

## 2023 Annual Application Questions and Answers

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources; Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program  
2023 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 "[2023 Annual Notice of Grant Opportunity](#)". Program staff have received several questions from potential applicants. We are sharing the answers, so all have the same information.

Please contact us if you have additional questions.

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### Questions and Answers

#### Budget Questions

***Can a portion of this grant cover administration costs such as salary for the person implementing the project or the hiring of a contractor to develop a strategic plan?***

Absolutely! We have both salary time (and fringe) as well as subcontract costs in the budget. In the definitions section (Appendix E) of the Notice, it describes the budget categories and what is included.

***\*New We want to make a video. Can we use media we already own as in-kind match (i.e., photos, video)?***

This is an interesting question, unfortunately I do not have a definitive answer at the time of this posting. Federal law, [2 CFR 200.306](#) outlines what is allowed for Cost Share or Match. It states any shared costs or matching funds and all contributions, including cash and third-party in-kind contributions, must be accepted as cost sharing or matching when such contributions meet all of the criteria (among others):

- Are necessary and reasonable for accomplishment of project or program objectives.
- Are allowable under subpart E of this part.

Subpart E explains all allowable costs, 200.434 speaks specifically to contributions and donations.

We have passed this question on to NOAA. I recommend the applicant proceed with the application but explore other match options.

## General Questions

***We have received a couple of questions about nearshore monitoring buoys. The answers may be helpful for anyone considering equipment purchases, especially for monitoring.***

Buoys would be subject to requirements for equipment and corresponding reporting/disposition. The research or information gleaned from the buoys would require a data management plan.

We can fund the sensors to gather data, deployment and retrieval of the equipment itself, and personnel (i.e., staff or contractors) to download and analyze the data.

We can also fund the telecommunications (e.g., wireless modems) so you can retrieve the data remotely. However, all telecommunications are subject to Public Law 115-232, section 889; 2 CFR 200.216, "Grantees are prohibited from obligating or expending grant funds on telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities)."

If monitoring equipment are installed on existing infrastructure, they are not considered low-cost construction. If new anchors or other earth-disturbance would be part of the project, it would be subject to 306A (low-cost construction) review. However, it is 'outdoors' so would need environmental review. This requires additional information about methods and includes NOAA consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service about the endangered species act.

***\*New Has the Coastal Program changed their funding priorities? I was not funded in the past; it is worth reapplying this year?***

Every year the Coastal Council reviews the scoring criteria and priorities. This year, they decided not to designate priorities, they also changed the weight of specific criteria and identified bonus points. I recommend you read through the Notice of Grant Opportunity and see if your project is a good fit.

***\*New Are there other State/DNR grants that might support my project?***

There may be. Individual programs post their available grants on their webpages, so you may have to search. However, the DNR has started using a new webpage for [Requests for Proposals](#). Check it out, or feel free to reach out and I'll direct you to other funding opportunities if I can.