

# National Coastal Resilience Fund – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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

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## Quick Links

### General Information

- **NCRF Website:** [www.nfwf.org/coastalresilience](http://www.nfwf.org/coastalresilience)
- **NCRF Grant Slate Announcements for Previous Cycles:**  
<https://www.nfwf.org/programs/national-coastal-resilience-fund?activeTab=tab-3>
- **2025 NCRF RFP:** <https://www.nfwf.org/national-coastal-resilience-fund-2025-request-proposals>
- **Tip Sheet:** [https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2025-03/2025\\_ncrf\\_tip\\_sheet\\_pre\\_proposal\\_to\\_full\\_proposal\\_0.pdf](https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2025-03/2025_ncrf_tip_sheet_pre_proposal_to_full_proposal_0.pdf)

### Pre-Proposal Application:

- **Pre-Proposal Applicant Webinar Recording:**  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/1042451818684044547>
- **Pre-Proposal Easygrants Walkthrough Recording:**  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/3406062069201686529>
- **Proposal Narrative Template:** [https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2025-03/2025\\_ncrf\\_pfull\\_proposal\\_narrative\\_template\\_1.docx](https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2025-03/2025_ncrf_pfull_proposal_narrative_template_1.docx)
- **Pre-Proposal Special Upload** (for DOD-funding and/or projects with equipment ONLY):  
[https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2025-03/2025\\_ncrf\\_proposal\\_special\\_upload.docx](https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2025-03/2025_ncrf_proposal_special_upload.docx)

### Full Proposal Application (by invitation only):

- **Full Proposal Applicant Webinar Recording:**  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/8290459958635737603>
- **Full Proposal Easygrants Walkthrough Recording:**  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/6806787764207736832>
- **NCRF Monitoring Metrics and Protocols** (Restoration Implementation projects ONLY):  
[https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2025-03/ncrf\\_monitoring\\_metrics\\_and\\_protocols.pdf](https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2025-03/ncrf_monitoring_metrics_and_protocols.pdf)
- **Sign up for a Proposal Lab to discuss ideas with staff:** <https://tinyurl.com/s9h9venn>

### Helpful Links for Applicants:

- **General Tips on Easygrants Applications:**  
<http://www.nfwf.org/whatwedo/grants/applicants/Pages/faqs.aspx>
- **Required Financial Documents:** <https://www.nfwf.org/apply-grant/application-information/required-financial-documents>
- **Calculating Indirect Policy:** <https://www.nfwf.org/apply-grant/application-information/indirect-cost-policy>

## General Application Information

Q: *How competitive is the NCRF RFP?*

A: In 2024, NCRF received 381 pre-proposals. Approximately 200 proposals were invited to submit full proposals, and 94 proposals were awarded funding. We anticipate that the 2025 NCRF competition will be similarly competitive.

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

A: Yes. **For projects with existing funding** that seek to advance within the NCRF pipeline, you are eligible to apply for this year's competition if you are close to completing work under your previous grant and are poised to make substantial progress in 2026. **You are also eligible to apply for new projects**, though

applicants should consider their capacity to implement multiple grants. Reviewers will consider past performance as part of their proposal evaluation. Applicants should not double count match from previous awards.

*Q: What is SAM and do we need a SAM registration to apply?*

A: System for Award Management ([SAM.gov](https://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 **WILL** need an active SAM registration to receive a NFWF award with federal funds. Delays registering and activating a SAM registration can happen, so we recommend beginning the SAM registration process as soon as possible if you are interested in pursuing a NFWF award.

*Q: Is land acquisition or easement a fundable activity under NCRF?*

A: For the 2025 RFP cycle, NCRF will not be directly funding acquisitions or easements. Projects with acquisitions or easements should have funding secured for the acquisition or easement before applying (it may be listed as match).

## Funding Availability

*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’.

*Q: When will funds be available?*

A: Award notifications are expected to be announced in late November to early December. Funds will be available once the grant is activated; on average, grant activation takes about 3-6 months from award notification. However, activation time varies from project to project and may take longer or shorter.

## Eligibility

### Organization

*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, and should be careful around rules of matching funds, federal augmentation, etc. Applicants can partner with a federal entity for their project and should provide a letter of support if their role is significant. If partnering with a federal entity, **funding can NOT be directed to the federal entity** within the budget.

*Q: Are “for-profit companies” eligible to receive grants under NCRF?*

A. Yes. However, federal funding **prohibits profits from being made on grants**. For-profit companies seeking to receive grants must ensure that the budget for the project is “at cost”.

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

A: An organization may submit more than one proposal for **different projects**, but they cannot submit more than one proposal for the **same project**. For organizations submitting more than one proposal for separate projects, you will want to demonstrate your organization's capacity to successfully implement multiple projects.

### **Geographic Boundary**

*Q: My project is 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: Projects should be within the geographic footprint for NCRF. However, if your project area is not within the boundary but otherwise meets the definition of a "coastal area" in the NCRF RFP, your project could be considered for funding. In the narrative, you must include a short description of how the project meets the RFP's definition of "coastal area". It is highly recommended to reach out to NCRF program staff ([NCRF@nfwf.org](mailto:NCRF@nfwf.org)) to discuss before submitting a proposal.

*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: Yes. Projects do NOT need to be in an area identified 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. It is **not required** and **does not affect a project's eligibility** to receive funding. CREST indices and the resilience hub numbers are not factored into decision making.

*Q: Can we partner with international organizations?*

A: **NCRF funding cannot go to international entities and restoration work cannot occur on lands outside the U.S and U.S. territories.** The primary benefit of the project must be to enhance 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.

*Q: My implementation project is working on multiple sites that are not contiguous, is this allowable?*

A: Yes, as long the project scope requires implementation within those locations, the work is related to an overarching goal and is within the same stage of the NCRF pipeline.

### **Other**

*Q: Is environmental review an eligible activity?*

A: Yes, if required to implement the project.

*Q: Does NFWF require that projects be installed on public land? Can they be installed on private land?*

A: Projects may be conducted on public 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 on private land **MUST** submit a letter of support for the project from landowner(s)/manager(s) if invited to full proposal.

*Q: Are projects on federal lands prioritized over projects on private lands?*

A: No.

## Project Pipeline and NbS Categories

Q: Does each project category get a dedicated pot of funding? Is there a specific amount set aside for certain project categories?

A: No.

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

A: While we fund monitoring and research that enables the planning and design of projects, **stand-alone monitoring and research projects are NOT eligible**. Research as part of a grant to test or learn about an innovative approach may be included.

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? For a multi-site application, could two of the sites be design and another be construction or do all projects need to be in one focal area?

A: You may **only choose one project category** for your application based on the anticipated main project outcomes and outputs. NFWF **will not fund projects with combined categories** such as “design/build” projects. 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: You do not need go through the entire NCRF pipeline; you can propose a project at any stage of the project pipeline. Applicants should describe the planning efforts that informed and prioritized the project in their proposal.

Q: Does 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 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. **Note:** the period of performance end date for proposals submitted to the 2025 NCRF competition **cannot go beyond December 2029**.

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

A: There is no set definition for large or small scale because it varies by region and by threat type. The project should be designed at a sufficient scale to ensure that it will reduce the risk of coastal hazards identified in the proposal narrative. Proposals for smaller-scale or pilot projects can increase their competitiveness by demonstrating transferability. 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 approaches developed can be scaled or replicated in other parts of the community or watershed.

## Evaluation Criteria

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

A: Through 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.

*Q: What does NFWF mean by “long-term sustainability” in NCRF RFP priorities?*

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

*Q: Is benefit-cost analysis required for NCRF projects?*

A: No. However, we do ask applicants to specifically describe the anticipated community and habitat benefits that will be delivered by the project. Reviewers will consider the project’s cost effectiveness among other factors in their evaluation.

*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 plans 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 resilience.

## Application

*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 managing the project should submit the application. Only one person can access and submit the application, so you will need to determine who the best primary point of contact is. If your organization is awarded a grant, you will be able to add additional contacts, including finance staff managing the award and grant reporting.

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

A: Yes. They should answer the applicant eligibility questions and complete all pre-proposal tasks.

## 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, budget and match 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? What is the latest possible start date for a project funded through the 2025 NCRF?*

A: It is up to the applicant to specify the period of performance for their project appropriate for the work they are proposing to complete. For this funding opportunity, **a project cannot have a start date prior to June 1, 2025 or an end date after December 31, 2029**. Any expenses incurred prior to an official award letter and signed contract are taken solely at the applicant's risk. ***Restoration Implementation***

**projects MUST include 1 year post-construction monitoring after expected construction completion in their period of performance.** The latest start date a project can have is October 1, 2026.

### **Matching Contributions**

*Q: It looks like the 2025 NCRF RFP does not have a requirement for match. Is this correct?*

A: Non-federal match is not required but encouraged. For larger scale, higher budgeted projects, and/or higher capacity organizations higher match levels are strongly recommended to show broad support for the project.

*Q: What is the difference between match and leveraged contributions? How can I capture federal funds leveraged in support of a project, when they do not count as non-federal match?*

A: Match is non-federal matching contributions. Leverage is federal contributions. Applicants should capture both match and leveraged federal funds as part of their full proposal application. In the match section of your application, select "federal" to denote leverage. You can also detail federal funds leveraged in support of your project in your proposal narrative.

*Q. What do the different match categories in Easygrants mean?*

A. The match categories in Easygrants are to show the status of the funds. If you have an agreement with an organization, you can list the contribution as "Received" or "Pledged." Any match that has not been secured at the time of submittal can be listed as "Intend to Apply" or "Application Submitted".

*Q: At what point should matching be secured? Can I count match spent prior to the grant?*

A: Matching funds must be secured and expended within the period of performance of your project.

*Q: Does match have to be cash? What percentage of match can be in-kind? What can be considered as in-kind match?*

A: Match can be cash, in-kind, or both. Up to 100% of match may be in-kind. No priority is given to in-kind vs. cash match. Examples of in-kind matching contributions include volunteer time, discounted fees for services, donated goods and services.

*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. The value of the match contribution should be the current fair market value.

*Q: Can you provide guidance on how to value volunteer hours?*

A: You can use the federal rate, state rate, etc., which can be found online. NFWF does not have a standard guideline. In the description of the matching contribution, you should cite how you determined the cost and that it is reasonable.

*Q: If we have submitted the project that we intend to submit to NCRF to another funding source, should we disclose this information in the "match" section as "proposed" funding?*

A: If you include it in the match, make sure it is clear if it is for the same exact activities or supporting the same activities, OR if it is for different phases of the project, and make it clear if you have applied or if it's in-hand. If you are seeking funding for the exact same activities from NCRF and another funding source, we need to know you are seeking duplicative funding. And if you are awarded funding from NCRF and the other funding source, you will need to navigate those funding to ensure you are not double dipping on two funding sources (we can work with you on this).



*Q: Could you expand on how REPI funds are included in the budget, if they are not considered match?*

A: If you completed the special DOD upload your proposal will be considered for REPI funds and, if awarded, those funds would be part of your budget for completing the work and should **not** be counted as match. If you have been awarded previous funding under the REPI program (not through NCRF), applicants can count that **existing** REPI grant funding as non-federal match.

*Q: Can a reduced Indirect Cost rate be used as match?*

A: Please reach out to the NCRF program team ([NCRF@nfwf.org](mailto:NCRF@nfwf.org)) to discuss project specifics.

## **Budget**

*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 funds subject to the requirements of [OMB Uniform Guidance](#). 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. 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](#).

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

A: Equipment is defined as tangible property having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost of \$10,000 or more. Items not meeting these criteria should be itemized in the Materials and Supplies category of the budget. 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 [Pre-Proposal Special Upload](#) describing the need to purchase equipment. **Where federal funds are awarded to support the purchase of equipment, additional reporting and tracking is required.**

*Q: Are there any limits on indirect rates?*

A: If your organization has a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA), you may apply that rate. If your organization does not have a NICRA, you may apply the de minimis rate, in accordance with [OMB Uniform Guidance](#).

*Q: If your grant would be budgeted entirely into contracts (i.e., for construction) and no costs spent by your agency, do you still need to provide a NICRA?*

A: No, only if claiming indirect costs.

*Q: Should subcontractors (partners) be identified at time of proposal, or just identify qualifications of desired contractors?*



A: You will need to ensure that you are following your procurement policies and that your procurement policies comply with [OMB Uniform Guidance](#). If you have identified that a subcontractor is needed but have not gone through your procurement process, you may list them as “TBD” in the budget. If you have selected a contractor already, please provide a brief explanation on how the contractor was selected.

*Q: Our budget will mostly be the amount going to the contractor. Do you require travel, mileage, etc. breakdown from the contractor?*

A: There should only be one line item per subcontractor (or subgrantee/subrecipient) in the budget, in the budget narrative you may provide a breakdown of the contractor work. Please reference the [Detailed Budget and Narrative Guide](#) for specifics on what to include in the narrative for each budget category.

*Q: For the budget, does NFWF NCRF allow a line item for contingency?*

A: No, you cannot include contingency in NCRF awards so please prepare your budgets with the most current information possible. NFWF understands that unexpected costs can arise in large-scale projects and encourages you to work with your NFWF program team if awarded to discuss any budget amendment needs.

*Q: Is driving to the site considered travel, is mileage considered a travel expense?*

A: Any travel that is required to complete the scope of work of the project is allowable. Do not include the travel costs being paid for by subrecipients, contractors, or other third parties. Please reference the [Detailed Budget and Narrative Guide](#) for specifics on what can be included in each budget category.

*Q: Can funding go towards any form of "hardened" structure if it's essential for other proposed nature-based activities? For example, restoration of a jetty that supports an adjacent dune system.*

A: It depends. The primary focus of NCRF is nature-based solutions, however we recognize some hybrid solutions are necessary to achieve risk reduction and ecological outcomes. The [RFP page](#) defines nature-based solutions and how we look at hybrid projects. In the proposal narrative, be sure to describe what the hardened structures are and how essential they are to achieving the risk reduction and ecological outcomes you're seeking to accomplish in the work. Proposals that have a significant portion of the budget focused on grey structures will be more competitive if they have matching funds that can support grey investments and utilize NCRF funds to focus on the nature-based activities.

*Q: Are monitoring costs an allowable expense within the budget?*

A: Yes, you can include (pre- and post construction) monitoring costs within the budget.

*Q: Can a full proposal include tasks that seek funding from the DOD supplemental funding AND tasks that only seek funding from the 'regular' NCRF pot of funding?*

A: If you are seeking DOD REPI fund, you must have completed the special upload at the pre-proposal stage. However, you do not need to distinguish that request in your project budget or proposal. The NCRF team will work with the DOD to determine which projects will be supported by their funding. If awarded, you will see that in your grant agreement which funding sources are supporting the project. There is nothing you need to do separately in full proposal submission to differentiate what you're seeking DOD funding for vs NCRF.

## **Permits**

*Q: Do assessment/design projects need to identify potential permits needed?*

A: Applicants should demonstrate their understanding of the regulatory context for the project and how designs are being developed with permitting parameters in mind. For preliminary design projects, we encourage applicants to at least start preliminary conversations with permitting agencies as part of their scope of work.

*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. Projects that have final designs and permits in-hand will be more competitive. Given the 4-year timeline to spend grant funding and the one-year post-construction monitoring requirement, final designs must be in-hand at application, permits in-hand within 6 months of award notification, and can construction within 1 year of award notification. If you will not have final designs or permits in time, we highly recommend applying for the Final Design and Permitting category instead.

*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.

## Metrics

*Q: For a design project, is it preferred to specify what % design will be reached as the grant outcome (e.g. 50% design), or is the category "30-60% design" specific enough as an outcome for the work?*

A: You should be as specific as possible in describing the deliverables that will be produced through the project.

*Q: Is volunteer work required to submit a Community Capacity Building and Planning grant?*

A: No.

*Q: How can an additional tracking metric be added to the drop-down menu?*

A: We are not accepting additional program level metrics, please add any further metrics you feel are important to your narrative in Part II under “Monitoring Project Impact”. If you think an applicable metric has not been provided, please contact NCRF program staff listed in the RFP to discuss acceptable alternatives.

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

A: Please use the metrics listed in the RFP, the [NCRF 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 your narrative.

### Proposal Narrative

Q: *What is the required font size and font type for proposals?*

A: Calibri, size 11, with 1-inch margins, black or blue font color. **Do not change the margin or font size.**

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

A: **NFWF does not require reviewers to review beyond the standard application materials including clicking on hyperlinked information.** The proposal narrative template is a word document and you can include hyperlinks to plans or other documents that support your narrative, but the proposal should stand alone.

Q: *For the full proposal narrative, if no changes are made to the pre-proposal section, does the pre-proposal narrative still count towards the full proposal 8-page limit?*

A: Yes, your upload at the full proposal stage should not exceed 8 pages total. Your proposal narrative at the full proposal stage should include **BOTH** your responses to the pre-proposal questions (Part I, questions 1-16) and the full proposal questions (at Part II, Questions A-F). You are invited and encouraged to update and refine the responses that you submitted at the pre-proposal stage. You may delete the instructions and the bulleted questions in the proposal narrative template, but please maintain the headers (in bold) in your proposal narrative.

Q: *In the full proposal narrative, if we update the pre-proposal, how would we highlight changes?*

A: There is no need to highlight changes you make to your responses to the pre-proposal questions

Q: *Do maps and photos count toward the 8 pages?*

A: No, maps and photos are allowed as separate uploads that do not count toward the 8-page limit unless you inserted them into your proposal narrative.

Q: *Do we still need to fill out the “Monitoring Project Impact” question in the narrative if we are conducting a design for a project?*

A: Monitoring plans are only required for Restoration Implementation projects. You can use this question to expand on other outcomes or measures of success that your organization has for this project and describe how stated goals for community and wildlife benefit will be advanced through the project and how those goals align with or contribute to established resilience or other plans, where applicable.

Q: *If the community table in the narrative is taking up a significant portion of the proposal, can we include it as a separate upload instead?*

A: Yes, it can be uploaded within the “other uploads” category

## Uploads

*Q: For required uploaded documents (Statement of Litigation, Board of Trustees, IRS Form 990, etc.), are these documents required for only the prime applicant, or do we need to provide them for all subawards as well?*

A: The required documents are only required for the prime applicant.

*Q: Is there a limit to the number of photos we can submit?*

A: You are required to upload 3 high quality photos and provide photo captions at the end of your proposal narrative. You may include additional photos as part of your other uploads package and there is no limit on the number of photos, but we encourage applicants to be selective in terms of the materials submitted with their full proposal and only provide those documents and photos that will help reviewers understand the proposed scope of work and evaluate the project based upon the evaluation criteria and other guidance provided in the RFP and other NCRF materials.

*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: Are CVs and Current & Pending Support forms required for members of the project team?*

A: No, you do not need to include CVs for the project team. However, you do want to include a summary of who/what groups are included in the project team in your proposal narrative and ensure that this discussion demonstrates that you have the necessary technical expertise to successfully implement the proposed scope of work and to ensure that the work products are actionable. Letters of Support are encouraged from key partners, decision makers, and agencies that will be engaged through the work.

*Q: The Applicant Controls Questionnaire is required even if your organization is a government agency and is submitting a Single Audit?*

A: Yes, ALL applicants are required to fill out the full Applicant Controls Questionnaire.

## Required Financial Documents

*Q: If we didn't have to undergo an A-133/Single Audit, do we upload a statement to that effect? If our organization does not have a Single Audit or GAAP audit, what do we submit instead?*

A: Yes, if your organization has not met the threshold for a single audit (expended more than \$1,000,000 in federal funds within the fiscal year) then you must submit an exemption letter on company letterhead, signed with a title and date stating that: "[entity name] is not required to obtain a Single Audit because we have not expended more than \$1,000,000 of federal funds within our fiscal year." If you do not meet the threshold of a Single Audit, then you can submit a GAAP audit; if you do not have a GAAP audit then you must submit a Balance Sheet/Statement of Position AND an Income Statement/Statement of Activities. Please reference the [Required Financial Documentation](#) page on our website to understand what is required for your organization type.

## 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.

*Q: Who should Letters of Support be addressed to?*

A: "To Whom It May Concern" or "National Coastal Resilience Fund Review Committee". Please upload letters of support with your full application through Easygrants.

*Q: How important are letters of support?*

A: **We highly encourage letters of support.** Letters of support are particularly important if needed to show that the products you are producing will be actionable (i.e., that decisionmakers need and will use the products produced through the project to advance nature-based solutions to future stages of implementation) or where you are proposing work on private lands. Letters of support also help show broad support for the project from decision makers and other stakeholders.

*Q: Do letters of support have to be written for this grant specifically, or can we use letters provided in support of permit applications?*

A: Letters of support do not need to be specifically written for this grant application but should be specific to the project you are proposing.

*Q: Any guidance on how many letters of support might be too many or too few? Is there a limit to the number of Letters of Support a proposal can include?*

A: There is no minimum or maximum number of letters required but please be mindful. If you have a lot of Letters of Support, try to package the letters together as one upload. Please note, Reviewers are looking for **quality not quantity**, they want to see letters from key decision makers that are important to ensure the effort of work and/or key partners that are influential to the success of the project. Also, letters should be tailored to the project and not a boilerplate, generic letter.

### **Full Proposal (by invitation only)**

*Q: If we are not able to move forward with submitting the full proposal, can we resubmit the pre-proposal next year?*

A: Yes. We would encourage you to reach out to your regional NCRF lead closer to the new cycle to discuss how to make your application more competitive.

*Q: Does the person/entity that submitted the pre-proposal have to be the one to submit the full proposal through Easygrants? Can we change the organization receiving the grant on the full proposal applicant from the pre-proposal application?*

A: Typically, yes, but you can change the PI or organization in the full proposal submission. In the Full Proposal Task, go to the Organization Information tab to change the primary organization on the application. You can also update the PI, if needed. If you need further assistance, you can reach out to the NCRF team at [NCRF@nfwf.org](mailto:NCRF@nfwf.org) or the [Easygrants helpdesk](#).

*Q: We do not see our pre-proposal on Easygrants. How do we access it to edit?*

A: You can't. A new Full Proposal task will be available to you in Easygrants to complete. Before submitting your pre-proposal, please be sure to save a copy for your files; there is a "View PDF" button in submit section of the application in Easygrants where you can download a copy. If forgot or lost a

copy of your pre-proposal, you can reach out to [NCRF@nfwf.org](mailto:NCRF@nfwf.org) with the Easygrants ID # and we can send a copy of your pre-proposal.

*Q: Was pre-proposal feedback provided via email or is it available on Easygrants?*

A: Not all pre-proposals received feedback. Proposals where reviewers had project specific feedback received comments in an email from the NCRF program team. Pre-proposals where the reviewer comments were more general and would be covered during the full proposal webinar did not receive individualized feedback.

*Q: If the project was not identified for potential REPI funding in the pre-proposal stage, could it be considered for REPI funding now, if the project supports a military installation? Is it too late to a submit DOD funding interest?*

A: Projects who did not identify themselves for potential REPI funding can still be considered at the full proposal stage. Please ensure that the special upload from the pre-proposal stage, found [here](#), is uploaded to the full proposal as an 'Other Upload'. Note: if you're seeking DOD finding, make sure you are clear on the benefits to the military resilience goals and having a Letter of Support from installation you will be working with is key.

## Award

*Q: What is the award notification date? And if awarded, when might we expect access to funds?*

A: Award recommendations will go to our Board for approval in November 2025 and funding announcements will be made shortly after Board approval. Once announcements are made, awarded grants go into contracting, and contracting time can vary between grants. Some grants may require resubmits for programmatic and/or compliance edits, in which case contracting time can be dependent on grantee responsiveness. Once the grant is activated, you can access your funds. We estimate activation to occur around March-June 2026.

*Q: Where can we find reporting requirements for these grants?*

A: NCRF specific reporting guidance can be found under the Application Information tab on the NCRF website. We require interim programmatic reports every 6 months for Restoration Implementation projects and annually for planning and design projects. We also require periodic fiscal reporting (from quarterly to annually), depending on the organization and the size and complexity of the award. We may periodically request check-in calls to discuss project status and address any challenges you are experiencing in implementing your project. Final programmatic reports are typically due 3 months after your grant's end date. You can find general information about NFWF's reporting requirements [here](#).

## Field Liaisons

*Q: Can you explain the role of the field liaisons?*

A: Throwing Environmental and Native American Fish and Wildlife Society are NFWF contractors that provide technical assistance to applicants under NCRF. You can reach out to them if you would like to receive technical assistance to help you develop your project idea(s). Contact information can be found at [NCRF Field Liaison Support](#).

## Department of Defense-Readiness Environmental Protection Integration Program (DOD-REPI)

*Q: Is the DOD portion of the NCRF pre-proposal required if my project does not seek to protect a military installation?*

A: No. The additional documentation required for the DoD-REPI Partnership is only required for projects benefiting installations.

*Q: Do NCRF projects that receive REPI funding need to support a military mission?*

A: Yes. 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](#).

*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 projects for installation resilience to explore and apply for NCRF 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](mailto:osd.repi@mail.mil).

*Q: Is REPI funding for installation resilience projects only available through NCRF?*

A: No. DOD installations can work through their Military Service chain of command to request funding through the annual REPI proposal process if the installation resilience project does not align with NCRF priorities.

*Q: Which NCRF activities are eligible for REPI funding?*

A: REPI funding is available for all four NCRF project categories.

*Q: Can DOD installations and partners apply for NCRF 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 eligible under NCRF. The other project activities may be eligible for funding through the annual REPI Challenge or REPI proposal process.

*Q: Can REPI funds serve as a non-federal match for NCRF?*

A: Yes, applicants REPI Challenge funds (outside of the NCRF competition) can count as a non-federal match to the funds that are being requested through the NCRF for a project that enhances installation 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 Challenge and NFWF.



## Partners

*Q: What is NOAA's role in the program?*

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

*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 later. 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.