

Fiscal Year 2024 NOAA Marine Debris Removal (NOAA-NOS-ORR-2024-2007993) & Interception Technologies (NOAA-NOS-ORR-2024-2007991) under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Notices of Funding Opportunity

Grant Applicant Cost-sharing Guidance

Please reach out to the NOAA Marine Debris Program grants team (grants.marinedebris@noaa.gov) with any questions

*There is no non-federal matching requirement for this funding. However, cost sharing, leveraged funds, and in-kind support are important to ensuring these projects are impactful and meaningfully supported by other project partners. **Applicants are strongly encouraged to explore the opportunity to combine NOAA federal funding with formal matching contributions and informal leverage from a broad range of sources in the public and private sectors.** In cases where non-federal match or informal leverage cannot be obtained, the challenges preventing this type of support should be described (see Section V.A “Evaluation Criteria” for more detail on how this will be evaluated).*

For this competition, the evaluation criteria for cost-share/match will consider if the proposal incorporates formal and/or informal match.

- **Formal** cost-share or match is considered any non-federal cost-sharing, match, or in-kind contributions.
 - "Cost share" or "match" is defined by 2 C.F.R. 200.1 as "the portion of project costs not paid by federal funds (unless otherwise authorized by federal statute)."
 - These formal contributions must be clearly described in both the official budget narrative and the budget tables. Please note that funded applications will be legally bound to provide the full amount of non-federal match funds proposed in the project's final budget.
- **Informal** match contributions would be leveraged funds that don't qualify as non-federal cost-sharing or match but demonstrate meaningful contributions to the award.
 - These should be clearly described at the end of the budget narrative, but should not be included in official budget tables. This would include any federal contributions or if the project is part of a larger related effort.

The goal of incorporating match contributions is to encourage the involvement of different groups in meaningful ways, and there are a variety of ways to do this including but not limited to:

- Public or Private partnerships
 - Funding for project activities provided by a private organization
 - Funding received from non-federal agency grants

(Please note proposals documenting funding that is already secured/awarded will be more competitive than proposals awaiting funding results from other grant competitions)

- Volunteer time
 - Calculate the expected volunteer hours to be spent on project activities and multiply by your state's volunteer rate (suggestion to find your state's rate at <https://independentsector.org/value-of-volunteer-time/>)

(Please note if fewer volunteer hours are worked than expected, you may be expected to find additional sources of non-federal match funding)

- Project Team not supported by federal funding
 - Calculate the percentage of time personnel will spend planning, coordinating, participating, etc. in proposed project activities and calculate that percentage of their salary and fringe benefits costs
- Vendor providing free alternative disposal services
 - Document standard open market cost of similar services (eg. transportation/fees)
- Travel
 - Report cost of travel to/from proposed sites covered by applicant/project partner
- Use of existing equipment/facilities; equipment is considered any item that has a per-unit value of \$5,000 or greater
 - e.g. A boat is provided by a project partner at no cost
 - Document local open-market cost of renting a boat and fuel costs for the boat time donated
 - e.g. A State Park provides lodging at the proposed project site at no cost to project team members
 - Document standard lodging rate per room/per night

Applicants should refer to 2 C.F.R. 200.306 for cost sharing or matching policies. Applicants with approved indirect cost rates planning to provide cost sharing may propose a portion or all of their indirect costs as match, since the valuation of such costs has already been federally approved and documentation is readily available. Refer to Section IV.F "Funding Restrictions" for information on indirect costs.

For funded applications that include non-federal match funds within the proposed budget, the ratio of approved NOAA funds to non-federal match funds will be legally binding within the award document signed by NOAA's Grant Management Division (GMD). NOAA is under no obligation to amend the match contributions once the award document is signed by the recipient, unless the amount is amended based on extenuating circumstances.