

2022 Annual Application Questions and Answers

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program
2022 Annual Notice of Grant Opportunity
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Introduction

On October 1, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) published the "[Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program 2022 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

General Questions

What projects have been recommended for funding in the past?

Last year, the Coastal Program had funds for six of the ten recommended projects. You can find the [a list of projects funded in 2021](#) on our webpage.

When would the funds be available?

We expect projects will start on or before September 1, 2022. This does depend on securing federal funding and the State processing grant agreements. Your project would have to be 'shovel-ready', approved by NOAA. This may require review of construction projects, consultation with the historic preservation offices (both State and Tribal) and the Fish and Wildlife Service, or other specific award conditions.

Can the Coastal Council request more information from the Coastal Program staff and/or the applicant? (Added 11/5/2021)

The Coastal Council cannot request additional information then what is included in the application. You may provide links to plans or documents online, however there is no guarantee the Council will review.

Can we buy equipment and gift it to the DNR? (Added 11/5/2021)

Grants, by definition, requires three parties. 1) the state agency (i.e., DNR); 2) the outside entity that will deliver the service; and 3) the final recipient of the service. All three of these parties must be separate, **the DNR cannot be both the funder and the recipient.**

Updated 11/12/2021 *If we purchase equipment with grant funds, does it belong to us or the DNR?*

Equipment will belong to you the Grantee. However, you will have to report on the asset until the item depreciates (approximately seven years) or is no longer functional, see [2 CFR 200.313\(d\)](#).

Equipment must be used by the Grantee in the program or project for which it was acquired as long as needed, whether or not the project or program continues to be supported by the Federal award. Then it was be disposed of (or transferred) appropriately.

Construction Projects

We are a non-profit, can we renovate a building and the land around it to make it accessible?

Also: We are a non-profit that leases property from a governmental entity. Can we build a shelter on the site?

Any time you are moving dirt, NOAA categorizes that as low-cost construction.

- Non-profits are not eligible for low-cost construction dollars.
- All construction projects must be on public land, facilitated by a public entity.

You could apply for grant funds for the engineering plans, archeological study, and/or environmental review.

For the lease question, the entity could apply for and administer the grant funds (if funded). The entity would be responsible for project documentation and oversight.

We want to apply for a low-cost construction program. Should we complete and submit the 306A Questionnaire with the application? (Added 11/5/2021)

No, you will complete the Questionnaire if selected for funding.

Budget/Financial

All grant and match expenses must be necessary to achieve project objectives, reasonable in cost, and eligible within the cost categories and federal law (2 CFR 200).

We want to use volunteer time as match. Do we count the time spent actively collecting data or can we include travel time to and from the site?

Volunteer services may be counted as cost sharing or match if the service is an integral and necessary part of an approved project or program. Rates must be consistent with those paid for similar work by the grantee. In this case, you may follow organizational policy for volunteers and/or staff.

We want to attach monitoring equipment to boats that move around the estuary. Can we use this time as match?

Time used for recreational activities can not be counted as volunteer time just because of the attached equipment. The primary purpose of the trip must be data collection in order to be used as match. Use of the equipment MAY be eligible, but would need further review.

Updated 11/12/2021 ***Can we use our F&A (Facilities and Administration) rate as part of the match?***

Your F&A rate are the Indirect costs. You can apply F&A to the match expenses, just as you do to the grant expenses. If you choose not to use grant funds to pay F&A, you can apply the unrecovered F&A to the match.

Updated 11/12/2021 *We have a multiple phase project. If we apply to you for phase 3, can we use the activities and expenses in phases 1 & 2 as match?*

All activities and expenses, both grant and match, must occur during the grant period. For example, if you are purchasing supplies for phase 1 & 2, the invoice must be dated after the grant contract agreement would be signed by both the Grantee and the DNR.

All expenses must be necessary for the project. Phases 1 & 2 are part of the overall project and should be (briefly) explained in the application.

Tips

Do you have any tips to improve my chances?

- Read the Notice carefully, pay special attention to the sample scoring form.
- Answer the Questions as specifically as possible, providing enough detail for the Council to assess the merit of each criterion.
- Incorporate the Priorities and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion objectives if possible. While you may not get full points, you may get partial points.