



Community Collaborative Research Grant (CCRG) Program 2018-19 Request for Proposals

North Carolina Sea Grant (NC Sea Grant), in partnership with North Carolina's Water Resources Research Institute (WRRI) and the William R. Kenan Jr. Institute for Engineering, Technology and Science based at NC State University, is pleased to announce the 2018-19 Community Collaborative Research Grant (CCRG) Program. Entering its fourth year, this funding opportunity is expanding to not only include important coastal priority issues, but also statewide water resource issues as well.

Proposed projects must justify how the work would be relevant to the missions and strategic plans of [NC Sea Grant](http://go.ncsu.edu/NCSeaGrantPlan2018) (<http://go.ncsu.edu/NCSeaGrantPlan2018>) and/or [WRRI](http://go.ncsu.edu/wrri_sp) (http://go.ncsu.edu/wrri_sp). The 2018-2021 NC Sea Grant Strategic Plan defines four focus areas: healthy coastal ecosystems; sustainable fisheries and aquaculture; resilient communities and economies; and environmental literacy and workforce development. WRRI focus areas eligible under this RFP include: stormwater management; drinking water, wastewater and water infrastructure; groundwater and surface water; and watershed management.

CCRG requires research approaches that couple 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 — requiring the linkage of local knowledge expertise with university researchers — has a proven track record of developing new tools and solutions in resource management.

We hope to increase resources flowing toward rural areas of North Carolina. As such, CCRG projects that occur within and/or that will provide benefit to rural areas are encouraged. We also encourage projects that will benefit other historically underserved and under-resourced neighborhoods, communities and populations.

Recognizing that some students and faculty have been under-targeted with research opportunities, and that some students and faculty are underrepresented in the sciences, we encourage submissions by and/or collaborative partnerships with African American, Hispanic and Native American students, faculty, and community teams, including, but not limited to, students and faculty at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs).

Eligibility

Proposals must significantly involve North Carolina local knowledge experts who are involved with or who are knowledgeable about the coastal/water resource issues to be addressed. Proposals lacking concise research questions (hypothesis/es) will not receive favorable reviews. Project teams must be led by two people: one scientific expert and one local knowledge expert. Additional participants are allowable as collaborators. These roles may include faculty 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 N.C. offices; N.C. business owners; and private N.C. residents. Federal government and NC Sea Grant/WRRI 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 the scientific and local knowledge experts throughout the entire project. Every applicant is encouraged to consult with NC Sea Grant/WRRI staff members for assistance in proposal development. These experts can provide early feedback on a project idea and help to identify project team members. Applicants are required to detail how they will transfer their results to community and academic stakeholders. Contact information for NC Sea Grant/WRRI staff members is available here: <http://ncseagrant.ncsu.edu/about-us/our-team/>.

Funding Availability

Awards will range between \$5,000 and \$25,000, with an estimated 2 to 10 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 March 1, 2019 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.

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 11-point Times font with 1-inch margins. Items 1 to 19 of the application form, when completed, can be a maximum of **four** single-spaced pages. Items 20 to 23, (budget, budget justification, suggested reviewers, and references) do not count toward the four-page limit. PI/co-PI *curricula vitae* or resumes are required (two-page limit each) but do not count toward the four-page limit. Letter(s) of support documenting the need for the project or important collaborations do not count toward the four-page limit. Additional supplemental materials (diagrams, photos, etc.) are acceptable only if they enhance the project explanation, and similarly, do not count toward the four-page limit. Supplemental materials should be included as separate appendices.

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

Proposal document(s) should be submitted as a single Word or pdf file. Complete proposals must be received by **4 p.m. on Nov. 20, 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 Jan. 21, 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 RFP focus areas and is relevant to the NC Sea Grant/WRRI mission.
- Methods appropriate to complete proposed work.
- Includes innovative ideas, approach and/or potential findings.
- Project results obtainable within one 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, contact:

John Fear, Deputy Director, North Carolina Sea Grant

Phone: 919-515-9104

Email: jmfear@ncsu.edu

Attachment:

Funding application