

annual basis for the four-year period. The title page should be signed by the Principal Investigators (PI(s)) and the institutional representative of the PI's organization.

(2) *Goals and Objectives*: Identify broad research goals and their relevance to the Program Priorities listed above, and a general description of how the applicant proposes to achieve those goals.

(3) *Technical Approach*: Describe the specific approach the applicant proposes to accomplish the identified purposes of the agreement. Describe plans to ensure ease and effectiveness of communication between applicant and NOAA partners.

(4) *Project Partners and Co-Investigators*: Identify project partners and/or co-investigators, their respective roles, and their contributions and/or relationships to the proposed effort. Outline the respective roles of the applicant and NOAA.

(5) *Milestones, Time Lines, Outcomes, and Beneficiaries*: List target milestones, time lines, and desired outcomes (in multi-year proposed efforts, by year). Identify the intended beneficiaries of the work, with specificity, and show the potential value of the proposed work to the needs of the targeted audience. Identify any obstacles to accomplishing the milestones and outcomes.

(6) *Qualifications and Relevant Experience*: Identify the qualifications and relevant experience of the applicant (and partners) that relate to accomplishing the Program Priorities listed above.

(7) *Vitae*: An abbreviated Curriculum Vitae for the PI and any co-investigators should be included. Reference lists should be limited to all publications in the last three years with up to five other relevant papers.

(8) Summary of the applicant's relevant current or recently completed (limit to past five years) research activities that should be considered in the selection process.

(9) *Detailed Statement of Work*: The proposal should provide a detailed four-year plan for climate and weather research and applications conducted to understand, and provide the basis for, improved public and private assessment of environmental, economic, and social impacts. The following areas must be addressed:

(a) Statement of the problem and the needed research.

(b) Proposed methodology and justification for the development and implementation of appropriate research needed to accomplish the goals and address the Program Priorities. Identify the expected results, including products

and applications from the work, how the proposed work will significantly address identified science and management needs, and the benefits of the proposed work to the general public, the scientific community, coastal managers, and the decision makers.

(c) Procedures for dissemination and presentation of research results to the intended beneficiaries, and any training needed for users to make full use of the results.

(d) Measures to track research and applications performance.

In addition, the applicant should document: The readiness of needed infrastructure; the nature, ease, and effectiveness of interaction with scientists at the National Climatic Data Center and the Coastal Services Center, and other NOAA programs as appropriate; the status of any ongoing efforts by the applicant and partners to address the proposed scientific goals and objectives; and the results from related projects previously and presently supported by NOAA.

(10) *Budget*: Applicants must submit a budget description and a brief narrative justification of the budget. The budget should be prepared using the Standard Form 424A, Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs. The form is included in the standard NOAA application kit. Provide a detailed budget breakdown and a brief narrative to provide the basis for the budget and the contribution of the applicant.

(11) *Current and Pending Federal Support*: Each investigator should submit a list that includes project title, supporting agency with grant number, investigator months, dollar value and duration. Requested values should be listed for pending Federal support.

#### **Evaluation Criteria (With Weights)**

Consideration for financial assistance will be given to those proposals that address the Program Priorities listed above and meet the following evaluation criteria. All proposals will be scored according to the following criteria:

(1) *Scientific Merit (25 Points)*: Does the proposal document the intrinsic and exceptional scientific value of the proposed research, and applicability to the NCDC and the CSC as described in the Program Description and Program Priorities sections? Does the proposal show the ability to collaborate on research activities in the area of climate system variability impacts on regional scales; advanced observing and modeling of regional coastal ecosystem process; and response of natural and social systems to climate variability? Does the proposal show research

abilities that will result in providing quality climate information that is socially and economically useful to decision makers at local, state, and regional levels, both public and private?

(2) *Research Goals and Projects and Technical Approach (25 Points)*: Are the goals and objectives clearly articulated, relevant to the stated science and management need, and achievable within the proposed time frame? Are the research objectives quantifiable? Does the proposal describe how the applicant proposes to achieve the goals? Does the proposal display a sound methodology for both the research and applications agenda? Are the proposed specific research areas of exceptional scientific merit? What is the intrinsic scientific value of the proposed research?

(3) *Ability to Build Coalitions and Partnerships (20 points)*: Does the proposal show the ability to build coalitions and partnerships with critical organizations and individuals (such as distinguished scientists, as well as potential researchers-in-training, universities, colleges, research institutions, state and local governments, and other public and private nonprofit organizations) and to facilitate collaboration and coordination to assure the accomplishment of the research goals? Does the proposal identify project partners, their respective roles, and their contributions/relationships to the proposed effort?

(4) *Milestones, Time Lines, Outcomes, and Beneficiaries (15 Points)*: Does the proposal address target milestones, time lines, and desired outcomes? Is a user community clearly identified, and are members of the identified user community engaged in the design and execution of the project or its products? Does the proposal include an outreach and education component that will ensure the results are effectively applied to address the identified issues? Are there clear procedures for dissemination and presentation of the research results to the intended beneficiaries, including any training needed for users to make full use of the results? Does the proposal document the respective roles and responsibilities of the NCDC, the CSC, and the applicant for outreach and capacity building efforts?

(5) *Budget (5 Points)*: Reasonableness of the proposed budget and time frame for the projects in relating to the work proposed. Does the proposal provide a detailed budget breakdown and a brief narrative to provide the basis for the budget?

(6) *Qualifications and Relevant Experience (5 Points)*: Does the proposal identify the qualifications and relevant