

FY2018 NOAA Ocean Acidification Program Education Mini-Grants Federal

Agency Name(s): National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce, Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), Ocean Acidification Program

Dates: Submission must be received by 2300 (11pm) eastern time on February 5, 2018. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

Background:

Ocean acidification is an emerging issue that will have far reaching impacts on ocean health and long-term sustainability of ecosystems that support human populations. It is critical that educators have access to the latest science information and communication tools on these topics and are able to effectively share the science of ocean acidification, potential impacts, and positive actions to diverse audiences. In Spring 2016, a needs assessment (summary report [here](#)) was conducted by Public Square Communications with support from NOAA to determine strengths, weaknesses and gaps within the landscape of ocean acidification (OA) education and outreach programs to meet Goal 1 of the [NOAA OA Education Implementation Plan](#) (OA Education Plan). The assessment included an online survey of five key audiences including informal educators at science and nature centers, formal educators, scientists, non-governmental organizations, and OA collaboratives (groups comprised of members with diverse areas of expertise and representing different sectors focused on ocean acidification), as well as a comprehensive review of existing OA education products and programming. NOAA has made funds available in 2017 and 2018 to begin to fill gaps identified by the needs assessment and to help implement the following goals from the NOAA OA Education Implementation Plan: Goal 2 - Prioritize and engage target audiences for ocean acidification education and outreach, Goal 3 - Match ocean acidification communication needs with existing research, education and outreach activities, and Goal 4 - Develop innovative approaches for community involvement.

Purpose and Structure of the 2018 OA Education Minigrant Program

Projects in one or more of the areas below will fill those needs that were identified as highest priority in the NOAA OA Education Needs Assessment:

- Education and outreach products that incorporate data interpretation and/or visualization;
- Multimedia educational tools (such as video, infographics and apps);
- Discrete hands-on lab modules that incorporate inquiry-based learning and align with Next Generation Science and/or Common Core Standards;
- Protocol or tools for ocean acidification citizen science program;

Note: All projects must have ocean acidification as the central focus

Projects previously funded by the Ocean Acidification Mini-Grant Program filled needs in the US West Coast and Northeast regions. Projects from other US Regions including the Pacific

Islands, Alaska, Southeast, and Gulf of Mexico are highly encouraged.

The Lead PI on any proposal submitted in response to this RFP MUST be a NOAA federal employee. It is strongly recommended that the project include a collaboration between NOAA educators and/or scientists and include at least one partner from outside of NOAA. Projects that incorporate NOAA or university-generated ocean acidification data, where applicable, are encouraged. Additionally, those that incorporate solutions that are locally and/or regionally relevant are encouraged.

NOAA supports cultural and gender diversity and encourages applications involving women and minority individuals and groups. In addition, NOAA is strongly committed to broadening the participation of historically black colleges and universities, Hispanic serving institutions, tribal colleges and universities, and institutions that work in underserved areas. NOAA encourages applications involving any of the above institutions to apply.

Funding

Estimated Total Program Funding for FY18: \$30,000

Award Ceiling for individual projects: \$10,000

Award Floor for individual projects: \$2,500

Application details

Application Announcement: **December 4th, 2017**

Closing date for applications: **2300 (11pm) eastern time February 5, 2018**

Proposal Request Description:

Applicants should submit a proposal that includes the following information:

- Identification of lead PIs and partners, if applicable
- Description of project
- Target audience and reach
- Which gap(s) identified in the needs assessment and which goal of the NOAA OA Education Implementation Plan are being addressed
- Goals and outputs, including evaluative component, if applicable
- Budget justification
- Budget detail (separated out into labor, supplies and equipment, transportation)
- Curriculum vita for project Principal Investigator and any Co-Investigators

Submissions are to be e-mailed to noaa.oceanacidification@noaa.gov using the NOAA OA Education Minigrant Proposal Template. Please title the email and the Proposal file name in the following format: "ENA-OA18_RFP_lastname." No facsimile submissions will be accepted.

Send questions to noaa.oceanacidification@noaa.gov

Proposals will be reviewed in February of 2018 and decisions will be announced in March of 2018. We anticipate funding projects that are up to 1 year in duration.

Other helpful links:

- [NOAA Ocean Acidification Program](#)
- [NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries Education Project Evaluation](#)
- [Next Generation Science Standards](#)
- [Common Core Standards](#)
- [Ocean Literacy Principles and Concepts](#)
- [Ocean Acidification Curriculum Collection](#)
- [Pacific Marine Environmental Lab Ocean Acidification](#)
- [IOOS Pacific Region Ocean Acidification Data Explorer](#)

Abstracts from projects awarded by the 2017 NOAA OA Education Minigrant RFP are on the [NOAA Ocean Acidification Program website](#): “A strategy for ocean and coastal acidification education and citizen science monitoring in the Northeast”, “Development of ocean acidification “pHyter” – plankton monitoring tools & curriculum”, and “Local actions and solutions: communicating new perspectives from the frontlines of ocean acidification research”.

FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT

I. Funding Authority

A. Program Authority

H.R. 14, Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act (FOARAM)

II. OAP Fiscal Support Information

A. Funding Availability

This request for Ocean Acidification Education Minigrant proposals does not obligate NOAA to fund any specific project or to obligate all or any part of available funds.

There is no guarantee that sufficient funds will be available to initiate or continue OAP activities where funding has been recommended by OAP. The amount of funding that OAP may recommend will be based on a merit review process and pre-award negotiations between the applicant(s) and OAP. The OAP Director may defer selected proposals for consideration for funding in the subsequent, or later, fiscal years.

B. Project/Award Period

To be obligated by end of FY18 - It is anticipated that awards will be announced in Spring of 2018 with a nominal start date of April 15, 2018. Projects should be no longer than one year in duration.

C. Type of Funding Instrument

Awards will be transferred to NOAA Lead PIs of projects via internal transfer (BOP) in Spring of 2018.

III. Permits and Approval

It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain all necessary international, Federal, state and local Government permits and approvals for the proposed work to be conducted.

Applicants are expected to design their proposals so that they minimize potential adverse environmental impacts. If applicable, documentation of requests for or approvals of cultural resource or environmental permits must be included in the proposal package.

Applications will be reviewed to ensure they have sufficient environmental documentation to enable OAP to determine the environmental impact of a proposal under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Any categorical exemption for NEPA Compliance should be addressed in accordance with the funding vehicle adopted (e.g., CI or IOOS).

IV. Application and Submission Information

The Ocean Acidification Education Minigrant Proposal must include all of the components outlined below laid out in the OA Education Minigrant Proposal Template. The Proposal should not exceed the page limits detailed in the following table not including graphics, tables, or other visuals. PROPOSALS NOT ADHERING TO THE ORDER OF ASSEMBLY MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED.

All text should be written in the proposal template, 8.5 x 11-inch format, in at least 11 pt font, with 1-inch margins. Proposals received after the due date and time (see section V) will not be considered unless an extension is approved by the OAP in advance.

Required Constituent Parts (in order of assembly)	Page Limit
<i>Proposal Cover Page</i>	<i>1 page</i>
<i>Proposal Summary (abstract)</i>	<i>300 words</i>
<i>Project Description</i>	<i><4 pages</i>
<i>Project Timeline</i>	<i><1pg</i>
<i>Budget Justification & Narrative</i>	<i>As needed</i>
<i>Tabular Budget (separated out into labor, supplies and equipment, transportation)</i>	<i>As needed</i>
<i>Curriculum Vita(e)</i>	<i>1 page ea.</i>

1. Cover Page (1page). The *Cover Page* should include: a) project title, b) list of lead investigators/CO-Is, contact details and affiliations, c) total federal funds requested and cost-sharing to be provided from non-Federal sources, if any.
2. Proposal Summary (300 words). The *Proposal Summary* should provide an overview of the proposed project including partners, target audience and number of people reached.

The summary should be concise and should not exceed 300 words in length.

3. Project Description (<4 pages). As the main body of the Ocean Acidification Education Minigrant Proposal, this section must cover the following topics in the given order: need, target audience, objectives, how objectives will be met and where the project will take place. Describe expected significance and/or outcomes, especially in terms of 1) needs identified in the [NOAA Ocean Acidification Education Needs Assessment](#) towards which the project contributes and 2) the [NOAA Ocean Acidification Education Implementation Plan](#). This section should clearly convey a well-defined set of goals for the project and a plan to collect and report basic evaluation outputs such as number of people reached, number of staff involved, contact hours, documented change in attitudes and/or awareness of ocean acidification, etc. Also, if applicable, describe the relevance of the proposed work to past related efforts, particularly those previously supported through NOAA.
4. Project Timeline (<1pg). Provide a timeline in table format including contributions from each partner.
5. Budget Justification and Narrative. Include justifications of personnel costs, supplies and equipment, travel costs, and cost sharing or in-kind contributions to be obligated by the end of FY18.
6. Tabular Budget. The total budget cannot exceed the guidance reported Award Ceiling or Award Floor stated above. Please use the Tabular Budget in the Education Minigrant Proposal Template.
7. Curriculum Vita(e). Curriculum Vita of Project Lead and Co-Investigators. Maximum of one page (front and back) for each vita.

V. Application Review Information

A completed Ocean Acidification Education Minigrant Proposal must be received by 11:00pm (ET) on February 5, 2018.

Submissions are to be e-mailed to noaa.oceanacidification@noaa.gov with the email subject and proposal file name in the following format: "ENA-OA18_RFP_lastname." Adobe PDF format is preferred. No facsimile submissions will be accepted. Lead PIs will receive an email notification that their submissions have been received. If you have not received a reply within one week of submission, contact the NOAA OAP (at jennifer.mintz@noaa.gov or 831.325.1634) as soon as possible.

A. Evaluation Criteria

All submissions will be evaluated according to the following criteria using the corresponding weight value:

1. Importance/Relevance and Applicability of Proposal to priority needs identified in the NOAA Ocean Acidification Education Needs Assessment (40%): This criterion ascertains whether there is intrinsic value in the proposed work and relevance to NOAA, federal, regional, state, or local activities. Specifically this includes the degree to which the proposal addresses and supports goals of the

NOAA OA Education Implementation Plan and needs identified in the NOAA OA Education Needs Assessment such as incorporating NOAA or university generated data, where applicable, and solutions that are locally and/or regionally relevant.

2. Technical Merit (25%): This criterion ascertains whether the approach is technically sound and/or innovative, if the methods are appropriate with clear project goals and objectives.
3. Partnership (10%): This ascertains whether the proposal includes a partnership between scientists and educators/communicators and/or how well research and education components are integrated.
4. Overall Qualifications of Applicants (10%): This ascertains whether the applicant(s) possesses the necessary education, experience, training, facilities and administrative resources to accomplish the project.
5. Evaluation Plan (5%): This criterion assesses the project/program's techniques for evaluating success/impact.
6. Project Costs (10%): This criterion evaluates the budget to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the project needs and time-frame.

B. Review and Approval Process

All proposals will be reviewed by selected non-conflicted NOAA employees or affiliates. The review will ensure that the proposed project fits within NOAA's mission requirements, aligns with education goals and objectives, and is cost effective. Final decisions will be at the determination of the program director. The final scope of activities and exact amount of funds to be awarded will be based on the reviews, final OAP appropriations, and pre-award negotiations between the applicant and OAP. Project activities should not be initiated in the expectation of funding until a notice of award document is received from the OAP. Successful applicants will receive notification that their submission has been adopted for funding from the OAP.

VI. Reporting

1. A final approved proposal must be in place prior to beginning the proposed work.
2. A final project report will be due within 90 days of completion of the project.
3. A presentation to the Sharing Ocean Acidification Resources for Communicators and Educators ([SOARCE](#)) webinar series on the project and its findings.

VII. Agency Contacts

For further information contact: noaa.oceanacidification@noaa.gov