

Fiscal Year 2024 NOAA Marine Debris Removal under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOAA-NOS-ORR-2024-2007993)

Notice of Funding Opportunity Guidance Document

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

The objective of this document is to provide guidance for applicants applying to the NOAA Marine Debris Program's Fiscal Year 2024 NOAA Marine Debris Removal under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Notice of Funding Opportunity. Please note this document is only supplementary to the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) (NOFO), and the NOFO needs to be read in its entirety to ensure you do not miss any important information.

This document is designed to help you navigate through the NOFO for this competition. Below is an outline of the type of information you will find in each section to help you more easily find the relevant details you need for submission.

Executive Summary

- Provides the basic information about the competition including:
 - Funding Opportunity Title
 - Funding Opportunity Number
 - Federal Assistance Listings Number (needed for application materials)
 - Letter of intent and application deadlines
 - Funding Opportunity Description

Section I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Program Objectives

- Provides overall objective of this funding opportunity
- Provides background on the NOAA Marine Debris Program and its primary mission and funding competition objectives
- Provides definitions for marine debris and the marine debris targeted in this funding opportunity

- Describes how this competition aligns with Executive Order 13985 on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through the Federal Government

B. Program Priorities

- This is one of the most important sections of the NOFO. This section describes the types of projects and project components prioritized for funding, and what is important for applications to include (or not include) in the project design. *The evaluation criteria places strong emphasis on the relevance of the proposed project to the priorities outlined in this section. It is important to fully understand the types of projects the program is looking to fund and incorporate related requirements, as applicable, to create a strong application.*

C. Program Authority

- Provides the name of the legislation that authorizes the NOAA Marine Debris Program to administer the grant competition

Section II. Award Information

A. Funding Availability

- Provides the total expected amount of funding to be allocated for all successful awards
- Provides the range of federal funding that can be requested

B. Project/Award Period

- Provides the allowed project duration
- Provides earliest anticipated project start date

C. Type of Funding Instrument

- Describes how funding will be awarded and expectations of NOAA Marine Debris Program involvement in project activities

Section III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

- Describes what types of individuals, organizations, entities, etc., may apply

B. Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

- Explains there is no non-federal matching requirement for this funding. However, cost sharing, leveraged funds, and in-kind support will make projects more competitive.

C. Other Criteria that Affect Eligibility

- Explains NOAA's Policy on Scientific Integrity

Section IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Address to Request Application Package

- Provides the website where federal forms, general instructions, and supplementary instructions can be found for this competition
- Provides contact information for the NOAA Marine Debris Program if anyone experiences any difficulties accessing the application forms and/or instructions

B. Content and Form of Application

Another important section of the NOFO. This section describes the letter of intent and application process, how a letter of intent and application should be put together, the types of documents that are required, and guidance / examples for doing so. Applicants should plan accordingly and submit in advance of the deadline. This section includes:

- Where to submit your letter of intent and application (if invited)
- A link to application submission guidance
- Suggestions for uploading application components
- Letter of intent and application guidelines and requirements
- Letter of intent and application components and associated page limits and descriptions

C. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)

- Provides instructions for registering in the System for Award Management (SAM)
 - *Registration in SAM.gov may take a substantial amount of time to complete (several weeks in certain cases) and is required for submitting an application. Applicants should begin this process as soon as possible.*

D. Submission Dates and Times

- Recommendation to begin application submission process early
- Submission instructions and deadlines
- Reminder that the SAM.gov registration must be completed prior to submission, and can take several weeks for processing

E. Intergovernmental Review

- Explains item 19 on Federal Form SF 424 and references Executive Order 12372
- Provides a link for more information on this requirement

F. Funding Restrictions

- Allowable Costs
 - Outlines what costs federal funding can and cannot be used for related to the project, which also applies to subawards
 - Describes how applicants should adhere to the Build America Buy America Act requirements

- Discusses the limited conditions and steps needed for allowing pre-award costs
- Indirect Costs
 - Outlines what would be considered an indirect cost
 - Describes what applicants need to do to be approved for including indirect costs in their project budget

G. Other Submission Requirements

- Provides details including what is needed for application submission, submission deadlines, and where to submit applications

V. Application Review Information

A. Evaluation Criteria

Another important section of the NOFO. This section lays out exactly how reviewers will evaluate a given letter of intent and application, and as such, can help applicants construct their letter of intent and application ensuring all required evaluation criteria are clearly accounted for and incorporated into the project design.

- Describes application review scoring process
- Describes the specific criteria and associated sub-criteria reviewers will be using to evaluate applications

B. Review and Selection Process

- Outlines the review process including initial screening, technical review, ranking, and selection process

C. Selection Factors

- Discusses the factors that funding recommendations may be based on, separate from the rank order determined by the merit review scoring process.

D. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

- Outlines anticipated date of notifications for successful applications

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notices

- Outlines that successful applicants may be asked to modify certain components of their application prior to final approval of an award
- Shares how successful applicants will be notified and guidelines for sharing their award status

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

- Outlines specific conditions, requirements, and guidance that will need to be followed, including environmental compliance, which should be considered. Appropriate details should be included in the application materials.

C. Reporting

- Describes reporting requirements and expectations

VII. Agency Contacts

- Provides contact information for the NOAA Marine Debris Program for any competition questions; please don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions on this funding opportunity