



Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve

2019 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
Delaware Coastal Programs
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 anticipated availability of 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*”. Specifically, this RFP seeks to support research that assesses the natural and anthropogenic processes of coastal wetlands within the DNERR’s two components: The St. Jones Reserve and the Blackbird Creek Reserve.

Project Description:

Delaware’s coastal wetlands serve great ecological, economical, and social importance to the lives of residents and visitors of Delaware’s coastal zone. However, changes in the climate, land-use, population, and sea level, among others, pose unprecedented disturbances to these important ecosystems. The DNERR is a place-based “living laboratory,” making it an ideal location to study the effects of changing ecosystems, environmental processes, and climate in estuarine systems.

In accordance to the 2013-2018 DNERR management plan, research priorities and goals have been identified to better understand both the natural and human-caused impacts on the estuarine systems within the two components of the DNERR: The St. Jones Reserve and the Blackbird Creek Reserve. The primary objective of this RFP is to conduct novel research that will advance one or more of our research priorities as well as have transferability to the educational and stewardship efforts at DNERR.

These research topics could include:

1. Effects of climate change and sea level rise
2. Biodiversity, health, and sustainability of estuarine habitats
3. Biogeochemical and/or hydrological processes in tidal wetlands

The project selected for funding should help improve our current knowledge of Mid-Atlantic estuarine systems and/or advance our understanding of their vulnerability to human impacts. It is our intention to keep these research priorities broad in an effort to inspire hypothesis-driven research with applications in coastal management, restoration, resiliency, and/or education.

Important Dates and Grant Schedule:

October 11, 2019	Electronic proposals due to Delaware Coastal Programs no later than 3:00 pm . <i>Applications received after that time will not be reviewed.</i>
October 25, 2019	Anticipated grant awards announced and recipients notified
January 31, 2021	Project completion deadline

II. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applicant Requirements:

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

Study Area

A significant portion of the proposed research must be within the DNERR reserve boundaries or in the immediate watershed of the reserve.

Award Information:

Anticipated funding for the project receiving the grant award will not exceed **\$40,000**. 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 DNERR 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, including the final report, is to be complete by **January 31, 2021**. 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:

An electronic copy of the proposal, and any supporting materials, must be submitted to the DNERR Research Coordinator (kari.stlaurent@delaware.gov) **no later than 3:00 pm, October 11th, 2019**.

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, start/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 a payment schedule. **(1 page)**

Project Budget: This section should provide a detailed budget description and a brief narrative of the budget justification. 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: Each investigator listed on the proposal must provide a short CV **(1-2 pages)**

**Any project not containing the information outlined above may be disqualified.
An optional proposal template is provided with this request for proposals.**

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.

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

Qualifications and Outreach (20%)

- Investigator(s) have the knowledge and experience to successfully complete the project.
- Past performance Requirements
- 1-1 non-federal match
- Timely progress reports
- 2 copies of a final report, an abstract and one copy of any journal publications resulting from research conducted.
- Presentation of findings at DNERR, time to be determined in conjunction with Research Coordinator and Education Coordinator
- DNERR and/or Research Coordinator must be listed as a cooperator on 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:

Kari St.Laurent, Ph.D.
DNERR Research Coordinator
Kari.Stlaurent@delaware.gov
(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.