



North Carolina Sea Grant
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KENAN INSTITUTE
ENGINEERING, TECHNOLOGY & SCIENCE
NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Community Collaborative Research Grant (CCRG) Program 2017-18 Request for Proposals

North Carolina Sea Grant (NC Sea Grant) in partnership with the William R. Kenan Jr. Institute for Engineering, Technology and Science, based at North Carolina State University, is pleased to announce a competitive research funding opportunity for the Community Collaborative Research Grant (CCRG) Program.

CCRG addresses priority coastal issues that align with the mission and strategic plan of NC Sea Grant. Specifically, CCRG requires the use of a collaborative research approach that couples the knowledge of community stakeholders with academic experts in the field.

While members of the public may have local knowledge of their own communities and environments, they oftentimes do not have the scientific expertise required to fully characterize the problem and craft science-based solutions. Conversely, academic experts may be knowledgeable of scientific principles and potential solutions required to mitigate the problem, but lack the social and historical perspective that will aid in crafting solutions to meet the expectations of community members. This type of collaborative research approach — requiring the linkage of local knowledge expertise with university researchers — has a proven track-record in developing new tools and approaches in coastal resource management.

The 2018-2021 NC Sea Grant Strategic Plan defines four focus areas: 1) Healthy Coastal Ecosystems; 2) Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture; 3) Resilient Communities and Economies; and 4) Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development. Submitted proposals must justify how the work would be relevant to the Sea Grant mission, and how it would address at least one of the focus areas. Consult the strategic plan to help with this aspect of your proposal: https://ncseagrant.ncsu.edu/ncseagrant_docs/key_docs/NCSGStrategicPlan_20182021.pdf

Eligibility

Proposals must significantly involve North Carolina residents who are involved with or knowledgeable of the coastal issues to be addressed. Proposals without concise research questions will not receive favorable reviews. Project teams must be led by a two-person team with one scientific expert and one local knowledge expert. Additional participants are allowable as collaborators. These roles may include faculty or staff members from a North Carolina-based institution of higher learning (e.g., college, university or community college), staff from local and/or state governmental entities in North Carolina, staff members of non-government organizations based in offices in North Carolina, North Carolina business owners and private North Carolina

residents. Federal government and Sea Grant employees are not eligible to receive funding, but may participate as unfunded collaborators. Liability insurance coverage is required to conduct projects.

Proposal Development

Proposals should be collaborative and represent a process that utilizes both the scientific and local knowledge experts throughout the entire project. Every applicant is encouraged to consult with NC Sea Grant specialists and/or experts in the targeted focus area(s). Specialists can provide early feedback on a project idea and help to identify team members. Applicants are encouraged to detail how they will transfer their results to community and academic stakeholders. Contact information for Sea Grant staff members is available here: <http://ncseagrant.ncsu.edu/about-us/our-team/>.

Funding Availability

Awards will range between \$4,000 and \$25,000 with an estimated 2 to 12 awards per year. Indirect costs may not be charged. Matching/in-kind funds are not required but are highly encouraged. Investigators may only propose one-year (12 months maximum) research projects. Projects should be planned around a May 1, 2018 start date. Individuals may be lead PI or co-PI on only one proposal but can be participants on multiple proposals.

Application Process

The application form (MS Word document) contains all required fields (Items 1 to 23) and is available online: <http://ncseagrant.ncsu.edu/funding-opps/grants/other-opps/>. Proposals that do not follow the supplied format and structure will not be considered.

Online yearly progress reports and a final report will be required for all funded projects. Post-completion reports will identify ongoing impacts and publications.

Proposals should be succinct, but sufficiently detailed for review by peers, potential users of results and program advisors. Narrative text should be typed in a 12-point Times font with 1-inch margins. Items 1 to 19 of the application form, when completed, can be a maximum of 4 single-spaced pages. Items 20 to 23, (budget, budget justification, suggested reviewers, and references) do not count toward the four-page limit. Optional letter(s) of support and PI/co-PI *curricula vitae* or resumes do not count toward the 4-page limit. Supplemental materials (diagrams, photos, etc.) are acceptable only if they enhance the project explanation, and similarly, do not count toward the 4-page limit. Supplemental materials should be included as separate appendices. Proposals not meeting these criteria will not be considered.

University-affiliated applicants also must include a cover page signed by their respective sponsored programs office.

Proposal document(s) should be submitted as a Word or pdf file. Complete proposals must be received by **4 p.m. on Feb. 12, 2018**. Proposals can be hand-delivered, mailed, or emailed. Faxed proposals will not be accepted. Email proposals to Debra Lynch, debra_lynch@ncsu.edu.

Mail or deliver signed hard copy applications to Debra Lynch, North Carolina Sea Grant, NC State University, 850 Main Campus Drive, Toxicology Building, Suite 105, Campus Box 8605, Raleigh, N.C. 27606.

Notification of Proposal Award

Notification of funding decisions will be sent by April 13, 2018.

Review Procedures

Anonymous peer reviews will be conducted for all applications. All proposals will be reviewed for scientific and technical merit, and the ability to address one or more of the specific focus areas. Project quality will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Appropriateness of the project team with science and local knowledge expert clearly identified.
- Execution of project planned in a collaborative fashion: science and local knowledge expert working in tandem throughout the project to complete project activities.
- Addresses one or more of the focus areas and is relevant to the Sea Grant mission.
- Methods appropriate to complete proposed work.
- Includes innovative ideas, approach and/or potential findings.
- Project results obtainable within 1 year.
- Evaluation metrics appropriate to judge the project's success.
- Robust plan to communicate project results to academic and community stakeholders.
- Documentation that end-users want the results of the project.
- Reasonableness of budget for work proposed.

Based on peer reviews, the most meritorious proposals will be run through a technical panel of experts that will make funding recommendations. Final funding decisions, including the level of funding for each project is at the NC Sea Grant Director's discretion.

Additional Information about the CCRG:

For questions about the CCRG, or specific questions regarding academic partners, contact:

John Fear, Deputy Director, North Carolina Sea Grant

Phone: 919-515-9104 or 252-222-6314

Email: jmfear@ncsu.edu

For questions about the CCRG, or specific questions regarding community partners, contact:

Scott Baker, Fisheries Specialist, North Carolina Sea Grant

Phone: 910-962-2492

Email: bakers@uncw.edu

Attachment:

Funding application