

FY24 Full Proposal Webinar

Q&A

January 10th, 2024

2pm ET

Question: Are leveraged funds subject to the same federal rules and regulations as matching funds (i.e. Fly America Act)?

Answer: All project funds, including match and leveraged funds, should be consistent with the Cost Principles outlined in 2 C.F.R. 200, as well as the Department of Commerce Standard Terms and Conditions.

Question: Are the letters of support considered part of the 15 allowable pages?

Answer: No, letters of support are not included in the page limit. Please note that letters of support should be included as part of your submitted application materials in grants.gov and addressed to the NOAA Marine Debris Program Director, Nancy Wallace. In other words, don't just send letters of support through the mail, in case there are mail delivery issues; include them in your electronic submission. There is some additional guidance on our applicant resource page.

Question: Can we list/identify the contractor(s) who will conduct the debris and/or ADV removal in the application budget description?

Answer: Generally, yes you can identify ahead of time those contractors who will be doing work under your grant award. However, please note that NOAA requires fair and open competition to the greatest extent possible within grant awards for any subcontracting or procurement actions that grantees may be planning. So if you have contractors already identified, you should demonstrate in your Budget Narrative the extent to which those contractors were selected competitively, or provide a justification for sole-source selection, which is subject to NOAA approval in the event an award is made.

Question: How much monitoring is expected? (i.e. frequency and number of years) Any particular type of monitoring recommended?

Answer: Monitoring activities should complement the removal and disposal activities in the proposal and not be the primary focus of the proposed project. If monitoring activities are being proposed, clear methods and information on data collection should be outlined. For projects that will carry out project post-removal monitoring activities, applicants should separate out monitoring or post-project evaluation costs so that NOAA can evaluate the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of those activities.

Question: Is there an expectation of how awards will be distributed regionally?

Answer: The balance and distribution of funds geographically is a selection factor for this competition (see page 39 in Notice of Funding Opportunity). NOAA will generally try to maximize geographic equity in award selection, however it will depend on the quality and merit of submitted applications as to what is ultimately supported.

Question: Do benefitting tribal governments need to be federally recognized, or are all tribes counted in this criterion?

Answer: All tribes, federally recognized or not, are treated the same in this regard.

Q: Is NOAA's PIFSC allowed to provide assistance with monitoring under this grant?

Answer: This would be considered leverage on the award, but no award funding could be used to support PIFSC or other federal organizations.

Question: Can we use the same leveraged funds across multiple federal awards?

Answer: Matching funds can only be used for a single federal award. Please contact us if you have specific questions about reuse of leveraged funds, as the type of leverage may vary between proposals.

Question: Will state and federal agencies compete for the same funds?

Answer: No, federal agencies are not eligible for these funds.

Question: "Please indicate the extent to which your project can be scaled down by stating what work could be done if only a portion of the federal funding request could be granted." Do you expect a complete alternate budget submission or just a narrative?

Answer: We ask that you break down and describe your budget and project activities in a way that describes the scalability as best as possible, but you don't need to provide an alternate budget with your application. This is being asked of applicants in case a project's overall budget needs to be adjusted due to funding availability, and would only occur if your application was selected for an award and you were requested by NOAA to do so.

Question: Does NOAA provide assistance with removing debris through backhaul? Or can the funding be used towards this?

Answer: Generally yes NOAA funding can be used for disposal costs. If you have concerns about eligibility of those costs please reach out to us for further information.

Question: If we have a future restoration project that is contingent on removal of ADV/DFG and is separately funded what is the best way to document that?

Answer: Please describe this in the project narrative.

Question: Is reestablishment of corals a requirement, in response to the removal activity?

Answer: No, this is not required. Minor restoration work and other monitoring activities should be complementary to removal efforts and costs, and not the primary focus of the proposed project. If you know however that endangered corals are present in the action area (or some other restoration action will be required post-removal), building translocation costs into your budget would certainly be allowable. This ties back to our environmental compliance requirements, and the more site specific information you can determine ahead of time, plan for, and communicate to NOAA in your application, the better.

Question: Where are the CVs placed in the proposal? Do they count to the narrative page count?

Answer: CVs should be 2 pages or less per person.

Question: Do you require CVs for all project partners in the application?

Answer: All key project partners should have a CV included, but it is up to the applicant to determine for which partners that information is critical to include.

Question: If an applicant chooses to use the NOAA data hosting option, is there an approval needed prior (during this phase)?

Answer: This can be discussed with the project team upon any offer of an award.

Question: Do all targets have to be identified specifically or can it be presented by region locales as possible targets and/or avg tonnages identified?

Answer: Some targets may not be specifically identified at the proposal stage. Having specific targets and removal locations is important to fulfill the environmental compliance requirements, so if the proposal is selected for an award then this information will need to be provided. If not already identified, please include how and when those targets will be identified.

Question: Can the identification of targets be included in the proposal?

Answer: Yes, target identification / surveys / assessments can be part of the actual project and your proposal should identify how and when those targets will be identified. Please keep in mind that proposals are evaluated on the certainty and likelihood of achieving marine debris removal outcomes.