

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Federal Agency Name(s): National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce

Funding Opportunity Title: Modernizing and Improving State Coastal Zone Management Information Systems - FY2011 Funding Competition

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: NOAA-NOS-OCRM-2011-2002843

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 11.419, Coastal Zone Management Administration Awards

Dates: Proposals must be received by NOAA no later than 6 p.m. EST on the February 7, 2011. No facsimile or electronic mail applications will be accepted. Please note that it may take Grants.gov up to two (2) business days to validate or reject an application. Please keep this in mind when developing your submission timeline; do not wait until the last day to submit a proposal. Proposals received after the submission deadline will not be reviewed or considered.

Funding Opportunity Description: The purpose of this document is to advise eligible applicants (requirements described below) that NOAA is soliciting proposals for competitive funding under the Modernizing and Improving State Coastal Zone Management Information Systems Funding Competition. Proposals submitted in response to this announcement should support state coastal zone management programs in their efforts to build, modernize, expand on, or otherwise improve state information systems to assess, track, and manage permitting activities and/or land use in state coastal zones. The program authority is Section 310 of the Coastal Zone Management Act 16 U.S.C. 1456c.

Any state or territorial coastal zone management program that has been approved by NOAA pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1455) is eligible to apply for this competition.

Funding Availability: Total anticipated funding for all awards is \$1,000,000. The maximum amount that may be requested for the federal share for a project is \$300,000. Multiple awards are anticipated from this announcement. The anticipated federal funding per award is approximately \$50,000 to \$300,000. The anticipated number of awards ranges from 4 to 10, approximately.

Project/Award Period: The standard financial assistance award period is 18 months. It is anticipated that projects funded under this announcement will have a grant start date of July 1, 2011, or later.

FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT

I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Program Objective

The principal objective of the Modernizing and Improving State Coastal Zone Management Information Systems Funding Competition is to provide Federal financial assistance to support state and territorial (state) coastal zone management programs in their efforts to build, modernize, expand on, or otherwise improve state information systems that can be used to assess, track, and manage permitting activities and/or land use in state coastal zones to inform decision making as it pertains to coastal management.

B. Program Priorities

NOAA seeks to provide support to projects that will result in improved coastal decision-making processes as they pertain to permitting and/or land use in state coastal zones. High priority will be given to applications for projects that:

- Build, modernize, expand on, or otherwise improve state coastal management permit systems.
- Demonstrate how the system will be used to address coastal zone management priorities as identified as part of the state coastal management program.
- Support administration of state enforceable policies.
- Enhance information sharing between networked state coastal agencies, where applicable.
- Develop mechanisms to assess and monitor land use changes and analyze cumulative and secondary impacts.
- Facilitate spatial analysis of coastal management data for purposes of tracking land use and/or analyzing the impacts of coastal permit decisions.
- Provide for transparency and easy public access to information (e.g., online databases).
- Provide for support and implementation of the Coastal Zone Management Act Performance Measurement System.
- Have the greatest potential to be sustainable (i.e., meet the long-term information system needs of the applicant).

Note: Data acquisition as it supports these priorities is an eligible expense, but data

acquisition by itself is not a program priority, and proposals that focus solely on data acquisition are discouraged.

As established by the Coastal Zone Management Act, it is national policy to "preserve, protect, develop, and where possible, to restore or enhance, the resources of the Nation's coastal zone for this and succeeding generations" as well as "to encourage and assist the states to exercise effectively their responsibilities in the coastal zone through the development and implementation of management programs to achieve wise use of the land and water resources of the coastal zone...." This funding opportunity supports these policies by providing states with financial assistance to increase their capacity to preserve, protect, and develop their coastal zones.

C. Program Authority

Authority for the Modernizing and Improving State Coastal Zone Management Information System Funding Competition is Section 310 of the Coastal Zone Management Act 16 U.S.C. 1456c.

II. Award Information

A. Funding Availability

Total anticipated funding for the Modernizing and Improving State Coastal Zone Management Information System Funding Competition is \$1 million. The maximum amount of federal funding that may be requested for a project is \$300,000. Multiple awards are expected from this announcement. The anticipated federal funding per award is approximately \$50,000 to \$300,000. The intent is to award grants to state coastal zone management programs to modernize and improve state information systems to assess, track, and manage permitting activities and/or land use. Each eligible applicant may submit only one proposal for this competition.

There is no guarantee that sufficient funds will be available to make awards for all eligible projects. Publication of this notice and any requests for submission of full proposals does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds. If an applicant incurs any costs prior to receiving an award agreement signed by an authorized NOAA official, they do so at their own risk of these costs not being included under the award. In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation or other project costs if this program fails to receive funding or is cancelled because of other agency priorities. Recipients and subrecipients (i.e., networked agencies) are subject to all Federal laws and agency policies, regulations, and procedures applicable to Federal financial assistance awards.

B. Project/Award Period

The financial assistance award period is 18 months. Proposals should include a timeline with discrete benchmarks for completing the project within this award period. NOAA will evaluate project readiness and feasibility for completion within this timeframe. Projects should assume a start date of July 1, 2011. NOAA has the authority to extend an award by an additional 18 months, for a maximum performance period of three years, if circumstances warrant, such as unforeseen circumstances that prevent the project from being completed within the original award period. In order to qualify for an extension, grant recipients must be in good standing (i.e., up-to-date on all progress and financial reports), demonstrate progress during the initial award period, and be able to demonstrate that additional time is likely to result in successful completion of the project.

C. Type of Funding Instrument

Projects will be funded as cooperative agreements. The agreements will be established between NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management and the recipient.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

Any state or territorial (state) coastal zone management program that has been approved by NOAA pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1455). The designated lead agency for implementing each approved coastal zone management program is eligible to submit projects for funding under this competition. The designated lead agency may submit a proposal on behalf of state agency partners within the approved networked state coastal zone management program, if applicable. Local governments and nonprofits may participate as partners on the proposed projects; however, projects should be focused upon improving state information systems, rather than information systems designed to implement coastal management at the local level.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

There is no requirement for cost sharing or match.

C. Other Criteria that Affect Eligibility

Allowable uses for Modernizing and Improving State Coastal Zone Management Information Systems Funding Competition funds include project development, hardware, software, system development and support (i.e., programming, storage), data entry, program management, training, and associated staff time. This competition is not intended to fund large-scale acquisition of new data (e.g., lidar, bathymetric data sets, photographs, etc.), but

data acquisition by itself is not a program priority, and limited funding is available for data acquisition to support larger projects. Allowable costs are limited to costs necessary and reasonable to achieve the approved goals and objectives and must be consistent with general cost principles for grants awarded by Federal agencies, as contained in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-87 Cost Principles for State, Local, and Indian Tribal Governments. A copy of OMB Circular A-87 (and A-122, referenced later in this notice) can be found at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/grants_circulars.html .

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Address to Request Application Package

The full funding opportunity announcement and application materials are available online at <http://www.grants.gov/>. Materials may also be requested by contacting the program official identified below. To request an application package or for further information, contact:

Name: Liz Mountz

Phone: 301-563-1148

E-mail: Elizabeth.Mountz@noaa.gov

During the competition period, eligible applicants (state CZM programs) should submit any questions regarding the competition via e-mail to the competition manager listed above. Questions and answers will be compiled on a weekly basis, at a minimum, and sent out to the CZM program managers' listserv in order for all potential applicants to have access to the same level of information. All questions should be submitted to NOAA no later than five working days prior to the closing of this competition in order to allow NOAA to respond in a timely manner for the information to be useful for all potential applicants developing proposals. NOAA will not answer any competition policy-related questions submitted later than five working days prior to the closing of this competition. Competition policy-related questions include inquiries on project eligibility, eligible costs, and project narrative requirements. However, NOAA will continue to assist applicants with questions regarding the application submittal process, such as those related to grants.gov, until the competition closes.

B. Content and Form of Application

Application proposals **MUST NOT** exceed nine pages, including project narrative, budget justification, and appendices, but exclusive of required federal application forms. Proposals should follow the following formatting guidelines:

- Single-spaced

- 12-point Times New Roman font
- 1" margins on all sides

Proposals that do not meet these guidelines will receive a 10% point deduction off their final score.

All proposals MUST contain the following sections:

1. Project Narrative

a. Goals and Objectives.

- Identify the goals and objectives of the project and describe how they will they meet program priorities and lead to the establishment, modernization, expansion, or otherwise improvement of a sustainable state information system to assess, track, and manage permitting activities and/or land use in the state coastal zone.

b. Relevance to Approved Coastal Zone Management Program.

- Provide sufficient background information for reviewers to independently assess why this project is needed and how it will improve implementation of the state coastal zone management program.

- Describe how it will support administration of enforceable policies and address key management issues identified as part of the applicant state's coastal zone management program (e.g., state CZM Strategic Plan, 309 Assessment and Strategy, Program Document, etc.).

- Summarize the relationship of the proposed work to existing projects that have been supported (or are planned to be supported) through the coastal zone management program, specifically discussing how this project supports, improves, or replaces existing state information systems used to implement the coastal zone management program.

- If applicable, discuss how the project will provide for support and implementation of the Coastal Zone Management Act Performance Measurement System.

c. Methodology.

- Describe products and outcomes. If the proposed project is not a stand-alone project, but is rather part of an ongoing or proposed larger-scale project to improve state information systems, describe how the proposed project supports the larger project.

- Provide a work plan that identifies specific tasks to meet the stated goals and objectives, explains the methods (including technical, collaborative, evaluative, and knowledge/results

dissemination) needed to accomplish the tasks, and identifies potential obstacles.

- Provide a timeline for major tasks, target milestones for important intermediate and final products, and key project outcomes. The timeline should identify discrete products or activities that signify progress toward anticipated outcome(s) within the award period.

- Describe how the project will be sustained following the end of the grant period.

d. Roles and Responsibilities.

- Describe how and by whom the project will be managed.

- Provide a list of all partners, agencies, institutions, or organizations that will be actively involved in the proposed project, specifically identifying any project partners within the networked coastal management program, if applicable. Briefly describe the partner's roles and responsibilities as they pertain to performing and/or managing project tasks.

- Describe the resources each partner has to conduct or manage the project, including personnel, facilities, equipment, and, to the extent practicable, information and tools already available.

2. Budget Justification

a. Provide a budget narrative. The budget narrative should be composed of two parts, a budget table and a budget description. The budget narrative should include the total project costs that are required to accomplish what is proposed in the Project Description. The budget narrative should provide the information needed to determine how the numbers outlined in the Budget Information form (SF-424A) were derived. The narrative should explain the specific budget categories that are outlined in the SF-424A form, such as personnel/salaries, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, contract costs, and indirect costs. The budget narrative submitted with the application should match the dollar amounts on all required Federal forms (SF-424, SF-424A). Additional cost detail may be required prior to a final analysis of overall cost allowability, allocability, and reasonableness.

b. Identify separable elements and those elements that could be revised or eliminated if sufficient funding is not available for all proposed activities.

c. The budget may include an amount for indirect costs only if the applicant has an established indirect cost rate with the Federal government, if the applicant has an established indirect cost rate, a copy of the negotiated rate must be included with the application.

d. Funds for salaries and fringe benefits may be requested only for those personnel who are directly involved in implementing the proposed project and whose salaries and fringe benefits are directly related to specific products or outcomes of the proposed project. NOAA

strongly encourages applicants to request reasonable amounts of funding for salaries and fringe benefits to ensure that your proposal is competitive.

e. Discuss the availability of any leveraged funds or in-kind support for this project as necessary to complete the project. Specifically, describe if this project will leverage funds or staff time provided through other NOAA grants, specifically coastal zone management program grants allocated through sections 306, 309, or 310 of the CZMA; and

f. Itemize and describe the intended use of equipment greater than \$5,000 unit cost in value to be purchased under the award. (Applications selected for funding will be required to conduct a lease vs. purchase analysis for all equipment purchased under this award.)

3. Required Federal Application Forms

a. Application for Federal Assistance: SF-424 (7/03 version or newer)

b. Budget Information for Non-construction Programs: SF-424A

c. Assurances for Non-construction Programs: SF-424B

d. Certification Regarding Lobbying: CD-511

e. Disclosure of Lobbying Activities: SF-LLL (if applicable)

C. Submission Dates and Times

Proposals must be submitted to and received by NOAA no later than 6 p.m. EST February 7, 2011. Proposals should be submitted via Grants.gov. Please note that it may take Grants.gov up to two (2) business days to validate or reject an application. Please keep this in mind when developing your submission timeline; do not wait until the last day to submit a proposal. If Internet access is not available, paper copy applications will be accepted in the form of one original (signed) and one electronic copy on CD and should be mailed to Elizabeth Mountz, NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, SSMC4, N/ORM3, 11206, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (same deadline applies). No facsimile or electronic mail applications will be accepted. Proposals received after the submission deadline will not be reviewed or considered.

D. Intergovernmental Review

Funding applications are subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs." It is the state agency's responsibility to contact their state's Single Point of Contact (SPOC), where applicable, to find out about and comply with the state's process under EO 12372. To assist the applicant, names and addresses of the SPOCs are listed on the Office of Management and Budget's web site:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/spoc.html> .

E. Funding Restrictions

Awards will contain special award conditions that recipients must meet as a term of accepting the grant. Conditions will include, but may not be limited to, the following Geospatial Data Collection Special Award Condition that is also attached to all annual Coastal Zone Management grants:

1. Geospatial Data Collection Special Award Condition

For awards that provide federal funds for collection or production of geospatial data (e.g., information for GIS data layers, acquisition of topographic or bathymetric data or other remotely sensed data), the recipient will provide relevant information (e.g., expected dates of data collection, type of collection, flight lines, etc.) to NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, Coastal Programs, Division, as early as practicable before data collection commences.

This information will be shared with the NOAA office(s) having an interest in these types of data and the appropriate NOAA staff will work with the recipient to ensure the data and the planned acquisition activities are registered in Geospatial One-Stop (geodata.gov) and comply with OMB Circular A-16, Coordination of Geographic Information and Related Spatial Data Activities at: http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/a016/a016_rev.html

The award recipient shall document all new geospatial data it collects or produces using the metadata standards developed by the Federal Geospatial Data Committee (FGDC), and make that standardized documentation electronically accessible to NOAA, if requested. These standards can be found at <http://www.fgdc.gov/metadata/csdgm/>.

F. Other Submission Requirements

N/A

Proposals should be submitted via Grants.gov. If Internet access is not available, paper copy applications will be accepted in the form of one original (signed) and one electronic copy on CD and should be mailed to Elizabeth Mountz, NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, SSMC4, N/ORM3, 11206, Silver Spring, MD 20910. No facsimile or electronic mail applications will be accepted.

V. Application Review Information

A. Evaluation Criteria

1. Evaluation Criteria (With Weights)

Reviewers will assign scores to the five standard NOAA evaluation criteria listed below. Each criterion will be rated on a scale of one to five, where scores represent, respectively: Excellent (5), Very Good (4), Good (3), Fair (2), Poor (1). The scores will be weighted by the percentages assigned to each criterion. Applications that best address these criteria will be most competitive.

a. Importance and relevance of proposed project to the objective of the competition (35 percent).

This criterion ascertains whether there is intrinsic value in the proposed work and/or relevance to NOAA, Federal, or state activities. Each application will be judged on the importance of the project to the management of coastal issues in the applicant state and how the coastal management program will benefit from the project. Applications will be evaluated on the following:

- Does the application effectively demonstrate how the project will contribute to an information system that will be used to assess, track, and manage permitting and/or land use in the state's coastal zone?

- Does the application demonstrate how it will support administration of enforceable policies and address key management issues identified as part of the applicant state's coastal zone management program (e.g., state CZM Strategic Plan, 309 Assessment and Strategy, Program Document, etc.)?

- Does the application provide a clear, succinct description of the need to build, modernize, expand, or otherwise improve an information system?

- Will the proposed project support an effort to assess and monitor land use changes and analyze cumulative and secondary impacts?

b. Technical/scientific merit (30 percent).

This criterion assesses whether the approach is technically sound, if the methods are appropriate, and whether there are clear project goals, objectives, and outcomes. Applications will be evaluated on the following:

- Does the project identify clear goals and objectives that will lead to the establishment, modernization, expansion, or otherwise improvement of a sustainable state coastal zone management information system?

- Is the approach adequately described and is it appropriate for the stated goals and objectives?

- How well does the proposed work integrate technology, data, and policy to address

issues and accomplish project goals and objectives?

- Are the outcomes focused and realistic given the time frame and scope of the project?

- Does the project allow for spatial analysis of coastal management data for purposes of tracking land use and/or analyzing the impacts of coastal permit decisions?

c. Overall qualifications of applicants (10 percent).

This criterion ascertains whether the applicant possesses the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to accomplish the project. Applications will be evaluated based on the following:

- Does the applicant have the ability and expertise to perform or manage the project tasks as described in the application?

- Does the application adequately address the capacity of the applicant to implement the proposed work?

- Will resources (staff and funding) be available to support/maintain the information system into the future?

d. Project costs (10 percent).

This criterion evaluates the budget to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the project needs and time-frame. Applications will be evaluated on the following:

- Does the application demonstrate that the budget is commensurate with project needs?

- Are the budget and budget justification for the award and subawards/contracts adequately detailed to illustrate how requested funds will be used (i.e., hardware, software, data, contracts, etc.)?

- Is the project cost-effectiveness optimized through leveraging funds, or other support, from other sources, or are additional funds unnecessary to complete the project?

e. Outreach and education (15 percent).

This criterion assesses whether the project provides a focused and effective outreach and education strategy regarding NOAA's mission to protect the Nation's natural resources. Applications will be evaluated on the following:

- To what extent does the project allow for transparency and easy access to information for applicants, partners (e.g., networked state coastal agencies, where applicable), and other interested parties?

- How does the project provide for support and implementation of the Coastal Zone Management Act Performance Measurement System?

B. Review and Selection Process

Individual and/or Panel Reviews

Screening, review, and selection procedures will take place in three steps: 1) an initial screening by competition program staff within NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM), Coastal Programs Division; 2) a merit review; and 3) final selection by the Selecting Official (i.e., Director of the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management). The merit review step will involve at least three reviewers per application. The Selecting Official will make the final decision regarding which applications will be funded based on the numerical ranking of the applications, the evaluations by the merit reviewers, and the selection factors set in V. C., below.

1. Initial Screening. The initial screening will ensure that application packages have all required forms and application elements and meet all of the eligibility criteria. Applications that pass this initial screening will be submitted for merit review.

2. Merit Review. All proposals will be evaluated and scored by independent merit mail review or by independent merit panel review. Each application will be reviewed by a minimum of three merit reviewers. Both Federal and non-Federal experts may be used in this process.

If a mail review is conducted, each mail reviewer will record strengths and weaknesses based on the evaluation criteria, and assign a separate score to each criterion on a scale of one to five, where scores represent respectively: Excellent (5), Very Good (4), Good (3), Fair (2), Poor (1). The scores will be weighted by the percentages assigned to each criterion. The overall rating of merit will be derived by adding the individual criterion scores. The merit review comments and scores will be provided to the competition program staff. The competition program staff will neither score proposals as part of the mail review nor participate in discussion of the merits of the proposals. No consensus advice will be given by the independent merit mail review.

If an independent merit panel review is convened, the panel may meet in person or by teleconference, video conference, or other electronic means to discuss applications. Prior to the panel discussion, panel members will review applications. After discussing the applications, the panel members will individually rate the proposals using the process described above for the individual mail merit review. For each application, the panelists' overall scores will be averaged and presented to the competition program staff along with the panel's comments. The competition program staff will neither vote or score proposals as part of the independent merit panel nor participate in discussion of the merits of the proposals. No

consensus advice will be given by the independent merit review panel.

3. Final Selection. The competition program staff will create a ranking of the proposals to be recommended for funding using the average mail review or panel review scores. The reviewer comments, composite project scores, rank order, and a summary of the concerns (if any) identified through the merit review process along with information pertaining to selection factors (see below) will be presented to the Selecting Official.

Based on the numerical ranking, merit review written evaluations, and the additional selection factors described below, the Selecting Official will make a list of projects recommended for funding. Please note, not all activities submitted under a single proposal may be deemed appropriate for funding, and the Selecting Official may recommend alternate activities as appropriate or only partial funding. For a proposal to be selected for funding, the applicant may be asked to modify objectives, work plans, and budgets, and to provide supplemental information required by the agency prior to the award. When a decision has been made (whether an award or declination), anonymous copies of mail merit review comments or summaries of panel deliberations, can be made available to the applicant, upon request.

C. Selection Factors

The selecting official may choose to recommend a proposal out of rank order based upon:

- Availability of funding;
- Balance/distribution of funds:

Geographically

By type of partners

By issue area

By project type

- Whether this project duplicates other projects funded or considered for funding by NOAA or other Federal agencies;
- Applicant's prior award performance;
- Program priorities and policy factors (see sections I.A. and I.B. of this announcement) and/or
- Project's capacity to leverage other funding or in-kind support.

D. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

The review of proposals will begin around February 1, 2011 (or upon close of the competition period, whichever is later). Applicants whose proposals are selected for funding will likely be notified in early March 2011. The proposed project timeline should assume an award start date of July 1, 2011.

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notices

Applications recommended for funding by the Selecting Official will be forwarded to the NOAA Grants Management Division (GMD) by the Program Office. The applicant will be notified by the Program Office by e-mail that their application was recommended for funding. The applicant must be aware that the notification by the Program Office is NOT the official award notice. Official notification happens only when the applicant receives an award notice from the Grants Officer either by postal mail or electronically.

To enable the use of a universal identifier and to enhance the quality of information available to the public as required by the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, to the extent applicable, any proposal awarded in response to this announcement will be required to use the Central Contractor Registration and Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System and be subject to reporting requirements, as identified in OMB guidance published at 2 CFR Parts 25, 170 (2010),

http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr25_main_02.tpl ,

http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr170_main_02.tpl .”

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

1. Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements

Administrative and national policy requirements for all Department of Commerce awards are contained in the Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the Federal Register notice of February 11, 2008 (73 FR 7696). A copy of the notice may be obtained at

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/search.html> .

2. Limitation of Liability

In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal

preparation costs if these programs are cancelled because of other agency priorities. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project.

C. Reporting

Grant recipients will be required to submit financial and performance (technical) progress reports electronically through the NOAA Grants Online System.

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 includes a requirement for awardees of applicable Federal grants to report information about first-tier subawards and executive compensation under Federal assistance awards issued in FY 2011 or later. All awardees of applicable grants and cooperative agreements are required to report to the Federal Subaward Reporting System (FSRS) available at www.FSRS.gov on all subawards over \$25,000.

VII. Agency Contacts

For questions regarding this announcement, contact Liz Mountz by e-mail at Elizabeth.Mountz@noaa.gov. See IV.A.

VIII. Other Information

The Grants.gov site contains directions for submitting an application, the application package (forms), and is also where the completed application is submitted. Applicants using Grants.gov must locate the downloadable application package for this solicitation by the Funding Opportunity Number or the CFDA number (11.419). Applicants will be able to download a copy of the application package, complete it off-line, and then upload and submit the application via Grants.gov.

After electronic submission of the application through Grants.gov, the person submitting the application will receive within the next 24 to 48 hours two e-mail messages from Grants.gov updating them on the progress of their application. The first e-mail will confirm receipt of the application by the Grants.gov system, and the second will indicate that the application has either been successfully validated by the system prior to transmission to the grantor agency or has been rejected due to errors. After the application has been validated, this same person will receive another e-mail when the application has been downloaded by the federal agency.

Official notification of an award notice is provided by the Grants Management Division, not the program office. If one incurs any costs prior to receiving an award agreement from an authorized NOAA grant official, one would do so solely at one's own risk of these costs not being included under the award.

NOAA will not release the names of applicants submitting proposals unless ordered by a court or requested to do so by an appropriate NOAA official and administrative protocol. Applicants can use a NOAA public search feature to find out information about NOAA awards

<https://grantsonline.rdc.noaa.gov/flows/publicSearch/begin.do;jsessionId=GbZDVT7JqmXqNlm84y2DBn5CpmGR2vJvQKfnX5CLd94YvywZQTZq!-1742093309> or go through the Freedom of Information Act process to request more information about grant competitions. More information about the NOAA FOI process is online at <http://www.rdc.noaa.gov/~foia/>.