

FY2020 COVID-19 Related Rapid Response Funding Application Guidance

Background:

The COVID-19 pandemic is a generational event that is severely affecting all aspects of our lives. Many of the challenges caused by the pandemic are having far-reaching impacts on the communities that Sea Grant serves including, but not limited to, economic impacts to the seafood sector and tourism industries, and radical changes to the education system at all levels.

While Sea Grant does not control or have direct access to COVID-19 stimulus funds, Sea Grant is well-positioned to serve these communities as a trusted source of information through our community-based extension, education and communication professionals.

The National Sea Grant Office (NSGO) is committed to support our program's response to these challenges by investing all of the funding that we can mobilize at this time (up to ~\$3M from our national Sea Grant Aquaculture budget line and ~\$1M from our Core Sea Grant budget line).

Funding Availability:

Programs may propose up to \$100K in federal funds. 50% cost share in non-federal funds is required. Please note that while the funds available break down to approximately 75% aquaculture and 25% non-aquaculture (~\$3M from Aquaculture + ~\$1M from Core = ~\$4M), that breakdown is not required by each individual submission, rather the cumulative total for all programs must roughly meet the 75%/25% split (see google sheet).

Google Sheet:

Please provide the NSGO with a sentence or two about your desired area(s) of investment so that the NSGO can plan appropriately as we are limited by the source of the funds available. You will be able to see other program responses for ease of partnering on ideas that may be shared across states and geographical/topical regions:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1UhySLCxNkk2YwOEv5Y_XQn2WsWGOxsZ42rbZZf1kXzo/edit#gid=0

Proposal Overview:

- Proposals should outline how your program will address one or more of the many challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic that are having far-reaching impacts on the communities that Sea Grant serves.
- Proposals may include one or more projects and funds may be used for extension, communication, education work, research, program management, and/or program development. Applications may not include placeholder funding.
- This one-time investment is for projects with **deliverables within 6 to 12-months** from the start date.

- Proposals should propose a **start date of September 1, 2020** and an end date no later than August 31, 2021.
- Funds will be awarded as **amendments to the current Omnibus** and thus extensions to project duration are possible within the duration of the Omnibus award period. 90 day pre-award spending is allowed.
- Standard limitations to the use of Sea Grant funds apply (e.g. funds cannot be used for construction or the purchase of boats, etc.) and funds cannot be used for direct aid or for the benefit of a single business or individual. Purchase of equipment for projects involving multiple stakeholders may be allowable. Note: equipment costing over \$5,000 will require a lease vs purchase analysis.
- Proposed projects should focus on enriching Sea Grant's current mission and might address a broad range of needs including, but not limited to: (a) needs assessments; (b) developing response plans for recovery; (c) education and implementation of previously developed knowledge or tools (e.g. direct marketing best practices for fishers); (d) assistance with accessing other relief programs (e.g. the CARES Act); (e) developing processes to 'harden' industries against future disruptions to their supply chains; (f) addressing knowledge gaps that might inform the safe re-opening of the coastal and Great Lakes tourism industries, and (g) cooperative research.

Application Package Requirements:

Applicants should include the following components in their proposal package (incomplete application packages will be rejected):

Project Narrative

- The Project Proposal Narrative must explain the scope of work for the project(s).
- The project(s) in the Application must be assigned a project ID that identifies the type of project using the standard omnibus project codes (C/, A/, E/, R/). The project ID may be the same as a current project on your omnibus if it is a continuation/expansion of that project.
- A [90-2 form](#) is required at the time of submission. Guidance for completing the short and long 90-2 forms is provided in our [Sea Grant Application Guidance](#).
- A NEPA [Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire](#) (OMB Control No. 0648-0538) is required, where applicable, for all newly proposed categories of activities as defined in our [Sea Grant Application Guide](#). For expansion of existing projects, which do not include new actions and were reviewed for environmental compliance in the original omnibus application, base increase, or aquaculture supplemental, a newly completed questionnaire is not required. However, please attach a NEPA Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire and state at the top of the questionnaire "this project is an expansion of project XXX in the (original omnibus, base increase, or aquaculture supplemental) application." NOTE: please keep in mind that proposing projects that require lengthy NEPA review may

result in a delay to the start of a project, and therefore may not be the best candidate for a rapid response project.

- A data management plan is also required at the time of submission. If your proposed project will not generate environmental data, you still must include a data management plan that states “This project will not generate any environmental data.” For further guidance please see page 9 of our [Sea Grant Application Guide](#).

Budget Forms and Budget Narrative

- [90-4 forms](#) for each year of each project must be included, and a budget justification should be included for each project. A summary 90-4 form for each year as well as a summary 90-4 for all years of the proposal must be included. See pages 10-11 of our [Sea Grant Application Guidance](#) for details.
- A budget narrative detailing how funds will be expended in each project for each year is also required. See pages 11-15 of the [Sea Grant Application Guide](#) for more details.

Overall Proposal Forms

Your application package must also include the following standard forms (available from grants.gov). A general breakdown of these forms is provided on pages 15-18 of our [Sea Grant Application Guide](#).

- SF424
- SF424A (This is one of the most common incorrectly completed forms. Please pay attention to our guidance linked above.)
- SF424B assurances
- CD511
- SF-LLL (if applicable)

NOTE: It is imperative that programs follow the guidance and submit the above components correctly. Failure to follow guidance may result in a loss of FY2020 funding for the program due to the tight grants processing timelines to which the NSGO must adhere.

Deadline: Proposals should be submitted via grants.gov with the goal of **June 3, 2020**.

Submission Instructions:

The institutional portal for the FY2020 COVID-19 Related Rapid Response proposals is open on [grants.gov](#). The RFA number is: [NOAA-OAR-SG-2020-2006519](#). Clicking the RFA number will take you directly to the application package on grants.gov.