

Capacity Grants for Coastal Management

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Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is offering small, short-term capacity grants to eligible partners to improve or manage coastal resources and development.

"Coastal management" refers to the decisions and actions taken to keep the natural environment, built environment, quality of life, and economic prosperity of coastal areas in balance. It includes:

- Protecting or restoring coastal habitats
- Increasing communities' abilities to improve resilience to coastal hazards
- Planning for or managing public access to the coast
- Increasing communities' abilities to implement sustainable coastal management practices, revitalize their ports and waterfronts and improve water quality
- Improving understanding of policies and regulations

Capacity Grant Options

This year we have four capacity grant options:

- Climate action to benefit municipalities, townships, or Tribal governments
- Conference and training support
- Technology upgrades to benefit municipalities, townships, and Tribal governments
- Youth education

We anticipate awarding approximately \$25,000 through these grants; first come, first served. Additional funds may be available in the future. Please watch for grant announcements and check the website for details.

Events that include outdoor activities that alter the landscape (e.g., removing vegetation, constructing raingardens) are NOT eligible for these funds.

Climate Action (maximum request \$4,500)

Applicants may address immediate needs of their community to adapt to current and projected climate change or mitigate energy use in community or government operations. Applicants may use these funds to:

- Develop or update local mitigation plans
- Implement adaptation or mitigation actions
- Assess vulnerabilities related to climate change
- Train staff in areas of resilience (e.g., climate change, funding and finance, climate justice, planning for adaptation and mitigation strategies)
- Resilience planning consultation

Applicants are encouraged to utilize partnerships for project implementation (e.g., university, state agencies, local and regional governments, federal partners, multi-disciplinary partners, community groups, non-profits, foundations). Partners may provide funding or in-kind support.

Eligible expenses include (but are not limited to) consultants, staff time, training, and expenses related to developing community climate actions.

Conference and Training Support (maximum request \$4,500)

Applicants may host or send staff, community leaders, and resource managers to conferences, meetings, seminars, symposium, workshops, training or other events* (hereafter: events). The primary purpose of these events must be providing technical information; participants will enhance their skills and knowledge for managing coastal resources.

Eligible expenses include (but are not limited to) registration and speaker fees, travel, staff time, facility rental, and conference supplies.

*College courses and certification programs may also be eligible.

Technology Upgrades (maximum request \$4,500)

Applicants may purchase or contract for technology to improve coastal management. This includes supplies and equipment, as well as applications and programs. Applicants are encouraged to consider cloud-based programs such as ArcGIS Online, as well as upgrades to GIS equipment and/or computer-based field collection tools.

Eligible expenses include (but are not limited to) computer supplies, equipment, subscriptions to web-based applications and programs.

Youth Education (maximum request \$2,500)

Public schools and youth serving nonprofits may apply for **up to \$2,500** for Lake Superior focused educational opportunities. The goal is to develop knowledge and stewardship in our youngest residents (age 0-18), giving them ownership of the Lake and an appreciation of this amazing resource (and wonder) right here.

Eligible expenses include (but are not limited to) curriculums, field trips, content experts, substitute teachers, bussing, and supplies such as water sampling kits, fish identification guides, and weather monitoring stations.

Questions and Answers

I have a project idea or need, but it is not in the descriptions above. Is it eligible?

Please reach out to mlscp.dnr@state.mn.us if you have other ideas to find out if they qualify.

How can I apply for these funds?

We have a request form for these funds on the [Coastal Program](#) webpage. There is one funding request form for all four opportunities. Fill it out and submit it to mlscp.dnr@state.mn.us with the supporting documentation (i.e., event flyer, agenda, quote).

If approved, you will receive a grant contract agreement from the DNR. Please read the terms carefully.

How will the Coastal Program decide which requests to fund?

Coastal Program staff will review requests at staff meetings, a minimum of twice a month. You may submit your request at any time. It may take up to 30 days to review your application and execute a grant agreement.

We will award eligible requests, as funds exist. If limited funds are available, we will give priority to requests from rural (less than 500 residents) or Tribal communities, and those that have not yet received funds.

Do I need to match these funds?

Yes. You must provide 10% of the funds in a nonfederal match. It can be either cash or work in-kind. Staff and/or participant time is eligible; however, their match time must be in service of coastal management.

For Youth Education: Student time is NOT eligible match, but teacher/staff time is eligible.

How will I receive the funds?

The funds are reimbursement only; you must front the expenses and submit an invoice with documentation (e.g., invoices or receipts) to the Coastal Program for payment. You must also submit a summary report of the project/event. The summary, reimbursement request, and supporting documentation are due within 30 days of the event or end of the grant contract agreement. We will accept grantee generated invoices.

Is my organization eligible?

If your organization is eligible for Annual or STAR grants from the Coastal Program, you may apply for these funds (list on our [webpage](#)¹).

Are there any regulations or requirements?

Federal law defines eligible [Participant Support](#), [Conference](#), and [Travel](#) Costs. The State will reimburse travel expenses in compliance with the [Commissioners Plan](#). We require funding acknowledgement and must ensure there are no conflicts of interest. You must also follow state and federal contracting laws. Please contact us and we can work through any additional requirements that may apply.

Please see the Coastal Program [Grant Contract Agreement Terms and Conditions](#) for more information.

What if I have questions or want more information?

Contact grants specialist Cynthia Poyhonen; call 218-834-1447 or email mlscp.dnr@state.mn.us

¹ The DNR is eligible for these funds, through a service level agreement or other approved funding mechanism. You will have to follow department policies, see [Operational Order 118](#) for more information.