

2025 Annual Application Questions and Answers

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources; Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program
2025 Annual Notice of Grant Opportunity
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Introduction

On September 4, 2024, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) published the Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program "[2025 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.

Cynthia Poyhonen, Grant Specialist
cynthia.poyhonen@state.mn.us
218-834-1447

Questions and Answers

We have a big (multi-million) dollar project. Can we use coastal program grant funds to enhance one part of it?

It depends. Coastal Zone Management Act projects must be low-cost construction (total project cost \$500,000; \$1.0M for land acquisition). The submitted activities must be easily removed from the larger project, both the grant funded and those used for match. You will have to maintain separate financial records for the smaller project as well.

Also, we must complete a Section 106 review for the Department of Transportation. Can we use this review for NOAA?

No. Each federal agency must complete their own environmental review. You may use the documents to compile the information but must complete the NOAA required documentation.

We need to complete a comprehensive land use plan and zoning code update, is this allowed?

Yes, we have funded these activities, most recently for the City of Two Harbors.

I work for a university outside of Minnesota, can I apply?

Yes. If your project is within the Minnesota coastal area, you may apply. Funding is not limited to entities located within Minnesota.

I want to plant trees within the City of Duluth. The project costs \$3,000; can I apply for Coastal Program grant dollars?

No. Planting trees is 'moving dirt' and is not eligible for our small grant dollars. For low-cost construction, you must request a minimum of \$25,000. The administration and review of these projects means smaller projects cost more to manage than the grant is worth.

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has said that the Public Assistance to States (PAS) Program can accept federal to federal match if they have a letter from the granting agency stating that this is allowable. Do you think this would be possible under the annual grants from the Coastal Program?

The Coastal Program reached out to NOAA and this is what we were told. There is no authority within the CZMA to use section 306 funds as match to other federal funds; however, there is authority within section 306A. 16 U.S.C. § 1455a. (d)

(2) Grants provided under this section may be used to pay a coastal state's share of costs required under any other Federal program that is consistent with the purposes of this section.

In the past, when NOAA has used CZM 306 funds as cost share for USACE projects, they've relied on the USACE's authorities that specifically authorize them to accept that match. For the Great Lakes Resilience Study, it was the following USACE language:

Water Resources Development Act [33 U.S.C.A § 2222] and the December 1, 2010 Revised Implementation Guidance for Section 2007 of the Water Resources Act of 2007, which states:

“Use of other federal funds – The non-Federal interest for a water resources study or project may use, and the Secretary shall accept, funds provided by a Federal agency under any other Federal program, to satisfy, in whole or in part, the non-Federal share of the cost of the study or project if the Federal agency that provides the funds determines that the funds are authorized to be used to carry out the study or project.”

This language was specific for water resources study or project, so NOAA would have to figure out if this USACE authority also applies to the [project in question] and would need to have confirmation from the Corps on that point. If it does, NOAA would have to analyze how the CZM Section 306 specifically funding fits into the USACE project. This has to go through legal clearance as well, so to be honest, it could take a couple of months, depending on how busy everything is when the project details come in.

“Have them apply - no guarantees that this will work out, but we can give it a go (if they're recommended for funding).”

We are working on a project with [one of the Native nations]. What would the Council like to see from the nation in our application?

At a minimum, you should submit a letter of partnership/collaboration with your application. Ideally the application language and budget should reflect an equal partnership.