

Support of Network Visioning Plan Implementation

(EXTENDED DEADLINE)

SPECIAL PROJECTS 'G' ANNOUNCEMENT

Competition: Sea Grant Support of Network Visioning Plan Implementation

EXTENDED DEADLINE Closing Dates: May 19, 2020

Eligible Sea Grant Programs: This competition is open to all Sea Grant programs.

Funding availability:

The National Sea Grant Office (NSGO) anticipates that up to \$600,000 in FY 2020 Federal Funds will be available to individual Sea Grant Programs in order to support activities that are directly in alignment with goals and actions identified in the [“network visioning” plans](#) developed in 2017-18. Awarded projects may become part of each Program's 2018-2021 Omnibus grant(s). Each award will be no greater than \$200,000 and applications **DO NOT** require the standard 50% non-federal match for Sea Grant projects. Applications should include all standard forms as described in the [FY2020 Special Projects NOFO](#).

A note on proposals that involve multiple Sea Grant programs: Applicants submitting proposals that involve multiple Sea Grant programs have the option to submit one proposal, by the program that will receive the entire award, with multiple 90-4 budget detail forms outlining how subawards will be issued if the proposal is selected for funding. Alternatively, partnering Sea Grant programs can submit individual proposals and note how they are working together on the larger project. The alternative allows applicants to submit and potentially receive separate awards, eliminating the need to issue subawards to partnering Sea Grant programs. The NSGO does not have a preference on whether multi-program proposals come in as one application or multiple applications.

Project Description:

This special projects funding opportunity is available for Sea Grant programs only. Overall, the goal of this funding opportunity is to increase the capacity of Sea Grant Programs to implement priority actions identified in “network visioning” documents developed in 2017-18.

Proposals should focus on one of the following priorities:

1. **Sharing Best Practices and Implementing Resulting Actions:** Almost all of the 10 ‘network visioning’ plans include goals related to gathering Sea Grant professionals regionally and nationally to enhance effectiveness and impacts in each visioning topic. Proposals that focus on Sea Grant professionals and relevant partners convening based on a regional and/or topical focus to share best practices and equip colleagues with all

information and materials needed to implement subsequent actions are strongly encouraged. Proposals should articulate the need for transferring knowledge and/or programming, the meaningful experiences participants will complete during the workshop(s), and, most importantly, the specific actions to implement the newly shared knowledge and/or programming. The goals of this priority are to 1) foster professional sharing across Sea Grant professionals and programs, 2) implement specific actions and components of several Network Visioning plans and 3) increase the strategic focus and efficiency with which Sea Grant programs develop and/or implement a limited number of exemplary efforts and/or programs. Partnerships across multiple Sea Grant programs are required; partnerships with entities outside of Sea Grant are allowed.

2. Implementation of Regional Funding on Specific Topic Area: Many Network Visioning documents call for regionally or topically targeted investments in research or other areas of work. Proposals that propose research investments should include how research will be integrated with other areas of Sea Grant work and, to the extent appropriate, with ongoing Sea Grant programming. Proposals should demonstrate regional integration and partnerships as appropriate. The connections to actions listed in one or more Network Visioning plans should be explicitly explained. The goals of this priority are to 1) provide capacity for targeted investments; 2) implement specific actions and components of Network Visioning plans; and 3) increase the strategic focus and efficiency with which Sea Grant programs invest in advancing targeted topics regionally.

Proposals must be developed in coordination with the appropriate Sea Grant directors.

Application Requirements:

Applicants should include the following components in their proposal package. Applications requirements are the same as published in the FY2020 Special Projects NOFO and summarized here for convenience. Please refer to the [NOFO](#) for detailed information. Please note, incomplete application packages will be rejected without review.

1. Project Narrative
2. Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire (unless the application falls into one of the listed exceptions in the NOFO)
3. Data Management Plan
4. 90-4 Budget detail form(s)
5. Budget justification
6. SF-424
7. SF-424A
8. SF-424B Assurances
9. CD-511
10. SF-LLL (if applicable)

Deadlines:

May 19, 2020: Consult the NOFO [NOAA-OAR-SG-2020-2006252](#), available at [Grants.gov](#), for eligible applicants, required elements of the application, how to submit, general programmatic priorities and selection factors, and other necessary information. Submit your application to **SPECIAL PROJECTS "G"** under this Opportunity in grants.gov. Projects should have a start date no earlier than August 1, 2020 and an end date of no longer than two years after the proposed start date.

Timeframe: The projects are expected to be awarded by August 1, 2020, and funds must be used within two years of the award date.

Application Evaluation Criteria:

The following criteria, which are outlined in greater detail in the Special Projects NOFO, will be used to evaluate proposals. Criteria are equally weighted. Proposals will be evaluated by three independent written reviews based on:

1. Importance/relevance and applicability of proposed projects to the program goals. This criterion ascertains whether there is intrinsic value in the proposed work and/or relevance to NOAA, federal, regional, state, or local activities. For the Sea Grant program and this opportunity, this criteria is specifically evaluating the connectivity to the relevant network visioning plan(s).
2. Technical/scientific merit. This criterion assesses whether the approach is technically sound and/or innovative, if the methods are appropriate, and whether there are clear project goals, objectives, and data management considerations. For the Sea Grant program and this opportunity, this criteria will also evaluate the articulation of project needs and priorities.
3. Overall qualifications of applicants. This criterion ascertains whether the applicant possesses the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to accomplish the project.
4. Project costs. This criterion evaluates the budget to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the project needs and time frame.
5. Outreach and Education. This criterion assesses whether the project provides a focused and effective education and outreach strategy regarding NOAA's mission to protect the Nation's natural resources. For the Sea Grant program and this opportunity, this criteria is specifically evaluating the connectivity to the network visioning plan(s).

Additionally, projects will be recommended for funding only if they have a complete application package and if funds are available.

Other Information:

Reporting: Selected projects will be placed on Sea Grant omnibus awards and progress will be reported annually as part of the program's annual report.

Match Requirements: Applications DO NOT require non-federal match.

Questions about this competition or the Special Projects Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) may be sent to oar.hq.sg.competitions@noaa.gov. Please specify that your question is related to the Network Visioning Implementation Support competition in the subject line and CC Becky Briggs, rebecca.briggs@noaa.gov.

Fillable versions of required Sea Grant forms can be found here:

<https://seagrant.noaa.gov/insideseagrant/Implementation>

Guidance for completing these forms is located in the Sea Grant General Application Guidance Document:

(<https://seagrant.noaa.gov/Portals/1/Guidance/SeaGrantGeneralApplicationGuide.pdf>)

A checklist for building your application is available here:

<https://seagrant.noaa.gov/insideseagrant/Implementation>