



National Coastal Resilience Fund – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

April 4, 2022

This FAQ covers the following topics:

We strongly encourage you to thoroughly read through this FAQ document and the NCRF RFP. Due to the strong interest in the RFP, staff response may take time and questions that are not already answered directly in the RFP or in this FAQ will be given priority.

- General Applicant Information 2
- Webinar Recording 2
- Funding Availability 2
- Period of Performance 3
- Eligible Organizations 3
- Eligibility – Geographic Boundary..... 4
- Matching Contributions..... 5
- NCRF’s Project Pipeline / Project Categories..... 7
- Project Eligibility Questions 8
- Land Acquisitions 10
- Evaluation Criteria 11
- Letters of Support..... 12
- Metrics 12
- Permitting 12
- Proposal Narrative Template..... 13
- Budgets/Procurement 13
- EasyGrants & Uploads 13
- Field Liaisons – Throwe Environmental 14
- Partners 15
- ECRF Applicants 15
- DOD-REPI Partnership 15

Quick links:

- **General tips on EasyGrants applications:**
<http://www.nfwf.org/whatwedo/grants/applicants/Pages/faqs.aspx>
- **2022 NCRF RFP:** <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/national-coastal-resilience-fund/national-coastal-resilience-fund-2022-request-proposals>
- **NCRF Tip Sheet:** <https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/2022-NCRF-Tip-Sheet-Pre-Proposal-to-Full-Proposal.pdf>
- **NCRF Pre-Proposal Applicant Webinar Recording:**
<https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/6666383401729491471>



NFWF

General Applicant Information

Q. Where can I go to find information about how to apply to the National Coastal Resilience Fund?

A. For general information about the NCRF, we encourage you to review the Request for Proposals, tip sheets, webinar recording, and other materials on our website: www.nfwf.org/coastalresilience

Q. What is the NCRF, is it an annual grant competition?

A. The National Coastal Resilience Fund was created by Congress in 2018. NFWF administers the NCRF as an annual grant competition, subject to Congressional appropriations and the availability of funds.

Q. Where can I find examples of previously funded NCRF projects?

A. Descriptions of previously funded NCRF projects can be found on our website in the Grant Slate announcements for each funding cycle on the 'Program Information' tab of the National Coastal Resilience Fund webpage: www.nfwf.org/coastalresilience

Webinar Recording

Q. Will a recording of the webinar be made available?

A. Yes, the recording is available at www.nfwf.org/coastalresilience

Q. Will the slides be available?

A. The slides are available in the recorded webinar at www.nfwf.org/coastalresilience. Use the scroll bar in the recorded webinar to see the slides you would like to review again so you have this verbal context as well.

Funding Availability

Q. Will funding be available through this program next year?

A. Yes. The availability of federal funds estimated in each year's solicitation is contingent upon the federal appropriations process; funding decisions will be made based on timing and level of funding.

Q. How much is expected to be awarded in 2022?

A. We will allocate the full amount of available funding, if there are enough meritorious projects to do so.

Q. Are there minimum or maximum grant amounts by project type or line item within a project?

A. No. The RFP provides the expected average range of awards by project category – but these are not considered limits or hard 'caps'.

Q. Is there a funding percentage cap for monitoring in restoration projects?

A. No. You should request the amount needed to conduct one year of post-construction monitoring based upon the metrics for your project type as described in NFWF's [monitoring protocols](#). Restoration-Implementation projects will be required to submit a monitoring program – but this request would come after a pre-proposal has been invited to submit a full proposal.

Q. Is there a limit on the amount you'd like to see go to community engagement?

A. No.



NFWF

Q. Is there a niche for smaller proposals (i.e. <100K) that are competitive in part because they are smaller funding levels?

A. No. The National Coastal Resilience Fund will provide grants that advance projects of a scale necessary to have significant community and wildlife benefit.

Period of Performance

Q. What is the Period of Performance?

A. The Period of Performance is the time between the start and end date of your project for which all activities in the scope of work (and request and match budgets) must be included. Expenses incurred outside of the start and end dates cannot be reimbursed or counted as match.

Q. What is the latest possible start date for a project funded through the 2022 NCRF?

A. It is up to the applicant to specify the period of performance for their project that is appropriate for the work they are proposing to complete. For the 2022 grant slate, we will consider projects with start dates before and up to October 1, 2023.

Q. What is the greatest possible period of performance?

A. It is up to the applicant to specify the period of performance for their project that is appropriate for the work they are proposing to complete. For this funding opportunity, a project cannot have a start date prior to June 1, 2022 or an end date after December 31, 2026. Any expenses incurred prior to an official award letter and signed contract are taken solely at the risk of the applicant.

Q. When will funds be available?

A. This will depend on how complete your application is, the grants policies and routing at your organization and how responsive you are to modification requests. Funds are only disbursed to grantees who have a signed grant agreement with NFWF. Notifications are expected in November 2022, therefore, the soonest funds are likely to be available is January 2023. February or March of 2023 would be safer start dates, if your project is flexible.

Q. Can I have a late 2023 start date?

A. It is up to the applicant to specify the period of performance for their project that is appropriate for the work they are proposing to complete. For the 2022 NCRF grant slate, we will consider projects with start dates before and up to October 1, 2023.

Eligible Organizations

Q. Are regional councils of government (planning districts that cover multiple local governments) or Joint Ventures eligible as long as funding is not going to a federal entity?

A. Yes, these organizations would be considered an eligible entity as long as a federal entity is not the applicant or subawardee. If the scope of work under the grant will benefit a federal entity, a letter of support from the federal entities that will be engaged through the project is highly recommended.

Q. Are federal entities eligible to receive funding?

A. No. However, entities that have dual standing as partially federal (e.g., Sea Grant) can apply, but these entities need to be particularly careful around rules of matching funds, federal augmentation, etc. Eligible applicants that would like to partner with a federal entity for the implementation of their project



NFWF

are encouraged to do so and should provide a letter of support if their role is significant. Funding can NOT however be directed to a federal entity as 'co-lead' or 'sub-award'.

Q. Are "for-profit companies" eligible to receive grants under the NCRF?

A. Yes. However, federal funding prohibits profits to be made on grants. For profit companies seeking to receive grants must ensure that the budget for the project is "at cost".

Q. Is a project that provides resiliency for a private company (e.g., port facility) eligible?

A. Yes. NFWF prioritizes projects that provide broad community resilience benefits and evaluates how projects help mitigate the impacts of future storms and other coastal hazards on key, local community assets (such as military facilities, emergency services, infrastructure, and centers of economic activity).

Q. Can projects take place on federal lands (i.e., can federal property be enhanced/benefit even if no federal salaries are supported)? If so, are these lands prioritized over private lands?

A. Yes, generally, NCRF-funded projects can be implemented on federal lands, but projects on federal lands are not prioritized over projects on lands owned by other entities. If invited to submit a full proposal, applicants should submit a letter of support from the landowner/land manager. Additionally, projects seeking partner funding (e.g., Department of Defense funding) may be limited in using partner funds to complete work on federal lands that are specific to the funding source being used to complete the work. For example, DOD REPI funds cannot be used to support "on-base" restoration activities. Please reach out the NFWF staff contacts listed in the RFP to discuss the specific details of your project if you are seeking partner funding for your project and have questions about whether funds can be used on federal lands.

Q. If I've received a previous NCRF grant, can I still apply for this year's competition?

A. Yes. If you'll be done with the previous grant and poised to make substantial progress in 2023, then we encourage you to apply. Applicants should consider their capacity to implement multiple grants. Reviewers will consider the grantee's past performance as part of their proposal evaluation. Applicants should also watch what they include as match to avoid double counting of match from previous NCRF awards.

Q. Can a consortium of organizations submit a joint application for one project? Is it a problem if a different organization submits the pre-proposal from the full proposal?

A. Yes, we encourage applicants to bring together broad partnerships in support of the project. However, the application can only have one primary contact on Easygrants who must be directly affiliated with the applicant organization and the primary contact should remain the same for the pre-proposal and the full proposal. If awarded, all funding will flow through the applicant organization, which will be responsible for managing subawards to any project partners.

Eligibility – Geographic Boundary

Q. My project is located in a "coastal area" that is not shown as eligible on your map, but otherwise meets the definition of eligible coastal area in the RFP – can I still apply?

A. NFWF's map of the geographic footprint for NCRF is only guidance. If your project area is not shown in orange on the map, but otherwise meets the definition of a "coastal area" in the NCRF RFP, your project will be considered for funding. If the boundary is in question, include a short description of how the project meets the definition in your narrative.



NFWF

Q. My project area is not in a “resilience hub” according to CREST, will my project still be competitive and is it still eligible for funding?

A. Projects do NOT need to be located in an area identified by NFWF as a “resilience hub” to be eligible. The CREST tool and Coastal Resilience Assessments were designed to help applicants assess projects and determine potential benefits to habitats and human communities. These tools are used for informational purposes only and do not affect a project’s eligibility to receive funding.

Q. What does NFWF mean by “resilience hubs”?

A. “Resilience hubs” are delineated in NFWF’s regional coastal resilience assessments, which seek to identify areas where natural resource restoration efforts will have the greatest impact for human community resilience, as well as for fish and wildlife. Applicants may explore Resilience Hubs on the Coastal Resilience and Evaluation Siting Tool (CREST) (<https://www.nfwf.org/programs/national-coastal-resilience-fund/regional-coastal-resilience-assessment>). However, projects need NOT be located in an area identified by NFWF as a Resilience Hub to be eligible. CREST is meant to provide a useful tool for applicants to help them assess projects based on the dual benefits to habitats and human communities. NFWF understands that “Resilience Hubs” have been defined by other organizations as community-serving facilities that support disaster response and recovery efforts as well as other community-building activities; this is NOT the definition NFWF uses for “resilience hubs” delineated in NFWF’s CREST tool or for purposes of the NCRF.

Matching Contributions

Q. It looks like the 2022 NCRF RFP does not have a requirement for match. Is this correct?

A. This year, non-federal match is not required, but is still strongly encouraged to show broad support for the project. Match ratio will still be considered as a review criterion in our evaluation of proposals. In the past this program has seen strong match from grantees, and we do not expect that to change. However, we recognize that in some circumstances 1:1 match ratio is difficult to achieve. For example, it may be difficult to meet a 1:1 match ratio for projects in underserved communities with fewer financial resources and for larger-scale Restoration-Implementation projects with higher overall budgets. Therefore, we have therefore lessened the match requirement and will consider the match ratio as one of many criteria we consider in evaluating projects for funding.

Q. If there is no specific requirement for match, how will be match be considered in the proposal evaluation process?

A. Match ratio will be one of many factors considered in evaluating project proposals. See the Evaluation Criteria section of the RFP to see the full list of factors reviewers will consider when reviewing proposals.

Q. Will the ‘no match’ requirement persist into next year’s RFP or is it this year only?

A. After this year’s proposal review, we will be evaluating the grant slate, leveraged funds, and the RFP language with our partners and NFWF leadership to assess whether any changes are needed for future funding cycles. As a result, we cannot make any definitive statements about RFP language in future cycles of the NCRF.

Q. Can we use RESTORE Act, HUD, CZMA, NSF, COVID-relief funds etc. funding as non-federal matching funds?



A. Information about NFWF matching fund requirements, including a description of acceptable sources of matching funds, is available at <http://www.nfwf.org/whatwedo/grants/applicants/Pages/faqs.aspx>. In general, if funds originated as a federal appropriation, it is unlikely to be acceptable as match. If you are unsure if certain funds will qualify as match, we recommend identifying alternative sources, if available.

Q. At what point should matching be secured?

A. Matching funds must be secured and expended within the period of performance specified for your project. However, a low amount of matching funds secured at the time of the full proposal application may impact competitiveness and can impact the amount of funds available for invoicing should a grant be awarded. Larger match ratios and matching fund contributions from a diversity of partners are encouraged and will be more competitive during application review, all other things being equal.

Q. What percentage of match can be in-kind?

A. Up to 100% of match may be in-kind. No priority is given to in-kind vs. cash match.

Q. Can pro bono grant writing assistance for preparing the pre- and final proposals be counted as match?

A. No. You cannot count time donated towards previous activities or proposal writing as match. Only the activities and expenses that are incurred during the proposed period of performance, are directly part of the Scope of Work of this proposal, and meet the other terms of matching funds (i.e., has not already been used to match another federal source) can be counted. For this funding opportunity, a project cannot have a start date prior to June 1, 2022.

Q. Can match from on-going projects, phases or parts of projects or contracts be applied?

A. ONLY if the activities and expenses are incurred during the current project's period of performance, are directly part of the Scope of Work of this proposal and meet the other terms of matching funds (i.e., has not already been used to match another federal source). If you have secured phase one of a two-phase construction project and phase one will be completed in the period of performance, then include phase one in the scope of work even though the request would be for phase two. This would be the same for preliminary and final design. All costs necessary for the implementation of the project are eligible provided all other match rules apply (non-federal, etc.). Additionally, if earlier phases of work are being supported by a previous NCRF grant, be careful about not to double counting matching funds.

Q. Is property use / value eligible for match funds?

A. Only if purchase of the property (i.e. easement or acquisition) is necessary to complete the scope of work. Match/in-kind costs are those that you would have needed to pay for to complete the project scope of work but are not in the requested budget. For example, permission to improve someone's land may not equate to a value; however, an easement indicating a landowner will not build a seawall or a donation of land or interest in land on which habitat restoration would occur could be used as match.

Q. Can we use land donated as match?

A. The donation of land must be specifically related to the Scope of Work proposed to be completed with the grant funds and must be donated within the project's period of performance.

Q. I have a proposal pending before FEMA to fund a coastal resilience project, should I also submit a proposal to the NCRF?



A. Having a pending application for funding from other federal programs does not preclude you from submitting a proposal under NCRF. Given the competitive nature of many federal grant programs, we encourage you to also apply to the NCRF for projects or project components that meet the RFP criteria. If you are awarded grant funding from another agency to support the same work covered by your NCRF proposal, we would ask you to rescind the NCRF proposal. If a portion of the work is funded under another federal grant program, but additional NCRF funding can help you implement nature-based components of the work or increase the scale or impact of the project, reach out to NFWF staff to discuss how to integrate the different funding source(s) as project leverage.

Q. How can I capture federal funds leveraged in support of a project, when they do not count as non-federal match?

A. In the match section of your application, you can indicate that funds are federal. You can also detail federal funds leveraged in support of your project in your proposal narrative. These funds will be counted as federal leverage in evaluating your proposal.

[NCRF's Project Pipeline / Project Categories](#)

Q. Are innovative approaches to enhance coastal resilience with natural infrastructure only eligible as part of restoration and monitoring projects?

A. No. NFWF funds activities in four categories designed to advance a project through NFWF's "project pipeline" from planning to implementation: 1) Community Capacity Building and Planning; 2) Site Assessment and Preliminary Design; 3) Final Design and Permitting; 4) Restoration Implementation. We encourage innovative approaches for enhancing coastal resilience at all stages of the project's development and design, and innovation is a criterion we review for all projects across all project categories.

Q. If we are pursuing funding for a project that requires both planning/design funding, as well as construction funding, must we submit them as separate proposals in multiple focal areas?

A. The application will force you to choose one project category. While some cross-over between categories is allowed, there should be a primary category for the project as determined by the anticipated project outcomes and outputs. NFWF strongly discourages "design/build" projects (i.e., proposals seeking funding to both design and construct a restoration project). NFWF will not fund projects (or multiple applications) that seek funding for multiple project categories for the same project in the same year.

Q. For a multi-site application: could two of the sites be for designing and another be for construction or do all projects need to be in one focal area?

A. The application will force you to choose one project category. While some cross-over between categories is allowed, there should be a primary category for the project as determined by the anticipated project outcomes and outputs. If you are considering two project sites in the same watershed and multiple sites are needed to achieve the community resilience and habitat goals for the project, we will consider that one project. NFWF strongly discourages "design/build" projects (i.e., proposals seeking funding to both design and construct a restoration project) and NFWF will not fund projects (or multiple applications) that seek funding for multiple project categories for the same project in the same year.



Q. Does a project need to have completed a planning stage before applying for later project categories (preliminary design, final design, or implementation)?

A. No. You do not need go through the entire NCRF pipeline; you can propose a project at any stage of the project pipeline. However, as part of its evaluation criteria, reviewers consider whether the project is prioritized in applicable local, state, tribal/territorial or regional plans and applicants should describe the planning efforts that informed and prioritized the project in their proposal.

Q. Does each project category get a dedicated pot of funding? Do you have specific set aside amounts for certain project categories?

A. No, there are no pre-determined number of projects or amount of funding we will dedicate to specific project categories or projects in each category.

Project Eligibility Questions

Q. Will pilot level projects be eligible if what their testing what can be applied to a larger scale?

A. Yes, they are eligible, but their competitiveness may still be evaluated based on impact. We encourage applicants proposing 'pilot' or 'demonstration' projects to discuss in their proposal how they will ensure the transferability of the approach (i.e., how the impact of the project can be scaled by replicating the approach in other communities or throughout the state or region through other plans, programs, or policies).

Q. Can you define what you consider large and small scale?

A. This will vary by region and by threat type. The project should be designed at a sufficient scale to ensure that it will address the coastal resilience challenges identified in the proposal narrative, or at least significantly lessen risks from the coastal hazards identified. For example, a small pocket wetland in the middle of a town might double the available habitat for a rare bird or fish – but you will also need to describe how will it reduce flooding or mitigate other coastal hazards to show community resilience benefits. Proposals for smaller-scale or pilot projects can increase their competitiveness by demonstrating transferability (i.e., that the impact of the project can be scaled by replicating the approach throughout the region or state or in the same or other communities through other plans, programs, or policies).

Q. Would funds for a Watershed Management Plan or local comprehensive plan, etc. be eligible under the Project Site Assessment and Preliminary Design?

A. Generally, No. NCRF funds specific project planning and design to support nature-based solutions for enhancing community and habitat resilience – not broader planning documents. However, if you are supporting planning and design for nature-based solutions that will contribute to a broader planning effort and that broader planning effort can ensure the transferability of the nature-based solutions that you are developing, the nature-based component of work can be support through NCRF. You should explain how the NCRF supported work will contribute to that broader planning effort and how other funding sources are being leveraged to complete the more comprehensive planning effort.

Q. Would research on innovative designs be appropriate for this grant?

A. Research as part of a grant to test or learn about an innovative coastal resilience approach may be included. However, we do not fund stand-alone research projects through the NCRF. The purpose of the NCRF is to support advancement of planning and design efforts that can ultimately lead to implementation of restoration projects that enhance community resilience and habitats for fish and



wildlife. While we fund monitoring and research that enables the planning and design of projects, stand-alone monitoring and research projects are not eligible.

Q. Will habitat assessment (area, boundaries, site suitability) be considered under Project Site(s) Assessment and Preliminary Design?

A. It depends. The distinction is project planning. If a planning document prioritized a management action to address a coastal hazard for a general area and your proposal includes an assessment of the best place to site the project and determine the best scale or boundaries of the project to achieve the necessary resilience goals – then yes. If the purpose of the habitat assessment is for more general purposes or to inform other research or planning efforts unrelated to the development of specific coastal resilience project, then no.

Q. Will my project to do [wastewater collection systems and pump stations, artificial reefs, water quality improvements, dredging, hardened shoreline, seagrass restoration, large canal networks, living shorelines, aquaculture, etc.] be competitive?

A. The NCRF is focused on supporting nature-based solutions that both enhance community resilience and improve habitat for fish and wildlife. The term nature-based solution is further defined at footnote 3 in the RFP. The types of projects that will be competitive will vary by region, as will the threats they are seeking to address. Please review the RFP carefully and if you feel your project meets the general requirements then we strongly recommend you complete a pre-proposal. Please also reach out to NFWF regional staff in your location, if you would like to discuss your specific project idea.

Q. Is a project that includes coastal habitat benefits, and community resiliency benefits, but not specifically "storm resiliency" benefits, eligible?

A. Please review the RFP carefully. In general, the NCRF is focused on making investments to advance identified priorities for restoring and strengthening natural systems so they can protect or buffer coastal communities from the impacts of coastal hazards and enable them to recover more quickly, while also enhancing habitats for important fish and wildlife populations. The RFP contains more specific information about program priorities, how we define community resilience, and the types of coastal hazards that the NCRF is designed to help applicants address.

Q. Can you elaborate a bit more on community resilience benefits?

A. Benefits may include, but are not limited to: reduced risk to key community assets (hospitals, power plants, evacuation routes, etc.), reduced risk to property, or other such benefits to communities and infrastructure. Desirable community benefits vary greatly depending upon the geographic context and applicants should consult any regional planning efforts that address coastal risks and resilience.

Q. How important is stakeholder and community outreach and engagement?

A. We are prioritizing projects that include robust community outreach and engagement. Support and buy-in from community leaders and affected landowners can be critical to a project's success. Projects may also provide an important opportunity to engage key stakeholders and improve, skills, knowledge or support for resilience efforts. We will prioritize projects that directly engage community stakeholders. Footnote 4 of the RFP provides more information about how we define "direct community engagement" and provides specific examples.



NFWF

Q. Would living shoreline feasibility studies be considered an eligible project for Project Site(s) Assessment and Preliminary Design? Such a study would be a necessary early step for further planning and design.

A. Yes. The goal of this project category is to get a project ready for the next phase. All projects with a focus on nature-based solutions for enhancing community and habitat resilience can be considered in each project category.

Q. Are oyster reefs considered aquaculture?

A. Restoration of oyster reefs is an eligible project. Proposals should describe how the project will support production as well as providing community resilience and habitat benefits.

Q. Is environmental review (under NEPA or state environmental quality acts) an eligible activity?

A. Yes, environmental review and permitting activities required to implement the project are fundable activities.

Q. Does NFWF require that projects be installed on public land?

A. No. Projects may be conducted on Federal, tribal, territorial, state or local government lands, or private lands where there is a demonstrated commitment from the landowner to support implementation of the project and long-term protection of the lands for conservation purposes. Projects that consider the larger landscape and involve multiple landowners and/or partners and jurisdictions, as appropriate, are encouraged. If projects on private land are invited to submit a full proposal, they may be required to submit a letter of support for the project from landowner(s)/managers.

Land Acquisitions

Q. Is land acquisition a fundable activity under the NCRF?

A. Potentially. Acquisition of land that is essential for implementing a larger-scale Restoration Implementation project and that is ineligible for other federal funding sources may be considered an eligible activity on a case-by-case basis.

Q. Under what pipeline project category, will NFWF consider funding land acquisitions?

A. Under the 2022 NCRF cycle, NFWF is considering projects that require funding for land acquisitions where the funding is essential for implementing a broader Restoration-Implementation project and no other funding sources are available to support acquisition. This is our first year of considering land acquisitions as part of NCRF fundable activities, so we anticipate we will see some acquisition projects at the Final Design and Permitting stage as well as the Restoration-Implementation stage. We anticipate that the most competitive projects will seek land acquisition funding as part of a broader Restoration-Implementation project, but will consider projects in both stages. Applicants seeking funding for land acquisitions are required to complete a separate upload describing that status of the real estate transaction, how land acquisition will support a broader Restoration-Implementation project, and why other sources of funding are not available to support acquisition.

Q. Will the conservation value of the land be considered as part of NFWF's evaluation of proposals seeking funding for land acquisition?



NFWF

A. Funds for land acquisitions through the NCRF will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis based upon the need to acquire the land to support a broader Restoration-Implementation project and the availability of other funding sources to support acquisition. The project proposal, including the funding sought for land acquisition, will be evaluated based upon the community resilience and habitat benefits that can be delivered and the overall cost effectiveness of the proposed approach, among the other evaluation criteria detailed in the RFP.

Q. What pre-transaction documentation is required to request funding for land acquisition?

A. At the pre-proposal stage, you are not required to upload any pre-transaction real estate documents. However, applicants seeking funding for land acquisition must complete the separate acquisition upload as part of their application. If invited for full proposal, we will encourage applicants seeking funding for land acquisition to upload all available pre-transaction real estate documentation, including appraisals, recent surveys, environmental assessments, management plans, any proposed conservation easement language, closing documents, title insurance, escrow instructions etc. For additional guidance on NFWF policies related to land acquisitions, see: <https://www.nfwf.org/land-acquisition-easement-guidance>.

Evaluation Criteria

Q. What does NFWF mean by “transferability” in the NCRF RFP priorities?

A. Through the NCRF, NFWF prioritizes projects that include transferrable approaches, which means that the applicant has included activities in the scope of work designed to ensure that the approaches implemented can be scaled for broader impact by replicating the approach in the same or other communities or throughout the state or region and/or through integration into other government plans, programs, or policies.

Q. What does NFWF mean by “sustainability” in the NCRF RFP priorities?

A. Through the NCRF, NFWF prioritizes projects that account for future climate risks in the project design to ensure that the project approach will be durable and continue to provide community resilience and fish and wildlife benefits in the face of changing environmental conditions, such as rising sea levels. Applicants should describe how they will account for future climate risks in the development, design, implementation, and long-term maintenance or adaptive management of the project, as appropriate.

Q. Will the number of acres/miles restored be factored into the scoring criteria for the NCRF?

A. Larger scale, more comprehensive projects that are designed for the greatest community resilience and habitat benefit are likely to be more competitive. However, proposals for smaller-scale or pilot projects can increase their competitiveness by demonstrating transferability (i.e., that the impact of the project can be scaled by replicating the approach in the same or other communities or throughout the state or region through other plans, programs, or policies).

Q. Is benefit-cost analysis required for NCRF projects?

A. No. However, we do ask applicants to specifically describe the anticipated community resilience and habitat benefits that will be delivered by the projects and reviewers consider the project's cost effectiveness among other factors.

Q. How is “underserved community” defined in the NCRF RFP?

A. Underserved communities are defined as communities that according to demographic information are above the national average in factors, such as poverty rates, which contribute to a community's



vulnerability to impacts from coastal hazards. Applicants should include specific demographic information about the community or communities that will benefit from the project, such as age, race, ethnicity, poverty rates, or other factors that make a community disproportionately vulnerable to coastal hazards. Demographic information can be found using the U.S. Census or from tools such as CREST, EJScreen, or the Social Vulnerability Index.

Letters of Support

Q. Are letters of support required at the pre-proposal stage?

A. No. However, if invited to submit a full proposal, applicants are encouraged to include letters of support and commitment from partners, collaborators and other stakeholders key to the successful completion of the project to demonstrate that implementation of the project is feasible and a community priority.

Metrics

Q. Does NFWF already have a standardized set of monitoring metrics to capture benefits of community protection and habitat?

A. Metrics for Restoration and Monitoring projects continue to be developed for this program. Please use the metrics listed in the RFP, the [NCRF's Resilience Monitoring Metrics and Protocols](#), and we may share other metrics with projects invited to submit a full proposal under the Restoration-Implementation project category. If you have metrics you feel would be helpful or important to monitor to demonstrate the success of the project or specific outcomes, please add them to the metrics section of your narrative.

Q. How can an additional tracking metric be added to the drop down menu?

A. We are not accepting additional program level metrics at this time – please add any further metrics you feel are important to the metrics section of your narrative. If you think an applicable metric has not been provided, please contact NFWF staff listed in the RFP to discuss acceptable alternatives.

Q. What are metrics for different project categories (e.g., Project Site(s) Assessment and Preliminary Design)?

A. Please see the metrics section in the RFP – metrics for each project category are listed under the section labeled for the project category. For metrics specific to a project category see the individual sections in the table for the category that applies to your project. For example, metrics specific to “Site Assessment and Preliminary Design” projects are included in the table under that header. If applicable, projects may also use metrics provided under the first heading for “All Project Categories - Community Benefit and Outreach”.

Q. There is no metric for living shorelines. Will this restoration type be competitive? Should we list the acres of marsh/dune that are protected by the living shoreline?

A. Yes, use the metrics that are provided to characterize the habitat protected or enhance by the living shoreline (e.g., saltmarsh), if possible. Competitiveness will vary by region for these types of projects.

Permitting

Q. For restoration implementation projects, must permits be in hand?



NFWF

A. For the Restoration-Implementation project category, we are looking to fund 'restoration ready' projects that are ready to start in 2023. Projects that have permits in hand may be more competitive, and it is expected that most viable projects will be well into the permitting process by the proposal due date. Given the 4-year timeline to spend grant funding, it is expected that projects will be able to receive all permits and start construction within 6 months of the start date for the project's period of performance.

Proposal Narrative Template

Q. Can a pre-proposal narrative include URL links, for example to a local resilience plan, to show prioritization without taking too much pre-proposal space?

A. Yes. The pre-proposal narrative template is a word document that you will complete describing your resilience challenges and project idea for addressing those challenges. You can include hyperlinks to plans or other documents that support your narrative, but the proposal should be standalone. NFWF does not require reviewers to review beyond the standard application materials including clicking on hyperlinked information.

Budgets/Procurement

Q. Can grant funds be used for administration/project management?

A. Yes. Your project budget should include all costs to carry out the project including personnel costs for fiscal and programmatic management and reporting.

Q. What are NFWF's procurement guidelines and procedures?

A. As indicated in the NCRF RFP, this program awards federal assistance funds subject to the requirements of OMB Uniform Guidance, which you can access [here](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/learn-grants/grant-policies/omb-uniform-guidance-2014.html) (<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/learn-grants/grant-policies/omb-uniform-guidance-2014.html>). As such, recipients must maintain and follow a documented procurement process that aligns with the Procurement Standards of the Uniform Guidance, and must maintain sufficient supporting documentation. Please note, NFWF does not approve the solicitation and/or selection of contractors.

Q. How detailed do the cost estimates need to be for the project? Can you change the total budget amount if invited to full proposal?

A. At the pre-proposal stage, applicants only need to submit an estimate of the requested amount for the project. If invited to full proposal, a detailed budget will be required as part of your submission. You can access the detailed budget and narrative guide [here](https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2020-07/nfwf-detailed-budget-narrative-guide.pdf) (<https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2020-07/nfwf-detailed-budget-narrative-guide.pdf>), to get a sense of what will be required at the full proposal stage. Your budget submitted as part of your full proposal can change from the requested amount in your pre-proposal, however significant increased costs or decreased match will be considered in the evaluation of the cost-effectiveness of your proposal during review at the full proposal stage.

EasyGrants & Uploads

Q. Can the photo uploads be as a pdf with captions, descriptions?

A. No. We request photos so that we have high quality visuals that we can use to communicate about your grant if you are awarded funds.

Q. If we didn't have to undergo an A-133/Single Audit, do we upload a statement to that effect?



NFWF

A. Depending on your organization type, you may not find this document as a requirement in your uploads section. If it is not listed and/or does not apply, it should not validate as needed. However, if it prevents you from submitting then yes, upload a document stating it is not needed and why in 1 to 2 sentences.

Q. Is there a way to print a preview of the application questions?

A. Yes, there is a great deal of information on the application, indirect costs, etc. that can be found at <http://www.nfwf.org/whatwedo/grants/applicants/Pages/home.aspx>. One of these links will give you a list of all application 'fields' so you can print <http://www.nfwf.org/whatwedo/grants/applicants/Pages/pre-proposal-summary.aspx>. You will need to go to the Uploads Section to print out the narrative templates that are specific to this program.

Q. How is the project description different from the abstract?

A. A description is a two-sentence overview. The abstract is more detailed. Please reference the tip sheet (<https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/2022-NCRF-Tip-Sheet-Pre-Proposal-to-Full-Proposal.pdf>) for specific instructions on completing these sections.

Q. Who should be the main point of contact for the proposal/project in Easygrants, particularly where a project has multiple partners?

The organization that will be managing the project should be the one submitting the application. Only one person can be on the application to submit, so you will need to work within your group to determine who is the best person to be the primary point of contact. If your organization is awarded a grant, you will be able to have multiple contacts listed for the project in Easygrants, including finance staff managing the award and grant reporting.

Q. If a group of organizations is submitting a proposal as part of a consortium, how do we complete the Applicant Demographic Form?

A. Demographics should be provided for the lead applicant within the Applicant Demographic Form. You can describe the demographics of the partners involved in the project in the proposal narrative.

Q. Does the person that goes through the eligibility questions have to be the same person that submits the pre-proposal?

A. Yes, it is recommended that one point of contact be selected to submit the pre-proposal. This person should answer the applicant eligibility questions and complete all tasks needed to submit the pre-proposal.

Field Liaisons – Throwe Environmental

Q. Can you explain role related to Throwe Environmental?

A. Throwe Environmental is a NFWF contractor that provides technical assistance to applicants for the National Coastal Resilience Fund. You can reach out to them if you would like to receive technical assistance to help you develop your project idea(s). You can schedule a time to meet with them by reaching out to Taylor Throwe at taylor@throwe-environmental.com



Partners

Q. Can you please provide more information on the listed corporate and private partners' involvement in the program?

A. The RFP acknowledges funding partners in the overview section and on our website; however, additional corporate and private partners contributions may be added at a later date. In addition, some funders may choose to remain anonymous and would not be acknowledged in the RFP or on the NFWF website. Corporate and private partners acknowledged in the RFP are contributing project funding support under this year's NCRF funding cycle. Partners acknowledged on the NCRF webpage have contributed project funding support under this year's or previous NCRF funding cycles.

Q. What will NOAA's role be in the program moving forward?

A. NOAA administers and provides oversight for a significant amount of funds for this program which drives many of the federal requirements for sub awardees. NOAA staff are also consulted on program priorities and goals for the development of the fund, the annual call for proposal, and in proposal review (in addition to other reviewers).

ECRF Applicants

Q. I have a pending ECRF proposal before NFWF, can I apply to the NCRF as well.

A. Having a pending application under ECRF does not preclude you from submitting a proposal under NCRF and given the competitive nature of both programs we encourage you to do so. If the proposal being submitted under NCRF is for the same work covered by the ECRF proposal, we would ask you to rescind the NCRF proposal if funded under ECRF.

Q. What is the difference between the NCRF and the ECRF?

A. These programs are similar in terms of their goals of promoting nature-based solutions for enhancing coastal resilience, however NCRF has a larger geographic footprint where it can fund projects. Whereas NCRF can fund in all coastal areas of U.S. coastal states, including the Great Lakes states, and U.S. territories and tribal lands, the 2021 ECRF is restricted to only being able to fund projects in those coastal areas receiving federal Major Disaster Declarations as a result of hurricanes or wildfires in 2020 or 2021. NCRF is also an annual competition, whereas ECRF is only

DOD-REPI Partnership

Q. Do DoD installations and partners need to have an existing REPI project or be a REPI Challenge applicant to apply to the National Coastal Resilience Fund?

A. No. Applicants do not need to have an existing REPI project or recent REPI Challenge application to apply. DoD encourages both existing and new coastal resilience projects to explore and apply for National Coastal Resilience Fund consideration.

Q. Do National Coastal Resilience Fund projects that receive REPI funding need to support a military mission?

A. Yes. NFWF National Coastal Resilience Fund projects that receive REPI funding must support the military mission at a local DoD installation or range. To learn more about how existing REPI projects are protecting military missions, visit the REPI website.



NFWF

Q. Is REPI funding for coastal resilience projects only available through the National Coastal Resilience Fund?

A. No. DoD installations can work through their Military Service chain of command to request funding through the annual REPI proposal process if the coastal resilience project does not align with the National Coastal Resilience Fund priorities.

Q. Which National Coastal Resilience Fund activities are eligible for REPI funding?

A. REPI funding is available for all four National Coastal Resilience Fund project categories, including Community Capacity Building and Planning, Site Assessment and Preliminary Design, Final Design and Permitting, and Restoration and Monitoring.

Q. Can DoD installations and partners apply for the National Coastal Resilience Fund if the project addresses multiple encroachment concerns such as coastal flooding and incompatible development?

A. Applicants should request funding from NFWF for all portions of the project that are eligible under the National Coastal Resilience Fund. The other project activities may be eligible for funding through the annual REPI Challenge or REPI proposal process.

Q. Are environmental cleanup activities eligible for NFWF funding?

A. No. Environmental remediation activities, such as hazardous waste cleanup, are not eligible under REPI or the National Coastal Resilience Fund.

Q. Can REPI funds serve as a non-federal match for National Coastal Resilience Fund projects?

A. Yes, as specified in the National Coastal Resilience Fund 2022 RFP, applicants can apply for FY22 REPI funding through NFWF to serve as a non-federal match to other funds requested through the NFWF National Coastal Resilience Funds for a project that enhances military resilience and directly benefits defense mission capabilities in the vicinity of a DoD installation or range. The National Coastal Resilience Fund strongly encourages applicants to demonstrate broad support for the project, but non-federal match is not required. Per statutory authorization, NFWF counts REPI funding as non-federal match for NCRF funding from NOAA. Applicants are also encouraged to seek additional match funding through sources other than REPI and NFWF.

Q. Does applying to the National Coastal Resilience Fund guarantee funding from REPI or NFWF?

A. No, applying to the NFWF National Coastal Resilience Fund does not guarantee REPI or NFWF funding. However, it is viewed as an opportunity to attract new sources of funding beyond REPI.