

NMSF 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 in 2005, 2006, or 2007, 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 August 14, 2009 submission deadline for this grant, then you may submit a proposal for this funding cycle.

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 must be defined in the budget included in the proposal submission. Preference will be given to organizations that have a matching source of funds/in-kind services outside of their own organization.

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 25%. The Foundation considers overhead to include administrative fees of a sponsoring organization, or line items such as rent, utilities, insurance, etc.

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

Funds may not be used to lobby or provide entertainment.

Application

Does the Summary Cover Page count as part of the 5 page limit for the project narrative?

No, the Summary Cover Page is not counted as part of the 5 page narrative. However, the Summary Cover Page must be included with your proposal, or it will not be reviewed.

Does my resume count as part of the 5 page limit for the project narrative?

No, resumes may be in addition to the 5 pages. Please limit each resume or CV included to 2 pages.

Do I need letters of support from partners?

Yes, letters of support will help reviewers confirm the participation of your partners, and should be submitted with your proposal package.

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. Commission on Ocean Policy?

The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy final report can be found at www.oceancommission.gov.

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

The Administration's ocean policy recommendations can be found at <http://ocean.ceq.gov>.