REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

HURRICANE SANDY COASTAL RESILIENCY PROGRAM:
MONITORING SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Full Proposal Due Date:  Monday, October 24, 2016 by 11:59 PM Eastern Time

OVERVIEW
The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) invites proposals to conduct monitoring to collect data that will be used to assess the impact of the suite of 57 resilience restoration projects funded through the Department of the Interior’s Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Program.

In 2013, the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 (Sandy Supplemental) appropriated $829.2 million ($786.7 million after sequestration) for the Department of the Interior (DOI) to rebuild and repair coastal assets and make strategic investments in future coastal resilience. With these funds, DOI provided $204 million to support 113 DOI Bureau projects designed to reduce ecosystem and community vulnerability to the growing risks from climate-related threats (including coastal storms, sea level rise, flooding, and erosion) by strengthening natural ecosystems in the region affected by Hurricane Sandy. These projects also included investments in scientific data and studies to inform recovery in the region, as well as historic preservation efforts.

In addition, DOI partnered with NFWF to administer an external funding competition to support similar projects led by state and local governments, universities, non-profits, community groups, tribes, and other non-Federal entities. Through this process, $100 million in DOI funding from the Sandy Supplemental was invested in 54 projects along with more than $2.7 million in private funding leveraged by NFWF.

The three overarching goals of the program are to:

1. Reduce the impacts of coastal storm surge, wave velocity, sea-level rise, and associated natural threats on coastal and inland communities.
2. Strengthen the ecological integrity and functionality of coastal/inland ecosystems to protect communities and to enhance fish and wildlife and their associated habitats.
3. Enhance our understanding of the impacts of storm events and identify cost-effective resilience tools that help mitigate the effects of future storms, sea level rise, and other phenomena related to climate change.

DOI, in collaboration with others, has identified a set of coastal resilience core ecological metrics and core socio-economic metrics needed to measure the effectiveness of the combined 167 DOI and NFWF projects in enhancing resilience of engineered and ecological coastal systems.
This RFP invites proposals to conduct monitoring over the next seven years (2017 through 2023) that tracks the socio-economic metrics of a subset (57) of these projects which are identified in Appendix 1. Up to $10 million is available for grants that collect data that can be used to assess the socio-economic impact of these projects under Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Program.

**GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS**
The Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grant Program funded projects throughout the areas that were declared a natural disaster as a result of Hurricane Sandy, including Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Monitoring proposals under this RFP may include monitoring anywhere in this region, if associated with one or more of the 57 projects.

**PROGRAM PRIORITIES**
In order to effectively assess the socio-economic impact of this portfolio of projects, we are seeking proposals to conduct monitoring over the next seven years (2017 through 2023) that tracks the core socio-economic metrics associated with 57 projects funded through the Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Program. These 57 projects have been selected for additional monitoring because they represent a diversity of geographies, scales, and resilience activities. This monitoring effort is focused on four primary resilience activities, including: 1) marsh restoration (hydrology and thin layer dredge), 2) living shoreline restoration, 3) beach and dune restoration, and 4) restoration of aquatic connectivity.

Appendix 1 identifies the core socio-economic metrics for each of these priority resilience activities, identifies which projects are implementing specific activities, and provides a description of each project. Monitoring and data collection is restricted to

- the core socio-economic metrics identified for each priority resilience activity, and
- the 57 projects listed in Appendix 1.

Ultimately, the goal of this monitoring and data collection effort is to collect data for socio-economic metrics aligned with each of these projects in order to provide a consistent set of data to answer the evaluation questions outlined below:

1. **Ecological Impacts**: What fish, wildlife and other ecological/environmental outcomes have been observed in the project area? To what extent are they believed to be a result of Hurricane Sandy project activities, either individually and/or collectively?

2. **Social Impacts**: To what extent did projects individually and/or collectively reduce estimated storm risk to coastal and inland communities and/or fish and wildlife and their habitats? To what extent did projects individually and/or collectively mitigate actual storm damage?

3. **Cost-effectiveness**: What is the relative cost-effectiveness of resilience activities (e.g., dune restoration, living shorelines, vulnerability assessments, early warning systems) for achieving ecological and social outcomes?

Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals for groupings of projects as follows:
• **Thematic grouping of projects:** Collect data to support all relevant core socio-economic metrics for a group of projects that are implementing the same resilience activity or working towards the same resilience goals.

• **Geographic grouping of projects:** Collect data to support all relevant core socio-economic metrics for a group of projects within a similar geography. While the focus of the proposed monitoring and data collection must be the DOI and NFWF-funded projects, applicants are encouraged to inventory other resilience projects in close proximity and partner with others to undertake complementary and collaborative monitoring strategies to measure the impact of all projects individually and collectively.

If a proposal includes monitoring for a subset of projects that are implementing the same resilience activity, the proposal must include monitoring for all of the metrics associated with that activity. If a proposal includes monitoring for a subset of projects based on geography or another factor, monitoring must include all of the metrics associated with each project based on the resilience activity or activities being implemented.

All proposals must plan to implement monitoring for at least five years, and up to seven years (between 2017 – 2023).

Monitoring proposals should include letters of support from the project leads, where the applicant is not the project lead. See *Appendix 2* for a list of project contacts.

All monitoring data must be reported to NFWF annually using a reporting template to be provided.

**ELIGIBILITY**

• **Eligible and Ineligible Entities**
  ✓ Eligible applicants include non-profit 501(c) organizations, U.S. Federal government agencies, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Indian tribes, educational institutions and businesses.
  × Ineligible applicants include unincorporated individuals and international organizations.

• **Ineligible Uses of Grant Funds**
  × NFWF funds and matching contributions may not be used to support political advocacy, fundraising, lobbying, litigation, terrorist activities or Foreign Corrupt Practices Act violations.
  × NFWF funds may not be used to support ongoing efforts to comply with legal requirements, including permit conditions, mitigation and settlement agreements. However, grant funds may be used to support projects that enhance or improve upon existing baseline compliance efforts.

**FUNDING AVAILABILITY AND MATCH**

Up to $10 million is available. Grants will range from $100,000 to $3 million each. Proposals that include a larger number of projects, and/or encompass a larger geographic area will be eligible for
the largest grants. Matching funds are not required, but applicants are strongly encouraged to bring matching contributions valued at 50% of the grant request.

**EVALUATION CRITERIA**

All proposals will be screened for relevance, accuracy, completeness and compliance with NFWF and funding source policies. Proposals will then be evaluated based on the extent to which they meet the following criteria.

**Program Goals and Priorities** – Project contributes to the Program’s overall goals. Project addresses one or more of the program priorities outlined in the Request for Proposal.

**Technical Merit** – Project is technically sound and feasible, and the proposal sets forth a clear, logical and achievable work plan and timeline. Project engages appropriate technical experts throughout project to ensure activities are technically-sound and feasible.

**Budget** – Costs are allowable, reasonable and budgeted in accordance with NFWF’s [Budget Instructions](#) cost categories. Federally-funded projects must be in compliance with OMB Uniform Guidance as applicable ([OMB Uniform Guidance](#)).

**Partnership** – An appropriate partnership exists to implement the project and the project is supported by a strong local partnership that leverages additional funds and will sustain it after the life of the grant. Identify proposed partners, if known (including potential or contemplated subawards to third party subrecipients of the applicant), the roles they will play in implementing the project, and how this project will build new or enhance existing partnerships. (Note: a project partner is any local community, non-profit organization, tribe, and/or local, state, and federal government agency that contributes to the project in a substantial way and is closely involved in the completion of the project.)

**Past Success** – Applicant has a proven track record of success in implementing monitoring projects for coastal resilience.

**OTHER**

**General** – Applicants will be required to indicate the status of all permits required to comply with federal, state or local requirements.

**Procurement** – If the applicant chooses to specifically identify proposed Contractor(s) for Services, an award by NFWF to the applicant does not necessarily constitute NFWF’s express written authorization for the applicant to procure such specific services noncompetitively. When procuring goods and services, NFWF recipients must follow documented procurement procedures which reflect applicable laws and regulations.

**Publicity and Acknowledgement of Support** – Award recipients will be required to grant NFWF the right and authority to publicize the project and NFWF’s financial support for the grant in press releases, publications and other public communications. Recipients may also be asked by NFWF to provide high-resolution (minimum 300 dpi) photographs depicting the project.
Federal Funding Requirements – Projects selected to receive Federal funding may be subject to requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, and National Historic Preservation Act. Documentation of compliance with these regulations must be approved prior to initiating activities that disturb or alter habitat or other features of the project site(s). Applicants should budget time and resources to obtain the needed approvals. Federally-funded projects must operate in compliance with the OMB Uniform Guidance as applicable to the applicant.

Quality Assurance – Grantees will be asked to prepare and submit quality assurance documentation (www.epa.gov/quality/qapps.html). Applicants should budget time and resources to complete this task.

TIMELINE
Dates of activities are subject to change. Please check the Program page of the NFWF website for the most current dates and information Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Program (www.nfwf.org/hurricanesandy/).

✓ Applicant Webinar (Registration) September 29, 2016, 1:00pm Eastern
✓ Full Proposal Due Date October 24, 2016, 11:59pm Eastern
✓ Review Period November – mid-December
✓ Awards Announced Mid-December 2016

HOW TO APPLY
All application materials must be submitted online through National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s Easygrants system.

1. Go to easygrants.nfwf.org to register in our Easygrants online system. New users to the system will be prompted to register before starting the application (if you already are a registered user, use your existing login). Enter your applicant information.

2. Once on your homepage, click the “Apply for Funding” button and select this RFP’s “Funding Opportunity” from the list of options.

3. Follow the instructions in Easygrants to complete your application. Once an application has been started, it may be saved and returned to at a later time for completion and submission.

APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

A PDF version of this RFP can be downloaded at Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Program (www.nfwf.org/hurricanesandy/).

A Tip Sheet is available for quick reference while you are working through your application. This document can be downloaded at Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Program (www.nfwf.org/hurricanesandy/). Additional information to support the application process can be
accessed on the NFWF website’s “Applicant Information” page (http://www.nfwf.org/whatwedo/grants/applicants/Pages/home.aspx).

For more information or questions about this RFP, please contact:

Candace Leong, Program Coordinator
(202) 595-2413
candace.leong@nfwf.org

For issues or assistance with our online Easygrants system, please contact:

Easygrants Helpdesk
Email: Easygrants@nfwf.org
Voicemail: 202-595-2497
Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm ET, Monday-Friday.
Include: your name, proposal ID #, e-mail address, phone number, program you are applying to, and a description of the issue.