

NOAA Marine Debris Program

FY25 Marine Debris Removal Under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Grant Applicant Webinar

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November 25, 2024

***This webinar is being recorded**

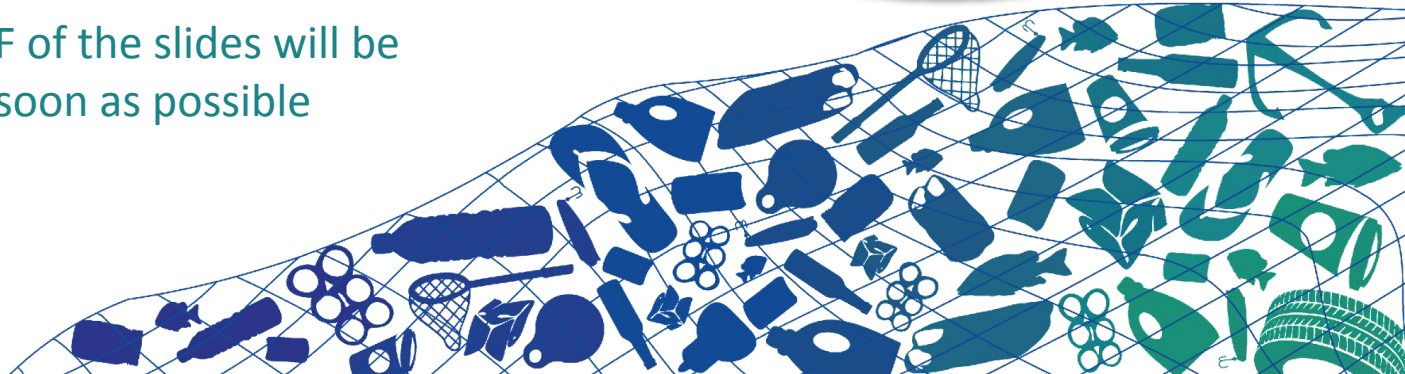


Agenda

- Introduction
- Competition Priorities
- Application Content
- Evaluation Criteria
- Application Tips & Submission Instructions
- Application Resources
- Anticipated Timeline
- Questions & Answers



The recording and a PDF of the slides will be made available as soon as possible



Goals of today's webinar:

- 1) Communicate expectations for proposals
- 2) Provide overview of application submission process
- 3) Share anticipated timeline and overview of award process
- 4) Answer your questions about the competition



Photo: NOAA





FY25 Funding Availability

- Up to \$47M available
- Minimum Request: \$1M
- Maximum Request: \$10M
- Typical Awards: \$2M - \$6M
 - *Proposals requesting over \$6M are expected to be proposals including a subaward competition for other organizations to apply for funding for localized removal activities.*
- Matching funds are acceptable, but not required and not part of evaluation criteria
 - *Cost sharing*
 - *Leveraged funds*
 - *In-kind support*





Competition Priorities

Support impactful, large marine debris removal projects

- Clearly demonstrate the beneficial impacts the removal project will have on NOAA trust resources, and the surrounding coastal environment or community.



Photo: North Carolina Coastal Federation

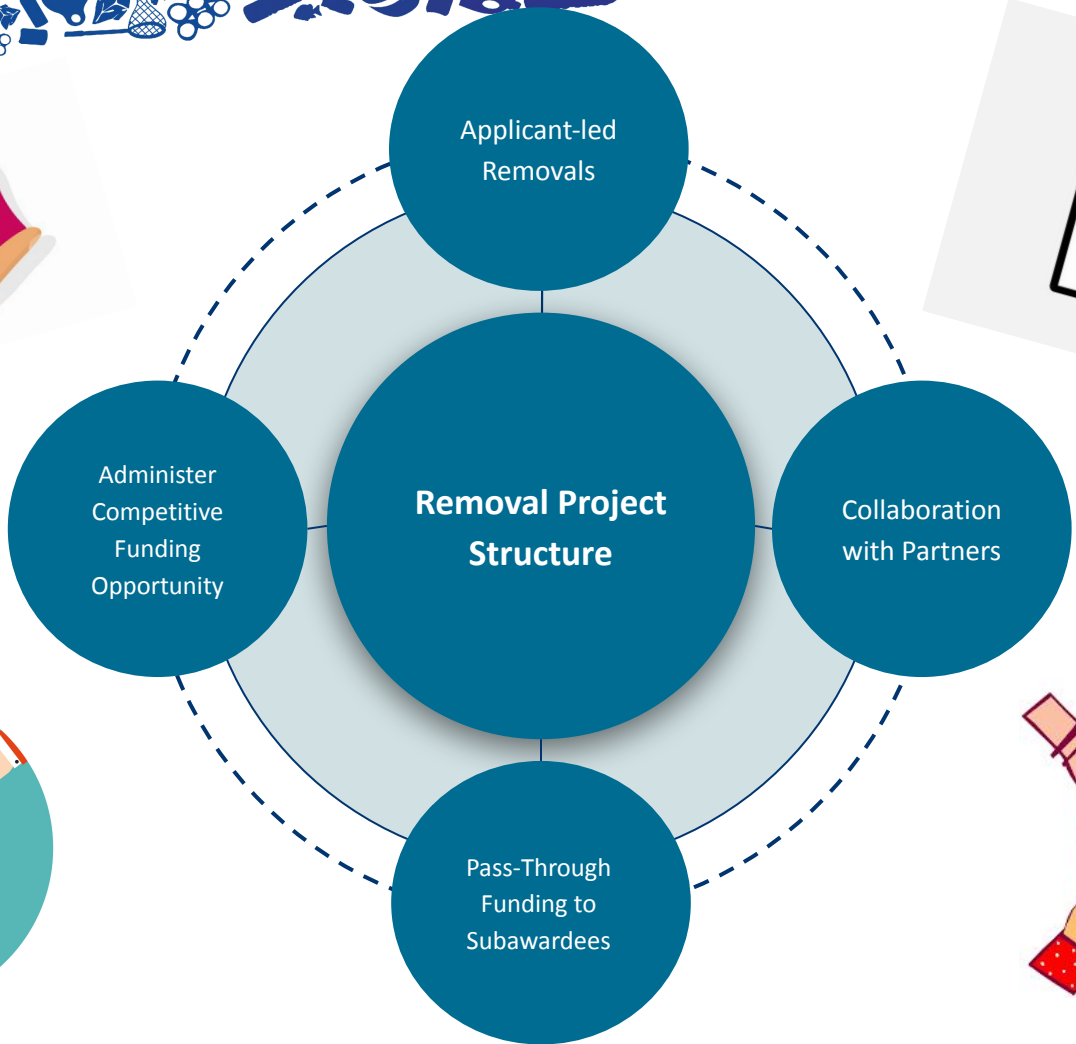


Photo: Conservation on Climate



Photo: City of Hoboken, NJ

*Removals should also be conducted with a focus on alternative disposal methods when possible





Competition Priorities

Prevent the reaccumulation of debris

- To ensure the outcomes and benefits of the removal activities are sustained beyond the award period
- Competitive applications will design prevention strategies that are complementary to the debris types that are being targeted for removal.
- Proposals that have clearly targeted prevention activities that include the community(s) that are the source of the marine debris and/or the individual or community behavior(s) leading to the debris issue will be prioritized.



Photo: NFWF



Competition Priorities

Advance the principles of diversity, equity, justice, inclusion, and accessibility in removal activities that will benefit local communities

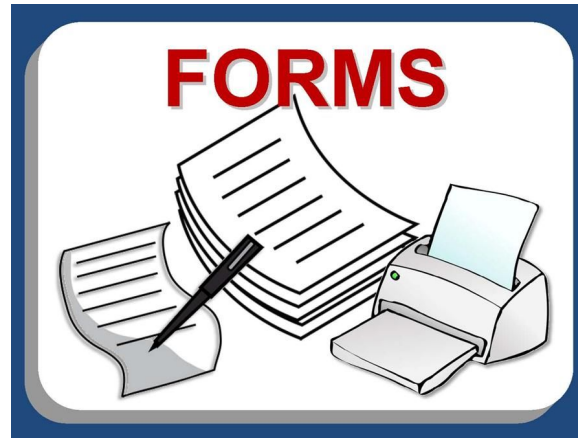
- Applications should demonstrate how their work will advance the principles of diversity, equity, justice, inclusion, and accessibility throughout the proposed work.
- Applicants should identify any project activities that will take place within, have a portion of the benefits flow to, and/or meaningfully engage with the local community impacted by the targeted debris.
- The most competitive projects will be those that also meaningfully engage with Tribes and/or communities facing environmental/climate and socioeconomic burdens.





Full Proposal Content - Required Forms

- A. SF-424 - Application for Federal Assistance
- B. SF-424A - Budget Information, Non-construction Programs
- C. SF-424B - Assurances, Non-construction Programs
- D. CD-511 - Certifications Regarding Lobbying
- E. SF-LLL - Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (should not be applicable for this competition)





Full Proposal Content

REQUIRED

1. Summary (3 pages or less)
2. Narrative (15 pages or less)
3. Budget Justification (8 pages or less)
4. Data Management Plan (2 pages or less)

SUPPLEMENTAL

1. Curriculum vitae or résumé of applicant personnel (2 pages or less per person)
2. Maps depicting the geographic extent of where removal efforts will be targeted including any site location(s) and/or potential removal locations highlighted (no page limit)
3. Photographs of example debris targets/other relevant photos to aid reviewers, if any (no page limit)
4. Letters of Support (no page limit)
 - a. [Guidance](#) Available on our website
5. Indirect cost rate agreement, if applicable (no page limit)
6. Other relevant attachments important to the overall understanding and evaluation of the proposed project, such as documentation of permits necessary to perform the work proposed under the project (20 pages or less).



Full Proposal Content - Summary

1. Summary (3 pages or less)

- a. **Applicant Organization**
- b. **Proposal Title**
- c. **Applicant Point of Contact Name, Address, Telephone Number, and Email Address**
- d. **Project Type:** State if the removal activities will be conducted by the applicant, through a nationally- or regionally-focused subaward competition, or a combination of both.
- e. **Location:** List the geographic area(s) in which the project activities will be implemented. Include geographic coordinates of removal sites if known. Include if any site locations include Tribal lands and/or communities facing environmental/climate and socioeconomic burdens.
- f. **Funding:** Indicate the amount of federal funds requested and the amount of non-federal match or informal leverage anticipated.
- g. **Description:** Clearly describe the specific marine debris issue(s) being addressed and the need for the removals/the purpose of the proposed activities, clearly articulate the proposed project components, indicate the duration of the project and provide a general timeline of activities, and identify stakeholders and non-federal partners that are likely to be involved and their role in the project design and execution
- h. **Outcomes and Metrics:** Briefly describe the anticipated ecological and socio-economic outcomes the project is expected to produce, including how the project benefits will be sustained beyond the project. Please also describe how those benefits were identified, how they will be measured, and which if any will flow to Tribes and/or communities facing environmental/climate and socioeconomic burdens, standard metrics requested in the Notice of Funding Opportunity, and approximate numbers for outcomes of project activities and describe how data will be recorded, characterized, and maintained.



Full Proposal Content - Narrative

2. **Narrative** (15 pages or less)
 - a. **Introduction & Outcomes**
 - b. **Project Location(s)**
 - c. **Detailed Description**
 - i. Identification/selection and description of removal targets
 - ii. Removal methods
 - iii. Disposal approach
 - iv. Prevention activities
 - v. Monitoring activities
 - d. **Permitting and Compliance**
 - e. **Summary of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, and Accessibility activities**
 - f. **Community Involvement**
 - g. **Project Implementation Timeline and Milestones**
 - h. **Roles and Responsibilities, Project Staff, and Letters of Commitment**
 - i. **References Cited**



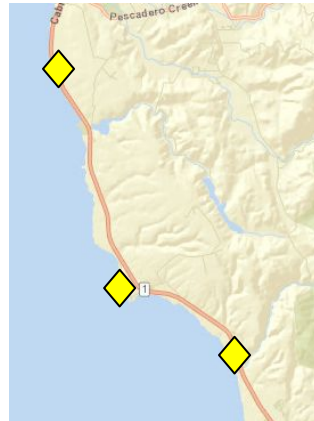


Full Proposal Content - Narrative

2. Narrative (15 pages or less)

○ Project Location(s)

- State and describe the geographic area in which the project will take place
 - Include the time of year project activities will take place at specific locations if possible
- Include maps (if needed) with expected locations of on-the-ground work
- If exact locations are unknown at the time of application, describe in as much detail as possible and when/how specific locations will be determined





Full Proposal Content - Narrative

2. Narrative (15 pages or less)

○ Detailed Description

i. Identification/selection and description of removal targets

- *When possible, the application should include the specific marine debris targets for removal and how those marine debris targets were identified*
- *Applications where specific marine debris targets are not finalized should clearly describe the process to finalize the list of marine debris targets*
- *All applications should include if/how removals occurring in Tribes and/or communities facing environmental/climate and socioeconomic burdens were or will be part of the decision making process.*

ii. Removal Methods

- *Provide as much detail as possible for the planned or intended removal methods.*

iii. Disposal Approach

- *Describe the planned disposal methods, including plans for alternative disposal*

iv. Prevention Activities

- *To ensure the outcomes and benefits of the removal activities are sustained beyond the award period, applicants should incorporate prevention strategies to prevent the reaccumulation of the targeted debris and clearly describe how they complement the removal and disposal activities proposed*

v. Monitoring Activities

- *If monitoring activities are proposed, clear methods and information on data collection should be outlined with a description of how the activities complement the removal and disposal activities. If applicable, describe how any monitoring activities will have benefits flow to and/or have meaningful engagement with local communities.*



Full Proposal Content - Narrative

2. Narrative (15 pages or less)

○ Detailed Description

● **Examples of Prevention Activities**

- *Development or expansion of state-, regionally-, or nationally-focused marine debris prevention programs*
 - *Vessel or fishing gear turn-in opportunities*
 - *Vessel or fishing gear recycling programs*
 - *Targeted programs working with boaters or fishermen*
-
- *The goal of the prevention efforts should be to reduce the recurrence of the type of debris removed*
 - *Proposals with clearly targeted prevention activities directed toward a confirmed source of the marine debris will be prioritized.*
 - *If the primary source of the debris cannot be locally addressed, applicants should clearly identify the debris source and describe how they will conduct other relevant marine debris prevention activities.*





Full Proposal Content - Narrative

2. Narrative (15 pages or less)

○ Permitting and Compliance

- Describe how the applicant organization will ensure that all necessary environmental permits will be secured prior to the use of federal funds on activities where such permits are required.
- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires NOAA to analyze a project's potential environmental impacts.
- All successful applicants will be expected to have a process in place to provide as much detailed information as is reasonable on project activities, including details about:
 - site locations
 - species and habitat(s) to be affected
 - on-the-ground project activities and methods proposed
 - time of year that work will take place
 - any environmental concerns that may exist





Full Proposal Content - Narrative

2. Narrative (15 pages or less)

○ Community Involvement

- Describe how proposed activities will promote community involvement and stewardship
- Priority will be given to removal projects that fully meet the other priorities of this competition and describe meaningful engagement with communities.
 - *Meaningful engagement refers to an intentional exchange between the applicant and the local community where both have multiple opportunities to ensure the other is correctly understanding each other's perspectives and ideas*
 - Outreach or communications directed to communities without any description for how feedback and ideas from the community receiving the messaging will be incorporated into the project, will not be considered meaningful engagement, but should still be described as project benefits.
- Meaningful engagement can occur in the identification, design, and/or implementation of proposed projects
- Applicants that do not have current connections with the local community where removals are occurring and/or the capacity to effectively conduct meaningful engagement with the local community, may consider incorporating a subaward with an organization specialized in community engagement initiatives to ensure the proposed activities are executed in a meaningful way with the surrounding community.



Full Proposal Content - Narrative

Examples of Meaningful Engagement

Visioning/Planning

- Identification of the local community impacted by the targeted marine debris issue and any individuals who will be engaged in the project activities and/or part of the project team
- Identification of project goals and outcomes includes the local community
- Identification of known or potential barriers for working with local communities and solutions for appropriately addressing those barriers developed with the community
- Community member or organization leads or co-leads design for removal, prevention, outreach/education, monitoring, removal, and/or disposal activities related to targeted debris removals
- Community member or organization contributes to proposal development

Decision-Making Opportunities

- Community member or organization has a lead role on project team (PI or Co-PI) to ensure shared power in decision-making throughout the award
- Community member or organization has a lead or co-lead role in decision-making for certain project components
- Community member or organization will play an active role in developing solutions to known and/or unexpected challenges

Implementation/Execution

- Community member or organization will lead or co-lead coordination/implementation of the removal, prevention, outreach/education, monitoring, and/or disposal activities
- Proposed project activities include creating incentive programs that are co-developed with the community
- Hiring local fishers to help with collection of identified sites with large accumulations of derelict fish gear
- Creating professional development opportunities for the community to address community-identified needs and challenges



Full Proposal Content - Narrative

2. Narrative (15 pages or less)

○ Summary of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, and Accessibility Activities

- Concisely summarize all of the efforts related to diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and accessibility in the planning and creation of this proposal and/or proposed implementation for project activities described throughout the proposal
- Indicate any experience they or their project partners have in promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and accessibility in their past work
- Describe how any proposed project activities will have benefits flow to and/or meaningfully engage Tribes and/or communities facing environmental/climate and socioeconomic burdens and how those benefits will be measured.
 - Applicants should use the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) (<https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov>) to determine if communities are facing environmental/climate and socioeconomic burdens.
 - In cases where a community's burdens are not identified by CEJST, applicants may include their own identification of similar burdens. This may include, but is not limited to, a description of the community's previous or current access to resources, community history, power, values, or how they have been historically marginalized and/or overburdened by pollution



Full Proposal Content - Narrative

2. Narrative (15 pages or less)

○ Project Implementation Timeline and Milestones

- Indicate when the project is expected to begin and end
 - Start dates should be Oct 1, 2025 or later
- Include timeline for key project activities and benchmarks
 - There is no required format for timelines but if creating your own table/graphic please make sure it is clear what months of the year specific activities will be occurring





Full Proposal Content - Narrative

2. Narrative (15 pages or less)

○ Roles and Responsibilities, Project Staff, and Letters of Commitment

- Describe your understanding of the marine debris issue and technical requirements of large debris removal and disposal activities
- Describe how the geographic scope of the proposed project fits with project organization's expertise, capabilities, and mission, and should also describe experiences and qualifications of relevant subcontractors
- Project team members or subawardees/contractors who will be working with a Tribe or community facing environmental/climate and socioeconomic burdens should describe their role and relevant experience in relation to the proposed project activities with the selected community(ies)
- Letters of support should be provided from any other organizations involved to document their commitment to the proposal's goals and objectives, and to show support for long-term goals extending beyond the project's period of performance

○ References Cited

- If applicable, include all references to source materials cited within the proposal
 - This is not included in 15-page limit and can be included as a separate attachment or part of the narrative
 - Include bibliographic references only (i.e., no parenthetical information)
 - Follow any accepted scholarly format for citations.

Full Proposal Content - Data Management Plan

3. **Data Management Plan** (2 pages or less)
- Describe how project data and information collected or created will be made discoverable by and accessible to the general public.
 - Guidance, templates, and an example may be found here:

<https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/funding-opportunities/fy24-noaa-marine-debris-removal-under-bipartisan-infrastructure-law-application>





Full Proposal Content - Budget Justification

4. Budget Justification (8 pages or less)

- A well-thought out and well-presented budget is critical to communicating the activities and goals of your project
- The Budget Justification should include both a narrative and a summary budget table that lay out and describe each line item's various costs in as much detail as is reasonable.
 - Please break this out by each year of the project
- Match SF424A
- **NOAA's Budget Narrative Guidance document:**

https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/BudgetNarrativeGuidanceWithChecklist_0.pdf





Full Proposal Evaluation Criteria

| Evaluation Criteria | Maximum Points |
|--|-----------------------|
| Importance and Applicability of Proposal to Program Priorities | 40 |
| Technical Merit | 30 |
| Overall Qualifications of Applicants | 10 |
| Project costs | 10 |
| Community Support | 10 |



Application tips

- Please carefully read through the NOFO for important details for creating and submitting your application that were not covered today

Executive Summary

Federal Agency Name

NOS Office of Response and Restoration (ORR)

Funding Opportunity Title

FY25 NOAA Marine Debris Removal under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

Announcement Type

Competitive

Funding Opportunity Number

NOAA-NOS-ORR-2025-25974

Assistance Listing Number(s)

11.999

Dates

This funding opportunity requires a Letter of Intent (LOI) to be submitted to grants_marinedebris@noaa.gov for competitive review before a full proposal can be submitted. LOIs must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern time, September 27, 2024. If invited, full proposals must then be submitted in Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>) and validated by eRA on or before 11:59 p.m. Eastern time, January 31, 2025.

Funding Opportunity Description

The NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) is a division of the NOAA Office of Response and Restoration. Authorized in the Marine Debris Act, codified at 33 U.S.C. § 1951 et seq., the NOAA MDP supports the development and implementation of marine debris assessment, removal, and prevention projects that benefit coastal habitat, waterways, and marine and Great Lake resources. Marine debris is defined as "any persistent solid material that is manufactured or processed and directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, disposed of or abandoned into the marine environment or the Great Lakes" (15 C.F.R. § 909.1). The mission of the NOAA MDP is to investigate and prevent the adverse impacts of marine debris.

Through this solicitation, NOAA seeks to support large marine debris removal projects with funding available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (PL 117-58). The overall objective of this funding opportunity is to support impactful, large marine debris removal projects that will improve the resilience of the coastal and marine environment. This competition considers impactful projects to be those that will have long-lasting, transformational benefits to marine and coastal NOAA Trust Resources, coastal communities, and/or local economies.

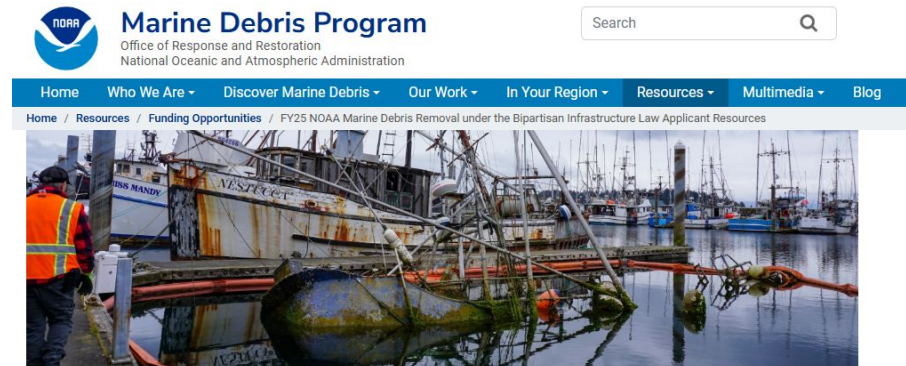




Application Resources

[NOAA MDP Guidance for Applicants](#)

- [Narrative Template](#)
- [NOFO Guidance Document](#)
- [Evaluation Criteria Table](#)
- [Meaningful Engagement for Removal Projects Guidance](#)
- [Budget Narrative and SF-424A guidance documents](#)
- [Applicant Cost-sharing Guidance](#)
- [Allowable Cost Guidance](#)
- [Data Management Plan Guidance](#)
- [Letter of Support/Commitment Guidance](#)



FY25 NOAA Marine Debris Removal under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Applicant Resources



Application tips

- Ensure you've completed all three required registrations (may take 4-6 weeks)

SAM.GOV

Home Search Data Bank Data Services Help

Get Started with Registration and the Unique Entity ID

Submitting a registration and getting a Unique Entity ID are FREE.

Before You Get Started

Review these steps to choose which option is right for you. You can register to bid and apply for federal awards or you can request a Unique Entity ID only without having to complete a registration.

- 1 About Registration
- 2 Set up a SAM.gov Account
- 3 Prepare Your Data
- 4 Get Started

Registering with Grants.gov

One account to manage all your profiles, applications, and subscriptions.

Register Your Institution in eRA Commons

Register in Your Institution in eRA Commons

Link to Register an Organization in eRA Commons
Signing officials (SOs) can register their institutions at the [Register Organization](#) link on the eRA Commons home screen (see video or online help).

A principal investigator cannot create their own eRA Commons account but has to rely on the signing official or other eRA Commons users (account administrator, administrative official, business official) to create the account (see Creating Accounts).

NOTE: This topic discusses registering an institution in eRA Commons. If your institution is already registered and you are looking for information on new eRA Commons user accounts, see Create and Manage an eRA Commons Account.



Submission Instructions

- Applicants must be submitted to grants.gov by **11:59 pm Eastern time on January 31, 2025**.
- WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND APPLICANTS BEGIN THE APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCESS EARLY.
 - *Other NOAA offices have experienced numerous application rejections from eRA Commons during the first submission attempt which must be corrected and resubmitted in grants.gov prior to the deadline*



Example eRA Validation Errors Email

From: era-notify@mail.nih.gov <era-notify@mail.nih.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 12:00 PM
To: First Name Last Name <applicant email>
Subject: [External] GRANT123456/ NOAA-NMFS-FHQ-2024-12345 / Notice of Funding Opportunity Name ACTION REQUIRED TO COMPLETE SUBMISSION - Application Errors and Warnings

ACTION REQUIRED TO COMPLETE SUBMISSION OF GRANT APPLICATION:

NOAA has received the electronic grant application GRANT123456 / Notice of Funding Opportunity Name. Our systems have identified errors and warnings associated with your application. Your application will not move forward for further processing and funding consideration unless you address all identified errors and the authorized organization representative submits your changed/corrected application to Grants.gov before the submission deadline.

Your application ERROR(s) are listed below:

| Form Name | Severity | Rule Number | Message Text |
|-------------|----------|-------------|--|
| SF424 | E | 025.6.2 | The Commons Username provided in the Applicant Identifier field is not a recognized Commons account. |
| ProjectInfo | E | 000.35 | The Proposal - Project Narrative.pdf attachment contained formatting or features not currently supported: File Name size greater than 50 |

Your application WARNING(s) are listed below:

| Form Name | Severity | Rule Number | Message Text |
|-----------|----------|-------------|---|
| KeyPerson | W | 005.21.7 | One of the Accounts included has an "SO" role. This will not prohibit your submission, but may cause some functions to not work properly. |

All listed errors must be corrected by the application deadline.

Warnings will not prevent your application from completing the electronic submission process, but serve as reminder to verify that your application complies with specific requirements in the funding opportunity announcement.

Applicant Organizations should refer to the opportunity announcements for guidance on correcting application content.

Any submission to change or correct the grant application must be received by the application deadline or it will not be considered for review.

If you have any questions about this email, please contact the eRA Service Desk via the web at <http://grants.nih.gov/support/> or by phone at 1-866-504-9552.

****NOAA will not accept late submissions which includes 'resubmissions' following rejected applications not meeting eRA Commons requirements**





Example eRA Confirmation Email

From: era-notify@mail.nih.gov <era-notify@mail.nih.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 12:00 PM

To: First Name Last Name <applicant email>

Subject: [External] GRANT123456/ NOAA-NMFS-FHQ-2024-12345 / Notice of Funding Opportunity Name Application Received

NOAA has received the electronic grant application with the Grants.gov Tracking #GRANT123456 / Notice of Funding Opportunity Name. Our systems have identified no warnings or errors associated with your application. As your application moves forward in the electronic submission process, you will be assigned an application number.

If it passes screening, it will be assigned to an Initial Review Group (IRG) for scientific/technical merit evaluation to the appropriate Program Office in NOAA for funding consideration. You will be notified of the outcome as soon as the information is available.

Thank you for your interest in NOAA's program.

If you have any questions about this email, please contact the eRA Service Desk via the web at <http://grants.nih.gov/support/> or by phone at 1-866-504-9552.





Common eRA Validation Errors

- PI does not have an eRA Commons account affiliated with the applicant organization AND holds the PI role in eRA Commons within that organization
 - The PI's Commons Username must be included in the "4. Applicant Identifier" box of the SF424.
 - *If the PI's name or email address, the UEI, etc. is included instead, the application will be rejected*

User IDs (Usernames) can be found through a search in the Account Management Module, or clicking on the person icon in the top right of eRA Commons. This is the User ID you will input in Box 4 of the SF-424 for the active PD/PI account. **NOTE: PD/PIs will receive the email notifications from eRA Commons for application tracking.**

| User ID | Name ? | Email | Roles & Affiliations |
|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Jane.Doe_Admin | Doe_Jane | jane.doe@ex.gov | SO - Example Organization |
| Jane.Doe_PI | Doe_Jane | jane.doe@ex.gov | PD/PI - Example Organization |

Jane Doe
COMMONS JANE.DOE_PI
Current Organization:
Example Organization
Roles: PI

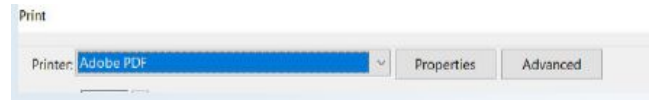
SF-424 in box "4. Applicant Identifier"

| Application for Federal Assistance SF-424 | | |
|--|--|--|
| * 1. Type of Submission: <input type="checkbox"/> Preapplication <input type="checkbox"/> Application <input type="checkbox"/> Changed/Corrected Application | * 2. Type of Application: <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Revision | * If Revision, select appropriate letter(s): <input type="text"/> * Other (Specify): <input type="text"/> |
| * 3. Date Received: Completed by Grants.gov upon submission. | 4. Applicant Identifier: <input type="text"/> | |



Common eRA Validation Errors

- Congressional District Formatting: Use this [guidance](#) for correct entry
- Zip codes must include the full 9 digits
- **All application materials must be submitted as PDFs**
 - Budget tables can be made in a spreadsheet and then saved as a PDF
 - Maps, photos, etc. must all be converted into a PDF document that meets all the formatting requirements
- All PDFs must be under 100 MB and standard letter paper size (8 ½" x 11") & file names must be less than 50 characters including spaces and cannot include symbols/invalid characters
- All PDFs must be flattened prior to submission
 - When the PDF is completed, go to the File Menu and Select 'Print'
 - Select the Adobe PDF printer and click OK
 - Specify a location to save the flattened version
 - Open the saved file to verify it retained all the saved information and is no longer fillable
 - Upload the 'flattened' file to grants.gov
- Full list of formatting requirements to be followed can be found here:



<https://grants.nih.gov/grants-process/write-application/how-to-apply-application-guide/format-attachments>



Anticipated Timeline

*some steps of this process are outside of NOAA MDP control so timeframe may change

| Step | Timeframe |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Full Proposals for invited applicants are due to grants.gov (invitees only) | 11:59 PM ET Jan 31, 2025 |
| 2. Full proposal review by NOAA to select projects to recommend for funding | Feb-April 2024 |
| 3. Projects recommended for funding are notified and negotiation calls are conducted to address any modifications to the proposal or budget; Unsuccessful applicant letters are distributed; Environmental Compliance begins | May 2024 |
| 4. NOAA Grants Management provides official approval of awards, NOAA MDP has kick off call with grantees, some proposed project activities can begin | Fall 2025 |



Please reach out with any questions

- For questions about this competition please email the MDP Grants Team (grants.marinedebris@noaa.gov)





Questions?

Thank you for joining!