

## Annual Application Questions and Answers

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program  
2021 Annual Notice of Grant Opportunity  
Version 2; Date: 11/10/2020

### Introduction

On October 1, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) published the "[Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program 2021 Annual Notice of Grant Opportunity](#)". Program staff have received several questions from potential applicants. So all have the same information, we are sharing the answers.

Please contact us if you have additional questions.

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### Questions and Answers

#### Applications

***Should we submit a Data Management Plan with our application? Added 11/10/2020***

No. If recommended for funding, applicants would submit a Data Management Plan for NOAA review.

***Can we submit more than one application?***

Yes, you can. We do not limit the number of applications per applicant. In the application, you should include how you will manage the multiple projects and funding strings.

***Should we contact (lobby) the Coastal Council to talk about the merits of our project?***

No. The Coastal Council are private citizens, not public officials. It would not benefit you to contact the Coastal Council, and could create a liability for the member.

#### Budget

***We want to use volunteers to meet the match requirement, what are they worth? Added 11/10/2020***

You may use the rate set by your organization. If your organization does not have a rate, you may use either the national or Minnesota rate set by [Independent Sector](#).

#### Activities

***Can we apply for a grant to contribute to the [Minnesota State LiDAR Plan](#)?***

***Answer Updated 11/10/2020***

Grantees cannot use Coastal Program grant funds to match the US Geological Survey dollars. Potential applicants could consider projects derived from LiDAR data.

***Can we plant trees or install erosion structures on private property?*** *Added 11/10/2020*

No. All low-cost construction projects must occur on public property and be submitted by a public entity (or in collaboration with a public entity). Please contact us if you have questions about low-cost construction projects.

***We want to study lead in the city's drinking water; can we test tap water in private homes?***

While the intent is good, this project is not a good fit for Coastal Program grant funds. It would require accessing private homes. The Coastal Program cannot fund projects on private property or activities that support a private business or individual. NOAA and the Coastal Program also agreed it falls outside of the coastal management goals described in the Notice of Grant Opportunity (see page 4). The results of the proposed project would have to be adapted to fit these goals, extending it beyond the original intent of the project. We will direct you to other more applicable funding streams if aware of them.

***Can we include activities outside the coastal area?***

You may include activities outside the coastal area as long as the benefits of said activities have direct benefit on the area. The Coastal Council will assess the benefit and score accordingly.

***Can we replace a culvert with a low-cost construction grant?***

Culvert replacement for infrastructure improvement is not eligible. Culvert replacement on trails (public access) or for fish passage (coastal resources) is an acceptable use of low-cost construction grant funds.

Low-cost construction projects must:

- preserve or restore areas designated in the state coastal management program
- preserve or restore a coastal resource of national significance
- redevelop deteriorating or underused urban or working waterfronts designated as Areas of Particular Concern in the state's coastal management program
- Provide public access to coastal areas
- Develop process for aquaculture

*And be:*

- fee simple or other interest in land
- low-cost construction projects, including most restoration projects
- shoreline stabilization/living shorelines
- revitalize urban or working waterfronts-piers
- revitalize urban or working waterfronts-pilings
- engineering designs, specifications, other (environmental review) reports
- educational, interpretive, and management costs, including signage and kiosks and aquaculture permitting processes