budgets are expected for any contracts and subawards included in your application.

Please visit our webpage for resources and examples:

fisheries.noaa.gov/national/habitat-conservation/resources-noaa-restoration-center-applicants



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I'm concerned about inflation and competition for contractors. How can I draft an accurate budget with this uncertainty?

A: Budgets are inherently estimates, and grants regulations allow applicants to budget for contingency costs. Provide your best budget estimations based on your project experience, and your research on expected cost increases.



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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What federal policies am I required to follow if I receive an award?

A: Federal grant regulations can be found in 2 CFR 200. These regulations cover a wide variety of topics. For certain larger projects, there may be requirements related to signage acknowledging the source of these funds. Any requirements will be contained in the terms and conditions that are included with all award offers.



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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Does the Build American, Buy American Act (BABA) apply to funds provided through this opportunity?

A: Yes. When creating your proposal, please see Section VI for more information about the BABA requirements and how they pertain to the funding. The Department of Commerce has a BABA website at: commerce.gov/oam/build-america-buy-america



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Contact Info

- ★ **Competition Manager (Natalie McLenaghan):**
 - resilience.grants@noaa.gov, 240-614-3192
- ★ **Contact Grants.gov with Registration and Submission Questions:**
 - support@grants.gov, 1-800-518-4726, <https://grants-portal.psc.gov/>
- ★ **NOAA Bipartisan Infrastructure Law:** noaa.gov/infrastructure-law
- ★ **Habitat Conservation Grants:** fisheries.noaa.gov/habitat-BIL-IRA