

Fiscal Year 2025 NOAA Marine Debris Removal (NOAA-NOS-ORR-2025-25974) & Interception Technologies NOAA-NOS-ORR-2025-25572) under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Notices of Funding Opportunity

Allowable Cost Guidance

Please reach out to the NOAA Marine Debris Program grants team (grants.marinedebris@noaa.gov) with any questions related to allowable costs for these competitions

The 2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 200 Subpart E outlines the cost principles including allowable costs for federal awards. The table below provides answers and examples of common questions around allowable and unallowable costs specific to the FY25 NOAA Marine Debris Program Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding Opportunities. However, applicants should also refer directly to 2 CFR 200 Subpart E for the full regulations on allowable costs for federal awards.

Cost Type	Description	Examples
<p>General Guidance (2 CFR 200.403)</p>	<p>Costs must be necessary and reasonable for the activities proposed in the Federal award</p> <p>Costs must not be included as a cost or use to meet cost sharing or matching requirements of any other federal award (currently or previously)</p> <p>Costs must be reasonable, meaning they are generally recognized as necessary for the operation of project activities and are comparable for goods or services in the geographic area the work is occurring</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Funding cannot go toward activities related to general programmatic activities unrelated to the proposed outcomes of the award ● If an applicant currently has another federal award, please ensure personnel and fringe benefits are carefully calculated so there is no overlap/duplication across awards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If the applicant is currently funded for 70% of their time on another award, this application request must not be greater than 30% of the applicant’s time on this application ● Funds cannot be requested for general office supplies that are not directly required for project activities
<p>Entertainment (2 CFR 200.438)</p>	<p>Generally entertainment costs related to amusement or other social activities are not allowable for federal awards. Any entertainment costs that have a programmatic purpose for achieving the proposed award outcomes may be proposed in the application and would need to be approved by both the NOAA Marine Debris Program and NOAA Grants Management Division.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Federal funding could not cover live music to increase attendance at an event where the applicant will be recruiting community members to participate in a citizen science group to routinely monitor a newly installed interception device

<p>Equipment (2 CFR 200.439)</p>	<p>Equipment rentals are allowable costs as long as the costs are reasonable considering local market conditions, available alternatives, and the type, life expectancy, conduction and value of the equipment</p> <p>Equipment purchases directly related to executing project activities are eligible for this competition. The budget narrative should include a justification for why a purchase is needed rather than a rental/lease and a plan for how the equipment will be used/maintained during and follow the award period.</p> <p>Equipment purchases are classified when the unit price is at least \$5,000. If you are purchasing an item you would classify as equipment but it costs less than \$5,000, please include it in the ‘Supplies’ budget category.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Federal funding could be used to rent a trailer to transport collected large debris items to their disposal location, if appropriate documentation is provided describing it is a cost effective option ● Federal funding could be used to purchase equipment to install on a boat to haul up submerged marine debris. A justification should be provided for why a purchase is made rather than a rental/lease, and/or that purchasing is more a cost effective method.
<p>Participant Support Costs (2 CFR 200.456)</p>	<p>Stipends or subsistence allowances, travel allowances, and registration fees paid to or on behalf of participants or trainees (but not employees) in connection with conferences or training projects are allowable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Registration fees for a conference to present on the proposed project activities ● Stipend for community members time being trained to participate in monitoring activities
<p>Scholarships/Student Aid (2 CFR 200.466)</p>	<p>Scholarships, fellowships, or other student aid at Institutions of Higher Education are allowable if the purpose of the award is to provide training to selected participants and it is approved by NOAA MDP and NOAA Grants Management Division</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tuition remission is allowable if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The individual is conducting activities contributing to the proposed outcomes of the federal award ○ It is provided within the established policy of the Institution of Higher Education and provided in a similar manner to students for similar activities ○ The student is enrolled in an advanced degree program during the academic period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An application proposing to hire a masters student to learn the protocols for source identification of consumer debris collected by an interception device and then conduct a study analyzing the source of the debris collected over time to be able to target prevention strategies to reduce the debris found in the environment could request federal funding for a scholarship/tuition remission ● An application proposing to hire a master student to conduct research on the fate and trajectory of the items collected by the interception device had it not been present, would not be eligible for a scholarship/tuition remission since a fate and trajectory study would not align with the priorities of either of the FY25 MDP BIL competitions

	<p>and the activities related to the federal award are also related to the degree program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is reasonable compensation for the work performed and is conditioned explicitly upon the performance of necessary work ○ The Institution of Higher Education similarly compensates students under Federal awards and other activities 	
<p>Travel (2 CFR 200.475)</p>	<p>Expenses for transportation, lodging, subsistence, and related items are allowable to conduct proposed activities.</p> <p>These costs must be consistent with the non-Federal entity's non-federally funded activities and their written travel reimbursement policies.</p> <p>Commercial air travel should be selected based on the basic and least expensive ticketing option. Exceptions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Trip route is not direct (layover is unreasonably long or out of the way) ● Travel during unreasonable hours ● Excessively long travel hours ● Results in additional costs that would offset the transportation savings ● Does not meet travelers medical needs <p>The Fly America Act requires all grantee air travel and cargo transportation services funded by the federal government to use a "U.S. flag" air carrier service. More on these requirements can be found at:</p> <p>https://www.gsa.gov/policy-regulations/policy/travel-management-policy-overview/fly-america-act</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Applicants may request federal funding to travel to a clean-up site including airfare/mileage, per diem for food, and lodging costs if staying overnight for award related activities.