

grant application: sole proprietor, a partnership, a corporation, a joint venture and a non-profit organization. Other applicants are not required to submit a CD-346 with application.

If recipients have difficulty downloading grant forms, please contact Violet Legette at 843-740-1222 for assistance.

Authority

Statutory authority for this program is 16 U.S.C. 1456c.

CFDA Number: 11.473 Coastal Services Center.

Project Description

The Coastal Services Center seeks proposals for projects that enhance the organization, implementation, and application of regional coastal ocean observing systems. For the purposes of this announcement, coastal ocean observing systems are meant to include the sensors, personnel, and data management that obtain regular and sustained in-situ and/or remote observations of the physical, chemical, and biological environment of Great Lakes, estuaries, and the near shore ocean of the United States. Total available funding under this announcement is expected to not exceed \$750,000. The Coastal Services Center desires to fund two types of projects to benefit the development of regional coastal ocean observing systems: (1) projects that facilitate building partnerships and regional organizational structures for regional observing systems, and (2) regional pilot projects.

For the first type of project, Regional Observation System Coordination, the Coastal Services Center seeks to fund projects that will engage stakeholders in a given region to develop collaborative partnerships (Regional Associations) among data collectors, data managers, and users of data and information from coastal ocean observing systems. Proposals should clearly articulate an approach to identify stakeholders, bring them together in a meaningful way, and develop plans for governance and communication, implementation, data management, and product development. The Coastal Services Center believes that it is important to engage end users in the design and implementation of observing systems to maximize the benefits to science and society. Of particular interest to the Coastal Services Center is the utility of such systems for management of coastal and ocean resources and for the benefit of coastal communities. Total available funding for this type of project is anticipated to be between \$200,000 to \$350,000, subject to the availability of

federal appropriations. The Coastal Services Center expects to award two to five grants of \$20,000 - \$100,000 each under this announcement for Regional Observation System Coordination.

The second type of proposal requested is to support implementation of a Regional Coastal Ocean Observation Pilot Project. Pilot project(s) should demonstrate inter-institutional collaboration within a region for sensor deployment, data management, and creation of information products from the data collected. Projects should emphasize regular and sustained in-situ and/or remote observations of the physical, chemical, and biological coastal ocean environment. The pilot project should demonstrate data documentation and management protocols that meet or exceed national standards (FGDC compliant) and ensure accuracy and interoperability with the developing Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS). The pilot project should have a defined set of users and create information products relevant to those users. The Coastal Services Center encourages proposals that demonstrate active involvement of public mission agencies. The Coastal Services Center also encourages proposals that develop or sustain observing systems under the auspices of an established or planned regional association with a defined governance structure. Total available funding for Regional Pilot Project(s) is anticipated to be between \$250,000 to \$500,000, subject to the availability of federal appropriations. The Coastal Services Center expects to award only one to two grants under this announcement.

Background

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has a long-standing responsibility to observe, assess and predict conditions in the Nation's oceans and atmosphere. NOAA has a number of operational programs that routinely and systematically measure environmental variables in the atmosphere, open and coastal ocean, estuaries, and the Great Lakes. In addition to its own operational programs, NOAA develops collaborative partnerships with states, universities and for profit and non-profit organizations to increase the scope of its environmental data collection.

Congress has directed the interagency National Ocean Research Leadership Council to develop a plan by which the nation can achieve an Integrated Ocean Observing System. Responsibility for development of this plan has been given to the Ocean.US Office www.ocean.us. The Integrated Ocean Observing System

is envisioned to consist of a "national backbone" of federally-maintained observations integrated with "regional" systems that contribute to and benefit from the national backbone and also focus on interests of a local/regional nature. Integration of regional and national components into a national coastal observing system will rely on common data management standards that allow data integration to create products that benefit a broad community of users. While the fully mature IOOS is envisioned to be mostly operational in nature, the developmental stages are expected to include research, pilot, pre-operational and operational components.

The Coastal Services Center has a strong interest in working with regional observing systems and partners to achieve integration into a national system. The Coastal Services Center is particularly interested in regional systems that provide timely and appropriate information to public mission agencies. Therefore, the Coastal Services Center anticipates offering grant funds to projects that help achieve these goals.

Project Proposals

The applicant must submit one original and two copies of the proposal(s) by 5 p.m. (Eastern time) on May 30, 2003 to the attention of Geno Olmi, Room 234A at the NOAA Coastal Services Center, 2234 South Hobson Avenue, Charleston, SC 29405-2413. In addition to the proposal(s), the applicant must submit a complete NOAA grant application package (with signed originals). No e-mail or fax copies will be accepted. All project proposals must total no more than 20 pages (double spaced, 12-point font, and exclusive of appendices). Appendices should be limited to materials that directly support the main body of the proposal (e.g., support letters, resumes, lists of data sources, maps). Letters of support may be mailed separately, but must be received by the 30 May 2003, deadline. All appendix material must be unbound. All proposals must include sections on the seven following topics:

1. Background. Provide sufficient background information for reviewers to independently assess the significance of the proposed project. Summarize the problem to be addressed and the status of your ongoing efforts to address the problem.

2. Benefits. Identify specific potential users of the information derived from this work and the benefits that will be achieved to those users as well as society as a whole. Describe how this