Coastal Healthy Habitat, Waters, and Communities Grant Funding Opportunity

Overview

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources’ Office of the Great Lakes Coastal Program is pleased to announce a Coastal Management Program special Grant Funding Opportunity (GFO). The Coastal Program provides grant funds to assist in supporting coastal healthy habitat, waters, and communities through the protection and restoration of sensitive coastal resources and biologically diverse ecosystems while improving connections to the coast for public use and enjoyment.

The Coastal Program anticipates $225,000 in available grant funds for planning projects that will lead to implementation. These grant funds are made possible through a partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), in accordance with the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972.

Healthy habitats and waters provide communities with beneficial ecological services, recreational opportunities, and desirable destinations for tourists. In Michigan, exemplary habitats occur where the Great Lakes meet the land, including coastal wetlands, freshwater beaches, and dune systems. Michigan is home to the world’s largest collection of freshwater dunes. In addition to scenic beauty, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities, these environments help maintain water quality and provide flood storage and erosion control. Healthy, functional coastal ecosystems also increase the resilience of Michigan’s coastal communities to the effects of changing climate conditions.

The Coastal Program is seeking community partners to holistically consider their coastal resources by proposing planning projects that will have a collective impact resulting in restored habitat and increased and/or protected water quality. The projects should use nature-based infrastructure solutions, enhance public access, and support stronger community engagement and stewardship. Successful planning projects may be considered for future implementation funding.
Planning Project Considerations

Consideration will only be given to planning projects that lead to implementation of on-the-ground activities focused on enhancing coastal habitats and water quality and utilizing nature-based solutions while creating and improving safe access for the public. Planning projects need to include the following elements:

- Incorporate community engagement and outreach, including design and installation of interpretative signage/display.
- Demonstrate the interconnectedness between the protection of critical coastal resources such as beaches, coastal wetlands, sand dunes, and high-quality waters.
- Build knowledge and utilize metrics on the methodologies, effectiveness, costs, and challenges associated with implementing nature-based infrastructure solutions.
- Recognize the connections between protecting coastal habitats and achieving healthy coastal waters.
- Develop feasibility plans and cost estimates.
- Conduct a review of National Environmental Protection Act, state and federal environmental requirements.

The following information, if relevant, is encouraged to increase the competitiveness of the application:

- Explain how the proposed project is consistent with existing plans and ordinances.
- Indicate local support for the project and identification of agencies or organizations partnering on the project. Letters of support from the public and letters of commitment from project partners may be included in the application submittal as hardcopies or PDF files.
- A letter from each entity contributing match, with amount specified, must be received.
- Describe how the proposed project leverages other technical or financial resources.

Note: Planning projects must be located entirely within the approved Michigan Coastal Management Program coastal boundary (see “Grant Funding Information”) to be eligible for implementation funding.

Grant Funding Information

Who is Eligible
Eligible applicants include coastal communities (e.g., local units of government, cities, counties, villages, and townships), regional planning agencies, educational institutions, and tribal governments located within the approved programmatic boundary.
As part of this program, grant awards must be able to comply with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance in subparts A through F of 2 CFR 200, **OMB Uniform Guidance**.

**Who is Ineligible**
Ineligible applicants include: State and federal agencies, for-profit organizations, and not-for-profit organizations.

Additionally, ineligible applicants are those that have demonstrated past organizational performance issues; lack demonstration of financial stability; or are unable to meet statutory, regulatory, or other requirements.

**Ineligible Uses for Grant Funds**
- Large-scale beach renourishment projects.
- Shoreline hardened erosion control structures (e.g., groins, seawalls, etc.).
- Private resident benefit.
- Permit or other regulatory fees.
- Land acquisition projects.
- Plans and designs for general recreational and athletic facilities such as playground equipment, ball fields, and courts.
- Plans and designs for restroom facilities.
- Dredging projects including removal of contaminated sediments.
- Roadway, parking lots or other transportation related projects.
- Purchase of general-purpose equipment such as computers, cameras, and/or printers.

**Grant Amounts**
No less than $10,000 and no greater than $75,000.

**Project Location**
Site-specific, low-cost construction projects must be located entirely within the approved Michigan Coastal Program coastal boundary. **Coastal zone boundary maps** are available through [www.mi.gov/coastalmanagement](http://www.mi.gov/coastalmanagement).

**Match Requirement**
All applicants must demonstrate the ability to provide a 1-to-1 non-federal match and provide documentation of committed and/or source of match funds. Match may be in the form of cash, in-kind services, or donations.

**Project Award Period**
The anticipated project start date is October 1, 2019, with completion no more than 12-months from the start date of the project. Projects will be evaluated on project readiness and feasibility for completion within this time frame.

**Application Deadline**
Complete applications being submitted via postal mail must be postmarked no later than **June 17, 2019**.
Application Submittal
Submit via postal mail or e-mail by the deadline.

Information for Applicants
Applications are considered public information under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, PA 442 of 1976, as amended.

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a grant agreement with the Department of Natural Resources which includes standard terms and conditions which are not subject to modifications. Failure of a successful applicant to accept these obligations will result in withdrawal of the grant offer.

Application Package
Applications need to be concise and provide enough detail to be evaluated as to meeting the project considerations; overall quality and clarity of the application; organizational capability, specifically financial stability; readiness of the specific work proposed; degree of public benefit; and measurability of project outcomes.

The application must include a cover letter signed by an authorized representative of the applicant and the applicant’s letterhead must accompany the application.

Applications are to be submitted to the following e-mail or mailing address:

By e-mail:  
DNR-OGL-CoastalProgram@michigan.gov

By postal mail:  
Ronda Wuycheck, Program Manager  
Michigan Coastal Management Program  
Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy  
P.O. Box 30473  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7973

Notice: The Coastal Management Program will transfer to the new Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) April 22, 2019. Grant processes will not be interrupted.

Application Cover Page
The cover page must include the following information:

- Applicant agency or organization name.
- Applicant mailing address.
- Authorized representative’s e-mail address.
- Authorized representative’s telephone number.
- Authorized representative’s fax number.
Proposed Project Title.
Location.
Great Lake or Connecting Waterway.
Grant Amount Requested.
Match amount to be provided.
Total Project Cost.
Vendor ID.
Address ID.
Applicant Federal ID #.
Applicant DUNS #.
Name, title, and contact information of an organization contact person, if different from that of the applicant’s authorized representative.
Congressional District, State Senate District, and State House District numbers of the project location.

Proposed Project Summary
Provide summary (150 words or less) of the proposed project to explain the scope, coastal resources which are the focus of the effort, coastal significance, and primary outcome of the project.

Detailed Proposed Project Description
Provide the following information in the detailed proposed project description:

- Project scope, why the project is needed, and how it advances Michigan’s Coastal Program’s goal of supporting coastal healthy habitat, waters, and communities.
- List of key project tasks and the outcome(s) of each task.
- List of work products.
- Project schedule showing the progress and completion of key project tasks by quarter. The schedule must show that all tasks will be completed within the project period.
- Source of secured or committed match.
- Project coordinates in decimal degree format or degrees, minutes, seconds format. If there is no specific project point location (e.g., regional or statewide study), please provide coordinates for the location of your organization, and label as such.

Documentation of Property Ownership Type
- Public Ownership Affidavit. If the property on which construction will occur is not subject to easements or other encumbrances held by a party other than the applicant, prepare and submit a hard copy or a Portable Document Format (PDF) version of a Public Ownership Affidavit. Example can be found at: www.mi.gov/documents/deq/deq-oql-czmp-
  PublicOwnershipAffidavit_407110_7.doc.
☐ Attorney Title Opinion. If property on which construction will occur is subject to easements or other encumbrances held by a party other than the applicant, prepare and submit a hard copy or a PDF version of an Attorney Title Opinion. Example can be found at: www.mi.gov/documents/deq/deq-ogl-czmp-AttorneyTitleOpinion_407108_7.doc.

Project Tasks and Schedule
Display project tasks and schedule in the following format for major tasks, target milestones, work products, and performance metrics.

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<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Oct-Dec</th>
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<th>Work Products/Performance Metrics</th>
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Organizational Capability
Describe the qualifications of the individual(s) anticipated to work on the project and the past experience of the applicant in managing grant projects.

Applicants must provide documentation of financial stability by providing proof of a successful financial audit within 24 months of this GFO. Note that the audit date is based on the audit period and not the date of the audit or audit letter.

Detailed Project Budget
Download and use the budget form through the link provided below. When completing the form, select one of three cost accounting approaches for project indirect costs. Indirect accounting options include: 1) the applicant’s federally negotiated indirect rate, 2) a ten percent de minimis rate (of the modified direct costs), or 3) zero indirect expenses for projects that do not require any reimbursement of indirect costs.

Submittal of a completed, current Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement is required to use a federally-negotiated rate.

Proposed Budget Form: (www.michigan.gov/documents/ogl/OGL-CZM-Project-Budget_633612_7.xlsx)

Resolution of Support
Applications from local units of government must include a resolution of support or equivalent authorization from the legislative body. The resolution of support may be included in the submittal as a hardcopy or PDF file. An example can be found at www.mi.gov//documents/deq/deq-ogl-czmp-ResolutionofSupport_407111_7.doc
Application Assistance

For questions, please contact the following who are ready to assist:

Karen Boase, Coastal Habitat Coordinator  
517-284-5037, boasek@michigan.gov

Madeleine Gorman, Coastal Water Quality Coordinator  
517-284-5042, gormanm1@michigan.gov

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources will not discriminate against any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, disability, political beliefs, height, weight, genetic information, or sexual orientation. Questions or concerns should be directed to the Quality of Life – Office of Human Resources, P.O. Box 30473, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7973.