

National Coastal Resilience Fund – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Updated January 16, 2024

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 in the FAQ or directly in the RFP will be given priority.

The FAQ covers the following topics:

Quick links:.....	2
General Applicant Information.....	2
Webinar Recording.....	3
Funding Availability.....	3
Period of Performance.....	4
Eligible Organizations.....	4
Eligibility – Geographic Boundary.....	6
Matching Contributions.....	7
NCRF’s Project Pipeline / Project Categories.....	9
Project Eligibility Questions.....	11
Land Acquisitions.....	14
Evaluation Criteria.....	15
Permitting.....	16
Proposal Narrative Template.....	17
Budgets/Procurement.....	17
Easygrants & Uploads.....	18
Letters of Support.....	19
Metrics & Monitoring.....	19
Field Liaisons – Throwe Environmental.....	20
Partners.....	20
NOAA funding opportunities.....	20
Department of Defense-Readiness Environmental Protection Integration Program (DOD-REPI) Partnership.....	21
American the Beautiful Challenge (ATBC) Applicants.....	22
Emergency Coastal Resilience Fund (ECRF) Applicants.....	22

Quick links:

- **General tips on Easygrants applications:**
<http://www.nfwf.org/whatwedo/grants/applicants/Pages/faqs.aspx>
- **2024 NCRF RFP:** <https://www.nfwf.org/national-coastal-resilience-fund-2024-request-proposals>
- **NCRF Tip Sheet:** https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2024-02/2024_ncrf_tip_sheet_pre_proposal_to_full_proposal.pdf
- **NCRF Pre-Proposal Easygrants Walkthrough Recording:**
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/5456210341994643200>
- **NCRF Pre-Proposal Applicant Webinar Recording:**
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/785348607914072324>
- **Links to NCRF Grant Slate Announcements for Previous Cycles** – to see examples of projects funded in previous cycles: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/national-coastal-resilience-fund?activeTab=tab-3>
- **Sign up for a Proposal Lab to discuss ideas with staff:**
<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/NationalCoastalResilienceFund1@nfwf.org/bookings/s/jQFqYiNQ2EeBjMvcH80saA2>

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 through the National Ocean and Coastal Security Act. Since 2018, NFWF has been administering 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

Q. What is SAM and do we need SAM registration to apply?

A. [System for Award Management \(SAM.gov\)](http://www.sam.gov), or SAM, is the official U.S. Government registration system for vendors doing business with Federal agencies, including receiving awards for federal funds. You do not need SAM registration *to apply* but you WILL need an active SAM registration to be able to *receive* a NFWF award. As applicants are experiencing some delays in completing SAM registration, NFWF recommends that you begin the process of SAM registration as soon as possible, if you are interested in pursuing a NFWF award. Your SAM also needs to be set to public and not private (note: it can take a couple of weeks for your SAM setting to update from private to public).

Q. Does an applicant need to fully close out an existing grant before applying for another grant?

A. Not necessarily. However, reviewers will evaluate your progress under your prior grant, and they will want to see that you are poised to make significant progress on the project under the new grant. If

significant work remains to be completed under a previous grant, NFWF would recommend that you hold off applying for additional funding until you are closer to being ready to advance to the next stage in the project pipeline.

Q. How competitive is the National Coastal Resilience Fund annual competition?

In 2023, the NCRF received 395 pre-proposals. Approximately 200 proposals were invited to submit full proposals, and 109 proposals were awarded funding. We anticipate that the 2024 NCRF competition will be similarly competitive.

Webinar Recording

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

A. Yes, the recording will be available at www.nfwf.org/coastalresilience. The recording of the Pre-Proposal Applicant Webinar will be available on March 8th, if you have questions you can register join [here](#). The recording for the Easygrants portion is available [here](#).

Q. Will the slides be available?

A. The slides will be available in the recorded webinar at www.nfwf.org/coastalresilience. Use the scroll bar in the recorded webinar to search for slides with information most pertinent to you.

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 2024?

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. These average expected awards are guideposts but are not considered limits or hard 'caps'. For planning and design projects, estimated average awards are typically in the range of \$100,000 to \$1 million. For Restoration-Implementation projects, average awards are typically in the range of \$1 million to \$10 million. Larger-scale and/or higher impact projects are prioritized across all project categories.

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 invited to submit a full proposal will be required to submit a monitoring program at the time of their full proposal submission.

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

A. No.

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 appropriate for the community applying and necessary to have significant community and wildlife benefit. Proposals focused on a smaller geographic area should consider opportunities to partner with other communities or stakeholders to increase the scale of the project's impact and to ensure broad utility and transferability of the resulting deliverable(s)/project outputs.

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 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, 2024 or an end date after December 31, 2028**. Any expenses incurred prior to an official award letter and signed contract are taken solely at the risk of the applicant. *Restoration Implementation* projects must include 1 year post monitoring after expected construction completion in their period of performance.

Q. What is the latest possible start date for a project funded through the 2023 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 2024 grant slate, we will consider projects with start dates before and up to October 1, 2025.

Q. When will funds be available?

A. This will depend on how complete your application is, the grant 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. Award notifications are expected in late November 2024, therefore, the soonest funds are likely to be available is January 2025. February or March of 2025 would be safer start dates, if your project is flexible.

Q. Can I have a late 2025 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 2024 NCRF grant slate, we will consider projects with start dates before and up to October 1, 2025.

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 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 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 'subaward'.

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)?

A. Yes, generally, NCRF-funded projects can be implemented on federal lands. If invited to submit a full proposal, applicants seeking to implement a Restoration-Implementation project on federal lands are strongly encouraged to submit a letter of support from the landowner/land manager at the full proposal stage. However, projects seeking partner funding (e.g., Department of Defense funding) may be limited in using partner funds to complete work on federal lands because of specific limitations required under 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 to NFWF staff contacts listed in the RFP to discuss the specific details of your project if you are seeking partner funding and have questions about whether funds can be used on federal lands.

Q. Are projects on federal lands prioritized over projects on private lands?

A. No. Projects on federal lands are not prioritized over projects on lands owned by other entities. If invited to submit a full proposal, all applicants seeking to implement a Restoration-Implementation project on lands that they do not own are manage are strongly encouraged to submit a letter of support from the landowner/land manager with their full proposal.

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

A. Yes. If you’re done with or close to completing work under the previous grant and poised to make substantial progress in 2025, 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 match from previous awards (from NCRF or other funding sources).

Q. Can a consortium of organizations submit a joint application for one project?

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.

Q. Is it a problem if a different organization submits the pre-proposal from the full proposal?

A. No. If invited to submit a full proposal, you are able to change the primary organization under “Organization Information” tab in Easygrants. If you are having trouble making the switch, please reach out to the NCRF Program team (NCRF@nfwf.org).

Q. Should a single applicant try to put all requests from that entity into one proposal or should they be separated?

A. Not necessarily. An organization may submit more than one proposal for different projects, but they cannot submit more than one proposal for the **same project**. You should include all activities related to a project into a single proposal. Generally, a group of activities are considered part of the same “project” if they are in the same geographic region and are functionally connected (i.e., working together to achieve the project goals and outcomes). For organizations submitting more than one proposal for separate projects, you will want to assess and demonstrate your organization’s capacity to successfully implement the level of work proposed across all proposals.

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 RFP’s definition of “coastal area” in your narrative.

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 benefits 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.

Q. We are currently working on a project that includes binational collaboration (with Mexico, with Canada) for coastal ecosystems that are transboundary, can we partner with international organizations?

A. Generally no. While the NCRF could potentially support planning and design work to consider transboundary coastal resilience challenges and potential nature-based solutions for addressing those challenges, NCRF funding CANNOT go to international entities and restoration work cannot occur on lands outside the U.S. The primary benefit of the project must be to enhance the resilience of coastal communities and ecosystems in the U.S. and the project narrative would need to explain the necessity of the transboundary scale for the project.

Matching Contributions

Q. It looks like the 2024 NCRF RFP does not have a requirement for match. Is this correct?

A. The 2024 NCRF RFP has maintained a softer match language from our previous cycle. Non-federal match is **not** required but is still strongly encouraged to show broad support for the project. 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 a 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. 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. 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. Match as a review criterion can be a hurdle for underserved communities, will this be taken into account when scoring proposals?

A. Yes. NFWF softened the match language specifically to address barriers to underserved communities and to larger-scale, higher budget Restoration-Implementation projects. Match ratio is one of many criteria we consider in evaluating proposals for funding and NFWF encourages applicants to consider all of the contributions to a project; match does NOT have to be cash but also includes in-kind contributions (e.g., donations of time, materials, event space, etc.). We evaluate match and leverage in consideration of the socioeconomic characteristics of the communities benefitted and engaged by the project and the broader benefits that will be delivered by the project.

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. Does match have to be cash?

A. No. Applicants can count in-kind contributions as match demonstrating broad support for the project. Examples of in-kind matching contributions include volunteer time, discounted fees for services,

donated goods and services (e.g. labor, space, vehicles, training, supplies. Equipment, travel, etc.). And there is no priority given to higher *cash* match percentages.

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 that 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. Yes, but the donation of land must be specifically related to the scope of work proposed to be completed with the grant funds, and the land must be donated within the project's period of performance.

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.

Q. Can I count match spent prior to the grant (e.g., design and permitting costs for an implementation project)?

A. No. Matching funds must be secured and expended within the period of performance specified for your project.

Q. What is the difference between match and leveraged contributions?

A. Match is non-federal matching contributions, such as state or local funding sources and in-kind contributions (e.g., donations of personnel time, materials, event space, land). Leverage is federal contributions, such as federal grant funding. Applicants should capture both match and leveraged federal funds as part of their full proposal application. Reviewers will evaluate both match and federal leveraged funds in evaluating the broader support for the project.

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 and the broad support for the project.

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 listing the sources as leveraged federal funds, rather than match. 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 and the broad support for the project.

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). For example, if you have secured funding for 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 for NCRF funding would be to support phase two only. All costs necessary for the implementation of the project are eligible, provided all other match rules apply (non-federal, etc.). However, if earlier phases of work are being supported by a previous NCRF grant, be careful about not double counting matching funds.

Q. I have a proposal pending before FEMA, NOAA, BIA, etc. 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.

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

Q. Are innovative approaches to enhance coastal resilience with natural infrastructure only eligible as part of Restoration-Implementation 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 one criterion we review for all projects across all project categories. However, more conventional approaches to building community resilience can also be competitive, where other evaluation criteria are met.

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 based on the anticipated main project outcomes and outputs. NFWF will not fund projects with combined categories such as "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. Is it possible to bundle multiple smaller scale projects together, so long as they are cohesive in theme and geography?

A. Yes. We do prioritize larger scale, larger budget projects that have maximized community resilience and ecological outcomes. However, you may bundle multiple smaller scale Restoration-Implementation

projects together so long as the projects are in the same geographic region and functionally connected (i.e., working together to deliver expected resilience and ecological outcomes).

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 determined by the anticipated main 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 will not fund “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. Can we do a design/plan for a large area with a smaller section as a pilot for restoration?

A. The application will force you to choose one project category and that project category should determine the main project outcomes and outputs. NFWF will not fund “design/build” projects (i.e., proposals seeking funding to both design and construct a restoration project). However, small-scale pilot restoration activities *may be* permissible as part of a design project, where the restoration activities will help you test methodologies or improve design plans, and where the entire proposed scope of work can successfully be implemented within the period of performance allowable under the funding source (see discussion of periods of performance above). Applicants will want to select the project category that aligns best with the *main* outputs that are anticipated to result from the project. Applicants will also want to explain why implementation of demonstration projects is necessary to informing the work and improving the project’s outputs or deliverables. Applicants will also want to include a project timeline that demonstrates that *all work* can be completed, including implementation of any proposed restoration activities, within the project’s proposed period of performance (including whether you have or will need any permits to implement restoration activities).

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. Can we apply for grant for the next stage in project implementation/the next stage in the pipeline, if we are still completing earlier phases of work under another NFWF or other grant?

A. Potentially yes. However, reviewers evaluate your organization’s performance completing earlier phases of work and will want to see that you are near completion of previous phases of work and poised to make significant progress on the next phase of work during the proposed period of performance for the project. If invited to full proposal, applicants will want to provide draft or final deliverables that have been or will be completed under a previously funded NCRF grant and should provide a detailed project timeline to demonstrate that you can successfully complete all phases of work under multiple grants under the proposed period of performance for the project. For projects seeking to advance from design to implementation, reviewers will want to see that you can successfully complete final designs and permitting and all implementation activities within the proposed period of performance for the project. For Restoration-Implementation proposals, projects with final designs and permits in hand or nearly in hand, will be more competitive for funding.

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.

Q. Do each project category have required timeline or limits on the allowable period of performance?

A. No. In the RFP, we provide average timelines that we expect projects in different project categories to take; however, there is no specified timeline for any project category. Applicants should select the period of performance for their project that will enable them to successfully complete the proposed scope of work. The period of performance end date for proposals submitted to the 2024 NCRF competition cannot go beyond December 2028.

Project Eligibility Questions

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

A. Yes, they are eligible, but their competitiveness may still be evaluated based on overall 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 it will reduce flooding or mitigate other coastal hazards to show community resilience benefits or how the project will help ensure transferability. Where a project alone may not be at a sufficient scale to effectively reduce risks from the relevant coastal hazards affecting the community, proposals for smaller-scale or pilot projects can increase their competitiveness by demonstrating transferability (i.e., by including project components designed to broaden the impact of the project by ensuring that the approach can be scaled or replicated throughout the region or state or in the same or other communities through other plans, programs, or policies). Smaller-scale projects in more urbanized areas or areas with site constraints can increase their competitiveness by describing the broad benefits that will be delivered by the project, including risk reduction benefits, the number of people that are anticipated to benefit from the project, and by including specific project elements designed to ensure that the resilience approaches developed through the project can be scaled or replicated in other parts of the community or watershed.

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 supported through NCRF. You should

explain how the NCRF supported work will contribute to that broader planning effort, how other funding sources are being leveraged to complete the more comprehensive planning effort, and the importance of mainstreaming the resilience and nature-based planning work in the relevant planning document.

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 projects, then no.

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

A. Community resilience is defined in terms of reducing risks to and enhancing the ability of communities to rebound from impacts from coastal hazards, such as sea-level rise, storms, flooding, erosion, etc. Benefits may include but are not limited to reducing risk to key community assets (hospitals, power plants, evacuation routes, etc.), reducing 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 in all project categories. 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.

Q. Will my project looking 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 or our team of field liaison team at [Thrive Environmental \(NCRF Field Liaison Support\)](#), if you would like to get more specific feedback on your 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. Would planning for species reintroduction (e.g., sea otters) in support of improving/ protecting kelp habitat and climate resiliency be an eligible activity for funding?

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. A project focused on reintroduction of species would need to show how species reintroduction will improve or enhance habitats, the risk reduction benefits that are expected to accrue from restored habitat, and the basis for your understanding that species reintroduction will result in the projected project outcomes. 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. Are wildlife crossings and eligible activity under the NCRF?

A. Likely no. 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. Applicants seeking funding for wildlife crossings, might look to NFWF's America the Beautiful Challenge and/or funding from federal agencies such as the Federal Highway Administration and Department of Interior.

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 Site Assessment and Preliminary Design project category is to get a project ready for the next phase and to help communities make go/no-go decisions about whether to advance a project to final design and engineering. 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, NFWF strongly encourages applicants to submit a letter of support for the project from landowner(s)/managers with their full proposal submission.

Q. Are projects on federal lands eligible?

A. Yes. 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.

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. Please reach out to NCRF program staff (listed below) to explore potential project ideas requesting funding for acquisitions.

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

A. Under the 2024 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 federal funding sources are available to support acquisition. Please reach out to NCRF program staff to discuss the status of land acquisition negotiations and to determine what project category to apply for funding for land acquisition activities. 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 federal and state 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?

A. Generally no. 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 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>. We strongly encourage applicants seeking funding for land acquisition through this year's NCRF to reach out to NCRF program staff to discuss your project idea, status of negotiations, and need for acquisition funding.

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 throughout the community or watershed through future phases of work or integration into other government plans, programs, or policies. Applicants seeking funding for smaller-scale projects that alone will not deliver significant resilience or habitat benefits are strongly encouraged to include a component of work designed to ensure broader transferability of the approach throughout the community, region or state.

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 and more intense storms. Applicants should describe how they will account for future climate risks and changing environmental conditions 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 future phases of work or by integration of the approach in other plans, programs, or policies). Smaller-scale projects in more urbanized areas or areas with site constraints can increase their competitiveness by describing the broad benefits that will be delivered by the project, including risk reduction benefits, the number of people that are anticipated to benefit from the project, and by including specific project elements designed to ensure that the resilience approaches developed through the project can be scaled or replicated in other parts of the community or watershed.

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 project and reviewers consider the project's cost effectiveness among other factors in their evaluation of proposals.

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 that contribute to a community's vulnerability to impacts from coastal hazards (e.g., high rates of poverty or unemployment). Applicants should include specific demographic information about the community or communities that are expected to benefit from and

be engaged through the project, including age, race, ethnicity, poverty rates, pollution or other factors that contribute to the community's risk and vulnerability 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.

Q. In determining community benefit -- who is considered "the community"? Is the Tribal Government and tribal members enough in terms of engagement of local community?

A. Applicants are free to define the community that is expected to benefit from the project in the way that they see as most appropriate and related to the project outcomes and outputs. Applicants should propose a community engagement approach that they think will be most effective for engaging the community groups they seek to reach through the project. Projects that are being led by Tribal communities or are focused on Tribal lands may focus their engagement approach on Tribal government agencies, Tribe members, and other relevant stakeholders needed to successfully implement the proposed scope of work.

Q. Will projects be considered if they do not align with local or state resilience plans?

A. Being in misalignment with a state, local or regional resilience plan does not necessarily make a project ineligible, but you will want to explain why the project is not aligned with local/regional plans and how the project is expected to enhance community resiliency. It could also be beneficial to cite other plans that the project does align with.

Permitting

Q. For Restoration-Implementation projects, must permits be in hand?

A. For the Restoration-Implementation project category, we are looking to fund "implementation ready" projects that are ready to start construction within one year of the award date for the project. Projects that have final designs and permits in hand will be more competitive, and it is expected that the 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 one year of the award date for the project and that you will be able to complete all work and one-year of post-construction monitoring by no later than December 2028.

Q. Are grants subject to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)?

A. As determined by the NOAA General Counsel's Office, the NFWF grant selection process is **not** a Federal agency action under the National Environmental Policy Act. For all other local, state, and Federal laws and regulations, NFWF flows down requirements that all sub-recipients (grantees) obtain all permits and consultations applicable to the project prior to expenditure of award funds. If the NFWF grant is the only federal funding source supporting the project, NEPA may not be required. However, environmental compliance (i.e., National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)) is required for projects seeking Department of Defense (DOD) funding. For those applying for DOD funding, applicants should clearly explain any support needed by the lead Military Service to assist with completing all necessary regulatory permitting, environmental analysis, and cultural and historic property consultations, as well as provide evidence of the Military Service's support of this request. Projects require evidence through an endorsement letter from the lead Military Service for the project activities. The Military Service's endorsement letter serves as confirmation that DOD is aware of and accepts responsibility of supporting the applicants requested DOD compliance assistance requirements.

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 stand alone. 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 the 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](#). 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](#), 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.

Q. Are there certain types of equipment that are more likely to be subject to additional scrutiny?

A. Yes. Materials where the per unit cost exceeds \$5,000 are considered "equipment" subject to greater scrutiny. Applicants are encouraged to rent equipment where possible and cost-effective or use matching funds to make those purchases. Applicants seeking funding for equipment must complete a separate upload describing the need to use federal funding for purchase of equipment. Where federal funds are awarded to support the purchase of equipment, additional reporting and tracking will be required under the grant agreement. A unit that has a cost of less than \$5,000 is considered supplies, not equipment, and those costs are not subject to the same level scrutiny nor additional reporting and tracking requirements.

Q. Are there any limits on indirect rates?

A. Not specifically, but indirect budget items will be compared to either an organization's Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) or the standard de minimis rate. Indirect rates are evaluated as part of the overall cost-effectiveness of the project.

Q. Will grants be subject to "Buy America" requirements, like the Build America Buy America" requirement in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law?

A. Yes. The NCRF received funding under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and, therefore, the Buy American, Build America Act (BABA) provisions will apply to all grant agreements receiving these funds. As required by the BABA (Section 70914 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Pub. L. 117-58), on or after May 14, 2022, none of the funds under a federal award may be obligated for an infrastructure project unless all the iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States, unless subject to an approved waiver. This domestic procurement preference applies to all projects meeting the definition of infrastructure, regardless of whether that project is the primary purpose of the award. This domestic procurement preference also applies to all subrecipients and contractors under such awards. At the full proposal stage when developing budgets for all Restoration-Implementation projects, NFWF recommends that applicants consider and account for any potential increased costs that may affect the project to ensure compliance with BABA provisions of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

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?

A. Yes, if your organization has not met the threshold for a single audit (expended more than \$750K in federal funds within the fiscal year) then you must submit an exemption letter on company letterhead, signed with a title, and dated. You must also submit either a GAAP audit or balance sheet AND income statement. Please reference the Required Financial Documentation page on our website to understand what is required for your organization type.

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>. The full NCRF Narrative template is available to be downloaded from our website.

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 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?

A. 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.

Q. If we have previously filled out the demographic form for other grants do we have to upload again/always?

A. You don't have to answer the questions again, but you DO have to upload the form every time you submit an application to NFWF – there should be an option in the opt out drop down menu in the form.

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 & Monitoring

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

A. Metrics for Restoration-Implementation 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 NCRF program 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. Will a QAPP be required for monitoring or data collection?

A. QAPP is not required for projects funded with NOAA, DOD and private funding sources contributing to the NCRF. However, we have previously administered EPA funds through the NCRF and those projects did require QAPP. We do not expect QAPP to be required for most, if not all, projects funded in 2023.

Field Liaisons – Throwe Environmental

Q. Can you explain the 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). [[NCRF Field Liaison Support](#)]

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).

NOAA funding opportunities

Q. What are the similarities and differences between NCRF and the NOAA transformational habitat and habitat-restoration for underserved communities grant programs?

A. The NCRF annual competition occurs on a different timeline than NOAA’s notice of funding opportunities and the programs have different priorities. The primary focus of the NCRF is to support planning, design or implementation of projects that advance nature-based solutions with the goals of reducing risk to communities from coastal hazards (such as rising sea levels, more intense storms, increasing flooding and erosion) and enhancing habitats for fish and wildlife. NCRF projects must have **both** community resilience and habitat benefit. Whereas NOAA programs can support a wider range of projects, including project that focus more on restoring coastal habitats and enhancing ecosystem resilience; enhanced community resilience is one factor that is considered as part of a NOAA’s review, but community resilience is not a required project benefit to be eligible for funding.

Q. I have a proposal pending before NOAA 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 NCRF 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.

Department of Defense-Readiness Environmental Protection Integration Program (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. However, you must coordinate with the local DOD installation before applying for REPI funding under NCRF. **At the pre-proposal stage** you will need to provide contact information of the installation personnel who are part of the project team and support the proposed efforts. **If invited to full proposal**, you must upload a letter of endorsement from the lead Military Service (e.g., installation commanding officer) affirming support of the proposed activities will be required. If you have any questions regarding the DOD funding, you may contact the REPI Office at osd.repi@mail.mil.

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 (<https://www.repi.mil/Resilience/Complementary-Federal-Programs/>).

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-Implementation.

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, applicants REPI funds separately (outside of the NCRF competition) can count these funds as a non-federal match to the funds that are being 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. Per statutory authorization, NFWF counts REPI funding as non-federal match for NCRF funding from NOAA. However, applicants seeking REPI funds through their pending NCRF application, should not assume those funds will be awarded and should not count those funds as match in their proposal. 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.

[American the Beautiful Challenge \(ATBC\) Applicants](#)

Q: What is the difference between the American the Beautiful Challenge (ATBC) and NCRF?

A: These programs are similar in terms of their goals of restoration and conversation through resilience-focused and nature-based solutions, however NCRF has a smaller geographical footprint where it can fund projects and specific program priorities focused on nature-based projects that provide the dual benefits of enhancing both community resilience AND coastal habitats. ATBC is intended to encourage the development and implementation of landscape-level projects that address priority conservation and restoration needs, benefits to fish and wildlife, carbon sequestration and storage, and benefit underserved communities. ATBC can fund in all US states, territories, and Tribal Nations, whereas NCRF is limited to the coastal areas of U.S. coastal states, including the Great Lakes states, and U.S. territories and tribal lands. Portions of ATBC funds have more limited eligibility, for more information please check their [website](#).

Q: Should I submit an application to both ATBC and NCRF?

A: In general, if the project is primarily focused on coastal resilience and aligned strongly with the NCRF program priorities listed in the NCRF RFP, then you should apply only to NCRF. The NCRF and ATBC teams will coordinate together during the proposal review process to ensure any proposals that should be considered in the other program are identified. If you have more questions about your project, reach out to program staff.

[Emergency Coastal Resilience Fund \(ECRF\) Applicants](#)

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 and is an

annual grant competition. 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 a regular annual competition, whereas the ECRF competition is only periodic as funds are appropriate by Congress.

Q. Will there be a new RFP from the Emergency Coastal Resilience Fund?

A. Funding for the Emergency Coastal Resilience Fund is subject to Congressional appropriations that are typically included in supplemental appropriations to support disaster recovery in communities affected by Major Disaster Declarations. At this time, NFWF has not received any additional appropriations for the ECRF.