



NOAA
FISHERIES

**Southeast
Region**

NOAA Gulf of Mexico B-WET FY24 Funding Opportunity Overview

Presented by Amy Clark
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Presentation Overview

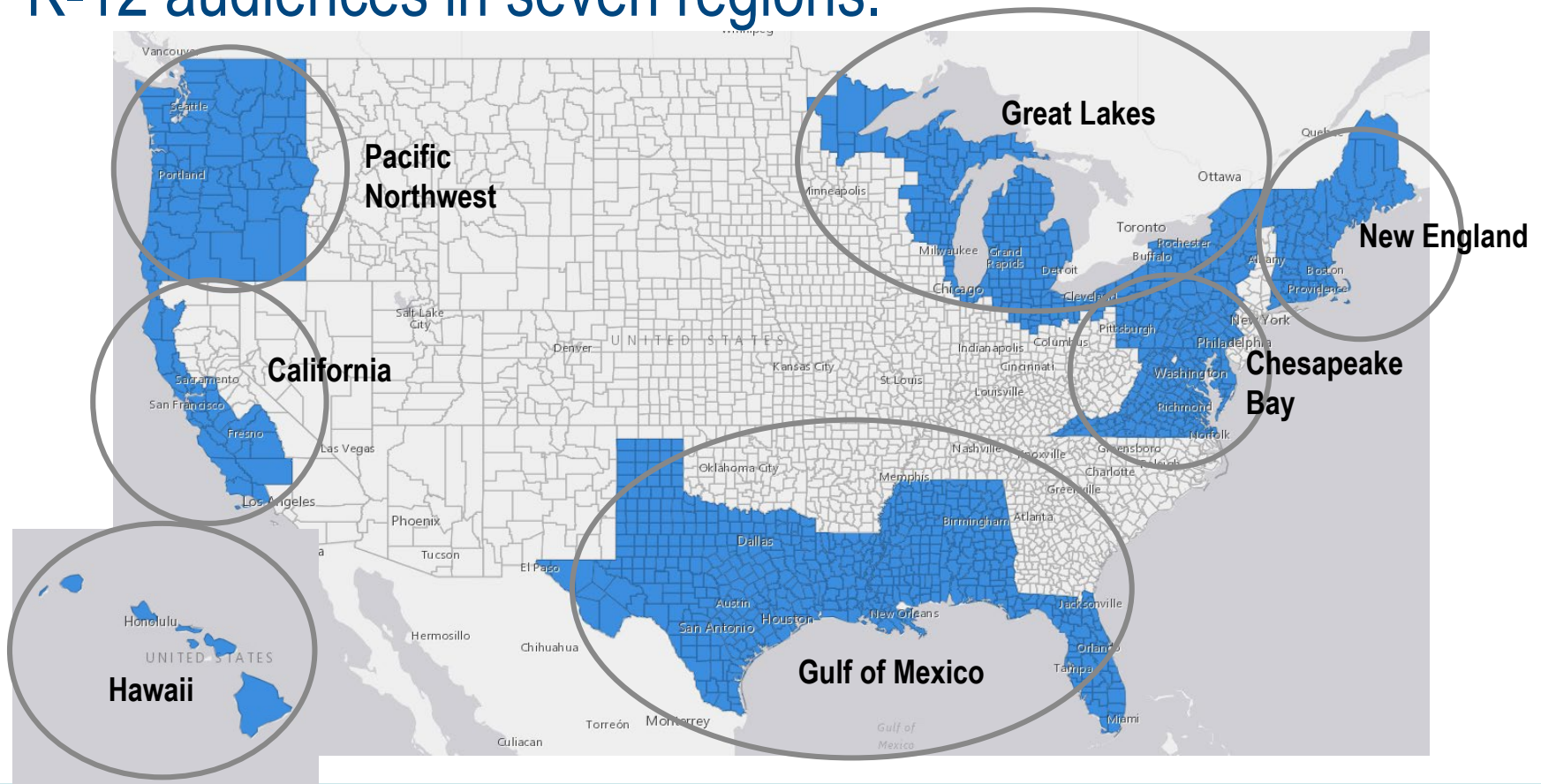
- B-WET Overview and Definition of the MWEE
- Program Priorities
- Application Package and How to Apply
- Evaluation Criteria
- Review Timeline
- Questions

B-WET Overview and Definition of the MWEE



What is NOAA B-WET

The Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) program promotes locally relevant, experiential learning for K-12 audiences in seven regions.





Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE)

MWEEs are multi-stage, learner-centered experiences that focus on investigations into local environmental issues that lead to informed stewardship actions

MWEE definition:

<https://www.noaa.gov/education/explainers/noaa-meaningful-watershed-educational-experience>



MWEE Essential Elements

These elements describe “what students should do”.
The promote a learner-centered approach in which the student actively constructs meaning from the learning experiences.

- Issue definition
- Outdoor field experiences
- Synthesis and conclusions
- Environmental action projects



MWEE Supporting Practices

These elements describe “what teachers do” to fully support successful MWEE implementation with students.

- Teacher facilitation
- Learning integration
- Sustained experience
- Local context



Teacher MWEE Professional Development Practices

These elements empower teachers to confidently and competently use the MWEE approach to support standards-based learning that aligns with local education agency initiatives.

- Increases teachers' knowledge and awareness of environmental issues
- Models MWEE framework
- Includes collaboration, feedback, and models high-quality instruction
- Allows for adequate instructional time and ongoing support
- Offers appropriate incentives
- Meets jurisdictional guidelines and engages leadership



MWEE Resources

- MWEE Definition: <https://www.noaa.gov/education/explainers/noaa-meaningful-watershed-educational-experience>
- MWEE Resources: <https://www.noaa.gov/office-education/bwet/resources/mwee-resources>
- An Educator's Guide to the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience: <https://www.noaa.gov/office-education/bwet/resources/mwee-guide>
- EPA's "How's My Waterway?" Tool: <https://mywaterway.epa.gov/>
- Tools for Implementing MWEEs on School Grounds: <https://maeoe.org/environmental-literacy/school-grounds-for-learning>



NOAA Assets

- NOAA Education Resource Collections: <https://www.noaa.gov/education/resource-collections>
- NOAA Sea to Sky: Education Resource Database: <https://www.noaa.gov/education/resources>
- NOAA Education “At Home” Resources: <https://www.noaa.gov/education/resource-collections/education-at-home>
- NOAA in Your State: <https://www.noaa.gov/legislative-and-intergovernmental-affairs/noaa-in-your-state-territory>
- NOAA in Your Backyard: <https://www.noaa.gov/education/noaa-in-your-backyard>

Program Priorities





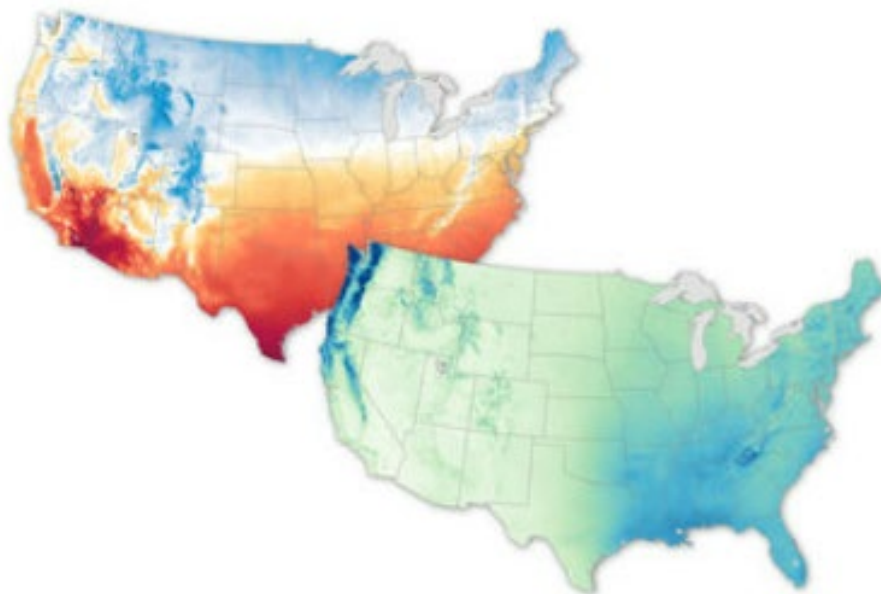
Program Priorities

Proposals must address one of the following B-WET priority areas:

1. Professional Development for Teachers related to MWEEs
2. Exemplary Programs combining Teacher Professional Development with MWEEs for students
3. Systematic MWEE Implementation

Special Interest Area 1: Climate Education

The K-12 education system is a well-positioned venue for instilling comprehensive knowledge, skills, competencies, and resilience around one of the most pressing economic, social and environmental issues of today: climate change.





Special Interest Area 2: Gulf of Mexico Fisheries

Gulf B-WET is administered through NOAA Fisheries (Southeast Region) which

- ensures sustainable fishing opportunities (ecological, economic, or cultural)
- provides protection for endangered species and marine mammals
- provides conservation of the habitat needed to support marine life

Projects addressing this special interest area have fisheries or protected resources as the main issue student's investigate, and include student action to protect or restore the species and/or its habitat.

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/about/southeast-regional-office>



Additional Considerations

Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA)

www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org

- GOMA is a partnership of the states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, with the goal of significantly increasing regional collaboration to enhance the ecological and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico
- Note which Alliance priorities the project will address

NOAA Education Strategic Plan (2021 - 2040)

<https://www.noaa.gov/education/explainers/noaa-education-strategic-plan>

- NOAA's scientific work is the foundation for the agency's educational content, which is detailed in the latest Strategic Plan.
- Note how the project is aligned with goals of the NOAA Education Strategic Plan



Community-Based Organizations

- Target marginalized audiences
- Partner with organizations with expertise in engaging members of diverse cultures and communities
- Partnership should include:
 - shared goals and share resources
 - clear and effective communication
 - collaboration on decision-making



Eligible Applicants

- K-12 public and independent schools and school systems
- Institutions of higher education
- Nonprofit organizations
- State or local government agencies
- Interstate agencies
- Indian tribal governments

Applicants may be physically located in any U.S. state

Target Audiences

Projects must target K-12 teachers or students in the five Gulf of Mexico states.



Application Package and How to Apply





Application Elements

- Federal Forms: SF-424, SF-424A, SF-424B, CD-511
- Project Summary (1-page)
- Project Description (15-pages) including
 - Objectives
 - Target Audience and Contact Time
 - Community Partnerships
 - Alignment with Priorities/Principles
 - Methods and Timeline (addressing the elements of the MWEE)
 - Outreach and Sharing
 - Sustainability
 - Project evaluation plan and expected outcomes



Application Elements (cont.)

- Appendices (not included in the project description 15-page count)
 - Literature Cited
 - Letters of Support/Partnerships
 - Technical Experience (including Resumes at 2 pg each)
 - Data Sharing
 - NEPA questionnaire
- Budget
 - Budget Narrative and Justification
 - B-WET Excel Budget table



Project Evaluation

- Collection and documentation of information about your project's short-term outcomes in order to improve the project's effectiveness, document successes towards meeting project objectives, and inform decisions about future programming
- Up to 10% of the budget can be spent on the evaluation



Funding Request Levels

- (Priority 1) Professional Development for Teachers related to MWEEs
- (Priority 2) Exemplary Programs combining Teacher Professional Development with MWEEs for students
 - ❖ Min request: \$25,000
 - ❖ Max request: \$100,000
- (Priority 3) Systematic MWEE Implementation
 - ❖ Min request: \$25,000
 - ❖ Max request: \$150,000
- NOAA does not operate in cents
- Ensure dollars are parallel across application documents
- Anticipate four to seven new awards



Budget tips

- Common Cost Categories include:
 - Personnel: Salary for staff **directly** involved in project. Provide # of hours or % of time.
 - Fringe benefits: Benefits for staff requested in Personnel category.
 - Travel: Mileage, buses, overnight accommodations, etc.
 - Equipment: item priced over \$5000 per unit (not cumulative)
 - Supplies: All other “equipment” and supplies
 - Contractual: Any contracted services (Example: outside evaluator)
 - Indirect charges: “The cost of doing business” – phones, facilities, internet, etc. [You must have a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) in place or use the 10% de minimis allowance]
- B-WET budget template: https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/dam-migration/budgettemplate_91418.zip



Project Period

- Earliest possible project start date: August 1, 2024
- Project period: up to 24 months
- Projects should begin and end on first or last day of a month

Where/When to Apply

Submit online at [Grant.gov](https://www.grant.gov)

- Due 11:59 p.m. ET on February 5, 2024
- Look for confirmation emails

Finding Federal Grants

Grants.gov NOFO #: NOAA-NMFS-SE-2024-2008255

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Federal Agency Name(s): National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce

Funding Opportunity Title: Fiscal Year 2024 NOAA Gulf of Mexico Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: NOAA-NMFS-SE-2024-2008255

Federal Assistance Listings Number: 11.008, NOAA Mission-Related Education Awards

Dates: Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time on February 5, 2024 to be considered for funding. Applicants should apply online through Grants.gov.

Informational webinars about the FY 2024 Gulf of Mexico B-WET funding announcement will be held on November 16, 2023 from 1-2 pm CT or 2-2 (<https://meet.google.com/mke-sjtv-dek>) and on December 6, 2023 from 9-10 am CT or 10-11 am ET (<https://meet.google.com/kik-qtem-ezz>). Please join the webinars at the Google Meet Video call links listed for each.

The NOAA Gulf of Mexico B-WET Coordinator will be available to answer questions Monday through Friday, 8 am - 4:30 pm CT excluding federal holidays.

Funding Opportunity Description: The National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Regional Office (Southeast Regional Office) is seeking proposals under the Gulf of Mexico Bay Watershed Education and Training (Gulf of Mexico B-WET) Program:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/noaa-gulf-mexico-bay-watershed-education-and-training-gulf-b-wet-program>.

The B-WET program is an environmental education program that promotes place-based experiential learning for K-12 students and related professional development for teachers. BWET fosters the growth of new, innovative programs and encourages capacity-building and environmental education partnerships.

The primary delivery of B-WET is through competitive grants that promote Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs). The MWEE is a learner-centered framework that focuses on investigations into local environmental issues and leads to informed action. MWEEs are composed of multiple components that include learning both outdoors and in the classroom,





Applying for Gulf of Mexico B-WET

- ✓ System for Award Management (SAM)

Requires registrations and annual renewal
(www.sam.gov)

- ✓ Registration of organization in Grants.gov

(www.grants.gov)

Evaluation Criteria





Evaluation Criteria

- Importance, Relevance, and Applicability of Proposal to the Program Goals (15 points)
- Technical Merit (45 points)
- Overall Qualification of Applicant (15 points)
- Project Costs (20 points)
- Outreach and Education (5 points)

Review Timeline





Review Timeline

1. Minimum requirements review (early Feb 2024)
 - ☐ Application received by deadline
 - ☐ Eligible applicant
 - ☐ Addresses one of the B-WET priority areas
 - ☐ Complete application
2. Technical review (Feb 2024)
3. Panel review (late Feb – mid March 2024)
4. Notify applicants/negotiations (spring 2024)
5. Awards finalized (summer 2024)



Highlights

- Target audience is K-12 teachers and students in the entirety of the five Gulf states
- Climate Education Special Interest Area
- Emphasis on participation of marginalized communities in watershed education

More Information and Questions

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- Funding Opportunity #: NOAA-NMFS-SE-2024-2008255
- Link to Funding Opportunity in Grants.gov: <https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/350934?showPackages=1>
- NOAA BWET: <https://www.noaa.gov/office-education/bwet>
- Gulf of Mexico B-WET: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/noaa-gulf-mexico-bay-watershed-education-and-training-gulf-b-wet-program>

