

STAR Application Questions and Answers

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program
2021-22 Short Term Action Request (STAR) Notice of Grant Opportunity
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Introduction

On August 1, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) published the [2021-22 STAR Notice of Grant Opportunity](#). Program staff have received questions from potential applicants. We are sharing the answer, which may benefit you.

Please contact us if you have additional questions. We will continue to add questions and answers to this document through June 1, 2022.

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Questions and Answers

Activities

I want to do an education project; does it really fit the priorities? They seem 'action orientated'.

Yes! Your project can improve or mitigate through educating the public and/or resource managers about the benefits of coastal habitat (for example). If your project takes steps to address the priorities, you are eligible for the priority points.

If I apply by the March 1 deadline, when could I start my project?

Technically your project start should be October 1. If your project is simple (e.g., all indoors, no consultation required), you may have a July 1 start, but I cannot guarantee that. After the Coastal Council reviews and scores applications on April 6, the projects must be submitted to NOAA for approval. After NOAA approves the project, we need to execute a grant agreement. This entire process takes time, and NOAA has multiple funding priorities in the spring.

I want to apply for a grant to pay for an appraisal of a property. Should the appraisal be a "yellow book" appraisal or an appraisal that is subject to MN DNR standards?

It depends on where the money might come from to actually purchase the land. The appraisal would have to meet the standards for purchase.

- If you are purchasing it with your local government funds, it should meet your standards.
- If you want to apply for state grants (e.g., DNR, MPCA, BWSR, LCCMR), the DNR standard is a good one to apply.
- If you are interested in applying to the Coastal Program for grant funds (i.e., federal, Section 306A funds) to purchase the property, it must be consistent with the Uniform Standards of

Professional Appraisal Practice or Yellow Book standards. Other federal programs may have their own standards, so you'd have to look them up.

Budget

Is it possible to use EPA funding under the General Assistance Program funds as in-kind match, as they are federal funds but also tribal self-sufficiency grants?

If it states that they are "tribal self-sufficiency grants" in the terms, yes that is acceptable.

If the total cost of my project exceeds \$12,000 (grant and match); can I apply for two STAR grants?

There is nothing in our Notice of Grant Opportunity that prevents you from doing so. However, if the projects depend on each other, that risks both applications if one does not score well enough or we do not have enough funding available. We would have to manage them as two separate projects, increasing the administration costs for both the grantee and the DNR. In the past, these types of applications raise a lot of questions and are not always reviewed favorably.

General Questions

Can I, as a private company, apply for a grant for research?

No. We cannot award grants to private companies. If you can find a public entity to partner and be your project manager, that is allowed. The partnership must be mutually beneficial (i.e., the partner gets needed research, you provide real life experience for a student). Also, the research must have public benefit and be publicly available at the close of the grant.

Can I apply in consecutive grant cycles?

Yes, you can. At this time, we do not limit the number of grants a grantee may have at one time or per funding cycle.

Is there anything I can do to make my application more competitive?

I strongly encourage you to consider the Priorities and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion criteria, and include objectives if appropriate. If you do not address at least one of these six points, your application will not receive the minimum score necessary for funding.

I want to use the ArcGIS shapefile of the Minnesota Lake Superior coastal boundary for my map in the application. Can you send me a copy?

This is a great suggestion, and for the benefit of all of our applicants, we have added it to our [webpage](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/lakesuperior/maps.html).
<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/lakesuperior/maps.html>