



Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program

2026 Annual Notice of Grant Opportunity

November 12, 2025

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

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<http://www.mndnr.gov/mlscp>



With federal pass-through funds from the U.S. Department of Commerce; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Office for Coastal Management

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Executive Summary

State Agency Name: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Funding Opportunity Title: 2026 Coastal Program Annual Grant Projects

Funding Source: The DNR passes-through this funding from the Coastal Zone Management Administration Awards, Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) 11.419, from the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), for Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program.

Due Date: Interested applicants must submit a two-page or less project summary by 11:59 PM Central Time on Thursday December 11, 2025.

Funding Opportunity Description: The mission of Minnesota Lake Superior Coastal Program (MLSCP; Coastal Program) is to empower and support leaders and professionals in the work they do to manage Lake Superior's coastal areas. We strive to ensure the state's coastal places and spaces are healthy, resilient, and sustainable so that everyone can use and enjoy them.

The Minnesota DNR wants to provide funding support to projects that fulfil the goals and objectives of Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program. Interested organizations will submit a brief project summary. If the projects are eligible and meet a minimum passing score, the Coastal Program will work with entities to develop full projects for review by the Governors' Council on Minnesota's Coastal Program (Coastal Council) and to submit to NOAA for funding.¹ The Coastal Program can support two types of projects:

Administrative Grants

These non-dirt moving projects plan for and/or manage the resources in the coastal zone, preserving or restoring them for their conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, or esthetic values.

Applicants can apply for no less than \$10,000, and no more than \$100,000 per administrative project.

Coastal Resource Improvement Grants

Projects include:

1. the acquisition of fee simple and other interests in land; or
2. low-cost construction projects, including but not limited to trails, green spaces, shoreline stabilization, and the rehabilitation of historic buildings and structures.

Resource Improvement projects must meet one or more of the following objectives:

1. Preserve or restore specific areas because of their conservation, recreational, ecological, or esthetic values, or contain one or more coastal resources of national significance.
2. Redevelopment of deteriorating and underutilized urban waterfronts and ports.
3. Provide or improve public access to beaches and other coastal areas and waters.
4. Develop a process to regulate and issue permits for aquaculture in the coastal zone.

Applicants can apply for not less than \$25,000, and no more than \$150,000 per coastal resource improvement project. See [Appendix A](#) for more information.

¹ See [Process and Timeline](#) for more information.

Match Required: Match will be required for every project. Match must be local (non-federal) and may be cash or an in-kind contribution.

Information Sessions: The Coastal Program will host two virtual information sessions regarding this Notice of Grant Opportunity. These one-hour sessions will be online, via Microsoft Teams. They will open with a short (15 minute) presentation, followed by open office hours for questions.

- Monday November 17, 2025 11:00 AM [Join the meeting now](#)
- Monday November 24, 2025 9:00 AM [Join the meeting now](#)

This Notice of Grant Opportunity (Notice) provides the information needed to submit a project summary. Please read the entire Notice, instructions, and the [Terms and Conditions](#) before starting.

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Common Acronyms

- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - DNR
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - NOAA
- Minnesota’s Lake Superior Coastal Program - MLSCP; Coastal Program

Requirements

Projects must be consistent with the objectives of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972; align with Coastal Program framework; help fulfill the mission of the DNR; and comply with state and federal grant requirements.

- The [Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972](#) provides the basis for protecting, restoring, and responsibly developing our nation's diverse coastal communities and resources.
- Coastal Management Program and [Final Environmental Impact Statement](#) for the State of Minnesota (May 1999) describes the overall framework for the program including relevant laws, policies, and underlying goals.
- The [mission](#) of the DNR is to work with Minnesotans to conserve and manage the state's natural resources, to provide outdoor recreation opportunities, and to provide for commercial uses of natural resources in a way that creates a sustainable quality of life.

The Coastal Program cannot fund projects on private property or activities that solely support a private business or individual.

Successful applicants must:

- Comply with applicable local, state, Tribal and federal laws.
- Attend a meeting with the Coastal Program to discuss project specifics, be open to input and feedback.
- Work with the Coastal Program to develop project activities and products.
- Be recommended by the Coastal Council; selected by the commissioner of the DNR; and approved by the Office for Coastal Management, NOAA.

Eligibility

To be eligible, a project must:

1. Help achieve a coastal management goal.
2. Take place within the Minnesota coastal area.
3. Be submitted by an eligible entity/organization.

Coastal Management Goals

"Coastal management" is a term that covers the decisions and actions taken to keep the natural environment, built environment, quality of life, and economic prosperity of coastal areas in balance.

To be eligible, a project must help achieve one or more of these coastal management goals:

- Help communities manage development along the Lake Superior coast in a sustainable way. **(Coastal Community Development)**
- Protect and restore the coastal area's natural resources and habitats. **(Coastal Habitat)**
- Protect lives and property in the coastal area by minimizing risk from natural hazards such as storms, flooding, and erosion. **(Coastal Hazards)**
- Research, analyze, and share information that leads to better coastal land and water management by government and citizens. **(Coordination and Public Involvement)**
- Create or improve public access to outdoor recreational opportunities within Minnesota's coastal area. **(Public Access)**
- Safeguard and restore water quality in Lake Superior and area streams. **(Water Quality)**

Coastal Area

The project's principal activities must occur either:

- In the Minnesota waters of Lake Superior or its coastal tributaries; or
- On public (non-federal) land in Minnesota's coastal area (see [Appendix B](#))

If any activities take place outside of the designated coastal area, the applicant will need to show that the project will have direct benefit within the coastal area or to Lake Superior.

For more information on Minnesota's coastal area, see the [maps](#) online or call 218-834-1446.

Eligible Organizations

The following types of organizations are eligible to apply:

- Area-wide agency, including a county and/or regional planning agency
- Conservation district
- Institute of higher education (public and nonprofit)
- Joint powers board
- Local units of government (e.g., city, township, county)
- Nonprofit organization
- Port authority
- Public school district
- Sanitary sewer district
- State agency (excluding the DNR)
- Tribal government, communities

The State may not award a grant to a vendor or grantee that has been suspended or debarred from doing business with the State of Minnesota or with the Federal Government. The Grantee must receive a Unique Entity Identifier from the [System for Award Management](#) (SAM) and be a [registered vendor](#) in good standing with the State of Minnesota.

Match

All applicants must provide match, but the amount varies depending on the type of project you are proposing. For administrative grants, you must provide a minimum of 25% of the grant amount as match. For coastal resource improvement grants, you must provide a minimum of 50% of the grant amount as match. More match is appreciated; however, it will not factor into the scoring of your project.

Match funds:

- Can be cash or in-kind.
- Can be time and resources of project partners and volunteers.
- Must be from state, local, or private sources (cannot be federal dollars).
- Must be expended during the grant period.
- Cannot be used as match for another project.

There may be rare instances where federal funds count toward non-federal contributions. For example, Tribal self-sufficiency grants may apply as non-federal match. Applicants are encouraged to vet any federal funds that they believe may be eligible with the Coastal Program.

Collaboration

Multi-organization collaborative projects are welcome; it is not a requirement for grant funding.

Ineligible Projects

We generally cannot fund projects that fulfill regulatory requirements. Staff will consult with NOAA as part of the eligibility screening.

We cannot fund:

- Wetlands or other habitat created as a condition of a permit or other regulatory action
- Projects at wetland mitigation banks
- General recreation facilities or equipment, such as playgrounds, ball fields, etc.
- Harbor dredging
- Warehouse demolition
- Large-scale hard structure erosion control projects, including breakwater construction
- Beach re-nourishment
- Infrastructure projects related to road, water, and sewer line construction
- Improvements to buildings for rental, lodging or private property

Funding Available

The DNR is the lead agency for the state's coastal management program and has the statutory authority to award grants under this notice.

Administrative - the minimum grant request is \$10,000; the maximum is \$100,000.

Coastal Resource Improvement - the minimum grant request is \$25,000; the maximum is \$150,000.

Funding is subject to federal appropriation. The DNR anticipates awarding \$500,000 from this grant notice. The number of awards to be made will depend on the number of eligible projects received, the amount of funds requested, and the merit and ranking of the projects.

Conflicts of Interest

The DNR takes steps during the grant process to avoid [conflicts of interest](#) by applicants, Coastal Program staff, and the Coastal Council.

Applicants, reviewers, and the DNR are all responsible for identifying (actual and potential) conflicts of interests. Each may have to take necessary actions. The actions the DNR may take include but are not limited to notifying involved parties, requesting the applicant submit an organizational conflict of interest mitigation plan, or disqualifying an applicant from eligibility.

Questions

Please direct questions to Cynthia Poyhonen, grant specialist: 218-834-1447 or mlscp.dnr@state.mn.us.

The Coastal Program will post responses to questions [online](#) weekly, until the due date.

State's Right to Cancel

This Notice does not obligate the state to award a grant. The state reserves the right to cancel the Notice if it is in its best interest due to lack of funding, agency priorities, or other considerations.

Review Process and Timeline

The DNR wants to work collaboratively on projects that would benefit from funding support from the Coastal Program. Interested organizations will submit a brief project summary by end of day, December 11, 2025.

Eligibility Screening

Coastal Program staff will screen all submitted project summaries for eligibility. If your summary does not meet the requirements and the deadline for submission has passed, the Coastal Program will not accept it. The Coastal Program, in its sole discretion, may continue the review process for applicants with non-substantive issues that may be easily rectified or cured.

Please note: It may take up to two business days to validate or reject your submission.

Review Steps

Coastal Program staff will review submissions against set [scoring criterion](#). The Coastal Program will move forward in the process with the projects that score a minimum of 70%.

Selected applicants must attend a planning meeting with the Coastal Program team and work with them to develop a Task (project description, outcomes, products, and budget) that fits NOAA's review requirements. At this time, we will negotiate final scope of activities, products, budget, and specific award conditions. This Task becomes the work plan included in the grant contract agreement, if approved for funding. For examples of Tasks, please contact the Coastal Program.

The Task will be evaluated by the Coastal Council using the scoring criteria they designated. They will review the Tasks at a meeting in early 2026 (you are welcome to attend), after which they will provide a final score.

The Coastal Program will send projects that score above 70 points, in rank order, to the DNR commissioner's office for approval. The DNR will include approved projects, based on the availability of funds, with their 2026 coastal management application to NOAA.

Estimated Timeline

The DNR expects to receive the federal award that will fund these projects on or after July 2026. The award will expire December 2027. You should plan for project activities to begin on or after September 1, 2026, and to be complete by December 31, 2027 (16 months). You will have an additional 30 days to submit final reports, products, and reimbursement requests.

Project Ideas Due – December 11, 2025 (by 11:59 p.m.)

Review dates – December 12 – December 31, 2025

Collaborative Process: Develop Project Request – January 1 - 31, 2026 (estimated)

Final Review and Selection – February 1 – 28, 2026 (estimated)

Project start – September 1, 2026 (estimated)

Project end – December 31, 2027

Products due – January 31, 2028

Submission

Interested applicants must send two-pages (or less) outlining a project(s)/plan(s) in progress that could benefit from funding support. You should include:

- Project description
- Project location
- Project expenses

The Coastal Program must receive the request by 11:59 p.m. Central Time on December 11, 2025. If for any reason applicants are unable to submit, please call 218-834-1447 or email mlscp.dnr@state.mn.us to make alternative arrangements one week prior to the deadline.

See [Appendix C](#) for instructions.

Selection Criteria and Weight

The Coastal Program and Coastal Council will review and score all initial project summaries and final Tasks (project descriptions) using standard criteria.

Project Summary Evaluation Criteria and Rating System (First Review) – 25 points

- The project will protect, restore, enhance, or responsibly develop Minnesota's Lake Superior coastal communities or resources. (10 points)
- The project has relevance to the [coastal management goals](#). (10 points)
- The project can be ready for submission to NOAA by February 2026. (5 points)

The projects that score 18 or more points will move forward in the review process.

Task Evaluation Criteria and Rating System (Second Review) – 100 Points

- **Impact to the Coastal Area** - Evaluate the project's ability to protect, restore, enhance, or responsibly develop Minnesota's Lake Superior coastal communities or resources. (25 points)
- **Relevance to the Coastal Program** - Evaluate the project's importance and applicability to the Coastal Program. (11 points)
 - Staff will assign one additional point per true statement under Relevance to the Coastal Program – (4 points total)
 - The project addresses more than one coastal management goal.
 - The project meets one of the Coastal Program's approved [Evaluation Metrics \(2024-2029\)](#).
 - The project meets one of [NOAA's performance measures](#).
 - The applicant has never received a grant from the coastal program or has not received an annual grant in five or more years.
- **Results** - Evaluate the usability of the product(s) and its possible long-term benefit(s). (20 points)
- **Scope of Work** - Evaluate project readiness and feasibility for completion within the grant period. (10 points)
- **Project Management** - Evaluate the applicant's ability to manage the activities and achieve the results, as well as committed support from partners, if applicable. (10 points)
- **Budget** - Evaluate if the project costs are reasonable, necessary, and have a return on investment. (10 points)

- **Priority Points** - See below (10 points)

Priority Points

If the project contains the following, the reviewers will award two points each for a maximum of 10 points.

- The project improves or protects a waterbody on the Minnesota's Impaired Water List or identified in one of the following: One Watershed/One Plan, Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy, or a county/Tribal water plan.
- The project acknowledges and addresses the cultural and historical heritage of the area.
- The project prevents or mitigates the spread of invasive or non-native species and/or promotes native species throughout the coastal area.
- The project includes Tribal input.
- Project activities include opportunities for public input.

The projects that score 70 or more points will be moved forward in the review process.

Project Selection and Award

The DNR commissioner evaluates the Coastal Council's recommendations and makes the final selection of projects. The commissioner has discretion to select projects out of rank order based on availability of funding and program priorities (see priority points above). The DNR does not guarantee that grant funds will be available for all recommended projects.

After the commissioner selects projects for funding, Coastal Program staff will notify all applicants of their results and work with selected applicants to complete the process.

- 1) DNR will include the Task for the selected projects in their "Implementation of Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program" cooperative agreement to NOAA (CFDA 11.419).
 - a. NOAA may request additional information to assess the potential environmental impacts and consult with state and Tribal historical organizations or the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The Coastal Program will work with you to compile and submit the required documentation.
 - b. NOAA may require modifications to projects to comply with current requirements.
- 2) NOAA will award funding to the DNR no earlier than July 1, 2026.
- 3) Selected projects will be funded through grant contract agreements. After securing funding, the DNR will execute agreements for approved projects. The agreement is binding and enforceable. It will include necessary terms and any conditions. Due to contract processes, it is unlikely the project will begin before September 2026.
 - a. The agreement may contain specific award conditions such as designating the use of funds for specific activities, monitoring, or requiring environmental oversight.
- 4) The grantee must participate in a Project Start-Up meeting.

Environmental Impact

NOAA must assess the potential environmental impacts, as required by the [National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\)](#), of all projects submitted for approval. You may be required to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts.

Specific Award Conditions

Before making an award, the Coastal Program must review financial and grant administration aspects of a proposed award. Staff will conduct a risk assessment and may consider items such as the financial stability of an

applicant; quality of the applicant's management systems; applicant's history of performance; previous audit reports and audit findings concerning the applicant; and the applicant's ability to implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on non-federal entities.

If selected for funding, **all organizations** receiving \$50,000 or more in grant funds must submit:

- A completed financial capacity review form (to be provided by the DNR) and one of the following:
 - Certified financial audit – For organizations with total annual revenue over \$750,000.
 - IRS Form 990 – For organizations with total annual revenue under \$750,000.
 - Internal financial statement – For organizations with annual revenue under \$50,000 or organizations not in existence long enough to have a completed IRS Form 990.

After review, the DNR may apply specific award conditions that respond to the degree of risk.

Grant Review Materials Made Public

Responses submitted to this Notice may be subject to a request for information. Per [Minn. Stat. § 13.599](#)

- Names and addresses of grant applicants will be public data once requests are opened (two business days after deadline).
- All remaining data in responses (except trade secret data as defined and classified in [§13.37](#)) will be public data after the evaluation process is complete.
- All data created or maintained by the DNR as part of the evaluation process (except trade secret data as defined and classified in [§ 13.37](#)) will be public data after the evaluation process is complete.

For the purposes of this grant, “complete” is after DNR submits its cooperative agreement to NOAA (anticipated April 2026). If you submit any information that you believe to be trade secret information, you must clearly mark all trade secret materials and attach a statement justifying the designation for each item.

Project Provisions

Successful applicants who accept an award under this Notice will be required to comply with all state and federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing these funds.

Terms and Conditions

Selected applicants must comply with the Coastal Program's [Grant Contract Agreement Terms and Conditions](#).

Reporting/Monitoring

You will need to provide to the DNR:

- Quarterly progress reports, unless otherwise specified in the terms of the agreement
- Financial reports and supporting documentation
- Final summary report
- Products, identified and agreed upon during negotiations

The Coastal Program's report forms are available online under [Resources for Grantees](#), Reporting.

Payment/Reimbursement

You must pay for all grant related expenses and request reimbursement. **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](#); Subpart E Cost Principles).

- We will accept reimbursement requests quarterly.
- We must have a progress report(s) for the activities included in the request prior to payment.

You may not incur any grant or match expenses until both the grantee and the DNR sign the grant contract agreement.

Acknowledgment

The DNR and NOAA require [acknowledgement](#) on all project materials supported in whole or in part by this award or any subawards/contracts. The Coastal Program must approve acknowledgement language on signs and/or outreach materials prior to production.

Access to Project and Products

Design Plans

Design plans that provide public access must comply with applicable accessibility standards as required by the [United States Access Board](#) guidelines and all applicable regulations and guidelines.

Documents

You must provide all grant produced materials and/or products (e.g., document, report, and website) in an accessible electronic format per [Minnesota Statute 16E.03](#), State Information and Communications System, Subd. 9. Subdivision 9, Accessibility Standards, as well as federal requirements under [Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#) (Revised) and the [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1, level AA](#). For guidance on producing accessible electronic documents, see the Minnesota IT Services [accessibility website](#).

Research

All scientific research must comply with [NOAA Administrative Order 202-735D](#). The grantee must maintain the scientific integrity of research including the prevention, detection, and remediation of any allegations regarding the violation of scientific integrity or scientific and research misconduct, and the conduct of inquiries, investigations, and adjudications of allegations of violations of scientific integrity or scientific and research misconduct.

Environmental Data Collection

[NOAA Administrative Order \(NAO\) 212-15](#) defines environmental data. It includes but is not limited to:

- Recorded and derived observations and measurements of the physical, chemical, biological, geological, and geophysical properties, and conditions of the natural resources.
- Correlative data such as socio-economic data, related documentation, and metadata.
- Photographs, digital audio, or video recordings.
- Numerical model outputs.
- Data collected in a laboratory or other controlled environment.

Publication

You must make data collected or created publicly visible and accessible in a timely manner (within two years), free of charge or at no more than the cost of reproduction, except where limited by law, regulation, policy, or security requirements. Data must be available in at least one machine-readable format, preferably a widely used or open-standard format and must be accompanied by machine-readable documentation (metadata), based on widely used or international standards.

The data may be shared in a variety of ways, such as:

- An existing publicly accessible online data server at the funded institution.
- A public data repository appropriate to this domain.
- Your own data hosting capability established as part of the project.

Geospatial Information Systems

If your results/products include new GIS data, it must include compliant metadata: [Minnesota Geographic Metadata Guidelines](#) and [Metadata Resources](#) or the North American Profile of the ISO ([International Organization for Standardization](#)) 19115.

Data Management Plans

If selected for funding, staff will help you develop a data management plan for the geospatial or environmental data collected/generated as part of the project. The [Data Management Plan](#) will include:

- Descriptions of the types of data and information expected to be created.
- The standards to be used for data/metadata format, content, and storage.
- Methods for providing data access and the tentative date of release.

Exceptions

If data collected/generated as part of the project are primarily for education; for the practice of making observations using scientific techniques/methods; are sensitive in nature; and are not intended to be shared outside of the project, you may request an exception not to make data publicly accessible if funded. Coastal Program staff will consult with NOAA on your behalf.

Laws, Policies, and Guidance

Federal Uniform Grant Guidance

Refer to [2 CFR 200](#) Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards for requirements for non-Federal entities receiving federal grant funds.

US Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Terms and Conditions

Read the terms and conditions from the [Department of Commerce](#) for program specific requirements.

State Policies

Review the grant management requirements for the [State of Minnesota](#), including applicable policies.

Coastal Zone Management

Visit [NOAA's Office for Coastal Management](#) for more information about the Coastal Zone Management Act, regulations, program guidance, and other resources related to the national Coastal Program.

Appendix A: Coastal Resource Improvement Grants

We can fund coastal resource improvement projects (i.e., [306A projects](#)) if the project meets one of the following objectives:

- Preserve or restore specific areas because of their conservation, recreational, ecological, or esthetic values, or contain one or more coastal resources of national significance.
- Redevelopment of deteriorating and underutilized urban waterfronts and ports designated as [Areas of Particular Concern](#)² in the state's coastal management program
- Provide or improve public access to beaches and other coastal areas and waters.
- Develop a process to regulate and issue permits for aquaculture in the coastal zone.

And is one of the following:

- land acquisition; 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 and/or pilings
- engineering designs, specifications, other (environmental review) reports
- educational, interpretive, and management costs, including signage and kiosks
- aquaculture permitting processes

You must show a compelling public benefit and commitment to maintenance of the project to receive grant funding.

NOAA Review and Consultation

You will have to submit additional documentation for NOAA review. If selected, Coastal Program staff will work with you to prepare your project for the review. We may cancel project funding if irresolvable issues arise during this approval process.

Review Documentation

If selected for funding, you will have to compile the following information to submit to NOAA by April 2026.

- A completed [Section 306A Project Questionnaire](#)
- A current title opinion, Ownership and Encumbrance Report, certification (or affidavit), or title insurance, demonstrating public ownership or control; less than one year old. A state or local government official or legal counsel must sign the title document. Examples of acceptable ownership information is in the [306A Guidance](#) (Appendix II).
- Engineering/site designs for all aspects of the project.
- Comprehensive project schedule describing activities.
- The source of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials (to comply with the Buy America, Build America Act).
- An operations and maintenance plan for the site.
- Maps of project location: including street, topographic, and floodplain. Google earth shots of the site and access routes are also helpful.
- Endangered, threatened, protected species list from the Fish and Wildlife Service's website.

² Part V, Chapter 4: Special Programs and Management Areas. PDF Page 158

- List and copies of permits necessary. If permits are not available now, you will have to submit them to the DNR prior to construction.
- Historic and archeological resources from the state's historical preservation office in compliance with Section 106. NOAA will consult with the Tribal Historic Preservation Offices on your behalf.

In cases where funding is requested for a component of work that is part of a larger design or effort, applicants must clearly identify what portion(s) will be implemented with the requested funding.

Documentation must clearly describe how the construction activities and methods, including construction of natural infrastructure, will measurably reduce exposure, vulnerability, or risk to known weather impacts and/or decrease recovery time for future extreme weather events.

Signage

Signage, visible to the public, is required at the project site during activities and after competition. The sign must be in a visible location that can be directly linked to the work taking place and must be maintained in good condition throughout the work period. The applicant should include costs to procure, distribute, and install signage in the budget. The sign must, at minimum, identify the project, include logos, and indicate that NOAA and the DNR funded the project.

The Grantee must also maintain a permanent plaque or sign at the project site with the same information.

Low-Cost Construction

Low-cost construction ($\leq \$500,000$) is any project that results in the physical change of property and involves moving dirt or destroying existing vegetation. These projects include habitat restoration or construction of manufactured structures for the purpose of universal public access. You must use low-impact development techniques and environmentally friendly and sustainable materials.

Examples:

- | | |
|--|--|
| • paths, walkways, boardwalks | • coastal habitat restoration |
| • fishing piers | • invasive species removal |
| • boat ramps | • living shorelines designed to increase resilience and enhance ecological integrity |
| • universal improvements to public access facilities | • rehabilitation of historic buildings and structures |
| • viewing platforms | • green infrastructure for stormwater management |
| • sign installation | |
| • fences | |

Generally, shoreline restoration or preservation must not be a predominately hard structure and must be designed to qualify for a United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Nationwide Permit (i.e., Permit 54 for living shorelines) or approved State Programmatic General Permit by the USACE.

We cannot allocate grant funds directly to a nonprofit organization for construction. However, nongovernmental organizations (e.g., land trusts, development corporations/quasi-governmental units and other not-for-profit entities) can facilitate the implementation of low-cost construction projects.

All low-cost construction projects must be on lands publicly owned, leased, or otherwise protected through an easement. Leases or easements must be in perpetuity or, at minimum, for 20 years. The project must benefit the public and may not improve private property or private enterprises.

For projects that result in physical improvement (e.g., construction, habitat restoration), you must maintain for the useful life of the project. The DNR and NOAA will determine the useful life of the project in consultation with you. However, in most cases, the useful life is a minimum of 20 years.

Build America, Buy American Act

The Build America, Buy America Act (BABA) requires that all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in infrastructure projects are produced in the United States. BABA was part of the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#) (Public Law No. 117-58, §§ 70901-52). BABA applies to the entire infrastructure project including both federal and non-federal funding. The Grantee will be required to provide the DNR the source of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials.

Land Acquisition

Land acquisition projects involve the purchase of land from willing sellers of fee simple or other public interest in land, including conservation easements. However, land purchases are limited to areas that:

- Cost no more than \$1,000,000 total to purchase (may be negotiated).
- Provide or improve public access; or
- Provide preservation of a significant natural resource.

Acquisition may also include leases or the purchase of easements and development rights.

A unit of government may partner with a nonprofit organization to purchase property, for preservation purposes only, so long as the unit of government holds the grant and retains ownership (title) and control of the property. If a land trust is involved, the land trust may retain an interest in the property consistent with the purpose of preserving coastal uses or resources, e.g., a conservation easement, but not fee simple ownership.

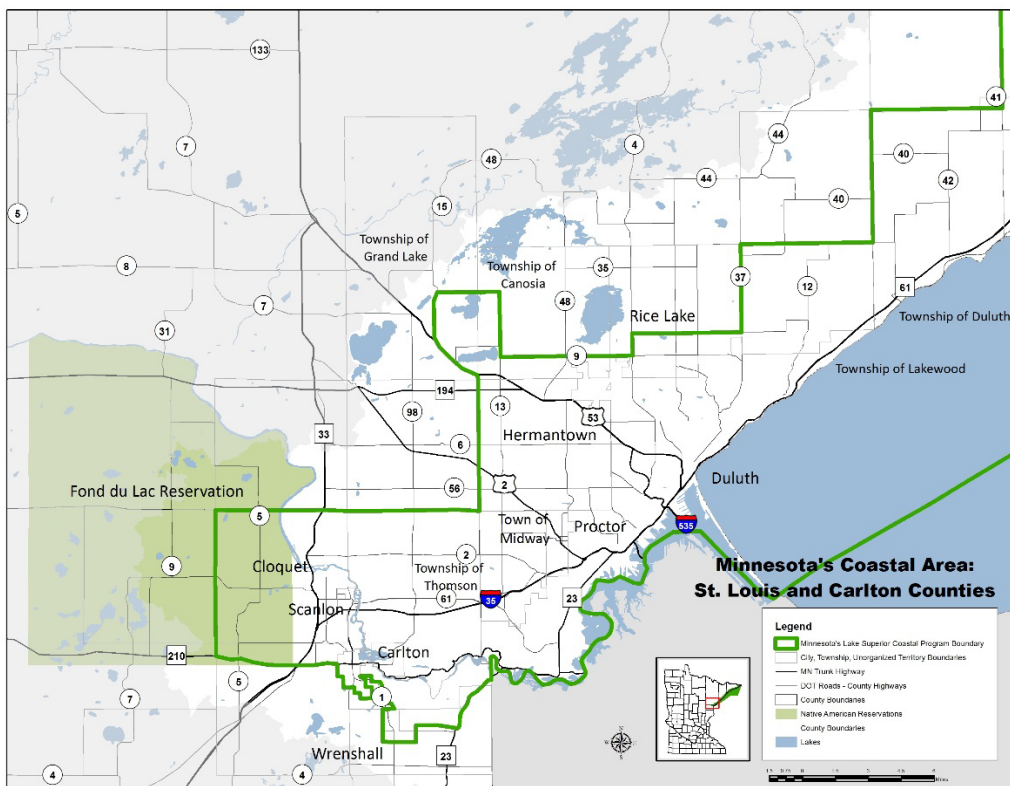
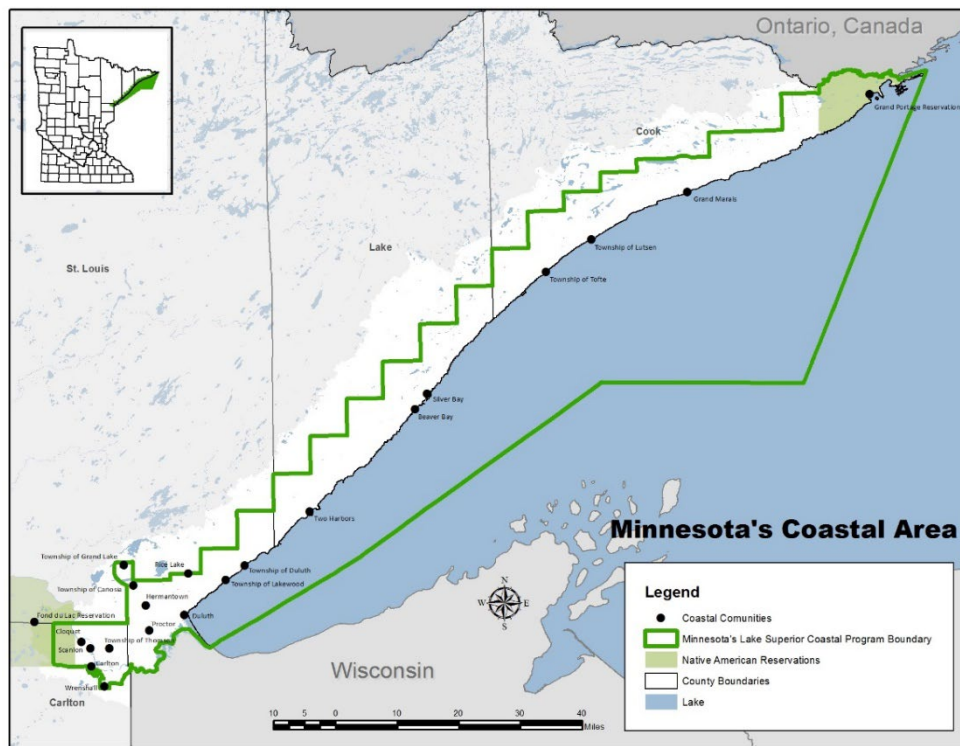
Applicants should provide enough details regarding the status of the proposed acquisition to allow reviewers to understand work that has been completed and activities that are being proposed for funding.

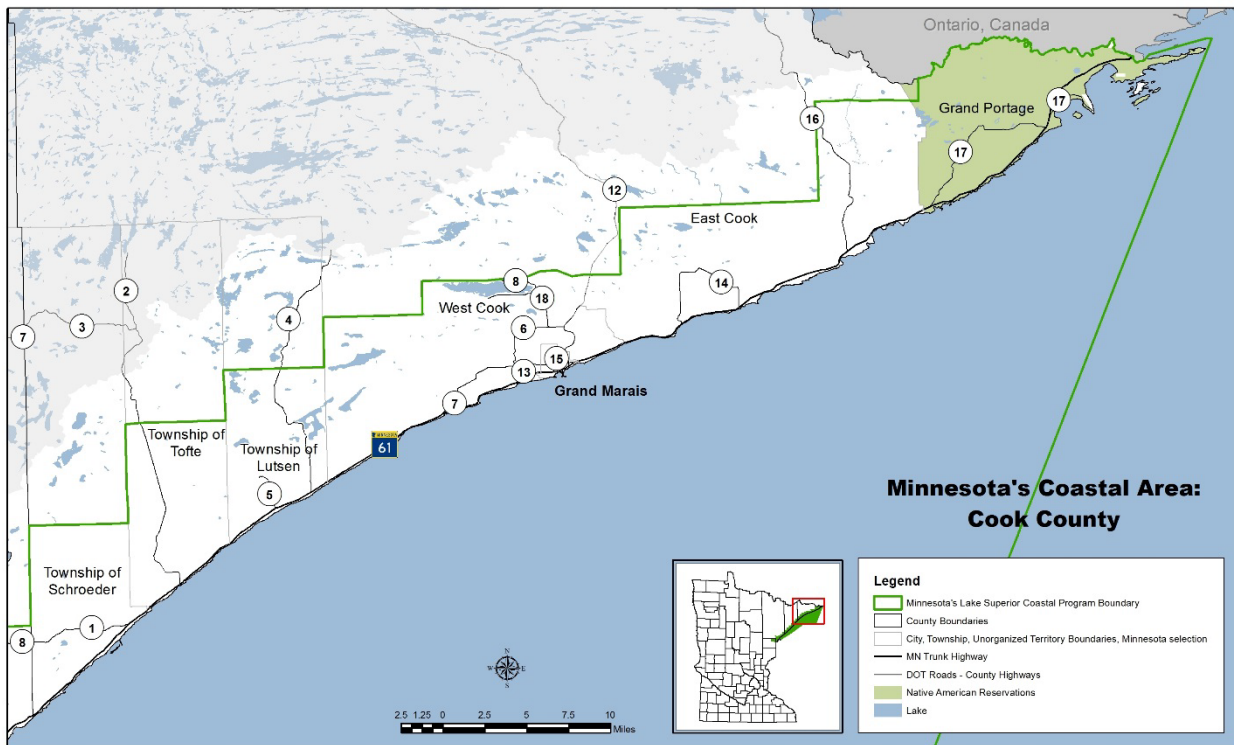
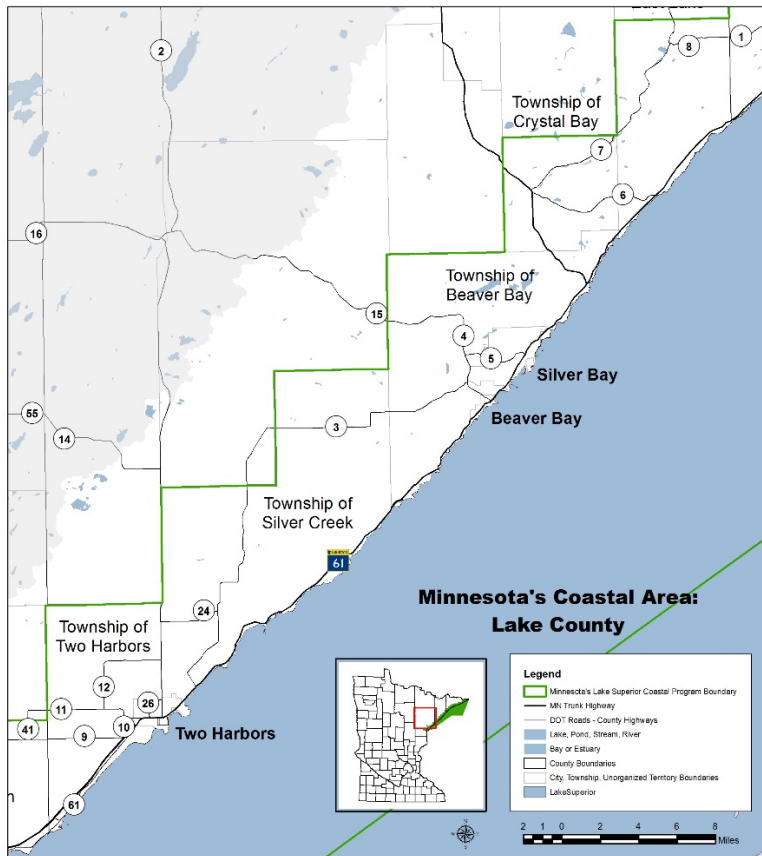
If selected, acquisition projects must include a complete and self-contained appraisal prepared by an independent approved appraiser before funds can be released. The negotiated price of the property or conservation easement must be based on the fair market value as established by the appraisal. If an appraisal has not been completed at the time a project is submitted, the applicant may propose a good faith estimate of the cost for the acquisition based on market value or agreement with the willing seller. If the appraised value of the property is higher than the estimated cost, the applicant must make up the difference.

Proposals requesting funding for land acquisition must describe the proposed strategy for long-term stewardship of the site once acquired, including ongoing monitoring and management, and if restoration of ecosystem services is proposed, how that will be accomplished. Land acquisition must also provide for public access or other public benefit on some portion of the property, as appropriate and consistent with resource protection, or clearly describe why public access would be detrimental.

Appendix B: Coastal Area (Maps)

For a more detailed program boundary, or to download a shapefile of the boundary to use in GIS programs, visit the [maps page](#) on our website.





Appendix C: Proposal Instructions

We welcome submissions at any stage—whether you have a new idea, a rough concept, or an existing project seeking new direction, resources, or partners.

By Thursday, December 11 at 11:59 PM, send two-pages (or less) outlining a project(s)/plan(s) that could benefit from funding support from the Coastal Program.

Data Practices

Responses submitted are subject to a request for information. Per [Minn. Stat. § 13.599](#)

- Names and addresses of respondents will be public data once submissions are opened (two business days after deadline).
- All remaining data in responses (except trade secret data as defined and classified in [§13.37](#)) will be public data after the evaluation process is complete.
- All data created or maintained by the DNR as part of the evaluation process (except trade secret data as defined and classified in § 13.37) will be public data after the evaluation process is complete.

For the purposes of this grant, “complete” is after DNR submits its cooperative agreement to NOAA (anticipated April 2026). If you submit any information that you believe to be trade secret information, you must clearly mark all trade secret materials and submit (via email) a statement justifying the designation for each item.

Tennessee Warning

The DNR is collecting this data in response to a Notice of Grant Opportunity. The Coastal Program will use the data to evaluate projects, moving projects forward in the review process. You are not legally required to submit the following information. However, if you choose not to submit any of the data, your project will not be eligible for review. The organization name is public data after this request closes. All project and evaluation data are public after the evaluation process is complete (see Data Practices above).

Format

Proposals must comply with the following format requirements. Your proposal must:

- Be on letter sized paper with one-inch margins
- Use a minimum 11-point font
- Include page numbers at bottom of each page
- Include the required information with headings
- Include document accessibility features
- Be submitted as either a Microsoft Word (.doc, .docx) or Adobe (.pdf) document
- Be no more than two pages

Template

- **Your organization:** Name, address, and website
- **Unique Entity Identifier:** Provide the unique entity identifier, as assigned by the [System for Award Management](#). SAM is an official website of the U.S. Government. ***There is no cost to use SAM.***
- **State Vendor:** Are you registered as a vendor with the state? (yes/no)
- **Submitted By:** Your name, email address, and phone number

- **Project Lead:** Name and email for the project lead/principal investigator (if different).
- **Project Name** (40 characters or less):

Project Description

1. **Project Overview:** Briefly describe your project in 1–2 paragraphs. Include activities, outcomes, and anticipated uses, as well as the audience.
2. **Need:** Please describe the need for your project. If your project is identified in a local plan or goal, which one? (provide link if available)
3. **Relevance:** Describe why your project is a good fit for Coastal Program funding.
4. **Project Partners:** List any partners involved or being considered.
5. **Proposed activities:** Include a list of anticipated project activities with timeline.

Project Location

6. **Location:** City, Township, County, Watershed, coordinates, and/or other location details.

Project Expenses

7. **Grant Funds:** How much in grant funds are you currently seeking for this project?
8. **Budget Description:** What would you use the grant funds for? (Briefly describe the possible expenses.) For more information on eligible costs, see the [Budget Narrative Guidance for NOAA Grants](#).
9. **Match:** How much non-federal match is available for the project? Describe what it will cover.

Other

10. Anything else you'd like to share that will help staff evaluate your submission?

Certification

All submissions must include the following in the email: *By submitting this project summary, you agree to the following certifications.*

- *I have the authority to submit this request for funding consideration.*
- *I have disclosed any actual or potential conflicts of interest.*
- *I am submitting this project without collusion; with and without any agreement, understanding or planned common course of action with any other responder of materials, supplies, equipment, or services, designed to limit fair and open competition.*
- *The contents herein are true and accurate.*

Additional information required for second review

- **Project Location:** Describe the geographic scope of the project location(s); include coordinates or address if possible. Include a map showing participating jurisdictions and location of proposed activities as applicable. A map of the project location is required.
To download a shapefile of the coastal boundary to use in GIS programs, visit the [maps page](#) on our website. If you need help in generating a map, please contact the [Coastal Program](#).
- **Project Management:** You will need to describe your organization's capabilities in administering a grant of this size and scope, project management experience, your approach to fiscal management, and overall experience. Include prior grant experience with the State of Minnesota, if applicable.
- If your budget includes a federally negotiated indirect cost rate, you must include a copy of your approval letter from the federal agency during negotiations.

- DNR staff will review budget information to determine if costs are allowable, allocable, reasonable, and realistic. The Coastal Council will review budget information to determine if costs are realistic and adequate for the project needs and timeframe; and if the project is a good investment for the program.
- You may be required to submit additional information sufficient for NOAA to assess potential adverse environmental impacts of the project. This includes your methods; descriptions of all outdoor activities; locations; sites; species and habitat to be affected; and any environmental concerns that may exist (e.g., the use and disposal of hazardous or toxic chemicals, introduction of non-native species, impacts to endangered and threatened species, aquaculture projects, and impacts to sensitive habitats).
- Certifications to comply with [State Policies](#).

Appendix D: Resources / Definitions

Resources

Coastal Zone Management

The National Coastal Zone Management Program monitors and evaluates the success of its efforts through [national performance measures](#). NOAA uses a performance measurement system to evaluate progress in meeting national goals.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Conservation Agenda

The [Conservation Agenda](#) sets strategic direction for natural resources and measures conservation results.

Definitions

In-kind Contributions

In-kind match includes the use of equipment, supplies, land, or other commodity already owned by the applicant or the use of items or staff time donated by the grantee or a third party. Partnerships that include meaningful private contributions as part of the match are encouraged. Gifts and donations are acceptable, but only if they are made during the grant period. You may include financial donations collected before the grant period if you expend the money after the grant period begins.

Budget Categories

All grant and match costs must be reasonable, allowable and allocable as defined in the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards [2 CFR Part 200](#); Subpart E. Provide justification for all budget items in sufficient detail to enable the Coastal Council to evaluate the appropriateness of the funding requested. Include detail for each expense. Explain how funds will be used and matched (include the source of the match).

Salaries

Wages and salaries paid to employees of the grantee organization who are directly involved in the project implementation or volunteer time.

Volunteer Time

Volunteer contributions are allowable match. Volunteers must perform a specific service necessary to completing the project. You may use the [Independent Sector](#) or prevailing wage rate to value volunteer time. You must provide the supporting documentation to justify value. You may not use the time students and their parents spend participating in grant-funded field trips as match.

Fringe Benefits

The cost of benefits paid to the personnel (employees of the grantee organization) including the cost of employer's share of FICA, health insurance, workers' compensation, and vacation.

Travel

Refers to travel costs of personnel that are reasonable and necessary to effectively manage and carry out project activities, provide oversight, or measure program effectiveness. Expenditures for all proposed travel must not exceed amounts in the Commissioner's Travel Reimbursement Plan. See the Coastal Program [Travel Reimbursement and Documentation](#).

The DNR will not reimburse for travel and subsistence expenses incurred outside of Minnesota unless you have received prior written approval from the Coastal Program for out of state travel.

Equipment

Refers to non-expendable personal property that has a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit cost of \$5,000 or more. Equipment purchase requires special review and approval by the Coastal Program. Shipping, delivery, and installation, if necessary, are a normal part of the cost of equipment and could be included. Equipment previously purchased with a Coastal Program grant (any grant fund) cannot be used as match.

If you are purchasing equipment, include description of how you will maintain the equipment and provide justification for purchasing rather than renting for the project activities.

Supplies

Includes all consumable materials less than \$5,000 per unit such as copy paper, pens and pencils, and computers/technology.

Contract Costs

Includes consultants, subcontractors, and subrecipients. You must follow the [state](#) requirements for bid. You should include breakdown of contract costs, as well as how you arrived at the cost (i.e., solicited quotes).

Construction Costs

Most low-cost construction projects are contract costs, rather than construction. You must support estimated construction costs with documentation including drawings and estimates, formal bids, etc. As with all other costs, follow the specific requirements of the program, the terms and conditions of the award, and applicable regulations. Detail provided should include administrative and legal expenses; land, structures, rights-of-way, appraisals, etc.; relocation expenses and payments; architectural and engineering fees, project inspection fees; site work; demolition and removal; equipment; contingencies; and program income.

Other Costs

Includes direct costs that do not fit any of the other categories (e.g., rent for buildings used to conduct project activities, leased equipment). Rental/leasing costs cannot exceed the cost of purchasing the item new.

You must include [conference](#) (2 CFR 200.432) expenses as 'Other'. This includes all facility, participant support, and supply costs. Per 2 CFR 200.432; a conference is defined as a meeting, retreat, seminar, symposium, workshop, or event whose primary purpose is the dissemination of technical information and is necessary and reasonable for successful performance under the award.

Indirect Costs

Identify the eligible indirect cost rate (federally negotiated or de minimis). If you do not have an established indirect cost rate, you may choose to negotiate a rate or use the de minimis indirect cost rate of 10%* of modified total direct cost (as allowable under 2 CFR §200.414).

*Or federal rate at time of proposal.

Appendix E: Website References

The following websites are in the Notice of Grant Opportunity. Only the first reference is included.

Page	Website
4	https://coast.noaa.gov/czm/act/
4	http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/mission.html
5	https://www.sam.gov/
5	https://mn.gov/mmb/accounting/swift/vendor-resources/
8	https://coast.noaa.gov/czm/performance/
9	http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/
11	https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards
11	https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/communications-and-it/about-the-section-508-standards
11	https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/
11	https://mn.gov/mnit/about-mnit/accessibility/electronic-documents/
11	https://sciencecouncil.noaa.gov/scientific-integrity-commons/
11	https://www.noaa.gov/organization/administration/nao-212-15-Management-of-NOAA-Data-and-Information
12	https://www.mngeo.state.mn.us/chouse/meta.html
12	https://www.fgdc.gov/metadata/iso-standards
12	https://www.commerce.gov/oam/policy/financial-assistance-policy
15	https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/3684
19	https://coast.noaa.gov/data/coasthome/funding/_pdf/forms/budget-narrative-guidance-for-NOAA-grants.pdf
21	https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/conservationagenda/index.html
21	https://independentsector.org/

Coastal Program Webpages <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/lakesuperior/index.html>

- Coastal Council; Funding Opportunities; Resources for Grantees; Questions

State of Minnesota Office of Grants Management: <https://mn.gov/admin/government/grants/>

The referenced state statutes are on the state register's website: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes>

The Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (as referenced throughout) is available in the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200_main_02.tpl