

NOTICE OF 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: Climate Program Office (CPO) Adaptation Sciences Program FY2024

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: NOAA-OAR-CPO-2024-2008252

Federal Assistance Listings Number: 11.431, Climate and Atmospheric Research

Dates: Letters of intent (LOIs) should be received via Google Form (<https://forms.gle/X8Cfvh8feMLuWtdQA>) by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on December 26th, 2023. If an applicant is unable to utilize this form for technical reasons, LOIs should be received via email by the Competition Manager, Lisa Vaughan (Lisa.Vaughan@noaa.gov) with a copy to noaa.adaptation.sciences@noaa.gov by the same deadline.

Full applications must be received by 11:59 pm Eastern Time, on March 20th, 2024.

Funding Opportunity Description: The Adaptation Sciences (AdSci) program, an interdisciplinary research and engagement program, is housed in the NOAA Climate Program Office's (CPO's) Climate and Societal Interactions (CSI) Division. The AdSci program advances the knowledge, methods, and frameworks needed to move society beyond incremental adaptation toward more widespread, connected, and transformative adaptive pathways and resilience strategies with clear economic, social, cultural and environmental co-benefits. This work is conducted through a combination of dedicated partnerships that support capacity building and engagement activities, and competitive research awards designed to address key knowledge and information needs. Given the global complexities involved in climate impacts and society's adaptive strategies, the AdSci program supports work both within and outside of the United States.

AdSci has two core objectives:

*Developing an understanding of key drivers and conditions that shape and enable adaptation across multiple temporal and spatial scales, in particular geographies and settings where this knowledge can be practically applied to efforts to reduce risk and enhance resilience in equitable ways; and

*Identifying key aspects of and promoting opportunities for the use of scientific information to best support preparedness and planned adaptation of high value to social and economic goals.

Learn more about AdSci at <https://cpo.noaa.gov/AdSci>.

Through the FY24 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), the AdSci Program is soliciting applications for two competitions:

1. Evidence-building, Evaluation and Learning Approaches to Support Adaptation to a Changing Climate

2. Developing a Social Science Research Agenda to Support Adaptation and Resilience

FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT

I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Program Objective

The Adaptation Sciences (AdSci) program, an interdisciplinary research and engagement program, is housed in the NOAA Climate Program Office's (CPO's) Climate and Societal Interactions (CSI) Division. The CSI Division has traditionally been a home for high-impact science, catalyzing some of the earliest U.S. government investments in regionally-scaled, societally-relevant, interdisciplinary climate research and engagement focused on reducing vulnerability and risk through the use of climate knowledge and information.

Today, CSI continues to work with partners to enhance community, cross-sectoral, and national and international resilience in the face of climatic changes, through human-centered research, engagement and capacity building activities designed to connect innovative science directly to complex and dynamic preparedness, adaptation, and resilience challenges and opportunities. It is increasingly imperative that as society incorporates a changing climate into "mainstream" planning, and risk management and resilience efforts, we seek to identify, design and implement adaptation efforts that align with and underscore other social, economic and environmental benefits, including equitable and transformational adaptation, when feasible.

CSI is composed of two core programs, the AdSci programs and the Climate Adaptation Partnership (CAP) program (formerly known as RISA), leveraging the unique approaches and contributions of each for advancing adaptation and resilience, in order to optimize the investment of NOAA resources in support of societal needs. Learn more about the CAP program here:

<https://cpo.noaa.gov/divisions-programs/climate-and-societal-interactions/cap-risa/>.

The AdSci program advances the knowledge, methods, and frameworks needed to move society beyond incremental adaptation toward more widespread, connected, and transformative adaptive pathways and resilience strategies with clear economic, social, cultural and environmental co-benefits. This work is conducted through a combination of dedicated partnerships that support capacity building and engagement activities, and competitive research awards designed to address key knowledge and information needs. Given the global complexities involved in climate impacts and society's adaptive strategies,

the AdSci program supports work both within and outside of the United States.

AdSci has two core objectives:

*Developing an understanding of key drivers and conditions that shape and enable adaptation across multiple temporal and spatial scales, in particular geographies and settings where this knowledge can be practically applied to efforts to reduce risk and enhance resilience in equitable ways; and

*Identifying key aspects of and promoting opportunities for the use of scientific information to best support preparedness and planned adaptation of high value to social and economic goals.

AdSci research projects generally include and are shaped by focused engagement with stakeholders, with attention to participation from relevant sectors and communities with roles to play advancing the evaluation, assessment and implementation of new approaches to adaptation and resilience. AdSci projects are conducted at scales designed to expand the availability, accessibility and use of climate information and related knowledge in the context of public and private decision-making. Projects seek to enhance community, sub-regional, regional, national and international networks that incorporate locally-relevant knowledge and support local decision making through the co-development of effective climate services. Relevant themes of work under a changing climate and associated changes in extreme events such as extreme heat, flooding, and coastal inundation include food security and sustainable food systems, water resources, public health and safety, infrastructure planning and design, disaster preparedness, nature based solutions (NBS), and low-carbon resilience strategies.

Learn more about AdSci at <https://cpo.noaa.gov/AdSci>.

B. Program Priorities

Through this announcement, the AdSci program is soliciting applications for two competitions in FY 2024:

1. Evidence-building, Evaluation and Learning Approaches to Support Adaptation to a Changing Climate

2. Developing a Social Science Research Agenda to Support Adaptation and Resilience

Prior to submitting applications, investigators are highly encouraged to learn more about the AdSci program at cpo.noaa.gov/AdSci, as well as program priorities for FY 2024. This information can be found at the following website: <https://cpo.noaa.gov/Grants>.

Competition 1: Evidence-building, Evaluation, and Learning Approaches to Support Adaptation to a Changing Climate

In FY24, the Adaptation Sciences program is seeking proposals for evaluation and evaluation research that advances evaluation methods and approaches in order to support more transformative adaptation and resilience. Research proposals should seek to undertake one or both of the following:

A. Expand the evidence base for evaluating adaptation actions and investments, including the identification of metrics and frameworks, with an emphasis on those that measure social and economic outcomes of adaptation (including equity) and advance society's capacity to compare and/or scale up approaches.

B. Develop the frameworks, partnerships, approaches and methods needed to evaluate adaptation, including those elements that move society toward more transformative pathways.

We expect that much of the work supported by Competition 1 will focus on adaptation in U.S. states and territories; however, proposals will also be considered with a focus on one or more of the broadly defined regions that border the U.S: a) the Caribbean; b) the Pacific

Islands; c) Mexico and Central America; d) the Arctic. Regional and/or comparative studies focusing on multiple areas from this list also will be considered.

Projects supported under this competition could:

*Contribute new and applicable insights on the characteristics, co-effects, and enabling conditions, including governance, associated with climate adaptation strategies and investments through the systematic analysis and evaluation of case studies, with the goal of building an evidence base and advancing learning.

*Generate new or improved evaluation methods, approaches and insights related to the role of knowledge systems and processes - including networks of boundary organizations and climate information services knowledge networks - in moving society toward transformative adaptation.

*Identify and develop key metrics and/or indicators that capture the relationship between processes that occur within these systems, including co-production and the integration of local knowledge, and complex equity considerations.

*Identify and/or develop evaluation measures and indicators that reflect the social dimensions of adaptation (e.g., governance, culture, equity, participation).

*Identify and enhance knowledge about the methods of evaluation and for sharing information and learning that are most appropriate for different types of actors in the decision making context (e.g., indigenous communities, local planners, public service providers, private sector, local, state, Tribal and national governments).

Competition 2: Developing a Social Science Research Agenda in Support of Adaptation and Resilience

Understanding the societal, economic, cultural and behavioral aspects that shape risk, vulnerability and responses to climate change is essential to meeting the needs of decision makers, and supporting the development of effective adaptation and resilience strategies. As a result, there is a growing need for an organized, well-articulated social science research agenda that supports the integration of the social sciences in climate and risk assessments, and the development of effective adaptation strategies that are meaningful across scales of decisions and communities, and relevant to supporting the foundations of transformative

change. Through Competition 2, AdSci is seeking proposals that will generate a social science research agenda, which reflects existing knowledge, and identifies gaps that can be addressed to support adaptation and resilience efforts. This can be achieved through inclusive review, analysis, and assessment of scientific literature, climate adaptation plans and actions, local knowledge and other similar information, in addition to engagement processes to inform social science research needs.

This work should develop and articulate a coherent set of nested research questions and approaches that will provide a framework for the generation of knowledge, methods and insights essential to the development, implementation and evaluation of effective adaptation strategies, policies and investments. It should be useful to the interdisciplinary scientific community and the broader landscape of entities, including funding agencies and implementation partners, working in this space.

Specific attention should be placed on social science research needs to support and assess transformational adaptive pathways. The work should:

- *build on the current state of science and knowledge, including indigenous, traditional and other non-western ways of knowing;

- *reflect a diverse suite of disciplinary expertise and perspectives in order to ensure that the social science agenda has applications for addressing real world challenges and opportunities associated with large scale adaptive capacity related to food and water security, human settlements, human and ecosystem wellbeing, conservation, infrastructure, migration, etc;

- *incorporate the experience, perspectives and needs of stakeholders including frontline communities, tribes, indigenous populations and the private sector;

- *address knowledge gaps and opportunities for social science research as a complement to physical and natural climate science, and climate services endeavors;

*address knowledge gaps that, if addressed, will support progress toward socio-economic and environmental outcomes and co-benefits, including those with cultural, local and heritage significance; and

*include an international perspective on questions that have global relevance and implications.

Proposed work should:

*Leverage and connect to the research, priority setting and engagement capacity of key partners (e.g. international, regional, Federal, state, local, tribal, NGO, private sector and community-based organizations) to identify and share methods, capacities and conditions needed to effectively utilize and incorporate interdisciplinary climate information science and services for adaptation and resilience.

*Engage with organizations, including the private sector, working in economic and community development, and seek to connect with efforts to support the financing and/or evaluation of adaptation actions or strategies in order to foster more evidence-based policies.

*Support research and evaluation activities as opposed to discrete adaptation project implementation activities outside of a learning framework (e.g., the implementation of a nature based solution in a specific community).

*All projects should incorporate the principles of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. Applicants should demonstrate a plan to carry out their work in ways that acknowledge existing legacies of social and environmental inequities and support actions that address them, including but not limited to the inclusion of frontline community members.

C. Program Authority

49 U.S.C. 44720(b), 15 U.S.C. 2904, 15 U.S.C. 2931-2934

II. Award Information

A. Funding Availability

CPO anticipates that funding decisions on applications will be made during Spring 2024. Such decisions are contingent upon the final FY24 appropriation for NOAA by Congress and the final allocation of funds to CPO by NOAA.

Federal funding for future fiscal years may be used to fund proposals submitted under this Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Competition 1: Evidence-building, Evaluation, and Learning Approaches to Support Adaptation to a Changing Climate

Proposals can request up to \$150,000 per year, for a maximum total of \$300,000.00 total. Depending on the availability of funds, it is anticipated that 5-7 projects will be supported.

Competition 2: Developing a Social Science Research Agenda in Support of Adaptation and Resilience

Proposals can request a total budget in the range of \$150,000- \$300,000 (proposals should distribute the budget over the two year period to reflect the methodology used for the project). Depending on the availability of funds, it is anticipated that 1 project will be supported.

B. Project/Award Period

Projects for both competitions should last for two (2) years.

C. Type of Funding Instrument

The funding instrument for awards will be a cooperative agreement. For cooperative agreements, it is anticipated that AdSci program managers will be substantially involved in the implementation of these projects. Examples of substantial involvement may include, but are not limited to, frequent communication on findings and progress between PI teams and AdSci program managers, semi- annual and/yearly progress reports utilizing the AdSci template, and participation of PIs in AdSci-related communities of practice, workshops, and quarterly calls. 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 and regional organizations, and state, local and Indian tribal governments. Federal agencies or institutions are not eligible to receive Federal assistance under this notice, but may be identified as partners in the proposals (with their own resources).

B. Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

All CPO programs have no cost sharing or matching criteria.

C. Other Criteria that Affect Eligibility

None.

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Address to Request Application Package

Application packages can be found on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). For applicants without Internet access, please contact the CPO Grants Manager Diane Brown by mail to obtain an application package:

Diane Brown

NOAA Climate Program Office (R/CP1)

SSMC3, Room 12734

1315 East-West Highway

Silver Spring, MD 20910

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 competition in advance of preparing a full application. Full applications will be encouraged only for LOIs deemed relevant. Applicants who have not been encouraged may still submit a full application. While LOIs are strongly encouraged, applicants are not required to submit them and may submit a full application even if they have not submitted a LOI.

Letters of intent (LOIs) should be received via Google Form (<https://forms.gle/X8Cfvh8feMLuWtdQA>) by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on December 26th, 2023 (per Section IV. D below). If an applicant is unable to utilize this form for technical reasons, LOIs should be received via email by the Competition Manager, Lisa Vaughan (Lisa.Vaughan@noaa.gov) with a copy to noaa.adaptation.sciences@noaa.gov by the same deadline.

The LOI should provide a concise description of the proposed work and a statement regarding its relevance to the targeted competition (AdSci 1 or AdSci 2). The LOI should be no more than two pages in length and should include the items listed below. If these items are not included or the LOI is submitted late, the LOI may not be considered.

LOI Requirements:

- a. Full Competition Name.

- b. A tentative project title.
- c. Name(s) and institution(s) of the Lead Principal Investigator(s) and other Principal Investigator(s).
- d. Email contact for the Lead Principal Investigator
- e. Statement of the challenge to be addressed by the work.
- f. Brief summary of work to be completed and methodology to be used
- g. Potential (unfunded) collaborator/partners and beneficiaries of the work
- h. Approximate cost of the project and time frame for the project.
- i. Relevance to the Competition that is being targeted.

A response to the LOI from the Competition Manager (e-mail or letter) will be sent to the investigator within four weeks after the LOI due date encouraging or discouraging a full application based on its relevance to the targeted competition. It is then entirely up to the investigator whether to submit a full application.

2. Full Application

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

All proposals must be single spaced, written in plain language, using 12-point font type with one-inch margins on standard 8.5 by 11 inch paper.

Full applications are limited to:

-35 pages. for full applications with less than 3 Principal Investigators

-40 pages, for full applications with three or more Principal Investigators

The page limit includes:

1. Title page
2. Abstract
3. Results from prior research
4. Project Narrative (including references and figures/visuals)
5. Statement on the Integration of Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
6. Data/Information Sharing Plan
7. Current and pending support
8. Budget table and Budget Narrative (submit as a separate file labeled “Budget and Budget Narrative”)
9. Vitaes

Additional required components that must be submitted with the full application, but are not subject to the above page limitations, include the following:

10. Letters of Support
11. Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
12. Federal Forms

Description of required elements and forms for all applications:

(1) Title page (One page): The title page shall identify the Principal Investigator(s) (PI) and institutional representative and clearly indicate which Competition is being addressed by name and Competition number. The title page should also include all co-PIs. If more than one investigator is listed on the title page, please identify the lead investigator. The lead PI and institutional representative should be identified by: full name, title, organization, telephone number, email, and address. For paper submissions, the lead PI and

the institutional representative must sign the title page. Please note that the institutional representative will be responsible for signing the grant if the award is successful; ensure that this individual identified will be able to do so in a timely manner.

The total amount of Federal funds being requested should be listed for each budget period on the title page. If there are several institutions submitting separate applications (i.e. co-applicants) associated with the same project, the names of all component institutions along with their lead PI name and institutional representative, e-mails, and amount requested per year must also appear on the title page of all applications that anticipate being funded under the same project. It is recommended that all co- applications utilize the same title but list after the title “1 of 2,” “2 of 2” etc. so each application can be paired with the correct project.

(2) Abstract (One page): A one-page abstract must be included and should contain: a) the project title; b) the name of the Competition that is being targeted (AdSci 1 or AdSci 2); c) an introduction to the problem; d) rationale; e) a brief summary of the work to be completed; and f) a paragraph describing the work’s broader impacts and relevance to the Competition that is being targeted, as well as AdSci’s overarching objectives identified in section I.A.

For multiple applications (Co-applicants) associated with the same project, the abstract must be identical in all applications. Failure to include the abstract can result in the application being denied without additional review.

(3) Results from prior research (two pages): The results of each prior research project led by the Principal Investigator(s) during the last three years relevant to the proposed effort (not limited to NOAA funding only) should be summarized in brief paragraphs. Because NOAA believes it is important that data sets developed with its support should be shared with the scientific community, PIs should also indicate how and when they have made their data accessible and usable by the community in the past. This section should not exceed two pages. For multiple applications associated with the same project (co-applicants), this section must be identical in all applications.

(4) Project Narrative (see below for length): The proposed project must be

completely described and include the following elements in narrative form, including:

a) Identification of the problem. Describe the intellectual and practical challenges that the proposed work will address, and the overarching way in which this project will contribute to the advancement of adaptation and resilience.

b) Description of the proposed project. Include the goals and objectives, the proposed methodology, engagement strategies, and relevance to stakeholders and partners. Include a clear statement of the roles and responsibilities of each applicant, including any sub-awardees.

c) Expected outcomes of the proposed project. Describe the scientific and societal contribution or advancement that this project will enable. How would this project move the understanding, implementation and/or evaluation of adaptation forward? What are the short- and long-term outcomes of this work?

d) Societal benefits of the proposed project. Describe how this work will contribute to the well-being of society, particularly in expanding the capacity of people to adapt to climate impacts. Consider expected changes in behavior, practice, policies, rules, regulations, standards, understanding, use of information, attitudes or budget allocations as a result of the proposed work. Include direct and indirect benefits to communities and students or early career professionals.

e) Relevance to the AdSci competition, and to NOAA and CSI's long-term climate research goals (see AdSci Information Sheet on the CPO website under funding opportunities).

f) References. Proposals should provide a list of references that were cited in the project narrative.

g) Optional but encouraged: figures and other visual materials

The Project Narrative containing these elements (a)-(g) must not exceed 20 pages of text. Applications from three or more investigators may include a Project Narrative statement of work containing up to 25 pages of overall project description. For multiple applications associated with the same project, all applications (co-applicants) must have an identical Project Narrative, including a clear statement of the roles and responsibilities of each applicant.

(5) Statement on the Integration of Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (two pages):

The AdSci program encourages applicants and awardees to support the principles of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) when writing their proposals and while performing their work. Ensuring justice and equity means paying particular attention to populations most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, which are often low-income communities, historically marginalized communities, indigenous and tribal communities, those already overburdened by pollution, those who lack economic or social opportunity, and people facing disenfranchisement. Diversity here is defined as a collection of individual attributes that together help organizations achieve objectives. Inclusion is defined as a culture that connects each person to the larger organizing structure. Promoting JEDI improves the creativity, productivity, and vitality of the communities in which the program engages.

CPO recognizes that it has a particular and unique opportunity to support NOAA's commitment to diversity and inclusion by taking an intentional step that encourages program applicants to consider diversity and inclusion as part of their scientific projects. This action has the potential to make an impact on not only the diversity and inclusion in science at NOAA, but also beyond the agency. In this section, applicants should describe how well the proposed activity broadens the participation of underrepresented groups (e.g., gender, ethnicity, disability, geographic, etc.) including, but not limited to, how the project advances the organization or institution's commitment to diversity and advances full participation of women, persons with disabilities, and underrepresented minorities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). If funded activities aligned with diversity and inclusion are being proposed, please include the description of those within the project narrative and budget justification. Examples could include ways in which the project will specifically: recruit or retain under-represented groups, collaborate with minority-serving institutions, foster an inclusive and safe environment, share data and/or information in ways that it is accessible to minority-serving institutions. Applicants are also encouraged to highlight past work in JEDI and the value those experiences will add to the proposal.

(6) Data/Information Sharing Plan: Proposals submitted in response to this announcement must include a data management plan (up to 2 pages). See section VI.B Administrative and National Policy requirements below for additional information of what the plan should contain. This section should address how information will be disseminated if it is not addressed in the project narrative.

(7) Current and pending support: For each Principal Investigator and Co-Principal Investigator(s), submit a list of all current and pending Federal support 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. The list of support will be included in the page limit for the proposals. For (co-applicants) multiple applications associated with the same project, each application should include identical current and pending support information for all applications.

(8) Budget Table and Narrative:

Budget Table: An itemized budget for all years and a total itemized budget must be included as a separate table that breaks down the budget per object class category. Travel must be itemized to include destination, airfare, per diem, lodging, and ground travel. At this time, the CPO NOFOs does not allow course buyouts as a budget expenditure. At this time, CPO NOFOs does not allow for federal salary as a budget expenditure as part of an application.

For multiple applications associated with the same project, the Lead Principal Investigator should include a table that displays the total budget for all partners. All partners, including the Lead Principal Investigator and any co-PIs, should include (in their individual application) a separate budget for their portion of the project.

Budget Narrative: A brief description of the expenses listed on the budget table and how they address the proposed work must be included. Item justifications must include salaries, equipment, publications, supplies, tuition, travel, etc. Investigators who will not be requesting funds for salaries must also be listed, indicating their estimated time of commitment. Purchases of equipment greater than \$5000 must include a purchase versus lease justification.

Sub Awardees should provide budget breakdown information and the lead PI will provide them with their funding. Thus, the subaward budgets should be incorporated into the Lead PI institution's overall budget and narrative.

Duplicate work with different federally-funded projects, commonly referred to as "double dipping," is not permitted. As stated in the Code of Federal Regulations, specifically Subpart E- Cost Principles, 2 CFR 200.430 (i)(1)(i-vii), Standards for Documentation of Personnel Expenses, "Charges to Federal awards for salaries and wages must be based on records that accurately reflect the work performed." The regulations additionally state that the work, "Reasonably reflects the total activity for which the employee is compensated by the non- Federal entity, not exceeding 100% of compensated activities."

The budget table and budget narrative should be submitted in a separate file labeled "Budget Table and Narrative"

(9) Vitaes: Abbreviated curriculum vitae are requested with each application for PIs and Co- PIs. Reference lists should be limited to all relevant publications in the last three years with up to five other relevant papers. For multiple applications (co-applicants) associated with the same project, each application should include identical vitae for all applications.

Reminder: The following required components (10-12) are not included in the page limits noted above, and should be submitted as separate files.

(10) Letters of Support: Letters of Support are not required. However, up to 10 letters may be submitted and can be used to supplement information included in the Full Proposal, and they will be taken into consideration when evaluating the proposal if submitted as part of the application. When collecting letters of support, applicants should prioritize partners whose terms of engagement and participation are already well developed or in the process of developing. Potential partners or partners at the very early stages of engagement should be described in the narrative as part of the proposal's engagement strategy.

(11) Indirect Costs: A copy of the institution's current Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (IDCRA) must be included. Each applicant and co-applicant must include a copy of their institution's current IDCRA. The full proposal and IDCRA should be put into one electronic file. To obtain an indirect cost rate if your institution does not already have one, an applicant must submit an indirect cost proposal to its cognizant agency and negotiate an indirect cost

agreement. If an applicant has not previously (ever) established an indirect cost rate with a Federal agency they may choose to negotiate a rate with the Department of Commerce or use the de minimis indirect cost rate of 10% of MTDC (as allowable under 2C.F.R. 200.414).

(12) Federal Budget Forms: The Federal Budget Forms (SF424, SF424A, SF424B, CD511) and other mandated forms are required for all non-federal applicants, including all non-federal co-applicants and sub-awardees.

Sub awardees need to submit to the lead PI their own federal forms (SF424 and SF424a) so they can be included in the application.

Budget numbers corresponding with the descriptions contained in the budget narrative and budget table 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). All budget items need to be rounded up to the nearest dollar to avoid discrepancies.

For ALL non-federal applicants including for multiple applications associated with the same project, each application requesting funding from NOAA needs to complete the Federal Budget Forms (SF424, SF424A, SF424B, CD511) for their specific institution.

SF-424B: Assurances – Non-Construction Programs - The SF-424B is required for all applicants that have not updated their System for Award Management (SAM.gov) entity registration since February 2, 2019 to include the Federal financial assistance certifications and representations (certs and reps). If an applicant has updated their SAM.gov entity registration since February 2, 2019 to include the certifications and representations, then the SF-424B is not required.

Reminder: These Federal Forms should be submitted as separate files and are not included in the page count.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Questionnaire: This program does not require any NEPA questions to be answered as part of the application.

Additional information related to sub awards, Co-applicants and first time applicants can be found below:

For Sub Awardees: Sub Awardees should not submit a separate application. However, subwards still need to submit to the lead PI their own federal forms (SF424 and SF424a) and budget breakdown information and the lead PI will provide them with their funding. The subaward budgets should be incorporated into the Lead PI institution's overall budget and narrative.

For Co-applicants (several institutions submitting separate applications associated with the same project): All of the above items 1-11 are required however, additional context is given here for what items should be identical for all co-applicants. All sections except for “budget table and narrative” should be identical, as detailed below.

*Title Page: The total amount of Federal funds being requested should be listed for each budget period. If there are several institutions submitting separate applications (i.e. Co-applicants) associated with the same project, the names of all component institutions along with their lead PI name, e-mail, and amount requested per year must also appear on the title page of all applications that anticipate being funded under the same project. It is recommended that all co-applications utilize the same title but list after the title “1 of 1,” “2 of 2” etc. so each application can be paired with the correct project.

*Abstract: For multiple applications (Co-applicants) associated with the same project, the abstract must be identical in all applications. Failure to include the abstract can result in the application being denied without additional review.

*Project Narrative: For multiple applications associated with the same project, all applications (Co-applicants) must have an identical Project Narrative, including a clear statement of the roles and responsibilities of each applicant.

*Statement on the Integration of Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion: For (Co-applicants) multiple applications associated with the same project, each application should include an identical Statement of Diversity and Inclusion.

*Data/Information Sharing Plan: For (Co-applicants) multiple applications associated with the same project, each application should include an identical data/information sharing plan.

*Current and Pending Support: For (Co-applicants) multiple applications associated with the same project, each application should include identical current and pending support information for all applications.

*Budget table: For multiple applications associated with the same project, the Lead Principal Investigator should include a table that displays the total budget for all partners. All partners, including the Lead Principal Investigator and any co-PIs, should include (in their individual application) a separate budget narrative for their portion of the project.

*Budget Narrative: For multiple applications associated with the same project, each application should include a budget narrative aligned with their individual portion of the budget.

*Vitae: For multiple applications (Co-applicants) associated with the same project, each application should include identical vitae for all applications.

*Federal Budget Forms: The Federal Budget Forms (SF424, SF424A, SF424B, CD511) and other mandated forms should be completed by each institution and are required for all

non-federal applicants, including all non-federal co-applicants and sub awardees.

For First time applicants:

-Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)

*Excerpt 2 CFR 200 Appendix I.D.3: Each applicant (unless the applicant is an individual or Federal awarding agency that is excepted from those requirements under 2 CFR 25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the Federal awarding agency under 2 CFR 25.110(d)) is required to: (i) Be registered in SAM before submitting its application;

(ii) Provide a valid unique entity identifier (UEI) in its application; and (iii) Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal awarding agency. NOAA may not make a Federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable UEI and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time NOAA is ready to make a Federal award, NOAA may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal award to another applicant.

*In order to submit an application through Grants.gov, an applicant must register for a Grants.gov user ID and password.

*Note that this process can take between three to five business days or as long as four weeks if all steps are not completed correctly.

*To avoid delays, applicants are strongly encouraged to start early and not wait until the approaching application deadline before registering, logging in, reviewing the application instructions, and applying.

*Information about the Grants.gov registration process for organizations can be found at http://grants.gov/applicants/organization_registration.jsp.

*INDIRECT COST RATE - If an applicant has not previously established an indirect cost rate with a Federal agency they may choose to negotiate a rate with the Department of Commerce or use the de minimis indirect cost rate of 10% of MTDC (as allowable under 2 C.F.R. §200.414). The negotiation and approval of a rate is subject to the procedures required by NOAA and the Department of Commerce Standard Terms and Conditions.

*The NOAA contact for indirect or facilities and administrative costs is: Michele Mazzocchetti, NOAA Grants Management Division, 1325 East-West Highway, 11th Floor, Silver Spring, MD 20912 or michele.mazzocchetti@noaa.gov.

-Utilize the attached checklist on Grants.gov to assist you in submitting your application.

Additional Required Materials for all applications (but excluded from the page limit):

-Negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA)

-Federal Forms: SF424, SF424A, SF424B, CD511 and other mandated forms

Additional Optional Materials:

-Associated figures (included in the page limit)

-Letters of support (not included in the page limit)

Letters of Support are not required but may be used to supplement information included in the Full Proposal. If submitted as part of the application, they will be taken into consideration when evaluating the proposal.

-For example, unfunded collaborations should be documented in the body of the Full Proposal (the sections included in page count), and a Letter of Support from the unfunded collaborator could be included as a supplement.

-In another example, if the proposal includes key stakeholders or users, this should be documented in the Full Proposal, and a supplementary letter of support could be included to convey the value of the project to the stakeholder or user. Please see the AdSco Information Sheet for further competition-specific instructions.

C. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)

Excerpt 2 CFR 200 Appendix I.D.3: Each applicant (unless the applicant is an individual or Federal awarding agency that is excepted from those requirements under 2 CFR 25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the Federal awarding agency under 2 CFR 25.110(d)) is required to: (i) Be registered in SAM before submitting its application; (ii) Provide a valid unique entity identifier (UEI) in its application; and (iii) Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal awarding agency. NOAA may not make a Federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable UEI and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time NOAA is ready to make a Federal award, NOAA may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal award to another applicant.?

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In order to submit an application through Grants.gov, an applicant must register for a Grants.gov user ID and password. Note that this process can take between three to five business days or as long as four weeks if all steps are not completed correctly. To avoid delays, applicants are strongly encouraged to start early and not wait until the approaching application deadline before registering, logging in, reviewing the application instructions, and applying. ?

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Information about the Grants.gov registration process for organizations can be found at http://grants.gov/applicants/organization_registration.jsp.?

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Please note that organizations already registered with Grants.gov do not need to re-register; however, all registered organizations must keep their Grants.gov password and SAM database (which now incorporates CCR) registration up-to-date or their applications will not be accepted by Grants.gov. Note that your CCR username will not work in SAM. You must create a new SAM user account to renew or update your registration. Registration

on SAM is a requirement. To obtain additional information and to verify that all required registrations are current, please visit www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM?

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If you experience a Grants.gov systems issue (technical problems or glitches with the Grants.gov website) that you believe threatens your ability to complete a submission before the application deadline, please do all of the following:?

*Print any error message received?

*Call the Grants.gov Contact Center at 1-800-518-4726 for immediate assistance?

*Contact NOAA using the contact information in section VIII. of this NOFO prior to the close of the competition?

*Ensure that you obtain a case number regarding your communications with Grants.gov?

?

In the event of a confirmed systems issue, NOAA reserves the right to accept an application in an alternate format prior to the application deadline. Problems with an applicant organization's computer system or equipment are not considered systems issues. Similarly, an applicant's failure to do the following are not considered systems issues:?

*Complete the required registration?

*Ensure that a registered Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) submits the application?

*Read an email message with guidance from Grants.gov?

D. Submission Dates and Times

Letters of intent (LOIs) should be received via Google Form (<https://forms.gle/X8Cfvh8feMLuWtdQA>), which is also linked in the Adaptation Sciences FY24 Information Sheet, by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on December 26th, 2023. If an applicant is unable to utilize this form for technical reasons, LOIs should be received via email by the Competition Manager, Lisa Vaughan (Lisa.Vaughan@noaa.gov) with a copy to noaa.adaptation.sciences@noaa.gov by the same deadline.

Full applications for all competitions must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, on

March 20th, 2024. Applications received after this time will not be considered for funding. Applications must be submitted via <http://www.grants.gov>. For applications submitted through [grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), the basis for determining timeliness is the receipt notice issued by <http://www.grants.gov>, which includes the date and time received. Emailed or faxed copies of applications will not be accepted.

E. Intergovernmental Review

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

F. Funding Restrictions

Fees and profits are not permitted.

G. Other Submission Requirements

All applications should be submitted through [grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). If an applicant does not have Internet access, CPO Grants Manager Diane Brown should be contacted by mail at: NOAA Climate Program Office (R/CP1), SSMC3, Room 12734, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 for hard copy submission instructions.?

V. Application Review Information

A. Evaluation Criteria

1. Importance/Relevance and Applicability of Application to the Program Goals (Technical/Scientific Merit Review Weight= 0%) (Relevance Review Weight = 100%) (Final Weight=40%)

This criterion ascertains whether there is intrinsic value in the proposed work and/or relevance to NOAA, federal, regional, international, state, tribal, indigenous or local

activities. This includes importance and relevance to the CSI program objectives in Sections I.A and I.B; the Statement of Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) described in Section IV.B (5); the PI's record of making their data accessible and usable in the past, and procedures described in Section IV.B (6) will also be considered when evaluating the importance and relevance of the application.

2. Technical/Scientific Merit (Technical Review Weight= 70%) (Relevance Review Weight = 0%) (Final Weight=42%)

This criterion assesses whether the approach is technically sound and/or innovative, if the methods are appropriate, and whether the goals of the AdSci Competitions will be realized through clear project goals and objectives.

3. Overall Qualifications of Applicants (Technical/Scientific Review Weight =20%) (Relevance Review Weight = 0%) (Final Weight=12%)

This criterion assesses whether the applicant team possesses the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and/or administrative resources to accomplish the project.

4. Project Costs (Technical/Scientific Merit Weight = 10%) (Relevance Review Weight = 0%) (Final Weight =6 %) This criterion evaluates the budget to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the project needs and time frame.

B. Review and Selection Process

Once a full application has been received, an administrative review will first be conducted to determine compliance with requirements and completeness of the application. Each competition will be evaluated separately based on criteria provided in section V.A. For each FY24 AdSci competition, proposals will be reviewed by a panel of experts who will score them for technical/scientific merit and relevance. Panels may consider independent peer mail reviews and panelists may consist of both Federal and/or non-Federal experts. Panels will not give consensus advice. We protect the identities of reviewers to the extent permitted by law.

The technical and relevance scoring is done as part of the same panel review with final

ranking based on a combined technical/relevance score for each proposal. Proposals with a final score below 3.0 (out of a possible high score of 5) will not be considered for funding.

Each technical/scientific reviewer will provide one score for each of three criteria: technical/scientific merit, overall qualifications of applicants, and project costs for each application. The scores from the technical/scientific reviewers for each application will be combined using the weighting averages to produce a single numerical score. Each relevance reviewer will provide one score.

If a mail review and a panel review are both conducted as part of the evaluation, the mail reviews will be provided to the review panel for use in its deliberations prior to providing its ratings, but the Competition Manager will use only the numerical rank order of the peer review panel to determine the average score for each proposal. The panel review weighting of scores for the individual criteria is shown in the following table:

Criterion	Final	Technical Review	
Relevance Review	Weight	Weight	Weight
Importance and Relevance/Applicability	40%	0%	100%
Technical/Scientific Merit	0%	42%	70%
Overall Qualifications of Applicants	12%	20%	0%
Project Costs	0%	6%	10%
Final Score	100%	100%	100%

To determine the final score, the scores from the Technical/Scientific Review and the Relevance Review will be combined, with a weighting of 60% for the Technical/Scientific score and 40% for the Relevance score, leading to the overall weightings for each criterion shown in the table above. The final score for each application will be used to determine the numerical rank order of proposals within each Competition. Proposals with a final score below 3.0 will not be considered for funding.

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. Should applications receive a tie score, and funding is not available for every tied application, the Competition Manager may preferentially recommend applications for funding also according to 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.

C. Selection Factors

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

- *Availability of funding

- *Balance/distribution of funds

- *Geographically

 - By type of institutions

 - By type of partners

 - By research area

 - By project types

- *Duplication of other projects funded or considered for funding by NOAA or other Federal agencies

- *Program priorities and policy factors

*Applicant's prior award performance

*Partnerships with/participation of targeted group

*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 awards to the Grants Officer who is authorized to obligate the funds. Proposals that review high enough for funding consideration by NOAA but cannot be supported due to the availability of appropriated funds may be shared with other Federal or non-Federal partners who have the interest and potential to fund applications, or aspects of applications. Any applicant that does not wish for its application to be considered by other programs within or outside the Federal government should indicate on its application that it would like consideration of the project to be limited to the program in this announcement.

D. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

Subject to the availability of funds, review of applications will occur during the 6-7 months following the full applications due date. CPO anticipates that funding decisions on applications will be made during Spring 2024. Such decisions are contingent upon the final FY24 appropriation for NOAA by Congress and the final allocation of funds to CPO by NOAA. Funding for successful applicants is expected to begin in early September 2024 for most approved projects.

Applications should use September 1, 2024, as the start date unless otherwise directed by the Competition Manager.

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notices

The Grants Officer will provide notice to the applicant that they have received the

award. 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. The 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 Principal Investigator of the project. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified that their application was not selected for recommendation.

GRANTS OFFICER SIGNATURE. Proposals submitted in response to this solicitation are not considered awards until the Grants Officer has signed the grant or cooperative agreement. Only Grants Officers can bind the Government to the expenditure of funds. The Grants Officer's digital signature constitutes an obligation of funds by the federal government and formal approval of the award.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

PRE-AWARD COSTS.

NOAA authorizes award recipients to expend pre-award costs up to 90 days before the period of performance start date at the applicant's own risk without approval from NOAA and in accordance with the applicant's internal policies and procedures.

Such costs are allowable only to the extent that they would have been allowable if incurred after the date of the Federal award. This does not include direct proposal costs (as defined at 2 CFR 200.460). In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for direct proposal preparation costs. Pre-award costs will be a portion of, not in addition to, the approved total budget of the award. Pre-award costs expended more than 90 days prior to the period of performance start date require approval from the Grants Officer. This does not change the period of performance start date.

UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS, COST PRINCIPLES, AND

AUDIT REQUIREMENTS. Through 2 C.F.R. § 1327.101, the Department of Commerce adopted Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards at 2 C.F.R. Part 200, which applies to awards in this program. Refer to <http://go.usa.gov/SBYh> and <http://go.usa.gov/SBg4>.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (DOC) TERMS AND CONDITIONS. Successful applicants who accept a NOAA award under this solicitation will be bound by the DOC Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions. This document will be provided in the award package in NOAA's eRA grant system at <https://www.era.nih.gov/> and at <https://www.commerce.gov/oam/policy/financial-assistance-policy>.

RESEARCH TERMS AND CONDITIONS. For awards designated on the CD- 450 as Research, the Commerce Terms, and the Federal-wide Research Terms and Conditions (Research Terms) as implemented by the Department of Commerce, currently, at <https://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/rtc.jsp>, both apply to the award. The Commerce Terms and the Research Terms are generally intended to harmonize with each other; however, where the Commerce Terms and the Research Terms differ in a Research award, the Research Terms prevail, unless otherwise indicated in a specific award condition.

BUREAU TERMS AND CONDITIONS. Successful applicants who accept an award under this solicitation will be bound by bureau-specific standard terms and conditions. These terms and conditions will be provided in the award package in NOAA's eRA grants system. For NOAA awards only, the Administrative Standard Award Conditions for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Financial Assistance Awards U.S. Department of Commerce are applicable to this solicitation and may be accessed online at <https://www.noaa.gov/organization/acquisition-grants/financial-assistance>.

HUMAN SUBJECTS RESEARCH. For research projects involving Human Subjects, an Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval or an exemption determination will be required in accordance with DOC Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions "Research Involving Human Subjects" found at <https://www.commerce.gov/oam/policy/financial-assistance-policy>.

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 December 30, 2014 (79 FR 78390) are applicable to this solicitation and may be accessed online at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-30/pdf/2014-30297.pdf>.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY - Funding for programs listed in this notice is contingent upon the availability of funds. Applicants are hereby given notice that funds may not have been appropriated yet for the programs listed in this notice. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

UNPAID OR DELINQUENT TAX LIABILITY. In accordance with Federal appropriations law, an authorized representative of the selected applicant(s) may be required to provide certain pre-award certifications regarding federal felony and federal criminal tax convictions, unpaid federal tax assessments, and delinquent federal tax returns.

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, and the Council on Environmental Quality implementation regulations, http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/NEPA-40CFR1500_1508.pdf. 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 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. 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 specific 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.

REVIEW OF RISK - After applications are proposed for funding by the Selecting Official, the Grants Office will perform administrative reviews, including an assessment of risk posed by the applicant under 2 C.F.R. 200.206. These may include assessments of the financial stability of an applicant and the quality of the applicant's management systems, history of performance, and the applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on non-Federal entities. Special conditions that address any risks determined to exist may be applied. All performance is checked through SAM.gov under Responsibilities and Qualifications.

DATA SHARING PLAN - 1. Environmental data and information collected or created under NOAA grants or cooperative agreements must be made discoverable by and accessible to the general public, in a timely fashion (typically within two years), free of charge or at no more than the cost of reproduction, unless an exemption is granted by the NOAA Program. Data should be available in at least one machine-readable format, preferably a widely-used or open-standard format, and should also be accompanied by machine-readable documentation (metadata), preferably based on widely used or international standards. 2. Proposals submitted in response to this Announcement must include a Data Management Plan of up to two pages describing how these requirements will be satisfied. The Data Management Plan should be aligned with the Data Management Guidance provided by NOAA in the Announcement. The contents of the Data Management Plan (or absence thereof), and past performance regarding such plans, will be considered as part of proposal review. A typical plan should include descriptions of the types of environmental data and information expected to be created during the course of the project; the tentative date by which data will be shared; the standards to be used for data/metadata format and content; methods for providing data access; approximate total volume of data to be collected; and prior experience in making such data accessible. The costs of data preparation, accessibility, or archiving may be included in the proposal budget unless otherwise stated in the Guidance. Accepted submission of data to the NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) is one way to satisfy data sharing requirements; however, NCEI is not obligated to accept all submissions and may charge a fee, particularly for large or unusual datasets. 3. NOAA may, at its own discretion, make publicly visible the Data Management Plan from funded proposals, or use information from the Data Management Plan to produce a formal metadata record and include that metadata in a Catalog to indicate the pending availability of new data. 4. Proposal submitters are hereby advised that the final pre-publication manuscripts of scholarly articles produced entirely or primarily with NOAA funding will be required to be submitted to NOAA Institutional Repository after acceptance, and no later than upon publication. Such manuscripts shall be made publicly available by NOAA one year after publication by the journal.

More information can be found on NOAA's Data Management Procedures at: https://nosc.noaa.gov/EDMC/documents/Data_Sharing_Directive_v3.0_remediate_d.pdf and at NAO 212-15 Management of Environmental Data and Information:

<https://www.noaa.gov/organization/administration/nao-212-15-management-of-environmental-data-and-information>.

INDIRECT COST RATE - If an applicant has not previously established an indirect cost rate with a Federal agency they may choose to negotiate a rate with the Department of Commerce or use the de minimis indirect cost rate of 10% of MTDC (as allowable under 2 C.F.R. §200.414). The negotiation and approval of a rate is subject to the procedures required by NOAA and the Department of Commerce Standard Terms and Conditions. The NOAA contact for indirect or facilities and administrative costs is: Michele Mazzocchetti, NOAA Grants Management Division, 1325 East-West Highway, 11th Floor, Silver Spring, MD 20912 or michele.mazzocchetti@noaa.gov.

REVIEWS AND EVALUATION. The applicant acknowledges and understands that information and data contained in applications for financial assistance, as well as information and data contained in financial, performance and other reports submitted by applicants, may be used by the Department of Commerce in conducting reviews and evaluations of its financial assistance programs. For this purpose, applicant information and data may be accessed, reviewed and evaluated by Department of Commerce employees, other Federal employees, and also by Federal agents and contractors, and/or by non-Federal personnel, all of whom enter into appropriate conflict of interest and confidentiality agreements covering the use of such information. As may be provided in the terms and conditions of a specific financial assistance award, applicants are expected to support program reviews and evaluations by submitting required financial and performance information and data in an accurate and timely manner, and by cooperating with the Department of Commerce and external program evaluators. In accordance with §200.303(e), applicants are reminded that they must take reasonable measures to safeguard protected personally identifiable information and other confidential or sensitive personal or business information created or obtained in connection with a Department of Commerce financial assistance award.

REQUIRED USE OF AMERICAN IRON, STEEL, MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS, AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS.

If applicable, and pursuant to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (“IIJA”), Pub.L. No. 117- 58, which includes the Build American, Buy American (BABA) Act, Pub. L. No. 117-58, §§ 70901-52 and OMB M-22-11, recipients of an award of Federal financial assistance from the Department of Commerce (DOC) are hereby notified that none of the funds provided under this award may be used for a project for infrastructure unless: 1) all iron and steel used in the project are produced in the United States—this means all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States; 2) all manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States—this means the manufactured product was manufactured in the United States; and the cost of the components of the manufactured product that are mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States is greater than 55 percent of the total cost of all components of the manufactured product, unless another standard for determining the minimum amount of domestic content of the manufactured product has been established under applicable law or regulation; and 3) all construction materials¹ are manufactured in the United States—this means that all manufacturing processes for the construction material occurred in the United States. The Buy America preference only applies to articles, materials, and supplies that are consumed in, incorporated into, or affixed to an infrastructure project. As such, it does not apply to tools, equipment, and supplies, such as temporary scaffolding, brought to the construction site and removed at or before the completion of the infrastructure project. Nor does a Buy America preference apply to equipment and furnishings, such as movable chairs, desks, and portable computer equipment, that are used at or within the finished infrastructure project but are not an integral part of the structure or permanently affixed to the infrastructure project.

WAIVERS. When necessary, recipients may apply for, and DOC may grant, a waiver from these requirements. DOC will notify the recipient for information on the process for requesting a waiver from these requirements. 1) When DOC has made a determination that one of the following exceptions applies, the awarding official may waive the application of the domestic content procurement preference in any case in which DOC determines that: a. applying the domestic content procurement preference would be inconsistent with the public interest; b. the types of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality; or c. the inclusion of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent. A request to waive the application of the domestic content procurement preference must be in writing. DOC will provide instructions on the format, contents, and supporting materials required for any waiver request. Waiver requests are subject to public

comment periods of no less than 15 days and must be reviewed by the Made in America Office. There may be instances where an award qualifies, in whole or in part, for an existing waiver described at whitehouse.gov/omb/management/made-in-america.

DEFINITIONS. “Construction materials” includes an article, material, or supply— other than an item of primarily iron or steel; a manufactured product; cement and cementitious materials; aggregates such as stone, sand, or gravel; or aggregate binding agents or additives² —that is or consists primarily of: non-ferrous metals; plastic and polymer-based products (including polyvinylchloride, composite building materials, and polymers used in fiber optic cables); glass (including optic glass); lumber; or drywall. “Domestic content procurement preference” means all iron and steel used in the project are produced in the United States; the manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States; or the construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States. “Infrastructure” includes, at a minimum, the structures, facilities, and equipment for, in the United States, roads, highways, and bridges; public transportation; dams, ports, harbors, and other maritime facilities; intercity passenger and freight railroads; freight and intermodal facilities; airports; water systems, including drinking water and wastewater systems; electrical transmission facilities and systems; utilities; broadband infrastructure; and buildings and real property.

Infrastructure includes facilities that generate, transport, and distribute energy. “Project” means the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of infrastructure in the United States. -- 1 Excludes cement and cementitious materials, aggregates such as stone, sand, or gravel, or aggregate binding agents or additives. 2 IIA, § 70917(c)(1).

MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTIONS - The Department of Commerce/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (DOC/NOAA) is strongly committed to increasing the participation of Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), i.e., Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, Tribal colleges and universities, Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian institutions, and institutions that work in underserved communities.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) - Department of Commerce regulations implementing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. Sec. 552, are found at 15 C.F.R. Part 4, Public Information. These regulations set forth rules for the Department regarding making requested materials, information, and records publicly available under the FOIA. Applications submitted in response to this Notice of Funding Opportunity may be

subject to requests for release under the Act. In the event that an application contains information or data that the applicant deems to be confidential commercial information that should be exempt from disclosure under FOIA, that information should be identified, bracketed, and marked as Privileged, Confidential, Commercial or Financial Information.

In accordance with 15 CFR § 4.9, the Department of Commerce will protect from disclosure confidential business information contained in financial assistance applications and other documentation provided by applicants to the extent permitted by law.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, OTHER FORMS of HARASSMENT or SEXUAL ASSAULT

NOAA requires organizations receiving federal assistance to report findings of sexual harassment, or any other kind of harassment, regarding a Principal Investigator (PI), co-PI, or any other key personnel in the award. NOAA expects all financial assistance recipients to establish and maintain clear and unambiguous standards of behavior to ensure harassment free workplaces wherever NOAA grant or cooperative agreement work is conducted, including notification pathways for all personnel, including students, on the awards. This expectation includes activities at all on- and offsite facilities and during conferences and workshops. All such settings should have accessible and evident means for reporting violations and recipients should exercise due diligence with timely investigations of allegations and corrective actions.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.noaa.gov/organization/acquisition-grants/noaa-workplace-harassment-training-for-contractors-and-financial>.

CPO expects all research organizations to establish and maintain clear and unambiguous standards of behavior to ensure harassment-free workplaces wherever science is conducted. A community effort is essential to eliminate sexual and other forms of harassment in science and to build a scientific workspace where people can learn, grow and thrive.

SCIENCE INTEGRITY.

1. Maintaining Integrity. The non-Federal entity shall maintain the scientific integrity of research performed pursuant to this grant or financial assistance award including the prevention, detection, and remediation of any allegations regarding the violation of scientific integrity or scientific and research misconduct, and the conduct of inquiries, investigations, and adjudications of allegations of violations of scientific integrity or scientific and research misconduct. All the requirements of this provision flow down to subrecipients. 2. Peer Review. The peer review of the results of scientific activities under a NOAA grant, financial assistance award or cooperative agreement shall be accomplished to ensure consistency with NOAA standards on quality, relevance, scientific integrity, reproducibility, transparency, and performance. NOAA will ensure that peer review of "influential scientific information" or "highly influential scientific assessments" is conducted in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review and NOAA policies on peer review, such as the Information Quality Guidelines. 3. In performing or presenting the results of scientific activities under the NOAA grant, financial assistance award, or cooperative agreement and in responding to allegations regarding the violation of scientific integrity or scientific and research misconduct, the non-Federal entity and all subrecipients shall comply with the provisions herein and NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 202-735D, Scientific Integrity, and its Procedural Handbook, including any amendments thereto. That Order can be found at <http://nrc.noaa.gov/ScientificIntegrityCommons.aspx>. 4. Primary Responsibility. The non-Federal entity shall have the primary responsibility to prevent, detect, and investigate allegations of a violation of scientific integrity or scientific and research misconduct. Unless otherwise instructed by the grants officer, the non-Federal entity shall promptly conduct an initial inquiry into any allegation of such misconduct and may rely on its internal policies and procedures, as appropriate, to do so. 5. By executing this grant, financial assistance award, or cooperative agreement the non-Federal entity provides it assurance that it has established an administrative process for performing an inquiry, investigating, and reporting allegations of a violation of scientific integrity or scientific and research misconduct; and that it will comply with its own administrative process for performing an inquiry, investigation, and reporting of such misconduct. 6. The non-Federal entity shall insert this provision in all subawards at all tiers under this grant, financial assistance award, or cooperative agreement.

C. Reporting

In accordance with 2 CFR 200.328-9 and the terms and conditions of the award, financial reports are to be submitted semiannually [this is the default] and performance (technical) reports are to be submitted annually. Reports are submitted electronically through

NOAA's eRA grant system.

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act, 31 U.S.C. 6101 requires recipients of applicable Federal grants and cooperative agreements to report information about first-tier subawards and executive compensation under Federal assistance awards. Such recipients must report to the FFATA Subaward Reporting System (FSRS) available at <https://www.fsr.gov/> on all subawards over \$30,000. See 2 CFR Part 170.

VII. Agency Contacts

Please visit the AdSci website for further information at or contact the AdSci Competition Manager, Lisa Vaughan (Lisa.Vaughan@noaa.gov) and noaa.adaptation.sciences@noaa.gov.

For general questions about the NOFO application process, please contact the CPO Grants Manager, Diane Brown, by mail (see address above) or at diane.brown@noaa.gov. Please allow up to two weeks after receipt for a response.

VIII. Other Information

None.