

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

Funding Opportunity Title: Climate Program Office for FY 2009

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: OAR-CPO-2009-2001430

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 11.431, Climate and Atmospheric Research.

Dates: Full applications for all Competitions must be received by 5 p.m. Eastern Time, October 9, 2008. Letters of Intent for all Competitions, although not required, should be received by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, August 11, 2008. LOIs should be submitted by email to the identified Competition Manager.

Funding Opportunity Description: NOAA'S Climate Mission Goal is to understand climate variability and change to enhance society's ability to plan and respond. The long-term climate efforts of NOAA are designed to develop a predictive understanding of variability and change in the global climate system, and to advance the application of this information in climate-sensitive sectors through a suite of process research, observations and modeling, and application and assessment activities.

The NOAA Climate Program Office coordinates climate activities across all NOAA in fulfillment of NOAA's Climate Mission Goal. The Program partners with Federal, academic, private, and international research institutions and is a key contributing element of the U.S. Climate Change Science Program (CCSP).

FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT

I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Program Objective

NOAA'S Climate Mission Goal is to "understand climate variability and change to enhance society's ability to plan and respond." This is an end-to-end endeavor whose overall objective is to provide decision-makers with a predictive understanding of the climate and to communicate climate information so that the public can incorporate it into their decisions.

The NOAA Climate Program was established to enhance NOAA's ability to achieve its Climate Mission Goal. The Program is a key contributing element of the U.S. Climate Change Science Program (CCSP). NOAA's Climate Program integrates Federal, academic, private, and international partners into that national effort and complements the contributions of other agencies. The Program builds on NOAA's long-standing capabilities in climate variability and change research and prediction.

NOAA's Climate Program is addressing climate initiatives outlined in the Climate Change Science Program (CCSP) that encompasses both the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) and the Climate Change Research Initiative (CCRI). NOAA's Program is an integral part of the interagency CCSP. Changing climate confronts us with significant economic, health, safety, and national security implications. NOAA has a significant responsibility in operational observation, research, prediction, and information management efforts for the climate and global change study effort.

B. Program Priorities

In FY 2009, NOAA will accept individual applications in all the Competitions below. The names, affiliations, and phone numbers of relevant Competition Managers are provided. Investigators are encouraged to visit the Climate Program Office (CPO) website (<http://www.climate.noaa.gov>) for general program information prior to submitting applications.

1. Arctic Research Program (ARP):

The goal of the Arctic Research Program (ARP) is to: provide climate-relevant

observations and analysis of the broader Arctic region, with an emphasis on the Pacific sector of the Arctic: and support improved climate projections and assessment of impacts in the Arctic and regions influenced by the Arctic.

In FY2009, the ARP is soliciting proposals for post-IPY synthesis and analysis activities.

An information sheet containing further details on FY2009 ARP Priorities can be found at <http://www.climate.noaa.gov/opportunities/arp.html>. For further information, investigators should contact John Calder (john.calder@noaa.gov, 301-427-2470) or Kathy Crane (kathy.crane@noaa.gov, 301-427-2471).

2. Atmospheric Composition and Climate (ACC):

The Atmospheric Composition and Climate (ACC) Program pursues two overall research objectives: (i) to improve the predictive understanding of the radiative forcing of the climate system by aerosols and by chemically active greenhouse gases, including the role of water vapor in the upper troposphere in altering the radiative forcing directly and via its influence on aerosols and other chemically active greenhouse gases, and (ii) to better characterize the recovery of the stratospheric ozone layer and its role in climate change.. The integrated research activities that address these objectives involve field and laboratory studies, instrument development, regional to global observations, and theoretical modeling by NOAA and extramural partners. Primary emphasis is on utilizing process research to contribute to the improvement of climate modeling ability for decision support.

In FY 2009, the ACC Program is soliciting proposals for research in the following areas related to atmospheric composition:

- 1) Data analysis and/or modeling related to the VOCALS field campaign from 2008 (<http://www.eol.ucar.edu/projects/vocals/>);
- 2) Data analysis and/or modeling related to the ARCPAC (<http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/csd/arcpac/>) and ICEALOT (<http://saga.pmel.noaa.gov/Field/icealot/>) field campaigns from 2008;
- 3) Preparation for and participation in the proposed CalNex field campaign in California in 2010 (<http://www.arb.ca.gov/research/fieldstudy2010/fieldstudy2010.htm>);
- 4) Research pertaining to the improvement of our understanding of processes governing water vapor in the upper troposphere and lower stratosphere;
- 5) Innovative research pertaining to the improvement of understanding of aerosol-cloud-climate interactions, through studies targeting processes or measurements related to atmospheric composition or studies aimed at improving the capability of climate models to simulate the influence of aerosol effects on the Earth's

radiative balance.

An information sheet containing further details on FY 2009 ACC priorities can be found at <http://www.climate.noaa.gov/opportunities/acc.html>. For further information, investigators should contact Edward Dunlea (edward.dunlea@noaa.gov, 301-734-1202).

3. Climate Change Data and Detection (CCDD):

The goal of the Climate Change Data and Detection (CCDD) Program is to provide data and information management support to assure the availability of critical data sets for a variety of programs and assessments, both national and international e.g., the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and the U.S. Climate Change Science Program (CCSP). The data and resulting products extend the existing long-term climate record and serve as essential input to predictive models. CCDD provides support for documenting variations in climate on time scales ranging from less than one year to periods of 100 years and longer. Support is also provided for the analysis of observed climate variations and changes to identify causes that are consistent with Earth's long-term climate history.

In FY 2009, the CCDD Program is soliciting proposals for research in the following areas:

- 1) development of climate reference data sets and analyses of these data sets to identify variability and trends;
- 2) climate change detection and attribution studies, in joint sponsorship with the Department of Energy's Climate Change Prediction Program;
- 3) paleoclimate studies, with an emphasis on high resolution reconstructions of key climate variables for the Holocene to support the interpretation of the modern climate record.

Information sheets containing further details on FY 2009 CCDD priorities can be found at <http://www.climate.noaa.gov/opportunities/ccdd.html>. For further information, investigators should contact Chris Miller (christopher.d.miller@noaa.gov, 301-734-1241) or Bill Murray (william.l.murray@noaa.gov, 301-734-1243), or with regard to the detection and attribution studies, Anjuli Bamzai at DoE (anjuli.bamzai@science.doe.gov, 301-903-0294, fax: 301-903-8519).

4. Climate Dynamics and Experimental Prediction (CDEP):

Climate Test Bed (CTB) Research Program

The National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) and the Climate Program

Office are jointly sponsoring the Climate Test Bed (CTB) Research Program. The objective of the NCEP's CTB is to improve operational methodologies and techniques leading to improved quality and applicability of NOAA operational climate forecasts, products, and applications. The goal of the CTB Research Program is to support research that forms a foundation for potential transition of research advancements into the CTB. The CTB will provide a testing environment for short-term competitive applied research and development projects. Scientists from the broad research community, other NOAA organizations and NCEP are expected to jointly carry out competitive CTB Research Program projects. For further details on the Climate Test Bed, visit <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/ctb/>.

In FY 2009, the CDEP's CTB Research Program is soliciting proposals for research in the following areas:

- 1) Climate Forecast System Improvements
- 2) Evaluation of Multi-Model Ensembles
- 3) Drought Forecast Products and Applications

An information sheet containing further details on FY 2009 CDEP priorities can be found at <http://www.climate.noaa.gov/opportunities/CDEP.html>. For further information, investigators should contact Chet Ropelewski (chet.ropelewski@noaa.gov, 301-734-1210).

5. Climate Prediction Program for the Americas (CPPA):

The Climate Prediction Program for the Americas (CPPA) is a competitive research program with a goal to improve operational intraseasonal to interannual climate and hydrologic predictions for the Americas with quantified uncertainties sufficient for making informed decisions. To achieve its goal, CPPA has the following major objectives: to improve the predictive understanding and model simulation of ocean, atmosphere and land-surface processes, to quantify the sources and limits of predictability of climate variations on intra-seasonal to interannual time scale, to advance NOAA's operational climate forecasts, monitoring, and analysis systems and to develop climate-based hydrologic forecasting capabilities for decision support and water resource applications.

In FY2009, the CPPA is soliciting proposals in the following research areas:

- 1) Sources and limits of climate predictability for the Americas at intraseasonal to interannual time scales;
- 2) Representations of physical processes in climate models;

3) Hydrologic and water resource applications;

An information sheet containing further details on FY 2009 CPPA priorities can be found at the CPPA web site (http://www.climate.noaa.gov/cpo_pa/cppa/). For further information, investigators should contact Jin Huang (jin.huang@noaa.gov, 301-734-1226,) or Annarita Mariotti (annarita.mariotti@noaa.gov, 301-734-1237).

6. Climate Variability and Predictability (CVP):

In support of NOAA's prediction mission, the Climate Variability and Predictability (CVP) Program seeks to understand the role and inherent predictability of coupled ocean-atmosphere interactions in the global climate system over sub-decadal and longer timescales with an emphasis on climatic impacts over North America.

In FY 2009, the CVP Program is soliciting proposals that aim to advance our ability to make decadal climate predictions, with a particular focus on coupled ocean-atmosphere interactions in the Atlantic and Pacific sectors that influence North American climate. This includes the dynamical understanding of such interactions, the theoretical framework for such predictions (including assimilation systems) and assessments of the required observing systems.

An information sheet containing further details on FY 2009 CVP priorities can be found at <http://www.climate.noaa.gov/opportunities/cvp.html>. For additional information, investigators should contact James Todd (james.todd@noaa.gov, 301-734-1258).

7. Global carbon Cycle (GCC):

The goal of the Global Carbon Cycle (GCC) Program is to improve our ability to predict the fate of anthropogenic carbon dioxide and future atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations using a combination of atmospheric and oceanic global observations, process-oriented field studies and modeling.

In FY 2009 the GCC Program is soliciting proposals for research in the following areas:

- 1) Novel ways to measure biogeochemical variables crucial for the global carbon cycle in the ocean or the atmosphere, which would drastically reduce the cost per measurement and enable much higher spatial and temporal resolution than what is feasible today. These may include but are not limited to low-power, stable sensors that could be deployed in large numbers on autonomous platforms, drifters, profiling floats, towers or commercial aircraft.
- 2) Research leading to better understanding of key processes and sources of uncertainty for projections of future greenhouse gas concentrations, such as the impacts of ocean acidification on the carbon cycle, or CO₂ and CH₄ fluxes from rapidly warming high latitudes.
- 3) Specific improvements on how key processes or parts of the carbon cycle are represented in climate or earth system models so that the models are not limited to the

present day conditions but can perform well under scenarios involving significant change.

An information sheet containing further details on FY 2009 GCC priorities can be found at <http://www.climate.noaa.gov/opportunities/gcc.html>. For further information, investigators should contact Mete Uz (baris.uz@noaa.gov, 301-734-1247).

8. Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA):

Climate science and services have the potential to help inform decision making in sectors and regions that are affected by climate variability and change. A multidisciplinary, research, assessment and applications effort is fundamental to creating an effective bridge between societal need and scientific insights and products. The Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) Program supports integrated, place-based research across a range of social, natural, and physical science disciplines to expand decision-makers' options in the face of climate change and variability at the regional level. It does this in a manner that is cognizant of and analyzes the context decision-makers function within and the constraints they face in managing their climate sensitive resources. The RISA Program seeks to: (1) foster interdisciplinary research and assessment synthesis; (2) improve our understanding of and bridging the gap among climatic, environmental and societal interactions on different temporal and spatial scales; and (3) contribute to regional decision support and climate information service. A successful RISA Program requires innovative and embedded long-term partnerships among a spectrum of interested parties including Federal, State, Native, regional, local and private entities.

In FY 2009, the RISA Program is soliciting proposals for one distinct region: the Pacific Islands. Proposals are solicited to support one RISA team project in the Pacific Islands region. The effort must create partnerships among institutions focused on this region, which must include the state of Hawaii, and build on existing efforts within the region to study the impacts of climate and expand integrated social, physical, and natural science research in support of climate services. The project can be up to 5 years in duration.

An information sheet containing further details on FY 2009 RISA priorities can be found at <http://www.climate.noaa.gov/opportunities/risa.html>. For further information, investigators should contact Caitlin Simpson (caitlin.simpson@noaa.gov, 301-734-1251) or Hannah Campbell, (hannah.campbell@noaa.gov, 301-734-1208).

9. Sector Applications and Research Program (SARP):

The Sectoral Applications Research Program (SARP) is designed to catalyze and support interdisciplinary applied research, outreach and education activities that enhance the capacity of key socio-economic sectors and systems to respond to and plan for climate variability and change through the use of climate information and related decision support resources. This goal is pursued through research projects and partnership efforts that: a) involve stakeholders in the design and assessment of the

research activities; and b) develop innovative and transferable methods for understanding and adapting to changes in climate. The Program serves as a mechanism for the creation, dissemination and exchange of climate-related research findings and decision support resources critical for understanding and addressing resource management challenges in vital social and economic sectors. SARP conducts annual funding announcements focused on climate impacts and adaptation in specific sectors.

In FY 2009, the SARP Program is soliciting proposals in the following areas:

- 1) Coastal Resource Management and Planning; and
- 2) Water Resource and Drought Management and Planning.

An information sheet containing further details on FY 2009 SARP priorities can be found at <http://www.climate.noaa.gov/opportunities/sarp.html>. For further information in the area of Coastal Resource Management and Planning, investigators should contact Lisa Vaughan (lisa.vaughan@noaa.gov, 301-734-1266) and in the area of Water Resource Management and Planning, Nancy Beller-Simms (nancy.beller-simms@noaa.gov, 301-734-1205).

C. Program Authority

49 U.S.C. 47720(b), 15 U.S.C. 2904, 15 U.S.C. 2931-2934

II. Award Information

A. Funding Availability

In FY 2007, approximately \$8M in first-year funding was available for 94 new awards. Similar funds and number of awards are anticipated in FY 2009. Please be advised that the number of new awards and funding levels will depend upon the final FY 2009 budget appropriations. It is anticipated that awards will be up to three years in length and cost between \$50,000 and \$200,000 per year. Federal funding for FY 2010 may be used to fund some awards submitted under this Competition. Current or previous grantees are eligible to apply for a new award that builds on, but does not replicate, activities covered in the current or previous award. Current grantees should not apply for supplementary funding through this announcement.

B. Project/Award Period

This Program Announcement is for projects to be conducted by investigators outside the Federal Government, primarily over a 1, 2, or 3 year period unless otherwise noted.

C. Type of Funding Instrument

The funding instrument for awards will be a grant unless it is anticipated that NOAA will be substantially involved in the implementation of the project, in which case the funding instrument should be a cooperative agreement. Examples of substantial involvement may include, but are not limited to, applications for collaboration between NOAA or NOAA scientists and a recipient scientist or technician and/or contemplation by NOAA of detailing Federal personnel to work on proposed projects. NOAA will make decisions regarding the use of a cooperative agreement on a case-by-case basis. Funding for contractual arrangements for services and products for delivery to NOAA is not available under this announcement.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, other nonprofits, commercial organizations, international organizations, and state, local and Indian tribal governments. Federal agencies or institutions are not eligible to receive Federal assistance under this notice.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

None

C. Other Criteria that Affect Eligibility

None

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Address to Request Application Package

Application packages are available at Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>) Apply for Grants. For applicants without Internet access, please contact the CPO Grants Manager Diane Brown by mail at NOAA Climate Program Office (R/CP1), SSMC3, Room 12112, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 to obtain an Application Package. Please allow two weeks after receipt for a response.

B. Content and Form of Application

1. Letter of Intent (LOI)

The purpose of the LOI process is to provide information to potential applicants on the relevance of their proposed project to the Climate Program and the likelihood of it being funded in advance of preparing a full application. While it is in the best interest of the applicants and their institutions to submit an LOI, it is not a requirement; applicants who do not submit an LOI are allowed to submit a full application. Full applications will be encouraged only for LOIs deemed relevant.

The LOI should provide a concise description of the proposed work and its relevance to the targeted Competition. The LOI should be no more than two pages in length and should include the components listed below. If these components are not included, the LOI risks a delayed response and may not be considered.

- (1) Identification of the Competition that is being targeted in the LOI.
- (2) Specification of a tentative project title in the LOI.
- (3) Name(s) and institution(s) of all Principal Investigator(s), and specification of which individual is the Lead Principal Investigator.
- (4) Statement of the problem.
- (5) Brief summary of work to be completed, methodology to be used, data sets needed or to be collected, data sharing provisions, and approximate cost of the project.

CPO Program Managers will review each LOI to determine whether it is responsive to the Program's goals, as advertised in this notice. An LOI response (e-mail or letter) will be sent back to the investigator within three weeks encouraging or discouraging a full application. The final decision to submit a full application will be made by the investigator.

2. Full Application

Full applications, excluding Federal Forms, are limited to 30 pages using 12 pitch type with one inch margins on standard 8.5 by 11 inch paper. The page limit includes

figures, budget, vitae, and appendices. Appended information may not be used to circumvent the page length limit. Federally mandated forms and the NEPA Statement are not included within the page count.

The following forms and elements are required in each application. Failure to comply with these provisions will result in applications being returned without review.

(1) Title page: The title page shall identify the Principal Investigator (PI) and the institutional representative and should clearly indicate which Competition is being addressed. If more than one investigator is listed on the title page, please identify the lead investigator. The PI and institutional representative should be identified by full name, title, organization, telephone number and address. For paper submissions, the title page must be signed by the PI and the institutional representative. The total amount of Federal funds being requested should be listed for each budget period.

(2) Abstract: An abstract must be included and should contain an introduction of the problem, rationale and a brief summary of work to be completed. The abstract should appear on a separate page, headed with the application title, institution(s), investigator(s), total proposed cost and budget period.

(3) Results from prior research: The results of each prior research project (during the last 3 years) relevant to the proposed effort should be summarized in brief paragraphs. This section should not exceed two pages.

(4) Statement of work: The proposed project must be completely described, including identification of the problem, scientific objectives, proposed methodology, relevance to the goal of the Climate Program and the Program Priorities listed above. Benefits of the proposed project to the general public and the scientific community and data sharing procedures should be discussed. The statement of work, including references, but excluding figures and other visual materials, must not exceed 15 pages of text. Applications from 3 or more investigators may include a statement of work containing up to 15 pages of overall project description plus up to 5 additional pages for individual project contributions.

(5) Budget Justification: A brief description of the expenses listed on the budget and how they address the proposed work. Item justifications must include salaries, equipment, publications, supplies, tuition, travel, etc.

(6) Budget: Budget numbers corresponding with the descriptions contained in the statement of work must be included. In addition to including the total budget on the SF424, the application must include the total budget and budgets for years 1, 2, and 3 in separate columns in Section B on page 1 on the SF424A. (Note that this revised 424A Section B format is a NOAA requirement that is not reflected in the Instructions for the SF 424A).

A copy of the institutions current Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, a detailed itemized budget for all years and a total itemized budget must also be included. Travel must be itemized to include destination, airfare, per diem, lodging and ground travel.

- (7) Vitae: Abbreviated curriculum vitae are sought with each application. Reference lists should be limited to all publications in the last three years with up to five other relevant papers.
- (8) Current and pending support: For each investigator, submit a list that includes project title, supporting agency with grant number, investigator months per year, dollar value and duration. Requested values should be listed for pending support.
- (9) DUNS Number: All applications must have a DUNS (Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System) number when applying for Federal. No application is deemed complete without the DUNS number and only OMB may grant exceptions.
- (10) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): NOAA must analyze the potential environmental impacts, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for applicant projects that 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 the NOAA Administrative Order 216-6 for NEPA, http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/NAO216_6_TOC.pdf, and the Council on Environmental Quality implementation regulations, http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/regs/ceq/toc_ceq.htm. Consequently, as part of an applicant's package, and under their description of their project 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 application. 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.

No NEPA information is required with the initial application.

C. Submission Dates and Times

1. Letter of Intent (LOI)

Letters of Intent for all Competitions should be received at the Climate Program Office by 5 p.m. Eastern Time, August 11, 2008. Applicants who have not received a response to their Letter of Intent within four weeks should contact the identified NOAA Competition Manager. Applicants may submit full applications even if they do not submit Letters of Intent.

2. Full Application

Full applications for all Competitions must be received by 5 p.m. Eastern Time, October 9, 2008. Applications received after that time will not be considered for funding. For applications submitted through grants.gov a date and time receipt indication is included and will be the basis of determining timeliness. Hard copy submissions will be date and time stamped when they are received in the Climate Program Office. Faxed or emailed copies of applications will not be accepted.

D. Intergovernmental Review

Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of federal programs._

E. Funding Restrictions

Fees and Profit are disallowed.

F. Other Submission Requirements

1. Letter of Intent Submission

LOIs should be submitted by email to the identified NOAA Competition Manager listed with each Competition in the Program Priorities section. If an applicant does not have Internet access, LOI hard copies may be sent to the Competition Managers. Hard copies should be sent to NOAA Climate Program Office (R/CP1), SSMC3, Room 12112, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 or faxed to 301-713-0518. Please allow two weeks after receipt for a response.

2. Full Application

Applications should be submitted through grants.gov Apply for Grants. If an applicant does not have Internet access, the CPO Grants Manager Diane Brown

should be contacted by mail at NOAA Climate Program Office (R/CP1), SSMC3, Room 12112, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 for hard copy submission instructions. Please allow two weeks after receipt for a response.

V. Application Review Information

A. Evaluation Criteria

1. Importance/Relevance and Applicability of Application to the Program Goals (50%)

This criterion ascertains whether there is intrinsic value in the proposed work and/or relevance to NOAA, federal, regional, state, or local activities. For the CPO Grant Program Competition, this includes importance and relevance to the goals of the selected Competition(s).

2. Technical/Scientific Merit (50%)

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.

3. Overall Qualifications of Applicants (0%)

This criterion assesses whether the applicant, and team members, possess the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to accomplish the project. For the CPO Grant Program Competition, this criterion is not scored.

4. Project Costs (0%)

This criterion evaluates the budget to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the project needs and time frame. For the CPO Grant Program Competition, this criterion is not scored.

5. Outreach and Education (0%)

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. For the CPO Grant Program Competition, this criterion is not scored.

B. Review and Selection Process

Once a full application has been received, an administrative review will be conducted to determine compliance with requirements and completeness of the application.

Independent peer mail reviewers, and/or independent peer panel reviewers consisting of both Federal and non-Federal experts will evaluate full applications in accordance with the evaluation criteria listed below. The panel will not give consensus advice. The identity of mail reviewers and panel reviewers are privileged.

If a peer panel review is conducted, the scores from each peer panel reviewer for each application will be averaged to produce a single numerical score for the application. Occasionally a reviewer may, due to lack of familiarity in a particular area, choose not to score a particular application. The average scores for all applications result in a numerical rank order within each Competition.

If peer mail review and peer panel review are both conducted, the available peer mail reviews will be provided to the peer review panel for use in its deliberations prior to providing its ratings.

If only a peer panel review or both a peer panel review and a peer mail review are conducted, the Competition Manager will use the numerical rank order of the peer review panel to determine funding recommendations.

If only a mail peer review is conducted, the Competition Manager will use the rank numerical order of the mail reviews to determine funding recommendations.

The Competition Manager will recommend applications to the Selecting Official in numerical rank order unless a recommendation out of rank order is justified based upon any of the factors listed in the following section. The Competition Manager will review the amounts requested for each selected application (including costs for computing and networking services) and recommend the total duration and the amount of funding, which may be less than the application and budget requested. The Selecting Official will review the recommendations.

C. Selection Factors

The Selecting Official shall select award in rank order unless a selection out of rank order is justified based upon any of the following factors:

1. Availability of funding

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

The Selecting Official makes final recommendations for award to the Grants Officer who is authorized to obligate the funds.

D. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

Subject to the availability of funds, review of applications will occur during the 5 months following the full applications due date. CPO anticipates that funding decisions on applications will be made by January 31, 2009 subject to/contingent on the final FY 2009 appropriation for NOAA by Congress and final allocation of funds to CPO by NOAA. Funding for successful applicants are expected to begin during spring 2009 for most approved projects. Applications should use May 1, 2009, as the Start Date unless otherwise directed by the Competition Manager.

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notices

Successful applicants will receive notification that the application has been recommended for funding by an official of the NOAA Climate Program Office . This notification is not an authorization to begin performance of the project. Official

notification of funding, signed by a NOAA Grants Officer, is the authorizing document that allows the project to begin. Notifications will be issued to the Authorizing Official and the Principle Investigator of the project. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified that their application was not selected for recommendation.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

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

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) is applicable to this solicitation.

Limitation of Liability

In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for application preparation costs. Publication of this announcement in no way obliges NOAA to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

The National Environmental Policy Act is applicable to the Notice. See Section IV above for the necessary information.

C. Reporting

Award recipients are required to submit financial and technical progress reports. These reports are to be submitted electronically via grants.gov unless the recipient does not have Internet access, in which case hard copy submissions will be accepted. All hard copy financial reports shall be submitted in triplicate (one original and two copies) to the NOAA Grants Officer. All hard copy technical progress reports shall be submitted to the identified Competition Manager.

The first technical progress report covering the first 9 months of a multi-year award is due 10 months after the start date of the award. Each subsequent technical progress report covering a period of 12 months is due 12 months after the previous report. The comprehensive final technical progress report is due 90 days after the expiration date of the award.

VII. Agency Contacts

Please visit the CPO website for further information
<http://www.climate.noaa.gov/> or contact the CPO Grants Manager, Diane Brown by
mail (see address above). Please allow up to two weeks after receipt for a response.

VIII. Other Information

None