



Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve Request for Proposals for Coastal Research Grant

Request for Proposals

- I. Introduction and Project Descriptions
- II. Eligibility Requirements
- III. How to Apply
- IV. Selection Process
- V. Grantee Responsibilities
- VI. Contact Information

Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

I. INTRODUCTION and PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

Purpose of Solicitation:

The Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve (DNERR) of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control is announcing the availability grant funding for projects that help fulfill the DNERR Research Goal to “Improve the scientific understanding of the estuarine and coastal ecosystems and the human influence on them”. This RFP will support the understanding of blue carbon dynamics in Delaware coastal marshes.

Project Description:

Investigating Blue Carbon Dynamics in Delaware Coastal Marshes

The term “blue carbon” is used to describe the carbon in coastal and marine ecosystems, particularly tidal marshes, seagrasses, and mangroves. These coastal ecosystems serve to sequester and store carbon and likely play an essential role in mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Although studies of blue carbon are increasing, many questions remain about the dynamics of carbon fluxes in coastal ecosystems, especially the interaction between various aspects of the coastal zone (i.e. atmosphere, estuaries, and sediments). This limited understanding of the balance of blue carbon also lessens our ability to predict how marshes and estuaries will respond to climate change and the best strategies to manage these ecosystems to support coastal resiliency. To improve the understanding of blue carbon dynamics in coastal marshes the objectives of this proposal are as follows:

1. Evaluate the carbon stocks within the marsh at the St. Jones Reserve and refine the general knowledge of blue carbon in coastal Delaware ecosystems, particularly carbon fluxes between the ecosystem and the atmosphere. Provide baseline data that may be used to establish a long term blue carbon monitoring program at the DNERR.
2. Projects must incorporate the ongoing research and monitoring programs of the DNERR, principally the System Wide Monitoring Program (SWMP) and articulate how the data is applicable for statewide and regional coastal resource management.
3. Develop education and outreach materials, in collaboration with the DNERR research, education, and Coastal Training Program staff, aimed at translating the research being conducted for public audiences and organizations partnering with the DNERR.

Important Dates and Grant Schedule:

July 15, 2015	Proposals due to Delaware Coastal Programs office no later than 3:00 pm . <i>Applications received after that time will not be reviewed.</i>
On or before July 31, 2015	Grant awards announced and recipients notified
March 15, 2016	Project completion deadline

II. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applicant Requirements:

Applicants may be any academic institution or not-for-profit organization working at the local level within the State of Delaware.

Award Information:

Funding for the project receiving a grant award will not exceed \$50,000. The Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve is providing financial support for projects through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The award recipient is required to comply with all federal laws and guidelines pertaining to the use of federal funds.

Matching Requirements:

Funding received under this grant program must be matched dollar for dollar (a 50:50 cost share ratio) by non-federal, state, or local cash or in-kind services. For example, if \$15,000 in federal funds is requested, \$15,000 in state, local, or some other non-federal funds must be shown as match. A variety of expenses can be considered as match including in-kind services, waiving of graduate student tuition and or fees, student advisor time, volunteer hours, non-federal state or local cash. Deferral of overhead cannot be used as match. For additional information please contact the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve Office at (302) 739-6377.

Ineligible costs:

Funds may not be used for construction costs, lobbying, scholarships to individuals, deficit reduction activities, projects that have already been completed, or for those activities that constitute legally required mitigation for the adverse effects of an activity regulated or otherwise governed by state or federal law. The award recipient is required to comply with all federal laws and guidelines pertaining to the use of federal funds.

Project Duration:

Work conducted for the project is to be complete by March 15, 2016. Award recipients will be required to submit status reports and will be notified of specific reporting requirements in the grant award agreement.

III. HOW TO APPLY

Submission of Proposals:

One (1) signed original **AND** one (1) electronic copy of the proposal and any supporting materials must be submitted to Delaware Coastal Programs Office at the following address **no later than 3:00 pm, July 15, 2015.**

ATTN: DNERR Grant Application

Colleen Holstein
Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve
818 Kitts Hummock Rd.
Dover, DE 19901

Grant Application:

Grant applicants must contain the following information to be considered a complete application:

Cover Page: The cover page should include the proposal title, Principal Investigator(s) including contact information, Beginning/completion date of project, requested amount of funding, technical and administrative contacts. This page should include the signature of the responsible party submitting the proposal and organization's DUNS number.

Abstract: Include a short abstract of the project suitable for public distribution and federal grant reports. (1- 2 paragraphs)

Scope of Work: This section should concisely describe the outcomes of the proposal. It should describe in detail the methods and analyses that will be performed. All results must be statistically valid and defensible. (1-2 pages)

Time Schedule and Benchmarks: This section should break down the Scope of Work into tasks with target dates for completion of each task. It should list target milestones, and timelines. This information will also be used to develop payment schedule. (1 page)

Project Budget: This section should provide a detailed budget description and a brief narrative justification of the budget. It should include the amount requested and itemize all expenditures such as personnel, travel, equipment, supplies, contractual costs, indirect costs, and non-federal match sources and amounts. (1 page)

CV: Short (1-2 page) CV of all investigators listed on the proposal

Any project not containing the information outlined above may be disqualified.

IV. SELECTION PROCESS

Each project proposal will receive an initial screening by the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve to ensure the application meets basic eligibility criteria. A committee of resource experts will then review and rank the eligible proposals and will make recommendations for funding based upon those rankings.

Proposal Review and Ranking Criteria:

Technical merit (60%)

- Project will deliver tangible, defensible result
- Proposed outcomes meet the intent of the RFP
- Methods and analyses described are appropriate to meet the goal of the RFP
- Project addresses one or more of the critical research and monitoring topics for the DNERR

Cost effectiveness and budget detail (20%)

- Detailed budget
- Properly identified match
- Overall cost effectiveness

Investigator(s) Qualifications (20%)

- Investigator(s) have the knowledge and experience to successfully complete the project

V. GRANTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Award recipients will be required to submit semi-annual status reports and will be notified of specific reporting requirements in the grant award agreement. The Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve is providing financial support for projects through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). All award recipients are required to comply with all federal laws and guidelines pertaining to the use of federal funds.

VI. CONTACT INFORMATION

For further details regarding the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve Coastal Research Grant Program applicants may contact:

Lyndie Hice-Dunton, Ph.D. DNERR Research Coordinator Lyndie.Hice-Dunton@state.de.us (302) 739-6377	or	Kimberly Cole DNERR Manager Kimberly.Cole@state.de.us (302) 739-6377
---	-----------	---

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control solicits and encourages Minority Business Enterprises (MBE) and Women’s Business Enterprises (WBE) in all service contracts and is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and diversity of its workforce.