

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Federal Agency Name(s): Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce

Funding Opportunity Title: Great Lakes Climate Extension Capacity Building

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: NOAA-OAR-SG-2011-2002915

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 11.417, Sea Grant Support

Dates: Full proposals must be received and validated by Grants.gov. on or before 5:00 p.m. EDT, April 8, 2011. Please note: Validation or rejection of your application by Grants.gov may take up to 2 business days after submission. Please consider this process in developing your submission timeline. Applications received after the deadline will be rejected/returned to the sender without further consideration. No facsimile or electronic mail applications will be accepted.

Funding Opportunity Description: NOAA has been provisionally awarded FY11 funds through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) to conduct climate training, education, and outreach activities across the Great Lakes basin. NOAA, in partnership with its university-based Sea Grant programs and the National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERRs), has developed a series of climate adaptation training modules/curricula for delivery to coastal communities in the Great Lakes basin. To date, the capacity to deliver these trainings has been limited by the lack of specialized, trained climate extension agents throughout the Great Lakes region.

NOAA has determined that there is a need to build capacity for delivery of Great Lakes specific climate products and services. The approximate budget for extension capacity-building purposes has been set at \$350K in FY11. NOAA's Great Lakes Regional Team is looking to use this funding to build climate capacity in a minimum of 2-3 Sea Grant extension programs through the use of cooperative agreements. Any and all new hires, or staff reprogramming, will be funded for a maximum of 14 months under this solicitation. All reprogrammed staff must dedicate 100% of their staff time to climate and the tasks outlined herein.

There is no guarantee that funds will be available to make awards for this purpose or that any proposal will be selected for funding. 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 in a subsequent award. In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for any proposal preparation costs. In addition, NOAA and DOC will not be responsible for proposal or project costs if the GLRI fails to receive funding.

## FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT

### I. Funding Opportunity Description

#### A. Program Objective

The Objectives of this funding opportunity are to develop Great Lakes Capacity to extend climate information, products and services to resource managers and the general public.

##### (1) Climate adaptation training development and delivery:

Work with federal, state, and local government units to determine what training needs should be addressed for what audience and make recommendations to the host Sea Grant program and NOAA about how best to meet these needs;

develop/implement climate education and outreach strategy/campaign (both for short term and long-term) along with an associated budget for execution purposes; integrate climate information into host Sea Grant outreach programming information and promote sharing of outreach information amongst other Great Lakes Sea Grant and land grant extension programs; and incorporate "climate adaptation training opportunities" into the host Sea Grant newsletter, provide text/content for public dissemination/review on the Climate.gov portal, NOAA regional website under the "climate feature", and potentially the EPA climate change kids site (<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/kids/index.html> )

(2) Develop a K-12 climate curriculum to be shared with state educational programs: leverage climate partnerships and available educational materials (including the Energy Star K-12 Program (see [http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=k12\\_schools.bus\\_schoolsk12](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=k12_schools.bus_schoolsk12) ), while ensuring that the content is based upon the best available climate science; ensure that K-12 materials emphasize/discuss the relationships between climate and 1) toxics and Areas of Concern, 2) invasive species, 3) nearshore health and nonpoint source pollution, and 4) habitat and wildlife protection and restoration. Host one K-12 climate workshop (focusing on training the teachers); and develop a list of K-12 educator's needs for climate resources.

(3) Work with others in the development of the GLRI funded, climate education, outreach, and literacy campaign: focus on delivery of climate training/education curricula to natural resource, storm water management, and community planning professionals. Integrate regionally downscaled climate projections with real-time climate observations to demonstrate and communicate uncertainty and risk. assist state Coastal Zone and National Estuarine Research Reserve programs with developing climate outreach/literacy materials, perhaps through the development of traveling climate literacy exhibits. Assist federal, state, and local agencies in the development of future GLRI climate smart projects and programs (e.g., those that are that are effective under both current and expected climate change

scenarios). Climate outreach campaigns to involve prime environmental justice audiences including, but not limited to, elderly, tribal, impoverished/low income, and otherwise underserved coastal communities. The proposed work should begin upon receipt of FY2011 funding and be completed no later than quarter four of FY 2013.

B. Program Priorities

None

C. Program Authority

National Sea Grant College Authorization Act U.S.C 1121-1133

II. Award Information

A. Funding Availability

Pending Appropriation, The total funding amount available for proposals is anticipated to be approximately \$350,000. Individual awards in the form of cooperative agreements are limited to a maximum of \$120,000 per year for no more than 14 months.. We anticipate making 2-3 awards.

B. Project/Award Period

The project period should run from May 1st 2011 until no later than June 30, 2012.

Due to the restrictions on the funding for this project no extensions will be possible.

C. Type of Funding Instrument

It is anticipated that the funding instrument will be a cooperative agreement.

The grantee will be working extensively with NOAA, primarily the NOAA Climate Office to develop programs to extend NOAA research and information to resource managers and the general public.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

Eligibility for this Program is limited to the Great Lakes Sea Grant Programs located in the following states: Ohio, Illinois-Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Michigan and New York.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

There is no cost share or matching fund requirement, however matching funds are encouraged and the presence of matching funds is part of the evaluation criteria discussed separately.

C. Other Criteria that Affect Eligibility

None

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Address to Request Application Package

The application package can be downloaded at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) . The Application ID required to download an application is NOAA-OAR-SG-2011-2002915

B. Content and Form of Application

Proposals must be submitted through Grants.gov to be considered for award. Proposals received after the submission deadline will not be reviewed or considered. No mailed or faxed proposals will be considered. Specific questions concerning the RFP should be directed to Heather Stirratt at Phone: 952-368-2505 Email: [heather.stirratt@noaa.gov](mailto:heather.stirratt@noaa.gov) .

The proposal submission is limited to 6 pages including the budget and supporting budget justification. (A longer Proposal will not be accepted)

Attachments with additional supporting information (i.e., resumes and/or letters of support) are permissible beyond the page limit specified above.

Proposals must contain the following elements to be considered eligible for funding consideration:

1. A description of your organizational structure and explanation of how your organization qualifies to be responsive to the requirements of this RFP. The description must contain information about programmatic linkages back to the NOAA/Sea Grant strategic plans and specify where climate missions are enhanced as a result of the proposed work.

2. A scope of work describing how the tasks described above will be carried out, what partnerships will be leveraged, and what climate initiatives/projects climate staff(s) will be working on during their tenure; including but not limited to: Sea Grant/NOAA Climate Adaptation Training Modules 1-3 (as developed with minigrant funding in 2010); NERR Planning for Climate Change Training (as developed/customized using FY2010 GLRI funds); and NOAA Coastal Services Center RoadMap Training (as developed/customized using FY2011 GLRI funds).

3. A schedule of associated milestones (Dates and Activities)

4. A list of minimum qualifications (i.e., skills, knowledge, degrees, work experience) and the process by which new hires would be obtained for climate specialist hiring purposes. Should reprogramming be proposed, a description of how staff time will be revised/allotted to focus on the proposed climate work is required.

5. A detailed budget breakdown (including direct costs, in-direct costs, match/in-kind resources) that would be required.

6. There are no NEPA questions that need to be answered in advance of proposal submission.

C. Submission Dates and Times

Full proposals must be received and validated by Grants.gov on or before 5:00 p.m. EDT, April 8, 2011. Please note: Validation or rejection of your application by Grants.gov may take up to 2 business days after submission. Please consider this process in developing your submission timeline. Applications received after the deadline will be rejected/returned to the sender without further consideration. No facsimile or electronic mail applications will be accepted.

D. Intergovernmental Review

Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs

E. Funding Restrictions

None:

F. Other Submission Requirements

None

Applications must be submitted through the the grants.gov website. The web address is [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov) .

V. Application Review Information

A. Evaluation Criteria

1. Importance/relevance and applicability of proposal to the Program goals: This criterion ascertains whether there is intrinsic value in the proposed work and/or relevance to

NOAA, federal, regional, state, or local activities. (50%)

a. The Proposal must be construed to build climate extension capacity within the state or region.

2. Technical/scientific merit: This criterion assesses whether the approach is technically sound and/or innovative, if the methods are appropriate, and whether there are clear project goals and objectives. (25%)

a. Is the approach technically sound?

b. Does the proposed project build on existing knowledge?

c. is the approach innovative

3. Overall qualification of applicants: This criterion ascertains whether the applicant possesses the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to accomplish the project. (10%)

a. Are the proposers capable of conducting a project of the scope and scale proposed?

b. Are appropriate partnerships going to be employed to achieve the highest quality content and maximal efficiency?

4. Project costs: This criterion evaluates the budget to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the project needs and time frame. (15% of which is further distributed below)

a. Is the budget realistic and commensurate with the project needs (5%)?

b. Does the budget narrative justify the proposed expenditures? (5%)

c. Amount and Source of Matching funds (Hard Dollar, Salary, Indirect cost)? (5%)

5. Outreach and education: This criterion assesses whether the project provides a focused and effective education and outreach strategy regarding NOAA's mission to protect the Nation's natural resources. (This criteria is not being used in this solicitation.)

## B. Review and Selection Process

An evaluation team will be established by the NOAA Great Lakes Regional Team and Climate Working Group to review the proposals. The Evaluation Criteria will be used to evaluate proposals for the purposes of ranking them in relative position based on how fully each proposal meets the requirements of this RFP.

## C. Selection Factors

### Selection Factors:

The merit review ratings shall provide a rank order to the Selecting Official for final funding recommendations. The Selecting Official shall award in the rank order unless the proposal is justified to be selected out of rank order based on one or more of the following factors:

1. Availability of funding
2. Balance and distribution of funds
  - a. By research area
  - b. By project type
  - c. By type of institutions
  - d. By type of partners
  - e. Geographically
3. Duplication of other projects funded or considered for funding by NOAA/federal agencies.
4. Program priorities and policy factors.
5. Applicants prior award performance.
6. Partnerships with/Participation of targeted groups.
7. Adequacy of information necessary for NOAA staff to make a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) determination and draft necessary documentation before recommendations for funding are made to the NOAA Grants Officer.

#### D. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

The competitive selection process and subsequent notification to the Sea Grant programs will be completed by April 21st 2011. Funds are expected to be awarded by approximately May 1st, 2011, the start date that should be used on the Application for Federal Assistance (Form 424) for successful applications

## VI. Award Administration Information

### A. Award Notices

Successful applicants may be asked to modify objectives, work plans, or budgets

prior to final approval of an award. 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, the NOAA Grants Office, and NOAA program staff. Projects should not be initiated in expectation of federal funding until a notice of award document is received from the NOAA Grants Office.

"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/Title02/2cfr25_main_02.tpl) , [http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr170\\_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 fail to receive funding or are cancelled because of other agency priorities. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

3. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) - NOAA must analyze the potential environmental impacts, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for applicant projects or proposals which are seeking NOAA federal funding opportunities. Detailed information on NOAA compliance with NEPA can be found at the following NOAA NEPA website: <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov> , including our NOAA Administrative Order 216-6 for NEPA, [http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/NAO216\\_6.pdf](http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/NAO216_6.pdf) , and the Council on Environmental Quality implementation regulations, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/nepa> . Consequently, as part

of an applicant's package, and under their description of their program activities, applicants are required to provide detailed information on the activities to be conducted, locations, sites, species and habitat to be affected, possible construction activities, and any environmental concerns that may exist (e.g., the use and disposal of hazardous or toxic chemicals, introduction of non-indigenous species, impacts to endangered and threatened species, aquaculture projects, and impacts to coral reef systems).

In addition to providing specific information that will serve as the basis for any required impact analyses, applicants may also be requested to assist NOAA in drafting of an environmental assessment, if NOAA determines an assessment is required. Applicants will also be required to cooperate with NOAA in identifying feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of their proposal. The failure to do so shall be grounds for not selecting an application. In some cases if additional information is required after an application is selected, funds can be withheld by the Grants Officer under a special award condition requiring the recipient to submit additional environmental compliance information sufficient to enable NOAA to make an assessment on any impacts that a project may have on the environment.

Please note that the funding for this project is from a special appropriation and therefore NO Extensions will be possible under this award.

### C. Reporting

Quarterly Progress reports will be required. "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](http://www.FSRS.gov) on all subawards over \$25,000. "

## VII. Agency Contacts

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Email: [jonathan.eigen@noaa.gov](mailto:jonathan.eigen@noaa.gov)  
Heather Stirratt  
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Email: [Heather.Stirratt@noaa.gov](mailto:Heather.Stirratt@noaa.gov)

## VIII. Other Information

None