



Community Collaborative Research Grant Program 2022–2023 Request for Proposals

North Carolina Sea Grant (NC Sea Grant) — in partnership with the North Carolina Water Resources Research Institute (WRII) and the William R. Kenan Jr. Institute for Engineering, Technology and Science (KIETS) — is pleased to announce the 2022–2023 Community Collaborative Research Grant (CCRG) Program. NC Sea Grant, WRII, and KIETS, each based at NC State University, support the CCRG Program to address important coastal challenges and statewide water resource issues.

Due Date: 5 p.m. Eastern, December 21, 2022

Successful projects must justify how their work would be relevant to the mission/s and interest/s of one or more of the funding partners. The [NC Sea Grant Strategic Plan](#) and [WRII Strategic Plan](#) lay out focus areas, goals, and strategies that can help you clearly align your proposed work for reviewers. [KIETS](#) is particularly interested this cycle in strategies and solutions that can address issues related to human health challenges caused by the changing environment — including strategies and solutions that mitigate or reverse the negative effects of climate change through technical, managerial, policy-related, or economic approaches that offer the promise of impactful progress for North Carolina in the face of enduring climate challenges.

CCRG requires research approaches that couple local knowledge with scientific expertise. While members of the public often have local knowledge of their own communities and environments, they sometimes do not have the scientific, technical, or policy expertise to craft science-based solutions. Conversely, scientific experts are knowledgeable about scientific principles and potential solutions required to mitigate the problem, but sometimes 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 scientific researchers — has a proven track record in developing new tools and solutions in resource management.

Proposals should consider alignment with [NC Sea Grant's](#) and [WRII's vision](#) for diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and accessibility. CCRG strongly encourage proposals from persons in traditionally underserved and underrepresented communities, including rural areas of North Carolina, as well as proposals that demonstrate how projects and related outreach will benefit those communities. Recognizing that some student, faculty, and community partners have historically been underserved and under-targeted with research opportunities, and often are underrepresented in the sciences, we encourage submissions by and/or collaborations with one or more of the following: African American, Hispanic, and Native American partners; 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 are knowledgeable of the coastal and/or water resource issues the project will address.

Proposals also must include concise project objectives or research questions. Monitoring only projects and workshop projects are not eligible for funding under this call.

A two-person team with one scientific expert and one local knowledge expert must lead each project. These roles may include faculty from North Carolina-based institutions of higher learning (e.g., colleges, universities, or community colleges), staff from local and/or state governmental entities in North Carolina, staff at non-government organizations based in N.C. offices, N.C. business owners, and private N.C. residents. Additional team members may contribute as other participants.

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

Proposal Development

Proposals should be collaborative and represent a process that utilizes scientific *and* local knowledge experts throughout the entire project. We encourage applicants to consult with NC Sea Grant/WRRI staff members for assistance in proposal development. Our staff can provide early feedback on a project idea and help to identify project team members. Contact information for Sea Grant/WRRI staff members are available on each organization's website (<https://ncseagrant.ncsu.edu/> and <https://wrri.ncsu.edu/>).

Applicants must detail how they will transfer their findings to community and academic stakeholders.

Funding Availability

Awards will range between \$5,000 and \$25,000, with an estimated two to 10 awards per year, depending on the availability of funds and quality of proposals.

Indirect costs may not be charged. Matching/in-kind funds are not required but are encouraged.

Investigators may only propose one-year (12 months maximum) projects with a planned **April 1, 2023** start date. PI teams may be asked to alter proposed start dates and budgets to align with funding levels/priorities.

Investigators may be lead PI or co-PI **on only one proposal** but can be participants on multiple proposals.

Application Process

All proposals must be submitted via the eSeaGrant online proposal management [portal](#).

The application form ([available here](#)) must be used for proposal preparation.

The eSeaGrant portal will provide a location to submit all required application elements.

Required elements are:

- Completed application form
- two-page resumes/CVs for all project participants
- Project budget and budget justification
- University-affiliated PIs also must include a cover page signed by their respective sponsored programs office.

Proposals should be succinct but sufficiently detailed for review by peers, potential users of results, and program advisors.

Narrative text should be 11-point font or larger and use 1-inch margins. Items one to 19 of the application form, when completed, must 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. 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.) similarly do not count toward the four-page limit but are acceptable *only* if they enhance the project explanation. If needed, these materials should be included as an appendix to the application form.

All proposals are due **5 p.m. Eastern on December 21, 2022**, at which time the portal will automatically close. We are unable to receive late proposals. We also are unable to accept emailed, faxed, and mailed proposals.

Notification of Proposal Award

Notification of funding decisions are expected on or near March 10, 2023.

Review Procedures

Anonymous peer reviews will be conducted for all applications. All proposals will be reviewed for scientific and technical merit, as well as relevance toward one or more of the funding partners' missions and interests. Project quality will be assessed on the following criteria, each carrying equal weight:

- Appropriateness of the project team, with science and local-knowledge experts clearly identified.
- Quality of the planned collaborative execution of the project: how science and local-knowledge experts will work in tandem throughout the project to complete project activities.
- Relevance to the Sea Grant/WRRI/KIETS missions and interests and alignment with the Sea Grant/WRRI vision for diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and accessibility.
- Use of methods appropriate to complete proposed work.
- Use of innovative ideas, approaches, and/or potential findings.
- Feasibility of obtaining project results within one year.

- Appropriateness of evaluation metrics to determine the project's success.
- Robustness of the plan to communicate project results to academic and community stakeholders.
- Documentation that end-users want/need the results of the project.
- Reasonableness of the budget for proposed work.

Based on peer reviews, the most meritorious proposals will be evaluated by a technical panel of experts who will make funding recommendations. Final funding decisions, including the level of funding for each project, is at the NC Sea Grant and WRRI.

For additional information:

If you have questions about the CCRG program, contact John Fear at jmfear@ncsu.edu and/or Kaitlin Tucker at ktucker@ncsu.edu. Phone and video calls are available if needed.

For questions about the eSeaGrant portal and/or proposed budgets, email Mary Beth Barrow, fiscal officer for NC Sea Grant and WRRI, at mebarrow@ncsu.edu.

Information about previously funded projects is available at go.ncsu.edu/CCRG.

Attachment: [Funding application form](#)