

Sanctuary Community Fund Request for Proposals

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY OVERVIEW

The [National Marine Sanctuary Foundation](#), in cooperation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), is excited to offer funding in support of communities in the creation and stewardship of national marine sanctuaries and protecting the ocean and Great Lakes.

Funding Availability and Eligibility

Awards between \$10,000 - \$100,000

The Foundation anticipates funding multiple projects over several application opportunities for the Sanctuary Community Fund in 2024 and 2025

The objective of the Sanctuary Community Fund is to invest directly in community partner engagement so that local groups within national marine sanctuary communities can support the discovery, testing, piloting, nurturing, capacity, and spread of the best ideas to protect our ocean and Great Lakes. Awards made as part of this application round will focus on communities participating in the designation of new national marine sanctuaries, specifically, those serving sanctuaries that are currently in the Sanctuary Designation Process through NOAA or have already been designated by NOAA after June 1, 2024.

Implementation Period

January 2025 – December 2026
Projects should span 1 or 2 years

Application Package Due

Wednesday, November 13, 2024
6:59 AM Eastern Standard Time

Please see <https://marinesanctuary.org/sanctuary-community-fund/> for more information. Frequently Asked Questions are available on the website and at the bottom of this document. Please refer often to this information and consult before submitting a final application.



BACKGROUND

Our national marine sanctuaries are partnerships of peoples and sources of solutions to some of the greatest challenges facing America, such as climate change and systemic barriers that limit access to the outdoors and equitable participation in government processes. The National Marine Sanctuary System is rooted in community and recognizes the need for an inclusive approach to welcoming members of communities. Recognizing that Indigenous governments, organizations, and communities are caretakers of these waters, the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation seeks to work equitably and ethically with them to uplift their approaches, solutions, and inclusion for our shared commitments toward the healthy lands and waters that make up the National Marine Sanctuary System.

The conservation and sustainable use of marine ecosystems is vital to maintaining a healthy ocean and Great Lakes, protecting biodiversity, addressing climate change, and sustaining productive coastal economies. Marine protected areas (MPAs), including national marine sanctuaries, play a critical role in protecting biodiversity, increasing equitable access to nature, and building a more climate-resistant future for our ocean, Great Lakes, and the communities that depend on them.

Sound management and evidence-based information are only part of the formula for a thriving National Marine Sanctuary System. It also requires the groundswell momentum of everyone in communities enriched by the ocean and Great Lakes, using their collective voices as a megaphone to say to the world, “This place is important.”

Our national marine sanctuaries and marine national monuments are ideal places to focus attention and efforts to improve ocean justice, advancing health and prosperity for communities connected to the ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes. As our Nation’s network of protected waters is centered in community-based, comprehensive ecosystem management, these are key opportunities to increase engagement with historically underrepresented and marginalized communities and with Indigenous communities that hold immense knowledge and ingenuity that is inclusive of these areas.

The Foundation’s vision for the **Sanctuary Community Fund** is a sustainable and long-standing grant program that will continue to deliver funding to local communities and groups in and around sanctuaries in multiple cycles over the next two years and beyond. With support from Federal partners and bolstered by private investment, the Foundation aims to support projects through grants at regular intervals in the years to come.

OVERVIEW OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

To increase public support, long-term protection, and sustainable use of national marine sanctuaries and other protected waters, the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation created the **Sanctuary Community Fund** to invest directly in community partner engagement so that the



heart of sanctuaries - the peoples, places, customs, and cultures - can help advance our understanding of science and ways of knowing, stewardship, and outreach within the sanctuary community. Through the Sanctuary Community Fund, the Foundation will deliver funding to local communities working hand-in-hand with sanctuary and monument managers to promote conservation, stewardship, restoration, visitation, recreation, preservation of history, and celebration of cultures.

The initial funds are included as part of a [2023 announcement from the Biden-Harris Administration](#) of investments through NOAA to address coastal climate resilience and protect marine resources through the Inflation Reduction Act. The Foundation will leverage that funding to seek complementary private investment in the Sanctuary Community Fund, to create a collaborative impact model that utilizes the power of public-private partnership to solve the biggest challenges facing our National Marine Sanctuary System and its watersheds.

This first round of grants will support community partners to advocate for and advance the sites currently in the national marine sanctuary designation process and initial establishment of new sites, but do not have the resources to do so. Partners in communities serving areas currently in the Sanctuary Designation Process through NOAA or designated by NOAA after June 1, 2024, will be eligible to apply. This includes:

- [Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary](#);
- [Proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary](#);
- [Proposed Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary](#);
- [Proposed Lake Erie National Marine Sanctuary](#);
- [Proposed Pacific Remote Islands National Marine Sanctuary](#); and
- [Proposed Papahānaumokuākea National Marine Sanctuary](#)

While future cycles of this grant program are intended to expand beyond designations in progress to the entire National Marine Sanctuary System, the Foundation intends to consider applications with eligibility limited specifically to the communities noted above according to the following schedule:

APPLICATION DEADLINE	NOTIFICATION DATE	FOR PROJECTS STARTING
Wednesday, November 13, 2024	By Friday, December 20, 2024	January 1, 2025
Friday, March 7, 2025	By Friday, May 9, 2025	June 1, 2025
Friday, June 27, 2025	By Friday, August 15, 2025	September 1, 2025
Thursday, October 23, 2025	By Friday, December 12, 2025	January 1, 2026

Current total available funding is \$2 million and will be awarded throughout the four application cycles listed above, in support of projects that best meet the criteria for funding in that cycle. The Foundation may decline to fund a proposal for one cycle and recommend changes and



resubmission on a future funding cycle. Applicants should apply by the application deadline that best matches the start date of the proposed project. As additional funding becomes available, the total cap of awarded funds may increase. Additional funding availability may also impact the scope of eligible communities. The Foundation will publicly announce awards early in the project lifecycle. All applicants will be notified of funding decisions prior to public announcement.

Past engagement roles and actions in the Sanctuary Designation Process will not impact any organization's eligibility for a grant award.

OBJECTIVE

- The objective of the Sanctuary Community Fund is to support communities in the creation and stewardship of national marine sanctuaries and to expand and strengthen the National Marine Sanctuary System. The Sanctuary Community Fund was established to achieve these specific outcomes:
- Adding leadership capacity to individuals and groups who advance conservation efforts in ocean and Great Lakes,
- Increase awareness of the value of national marine sanctuaries,
- Create opportunities for diverse sectors of the community to be ambassadors for the national marine sanctuaries they care about,
- Increase access to nature through national marine sanctuaries and
- Build trust and familiarity between national marine sanctuaries and the communities who are impacted the most by them.

PRIORITIES

Proposals must include project work that addresses one or more of the priorities noted below. Projects that meet more than one of these priorities will typically rise higher in the proposal evaluation process.

- Projects that engage community groups and members to build engagement and understanding of sanctuary designation;
- Projects led by Indigenous serving organizations that interpret and teach the broader community about Indigenous peoples' guardianship and legacy with ocean and Great Lakes waters.
- Projects that develop opportunities for peoples (particularly those who have historically lacked access) to volunteer, explore science, or access and experience the wonders in our sanctuaries, and;
- Projects that ensure that all Americans are aware of the value of individual sanctuaries as well as the entire network of special places across U.S. waters that is our National Marine Sanctuary System.

Potential projects could include but are not limited to language revelation, Indigenous food harvesting, passage of knowledge within Indigenous communities, guidance, supplies, and equipment for youth to make documentaries, etc.



ELIGIBILITY

The Foundation is interested in creating a broad scope of eligibility for organizations to build the capacity of community grantees and expand the reach of grant program priorities and objectives. Applications will be accepted from groups or entities that meet the following criteria:

- The applicant is a non-profit organization, Indigenous or Indigenous-serving organization, formal or informal education institution, and/or a non-federal government entity (Tribal Nation, state, or local government).
- The applicant does not have a paid staff member serving on the Foundation's [Board of Trustees](#).
- The applicant is not a federal government agency, a foreign entity/organization, or an individual. Individuals are not eligible, but organizations applying may include individuals acting as independent contractors in their budgets.
- Project work is conducted in the United States or territories.

If you are not sure if your organization is eligible, or have any questions about the eligibility description, please reach out to Paul Vaughan, Program Operations Manager, at support@marinesanctuary.org or 301-754-6889.

Competitive awards will incorporate diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and accessibility when writing their proposals and performing their work. In addition, priority will be given to projects that directly benefit or support communities in need and involve community members in all aspects of the project, from planning to execution.

HOW TO APPLY

Application packages should be submitted by 6:59 AM Eastern Standard Time on Wednesday, November 13, 2024. Please submit your application package to the Foundation through C-STAAR – the Foundation's Collaborative System for Tracking Activities, Awards, and Reporting - using the following link: <https://marinesanctuary.smartsimple.com/>.

The C-STAAR platform will ask individual questions related to your project, answered through separate form fields, and will have some questions that allow for uploading additional materials or providing links to those materials. An addendum is included with the RFP that includes step-by-step instructions on using C-STAAR. If your proposal is selected for funding, your agreement and future reporting will be managed through the C-STAAR platform.

Please direct all questions regarding the submission of applications to the C-STAAR platform to support@marinesanctuary.org with the email subject line: RFP QUESTION Sanctuary Community Fund: [Name of Organization].

A completed application package should include:

- A detailed description of project goals and deliverables and how they will be accomplished.



- A full budget and budget narrative—a written description of how the budget will be used;
- A project timeline including start and end dates and key milestones;
- Letters of support from project partners, or those who will advocate on behalf of your organization. Letters of commitment from partner organizations will be required if they are noted as having a specific role in completing the proposed project;
- All required fields of the application in C-STAAAR must be completed before submission. Applications can be saved as a draft to return to and submit when completed. Any additional contributors to work on the proposal per organization must be invited and accepted into C-STAAAR. Multiple users cannot work on the proposal simultaneously.

Applicants will be notified by December 20, 2024.

PROJECT TIMELINE

The timeline of project activities and milestones should be clearly addressed in the applicant's proposal. Project proposals that do not address whether work can be completed within the noted timeline will not be rated as highly in the review process. **Project work cannot extend beyond December 31, 2026, due to the source funds supporting this grant program.**

OPTIONAL LINKS/ATTACHMENTS

May include additional/supplemental materials that demonstrate the unique strengths of your organization to promote community engagement with the sanctuary process such as videos, printed materials, or other multimedia.

May include supplementary materials such as impact materials and testimonials.

Video submissions via link are preferred.

INFORMATION SESSION

The Foundation will hold an informational webinar to review the RFP in full and specific qualifications and needs. New questions addressed in the webinar will be updated in the FAQ section of the website. Staff from the National Marine Sanctuary System will also be on hand to answer questions specific to the designation process as it relates to the grant opportunity.

Participants can participate by video call or phone, and any visual materials presented will be posted on the website following the webinar. Foundation staff will not be able to answer specific questions related to individual proposals but will be available throughout the application period to schedule meetings to answer proposal questions that cannot be answered through the FAQs.

For the November 13th application deadline, webinars will be held on the following dates. Registration using the unique links below is encouraged.

- **Thursday, October 17th, 4pm-5pm Eastern**
 - https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NpqZve15S5O8eEZWmafhiw
- **Friday, October 18th, 12pm-1pm Eastern**
 - https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ilb60zQ9S-GyCFBgtEryKg

Webinars will be recorded and can be accessed via the Foundation’s website. Webinar dates, times, and links for future application dates will be released closer to the 2025 application deadline dates.

REVIEW PROCESS

Proposals will be submitted using the Foundation’s online application portal, C-STAAR. The person submitting the application will receive an automated email confirming that the Foundation has received your proposal.

Proposals will be reviewed by the Foundation, with support from selected reviewers. Selected reviewers will remain anonymous. Projects will be evaluated based on how well they align with the program priorities of the Foundation and how well the project fulfills the criteria below.

Evaluation Criteria	Sub-Questions	Score	Scoring for this criterion will be assessed on how well proposals:
IMPORTANCE, RELEVANCE, APPLICABILITY OF PROPOSAL TO THE PROGRAM GOALS	<p>Does the project guide the engagement of community groups and members that build support for sanctuary designation?</p> <p>Is the project led by Indigenous serving organizations that interpret and teach the broader community about Indigenous peoples’ guardianship and legacy with ocean and Great Lakes waters?</p> <p>Does the project develop opportunities for peoples (particularly those who have historically lacked access) to volunteer, explore science, or access and experience the wonders in our sanctuaries?</p>	40	<p>Explain the project activities and how they align with the competition objective.</p> <p>Clearly state the purpose of the project and the specific PROJECT OBJECTIVE issue being addressed; summarize planned activities; and benefits to the environment and local economy; and indicate the project scope.</p>

	Does the project ensure that all Americans are aware of the value of individual sanctuaries as well as the entire network of special places across U.S. waters that is our National Marine Sanctuary System?		
TECHNICAL SKILLS AND PROJECT FEASIBILITY	<p>Does the proposal clearly identify achievable goals and objectives?</p> <p>Is the proposal feasible in the performance timeframe period?</p> <p>Is a descriptive timeline included?</p> <p>Do the applicant and any project partners have the ability and expertise (or the potential) to conduct the scope and scale of the proposed work?</p>	20	<p>Demonstrate a thorough level of planning that will allow the applicant to begin the project promptly and complete the project within the period of the performance timeline. Considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are milestones identified in the project timeline align with project goals and objectives? • Are project partners and roles clearly identified? • Do activities take place during the implementation period?
QUALIFICATIONS OF APPLICANT	<p>Is the applicant based near or serve those living in close proximity to one of the locations listed in the RFP?</p> <p>Does the applicant propose to collaborate with at least one national marine sanctuary community?</p> <p>Does the applicant represent, serve, or engage in meaningful dialogue with Indigenous groups or organizations?</p> <p>Does the applicant have a commitment to, or experience with, reaching the proposed audience, especially if the audience includes diverse and underserved communities?</p> <p>Does the applicant have the capacity to promote the grant funding and project with public relations strategies and give specific details regarding the publicity plan?</p>	15	<p>Demonstrate stakeholder engagement through partnership and collaboration with communities affected by the changing environment of sanctuary regions. Considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are letters of commitment from participating partners included? • Does the applicant demonstrate experience implementing outreach/education programs • Are letters of commitment from national marine sanctuary partner sites included? <p>Show a commitment to engaging with marginalized communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the applicant represent, serve, or engage in meaningful dialogue with indigenous groups or organizations? • Is outreach and/or engagement with marginalized communities reducing barriers and providing access to sanctuary resources? <p>Demonstrate organizational capacity to acquire any additional resources and technical requirements necessary to complete the project?</p>

	Does the project require permits or special permissions to conduct activities, and does the applicant and/or its partners already hold those permits and/or permissions?		
PROJECT EVALUATION PLAN	<p>Does the applicant list specific project metrics, indicators, and outcomes?</p> <p>Does the project clearly indicate how progress will be evaluated and success determined?</p> <p>Does the applicant plan to collect and report specific information pertinent to program success, including program outputs and outcomes?</p>	10	<p>Specific project metrics, indicators, and outcomes are included that align with project activities.</p> <p>Explain how these outcomes (quantitative and qualitative) will demonstrate the project's success.</p>
PROJECT COSTS	<p>Is the budget realistic?</p> <p>Does the applicant adequately justify the proposed budget request? Is there sufficient detail to verify that the budget request is reasonable for the number of participants and/or target audience to be reached?</p> <p>Does the budget description sufficiently explain how each item in the budget table supports project activities?</p> <p>Is a significant percentage of the budget directly related to project activities and fostering positive outcomes/results?</p>	10	<p>Provide a detailed list of specific items, tools, materials, etc., and associated costs for each expense category. Considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are explanations provided for how each item in the budget table supports project activities? • Are budgeted items prioritized that directly support projects and/or workforce development and capacity-building opportunities (program staff salary, fringe, and indirect budget requests are relatively small fractions of the total budget)
SCALABILITY AND LONGEVITY POTENTIAL	<p>What is the long-term scalability and longevity of the proposed activities?</p> <p>Can the project continue to benefit the community and/or support outcomes after the project's completion?</p>	5	<p>Describe project scalability.</p> <p>Demonstrate the potential for the project activities and/or project outcomes to continue beyond the funding period.</p>
Total Points	100		

NOTIFICATION

All applicants will be notified of their application status by December 20, 2024, whether the proposed project was selected for funding. The Foundation may negotiate final budgets and project details with applicants recommended for awards and may request that final awardees modify aspects of their application prior to final agreement and award of funds.

Applicants will be notified by email. Following notification, applicants can see their proposal's status in C-STAAAR. Public notification of awards will be made for the first round in early 2025, and for other application cycles, within the first four weeks of project start date.

For organizations who are declined for funding, the Foundation may provide a limited amount of anonymous feedback from reviewers, if selected reviewers agree for their comments to be shared.

There are four possible outcomes from submission of a proposal:

1. Award with no changes to project scope or budget
2. Award with modifications requested to project scope or budget
3. Decline to fund
4. Request to resubmit a proposal under a future application deadline, potentially with recommended revisions.

POST-AWARD EXPECTATIONS

If your project is selected for funding,

- **Agreement**—will be sent digitally through the platform Docusign. You don't have to register for a Docusign account in order to sign. If you would like to sign a paper document, we can make arrangements for that upon request.
- **Payment**—may be made in full up front or in some cases awarded as phases of the project are completed. Please ensure that any financial documentation submitted is up-to-date and accurate.
- **Monitoring**— The Foundation will monitor your progress by way of reports and both formal and informal check-ins on specific intervals throughout the project period and upon closeout. Formal written reports are required two times each year. Informal check-ins may involve phone calls, meetings, or in-person site visits. You must inform Foundation staff of any changes to your project, budget, or anticipated outcomes.
- **Storytelling**-- Participation in Foundation communications about the project is an important way to not only celebrate the work being done by your organization, but also helps provide the Foundation with tools to continue to support projects and programs in the future. You may be asked to provide photos, videos, or printed materials that help tell the story of your work. Any media or materials provided will not be used by the Foundation without permission, and the Foundation will provide photo credits on any material used.



APPLICATION TIMELINE

- October 7, 2024 – RFP released
- October 17th and 18th 2024 – Informational webinars for applicants
- November 13, 2024 – Applications due
- December 15, 2024 – Notification of awards to applicants
- January 12, 2025 – Grant terms begin
- Mid-January 2025 – Public announcement of awards
- December 31, 2026 – All grantee project work must be completed

WHO TO CONTACT FOR HELP

Please direct all questions regarding this RFP to Paul Vaughan, Program Operations Manager at support@marinesanctuary.org with the email subject line: Sanctuary Community Fund: [Name of Organization].

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Are there particular funding areas?

A: Grants in the first round of the Sanctuary Community Fund will support community partner engagement serving sanctuaries currently in the Sanctuary Designation Process through NOAA or designated by NOAA after June 1, 2024, will be eligible to apply. Support will include grants to regionally and locally based organizations to advance science, stewardship, and outreach within the community. Interpreting science for the public benefit is prioritized, and while building support through advocacy with the use of tools such as surveys, polls, interviews and focus groups is allowed, scientific research projects will not be considered under this funding opportunity.

Q: What are the application deadlines?

A: Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. The deadline for community engagement grants for the fall 2024 cycle of the SCF will be November 13, 2024.

Q: Who is eligible to apply?

A: Eligible applicants include formal or informal education institutions, non-profits, Indigenous or Indigenous-serving organizations, and/or a non-federal government entity (tribal, state, or local government). The applicant does not have a paid staff member serving on the Foundation's [Board of Trustees](#). The applicant is not a federal government agency, a foreign entity/organization, or an individual. Individuals are not eligible, but organizations applying may include individuals acting as independent contractors in their budgets. Project work must be conducted in the United States or territories.

Q: What kinds of expenses are allowed? Are there any types of expenses that are not allowed?

A: The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation will consider a broad range of expenses under this funding opportunity, with the intention of meeting the needs of sanctuary communities' engagement with the designation process.

- Capital expenses for equipment are allowed, but a strong justification for the need should be included in the 'Budget Description' area of the application, along with the reason that the item should be purchased and not leased. (Lease of equipment is preferred.) Capital expenses should be limited to the proportion required for the proposed project. Please note that any funded requests for equipment will require a longer period of monitoring, typically beyond initial project completion.
- Projects that propose profit for the applying organization are not allowed. For example, the Foundation cannot fund ticketed events, unless the ticket cost offsets the cost of the event, and the request to the Foundation covers a gap in expected revenue. For programs, the Foundation cannot support costs that are otherwise covered by program fees but can cover additional materials that program fees do not cover.
- Entertainment expenses are not allowed, including alcohol purchase or service.
- As of the initial offering of this grant opportunity, the Foundation cannot support budget requests that benefit an individual, like scholarships.
- Salary and fringe benefits are allowed, but only for the time attributable to the proposed project.
- Independent contractor costs and consultant costs are allowed.
- Indirect costs are allowed. If you are using an indirect cost rate or administrative fee, please upload in optional materials on the application your organization's policy on administrative costs, if your organization has documented that process.
- Supplies are an allowable expense. Please be as specific as possible about supplies needed to complete the project as proposed.
- Travel is an allowable expense. Please be prepared to identify in the 'Budget Description' area of the application how many people the travel budget is intended to cover, and what type of travel is estimated, and why travel costs are needed.
 - Mileage, please use 2024 IRS business rate of 67 cents per mile. If your organization has its own mileage reimbursement rate, please use that calculation.
 - Rental cars, lodging, and per diem are allowable expenses. You can use GSA per diem rates as an estimate, found at [this website](#).
 - Travel beyond regular economy rates is not allowed.
 - Include group travel needs, such as bus transportation, in the travel budget line.
 - Please distinguish between employee travel needs and participant travel needs in your budget.
- Rental costs for program or event venues, or storage are allowed, but cannot extend beyond the end date of the project.



- Software costs are allowable and should be included in the Supplies budget line. Software costs may be included proportional to their use for the proposed project.

If you are unsure if an expense is allowable as part of your budget, please reach out to Paul Vaughan, Program Operations Manager at support@marinesanctuary.org with the email subject line: Sanctuary Community Fund: [Name of Organization].

Q: Will preference be given to organizations that have previously received funding from the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation?

A: The Foundation will not show preference for previous grantees and will consider applications from any organization meeting all other eligibility criteria. Organizations that have never been a recipient of National Marine Sanctuary Foundation grants are strongly encouraged to apply.

Q: Can a Federal Employee or Agency apply for the grant?

A: No, federal employees or federal agencies cannot be the primary applicant or recipient but can and should be a partner in a proposal.

Q: What is the typical duration of grants? Are multi-year grants available?

A: The typical duration of grants is for a project period of one year. Multi-year grants will be considered. However, project work must conclude by December 31, 2026.

Q: Do I need letters of commitment and/or support from partners?

A: Letters of commitment from project partners are required. Letters of support that demonstrate project capacity are encouraged and will help reviewers understand your ability to complete the project successfully and on time. An example of a letter of commitment would be if your proposed project involves a school, then a letter of commitment should be provided from the school indicating the acknowledgement of their participation and enthusiasm for the project.

Q: Can I submit additional attachments?

A: There is a supplemental attachments section in the online application that will allow you to upload any additional documents, videos, photos, etc. that help you to illustrate your proposal.

Q: Where can I find more information?

A: More information about the Sanctuary Community Fund and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation can be found on the Foundation [website](#).

Q: Where can I find more information about the National Marine Sanctuary System?

A: The official web site for the National Marine Sanctuary System, including links to individual sites, can be found at <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>



ABOUT US

The [National Marine Sanctuary Foundation](#) was founded in 2000 by America's most influential ocean conservation leaders and works with communities and NOAA to conserve and expand these special places for a healthy ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes. Sanctuaries and monuments are our essential network of protected waters, owned by every American and championed by us. Connected by currents, they sustain miraculous species, coastal communities, and our shared heritage. The Foundation is a leading voice for U.S.-protected waters, and our work extends from the ocean floor to the classroom to Capitol Hill. The Foundation supports a growing portfolio of Community Stewardship, Outreach, and Education programs aimed at providing students, educators, and lifelong learners with opportunities to explore and discover connections to the natural world, no matter where they live.

The Sanctuary Community Fund was created in cooperation with NOAA to address coastal climate resilience and protect marine resources through the Inflation Reduction Act. In the initial application round, all awarded projects will come from federally sourced funds under award NA24NOSX429C0001.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

This is a Request for Proposals (RFP) only. Issuance of this RFP does not in any way obligate the Foundation to make an award or pay for costs incurred by potential offerors in the preparation and submission of an offer. In addition:

- (a) The Foundation may cancel RFP and not award;
- (b) The Foundation may reject any or all responses received;
- (c) Issuance of RFP does not constitute award commitment by The Foundation;
- (d) The Foundation reserves the right to disqualify any offer based on offeror failure to follow RFP instructions;
- (e) The Foundation will not compensate offerors for a response to RFP;
- (f) The Foundation reserves the right to issue an award based on an initial evaluation of offers without further discussion;
- (g) The Foundation may negotiate with short-listed offerors for their best and final offer;
- (h) The Foundation reserves the right to order additional quantities or units with the selected offer or;
- (i) The Foundation may reissue the solicitation or issue formal amendments revising the original RFP specifications and evaluation criteria before or after receipt of proposals;
- (j) The Foundation may modify the specifications without issuing a formal notice to all offerors when the revisions are immaterial to the scope of the RFP;
- (k) The Foundation may choose to award only part of the activities in the RFP or issue multiple awards based on multiple RFP activities; and
- (l) The Foundation reserves the right to waive minor proposal deficiencies that can be corrected prior to award determination to promote competition.