



## FY 17 Section 306 Competitive Grant Project Proposal Guidance

Contingent upon receipt of NOAA funds, the Virginia CZM Program intends to award grants on a competitive basis to Virginia CZM Program member agencies, institutions and planning district commissions for the FY 2017 grant year (10/1/17 to 9/30/18) however, projects should envision work over a 3 year period. Funding is not guaranteed for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> years but if projects are successful and Congressional appropriations are forthcoming, the intent is to continue the selected project(s) over a 3 year period.

The intent of these grants is to provide an opportunity to address one or more of three priority topics recommended by the Coastal Policy Team. A brief description of the types of activities for each topic follows. A summary of some of the corresponding ideas collected during the December 2016 Coastal Partners Workshop is included at the end of this document.

**Building Natural and Community Resiliency:** These projects will help coastal ecosystems and communities adapt to sea level rise and other predicted impacts of climate change. Proposals may address resilience-building activities that result in:

- Improved coastal community resiliency planning
- Management, preservation, restoration or monitoring of natural and nature-based features or other habitats that may be impacted by climate change

**Preserving the Rural Landscape and Economy:** These projects will help rural coastal communities strengthen economic value and sustain ecological assets in the face of multiple stressors, such as decreasing population, declining economic growth and changing landscape exacerbated by sea level-rise. Proposals may address:

- Protection of land and water assets coupled with coordinated economic development initiatives
- Habitat restoration or enhancement to facilitate sustainable economic development

**Resolving Near-shore Use Conflicts:** These projects will help manage competing water and land uses such as intensive aquaculture, recreation and waterfront development. Proposals may involve:

- Updating procedures for managing increased shellfish aquaculture activity
- Providing new tools to help preserve scenic and recreational values while accommodating commercial enterprises
- Research and/or incentives to encourage aquaculture further offshore to reduce shallow water conflicts

## **FY 17 Section 306 Competitive Proposal Guidelines:**

### **Budget**

Although final CZM grant amounts are not yet available from NOAA, we anticipate that the maximum amount available for the competitive grant will be about **\$300,000** (\$900,000 over three years). Grantees need to provide 1:1 match. However, should some Section 306/306A FY17 projects show overmatch, some competitive grants might be allowed to under-match but that will not be determined until after later this spring.

### **General**

- Each state agency or PDC may submit more than one proposal for this competitive funding however, applicants are strongly encouraged to spend more time fully developing one or two strong proposals rather than submitting many proposals. We hope to fund only a few major projects that will result in significant advances in one or more of the focal area topics.
- Projects should be designed on a 12-month time line as part of a larger, three-year strategy.
- Projects should not duplicate Section 309 strategies, but may complement them.  
[http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Portals/0/DEQ/CoastalZoneManagement/section309VA\\_CZM2016-2020needsassessandstrategies.pdf](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Portals/0/DEQ/CoastalZoneManagement/section309VA_CZM2016-2020needsassessandstrategies.pdf)
- Collaborative proposals among state agencies and PDCs are encouraged. (This could be accomplished through two separate but complementary projects or sub contracts)
- Projects emphasizing related economic benefits are encouraged.
- Construction activities must meet CZMA Section 306A guidelines. [306A Guidance](#)
- Subcontracts are allowed and must be submitted using the embedded Sub-contractual budget Excel file in the proposal template with a description of the work to be performed accompanying the budget. Subcontracts must be awarded, at minimum, consistent with State procurement procedures.
- Proposals will be scored by all members of the Coastal Policy Team except those in which they are grant applicants. In these cases, the CPT applicant will recuse themselves from proposal review.
- If there are any policies or programs that could be impacted by the proposed project, please consult with the appropriate agency and include a statement of the agency's support within the proposal.

- Proposals will be evaluated based on the evaluation criteria and point system below.

**Scoring Criteria and Possible Points (total possible points = 25)**

- **Relevance to the RFP priorities (0-5 points, 5 being most relevant)** How well does the project address a topic included in the Competitive Grant Guidance? To what extent does the project propose collaboration among agencies and/or PDC's?
- **Potential for Positive Economic and/or Environmental Impact (0-5 points, 5 being most positive)** To what degree will the project result in a positive economic and/or environmental impact?
- **Technical Merit (0-5 points, 5 being best)** How thorough, innovative and clearly articulated is the scope of work in describing the project, including plans for how final products will be disseminated and used?
- **Feasibility (0-5 points, 5 being most feasible)** How realistic is the proposed work given the level of funding requested and the one year timeframe for completion?
- **Cost Effectiveness (0-5 points, 5 being most cost effective)** How well do the outcomes of the project justify the level of funding requested? Points will not necessarily be deducted for under match if other projects are over-matched.

**Submission instructions and schedule**

Proposals should be submitted via e-mail to [April.Bahen@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:April.Bahen@deq.virginia.gov) using the Virginia CZM Program FY 17 project template (attached) **NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM, Friday, March 24, 2017**. Late proposals will not be considered for funding. CZM staff are available to review draft proposals provided they are received at least one week before the due date.

<b>January 25</b>	RFP emailed to CPT
<b>March 24</b>	Proposals due to CZM
<b>March 29</b>	Scoring packages emailed to CPT
<b>April 7</b>	Scores due back to CZM
<b>April 14</b>	Proposals selected

## Competitive Grant Topics Generated at the 2016 Coastal Partners Workshop

1. Resiliency
  - Coastal habitat response to sea-level rise
  - Wetlands and living shorelines in the face of a rising sea
  - Community Rating System (CRS) Education for local government staff, outreach to local government
  - Multiple Stressors – Range shifts, changing weather patterns, increasing temperature, nutrient loading, invasive species, ocean acidification, development
  - Climate adaptation at the local level
  - Monitoring effectiveness of nature based resilience projects
  
2. Preserving the rural landscape and economy
  - Blue and Green economic development focus
  - Multiple stressors and connectivity of habitats
  - Habitat restoration/enhancement to facilitate adaptation/resilience to changing climate and land use
  - Analysis of habitat change on barrier islands over past 40 years and projection of change over next 40 years
  - Assessment of outcomes of 15 years of predator management on the barrier islands
  - Adapt VEVA for sea level rise
  - Strengthening economic value and sustaining ecological value in rural communities
  
3. Resolving near-shore use conflicts and coastal economy
  - Intensive aquaculture
  - Marine Protected Areas, state role in advocacy and support
  - Linking land conservation and public access
  - Use conflict