

Monitoring; Coral Reef Ecosystem Research; Coral Reef Conservation; Projects to Improve or Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans; and International Coral Reef Conservation.

Please Note: The Coral Reef Ecosystem Research Program mentioned here will solicit proposals through NOAA's Undersea Research Program (NURP) on a different schedule than described in this Guidance. Applicants interested in submitting applications for coral research should consult section IV. Coral Reef Ecosystem Research.

The amount of funds available and the application requirements for each program category are established in Sections II - VII of this notice. In addition to this specific program information, all applicants should carefully read section VIII. General Information for All Applicants.

For applications submitted in electronic format, the preferred format is Adobe Acrobat (.PDF); however, WordPerfect or Microsoft Word files are acceptable. All applications must meet the information and formatting requirements specified in this Guidance. Federal financial assistance forms are not required to be submitted with the initial application; however, one original and two signed copies must be submitted with the final application.

Each application must include a cover sheet with the following information:

- (a) Project title;
- (b) Applicant organization;
- (c) Principal investigator or contact;
- (d) Contact information including address, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail address;
- (e) Program category (see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**, below);
- (f) Geographic location of the project;
- (g) Amount of grant funds requested;
- (h) Amount of matching funds provided; and,
- (i) Concise paragraph project summary.

NOAA will select projects based on a review of applications pursuant to criteria contained in the Guidelines, the Strategy, and this Guidance. In addition, each program office will ensure where appropriate in their evaluation criteria, commitment to effective education and outreach consistent with NOAA's mission to protect coral reef resources. Selected recipients will enter into either a cooperative agreement with the NOAA Office responsible for the program or receive a grant depending upon the amount of NOAA's involvement in the project. Substantial involvement means a cooperative agreement, while independent work requires a grant. Examples of substantial involvement include:

(1) Requirements that the appropriate DOC official collaborate with the recipient by working jointly with a recipient scientist or technician in carrying out the scope of work;

(2) Specify direction or redirection of the scope of work due to the relationships with other projects; and,

(3) Review scope of work and closely monitor the program operations during the performance period.

Applicants whose initial applications are preliminarily selected must then submit a final Federal financial assistance award application package, including proposed projects and supporting documentation, and all required Federal financial assistance forms as described in the relevant program section below. The required Federal financial assistance forms SF-424, SF-424A, SF-424B, CD-511, CD-512, and if applicable, CD-346 and/or SF-LLL, can be obtained from the NOAA grants Website at <http://www.rdc.noaa.gov/~grants/pdf>. Applicants are required to include one original and two signed hard/paper copies for each final application package submitted.

The number of awards made under this funding Guidance may vary. See each program description in sections II - VII for more information. Successful applicants may be asked to revise award objectives, work plans, or budgets prior to submittal of the final application. The exact amount of funds to be awarded, the final scope of activities, the project duration, and specific NOAA cooperative involvement with the activities of each project will be determined in pre-award negotiations among the applicant, NOAA Grants Management Division (GMD), and relevant NOAA staff. Projects should not be initiated in expectation of Federal funding until a notice of award document is received from NOAA GMD. Publication of this document does not obligate NOAA to award any specific project or obligate all or any part of the available funds.

### **I. Authority**

Statutory authority is provided under Section 6403 (Coral Reef Conservation Program) of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6401 *et seq.*). Each program's Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number can be found in the specific program information included in sections II - VII below.

## **II. State and Territory Coral Reef Management**

### **A. Program Description**

This description provides requirements for applying for funding appropriated by Congress to NOAA and DOI in FY 2003 to support comprehensive programs for the conservation and management of coral reefs and associated fisheries in the jurisdictions of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI), Florida, Hawaii, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and American Samoa.

NOAA's National Ocean Service, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Office of Habitat Conservation (OHC), and DOI Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) are jointly providing approximately \$2,100,000 in funding for cooperative agreements to support state and territorial coral reef and coral reef fishery management and conservation activities as listed in E(2) below.

Each jurisdiction need only develop and submit one comprehensive coral reef management application for the funds available under this section. The Federal agencies will coordinate their reviews of each application to ensure comparability and continuity. It is anticipated that OCRM will make awards to four of the seven jurisdictions and that DOI/OIA will make awards to the remaining three jurisdictions.

### **B. Eligibility Criteria**

The eligible applicants are the governor-appointed point of contact agencies for coral reef activities in each of the jurisdictions of American Samoa, Florida, CNMI, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and USVI.

### **C. Funding Availability and Mechanism**

#### **1. Funding Availability**

Approximately \$2,100,000 in FY 2003 funding is available for Coral Reef and Coral Reef Fishery Management cooperative agreements. Funding will be subject to the availability of federal appropriations. Support in out years after FY 2003 is contingent upon the availability of funds and the requirements of the Federal agency supporting the project. Each eligible jurisdiction can apply for a maximum \$400,000.

#### **2. Funding Mechanism**

Cooperative agreements will be awarded to each eligible jurisdiction. Applicants may submit applications covering a 12- to 18-month period with