

Applicant Questions and Answers for the:

Request For Proposals: Contract to evaluate the National Coastal Resilience Fund and the Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Program

9/9/21

Application Process and Contracting Questions

1. *Can NFWF confirm the following dates in RFP are correct?*

Yes, the dates provided are accurate. The Offeror can, of course, submit a proposal prior to those deadlines.

2. *Is it possible to list NFWF staff as a reference? Are we able to list more than two references?*

Yes, you may include NFWF as a reference. Yes, you may offer more than two references.

Budget Questions

3. *What is the approximate budget range for this effort, if known?*

NFWF cannot share information about the budget for this contract. Offerors should propose the level of effort they estimate is necessary to complete the tasks outlined in the Request for Proposals and as described in the Offeror's technical approach.

Scope of Work Questions

4. *When will the Socioeconomic Benefits Assessment be completed? Is there a possibility of getting data from that assessment or collaborating with the contractor performing that assessment to inform this evaluation?*

The work to assess the socioeconomic benefits of Sandy and NCRF implementation projects is ongoing. Some of these data will be available to support this evaluation, but much of it will not. The due dates for the assessment of socioeconomic benefits roughly follow this schedule:

- 2018 NCRF (20 grants) – Feb 2022
- 2019 NCRF (16 grants) – Aug 2022
- 2014-2016 Sandy (37 grants) – Fall 2023
- 2020 NCRF (15 grants) – Spring 2024
- 2021 NCRF (~20 grants) – Fall 2024

Yes, the contractor for this evaluation will be able to collaborate with the contractor for the socioeconomic assessment and obtain any data that are available at the time.

5. *Is there a page limit for the final report deliverable?*

No, there are no page limits for the final report deliverable.

6. *What is the format of the project data that NFWF will provide to the selected consultant on ecological metrics? (e.g., Excel, EasyGrants reports)*

Available data on ecological metrics in the data repository (<https://resiliencedata.nfwf.org/>) are primarily in .xls, .csv, and PDF formats.

7. *In relation to Evaluation Question 4 (evidence of cumulative impacts from geographic clustering of NFWF, DOI, and NOAA projects), what types of information will NFWF provide to the selected consultant regarding the relevant DOI and NOAA projects needed for analysis?*

The contractor would need to reach out to the respective agency program directors to learn what types of data are available for those projects. NFWF will help connect the contractor to the appropriate agency contact.

8. *Can you clarify the socioeconomic aspects of this project? On p. 2 there is this statement: "Socio-economic benefits for both programs are in the process of being assessed by a third party contractor." On p. 3, however, evaluation questions to be addressed seem to include several socio-economic elements such as human community resilience and broader community benefits (e.g., flood reduction, recreation, tourism). What is the timing of the other third party evaluation, and what will the hand-off be from that effort to this one? Who is performing this work? What are the socio-economic benefits that are being assessed in the new evaluation covered by this RFP?*

Question 3 in the evaluation RFP refers to data observed by grantees and community members. This is distinct from the socioeconomic assessment which is a modeling exercise using data on project design and implementation to estimate the benefits from reduced flooding under various storm scenarios.

To an extent, the results of Question 3 under this contract could potentially ground truth the results of the socioeconomic modeling exercise, but this evaluation is not dependent on a hand-off of data from the socioeconomic assessment. See response to question #4 above for the timing of these socioeconomic results.

9. *How does NFWF anticipate various metrics entered into the database over the next 1.5 years will dovetail with this project?*

Available ecological data from Sandy projects and baseline ecological data from 2018 and 2019 NCRF projects should be available in the data repository no later than June 2021. Baseline data on 2020 and 2021 NCRF projects may require an additional year for inclusion in the data repository.

If project data are not yet entered into the data repository, NFWF can contact grantees to ensure the available data are uploaded. The Offeror should propose a date after which no new data will be included in the evaluation.

10. *Are monitoring data available from 2016 to present for all 39 Hurricane Sandy Program projects mentioned in the RFP? If not, what period is covered and what types of monitoring data have been collected?*

Monitoring data on ecological habitat and species metrics should be available for all the Hurricane Sandy projects mentioned in the evaluation RFP; however, the timing of these data will vary and can

include data between 2015-2021. As noted above, ecological metric data for Hurricane Sandy projects should be available in the data repository no later than June 2021.

11. The RFP states that the web-based metrics database and related data repository will be developed over the next 1.5 years. In what form are data currently available for use in completing this project?

See response to question #6 above.

12. Are there restrictions on publications?

NFWF can share expectations of any publications arising out of this contract with the selected Offeror.

13. NFWF has developed extensive literature on monitoring metrics. Could you clarify how NFWF anticipates this scope of work will differ from prior reports, and other ongoing assessments?

Yes, NFWF has developed an extensive list of monitoring metrics by which to assess progress on resilience grants. In this RFP, NFWF is asking the contractor to use data already being collected on these monitoring metrics—in combination with additional data to be collected as part of the evaluation—to answer the questions outlined in the evaluation RFP.

14. In order to assess potential project benefits and influences, does NFWF anticipate that this effort would use existing area of influence data?

Not necessarily. Many of the projects will not yet have data on the project's zone of influence. If data on the project's zone of influence are available, the contractor could consider those data in the evaluation of the project's ecological and human community outcomes. However, NFWF recognizes that the zone of influence is based on the estimated area of reduced flood impacts which might not represent the full suite of ecological and human community benefits resulting from the project.

15. Does NFWF have identified ecological and resilience outcomes? Or is that identification (including literature review) a part of the project scope?

NFWF has already identified ecological and human community resilience outcome metrics; the identification of these (and a literature review) is not part of the scope of this effort.

16. Could NFWF elaborate more on the scale of geographic clustering of community resilience?

The contractor should anticipate working with NFWF to identify an appropriate scale of geographic clustering.

17. What alternatives to the NCRF program priority areas have been considered in order to determine if these are the most appropriate? Does NFWF have recommendations to the contractors on how to investigate what would have happened in the absence of their grants?

NFWF is asking the contractor to consider whether the specific priority areas within NCRF's pipeline approach are the most appropriate for supporting the goals of the program and assisting projects and organizations in moving from planning through to implementation and monitoring of nature-based solutions. For more information on NCRF's pipeline of priority areas, see the latest NCRF [RFP](#).

NFWF is not asking the contractor to investigate what would have happened in the absence of their grants.

18. Could NFWF define what it means by long-term sustainability (e.g., financial, ecological, human-centric)?

In this context, long-term sustainability refers to the continuation of the ecological or socio-economic outcomes that were achieved through the NFWF grant investments beyond the period of performance of the grant.