



National Marine Sanctuary Foundation

Ernest F. Hollings Ocean Awareness Trust Fund

Frequently Asked Questions

ELIGIBILITY

Can a Federal Employee or Agency apply for the grant?

No, federal employees or federal agencies cannot be the primary applicant, but can be a partner in a proposal.

Are projects outside the United States eligible for funding?

The Ernest F. Hollings Ocean Awareness Trust Fund grants are focused on domestic projects. Submitting organizations must be located in and project work must take place within the United States or its territories. Proposals from organizations outside of the United States will not be reviewed.

Are organizations that are previous recipients of grant funds from the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation eligible for funding?

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation issues grants from a variety of funds. Most are not open to a competitive process. Only past Ernest F. Hollings Ocean Awareness Trust Fund grantees' eligibility is impacted by being a previous recipient of funds.

If you are a current grantee of a Hollings Ocean Awareness Trust Fund Grant, who has not submitted a final report on your project, then you are NOT eligible to submit a proposal for funding this grant cycle. If a final report is submitted prior to the October 26, 2012 submission deadline for this grant, then you may submit a proposal for this funding cycle. Also, a proposal may be submitted to current grantees upon approval from NMSF.

MATCHING REQUIREMENT

Can Federal funds be used for matching?

Yes, Federal funds may be used to meet the matching requirements.

Can in-kind services be used to meet the matching requirement?

Yes, but a specific description of these services and their estimated value must be defined in the budget included in the proposal submission. Preference will be given to projects that leverage resources outside of their own organization as the source of matching funds/in-kind services.

USE OF FUNDS

Can I use funds for salaries, overhead, etc.? Is there anything I cannot use funds for?

The proposal must include a budget that clearly identifies how funds will be spent. Funds may be used to support salaries, overhead, conferences, travel, supplies, etc. These details should be specifically outlined in the budget provided in your proposal. However, overhead costs should not exceed 12%. NMSF considers overhead to include administrative fees of a sponsoring organization, or line items such as rent, utilities, insurance, etc.

Also, salary/personnel support may not constitute 100% of your funding request.

Funds may not be used to lobby or provide entertainment.

APPLICATION

How do I submit my proposal?

The entire application is available online at <http://www.nmsfocean.org/our-grants>. Applications and all required supporting documentation must be submitted by email to grants@NMSFocean.org by 5pm EDT on Friday, October 26, 2012. No exceptions will be considered.

Do I need letters of support from partners?

Yes, at least one letter of support is required, or the proposal will not be reviewed. Letters of support will help reviewers confirm the participation of your partners, and should be submitted with your proposal package, in .pdf format. For example, if your proposed project involves an awareness project at a school, then a Letter of Support should be provided from the school indicating the acknowledgement of their participation and enthusiasm for the project.

Letters of support from national marine sanctuaries are no longer required. The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation will contact individual sanctuaries that are materially involved with your project implementation on our own.

ISSUES OF INTEREST

Where can I find more information on past grants funded through the Ernest F. Hollings Ocean Awareness Trust Fund?

A list of past grants can be found on the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation's web site at www.nmsfocean.org/our-grants. Please note that no grants were issued through this Fund in 2008.

Where can I find information on the U.S. Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force?

The final report from the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force can be found at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/oceans>.

Where can I find information on the Administration's ocean policy recommendations?

The Administration's ocean policy recommendations can be found at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans>.