

FY2023 Ocean-Based Climate Resilience

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NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Federal Agency Name(s): National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce

Funding Opportunity Title: FY2023 Ocean-Based Climate Resilience

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: NOAA-NOS-IOOS-2023-2008077

Federal Assistance Listings Number: 11.012, Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS)

Dates: Full proposals must be received no later than 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time on September 11, 2023.

Funding Opportunity Description: The NOAA Ocean-Based Climate Resilience Accelerators funding opportunity seeks to fund accelerator entities to support businesses navigating commercialization pathways related to NOAA's mission to help communities prepare for, adapt to, and build resilience to climate challenges. The accelerators will support entrepreneurs and startups with training, resources, mentorship, and funding to bring ocean-based climate resilience solutions to market. This funding opportunity announcement addresses Phase One of what will be implemented as a two-phase process. In Phase One, NOAA seeks proposals from qualified accelerator entities that define an approach for scoping, planning, and designing climate resilience accelerator activities according to the requirements defined in this announcement. In a subsequent Phase Two funding opportunity announcement, to be released approximately 1 month from the start of Phase One awards, NOAA will seek proposals for the implementation of the climate resilience accelerator programs that are planned and designed in Phase One. NOAA will provide technical assistance and support to successful applicants throughout the process to ensure that the program design aligns with the identified goals and objectives. Information regarding this Announcement, including webinars and additional background information, is available at the Ocean-Based Climate Resilience Accelerator website.

<https://ioos.noaa.gov/about/governance-and-management/inflation-reduction-act/accelerators/>

FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT

I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Program Objective

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in climate, weather, ocean, and coasts, to share that knowledge and information with others, and to conserve and manage coastal marine ecosystems and resources. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) complements the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) to provide the largest direct investment to date in our Nation's coastal resilience. Over 40% of the U.S. population lives in coastal counties, producing more than \$9.65 trillion in goods and services and employing 54.6 million people. Within the Climate Ready Coasts component of the IRA, NOAA will work with partners from multiple sectors in the U.S. coastal and Great Lakes states and territories to help address localized impacts of climate change that would otherwise have an outsized economic and societal impact on the entire nation.

The Climate Resilience Accelerators component of the IRA will fund accelerator entities to support businesses navigating commercialization pathways for coastal and ocean-based resilience solutions related to NOAA's mission to help communities prepare for, adapt to, and build resilience to climate challenges. The accelerators will support entrepreneurs and startups with training, resources, mentorship, and funding to bring ocean-based climate resilience solutions to market.

Climate resilience focused start-ups and innovative technologies are critical to the growth of the resilience economy in the United States. Start-ups drive technology development, business model innovation, and job creation. However, the market has not demonstrated the ability to provide sufficient capital, business development services, and entrepreneurial training to early-stage climate resilience-focused companies.

NOAA recognizes that successfully navigating commercialization pathways in the climate resilience market requires a variety of services over and above capital access, including mentorship, capacity building, testing facilities, business development, data processing and storage capabilities, and connections to manufacturers. Business accelerators provide important services that assist start-ups in commercialization pathways and play an increasingly important role for companies and entrepreneurs who may have raised initial capital through private foundations or small business innovation research (SBIR) grants but struggle to bring their company to market.

Strong business accelerator services—including, but not limited to, mentoring,

entrepreneurial training, prototyping assistance, and follow-on commercialization support—not only provide direct support for early-stage start-ups, but also have the potential to de-risk the start-ups for follow-on investors. Accelerators have the potential to spur regional economic development, strengthen national innovation capacity, and propel the advancement of ocean-based climate resilience solutions to market. By recruiting and selecting promising entrepreneurs and startups, connecting entrepreneurs with manufacturers and other key resources, and advising start-ups to prudently use their capital on vital services, accelerators play a critical role in supporting commercialization pathways. Accelerators can also play a key role in advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility within innovation ecosystems by prioritizing these practices within the accelerator’s own organizational culture, by engaging in partnerships with diverse organizations and stakeholders, through the entrepreneurs and businesses that are selected to participate in accelerator programming, and by integrating relevant best practices into the accelerator’s approach to outreach, curriculum, and retention.

The objectives of the NOAA Ocean-Based Climate Resilience Accelerators two-phase opportunity are to:

- Establish a network of ocean-based climate resilience accelerator entities across the nation with coordinated support to better understand how ocean observation technologies and information services can support solutions to climate resilience challenges, enable sustainable business models for US businesses delivering such solutions, and increase competitive advantages for innovators to meet these challenges.
- Support entrepreneurs and startups that are developing ocean-based climate resilience-focused products or services.
- Accelerate and catalyze investment in ocean-based climate resilience-focused businesses by providing funding, where appropriate, as well as access to growth capital and support in networking for innovative technologies and startups.
- Leverage and advance startups and technologies that have already received federal investments (from SBIR/STTR and other BIL and IRA projects) to enable more product and service development and industry adoption.
- Advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility within ocean-based climate resilience business innovation ecosystems.

Definitions

For the purpose of this opportunity, the following definitions are provided.

Accelerator Entities are defined as entities composed of one or more eligible applicants (see Section III.A) that develop and deliver accelerator programing. For the purposes of this NOFO, accelerator entities must have a proven track record of supporting businesses and/or entrepreneurs in business development.

Accelerator program design is defined as the program development process aimed at designing an accelerator program that supports entrepreneurs and startups as they navigate commercialization pathways including, for example, market analysis, customer discovery, partner structure, challenge definition, use cases/product-market fit, and/or demonstrations that will be executed by the accelerator entity. Program designs should clearly articulate how the Accelerator Entity will provide entrepreneurs and businesses with training, resources, mentorship, connections, and funding access needed to address critical start-up challenges, overcome common pitfalls, and accelerate their path to commercialization.

Accelerator program implementation is the execution of the Accelerator Program design, including selection of cohort participant businesses, training cohort participant businesses in the concepts that they have incorporated into their accelerator program design, and other support services to assist accelerator cohort participating businesses navigating commercialization pathways. Implementation also includes conducting rigorous processes for distribution of technology, development, and commercialization (TDC) awards to cohort participant businesses. Funds for TDC awards will be provided by NOAA as part of a Phase Two award.

Cohort participant business is a company that applies and is selected to participate in a specific cohort of an accelerator program. These businesses are the entities that will participate in the accelerator program, potentially receive TDC awards, and ultimately be positioned to pursue commercial opportunities in the ocean-based climate resilience sector.

Accelerator cohort is a group of cohort participant businesses that participate in an iteration of an accelerator program together.

Technology Development and Commercialization (TDC) awards are non-dilutive funding awards that are offered to cohort participant businesses by the accelerator entity, during or after the businesses have completed the formal accelerator training, to implement specific projects or activities that were identified through the accelerator process to directly promote commercialization of their product/service.

Climate resilience is the ability of a community to prepare and plan for, absorb impacts of, recover from, and/or adapt to extreme weather events and longer-term climate impacts.

Ocean-based climate resilience solutions are products and/or services that integrate ocean observing technologies and information services into solutions that address specific climate resilience challenges. This includes technologies that support the acquisition of coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes data, analytical and modeling tools to translate such data into actionable information, and the development of decision support services targeting specific climate resilience applications targeted to identified needs. These resources may also include integration of social science and economic information to support particular climate resilience decision making applications.

Commercialization pathways include the various strategies and approaches that lead to successful commercialization of a product or service. There are multiple potential commercialization pathways that may be appropriate for a particular product or service depending on a variety of factors including but not limited to market opportunity, scalability, and capital intensity. Examples of commercialization pathways include, but are not limited to, business scaling, partnerships, licensing, and acquisitions.

B. Program Priorities

The NOAA Climate Resilience Accelerators funding opportunity seeks to fund accelerator entities that will support businesses navigating commercialization pathways for ocean-based climate resilience solutions that support NOAA's mission to help communities prepare for, adapt to, and build resilience to climate challenges. NOAA has developed climate resilience theme areas that align with the U.S. Ocean Climate Action Plan (https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Ocean-Climate-Action-Plan_Final.pdf), and expects results of this opportunity to support relevant actions, such as:

- Maintain and expand ocean basic and applied research, observing networks, modeling, forecasting, synthesis, and technology development.
- Develop new and innovative technologies and information pathways for ocean climate action.
- Expand coastal mapping, monitoring, observational systems, research, and modeling to inform science-based decision-making capabilities and advance use of nature-based solutions.

- Advance research, technologies, and observation systems to support climate-ready marine resources and communities.

- Enhance community resilience to ocean change by developing ocean-based solutions that help communities adapt and thrive in our changing climate

This funding opportunity announcement addresses Phase One of what will be implemented as a two-phase process.

Phase One - Scoping and Design of a Climate Resilience Accelerator Program: NOAA will award up to \$250,000 per awardee over 9 months to support up to 15 qualified accelerator entities in scoping, planning, and designing an ocean-based climate resilience-focused accelerator program design that aligns with NOAA mission areas and addresses climate resilience challenges. A visual timeline for phase one and phase two of the Ocean-based Climate Resilience Accelerators program will be provided publicly via website within 2 weeks of the announcement of this funding opportunity. NOAA will invite winning applicants to engage in public workshops and webinars designed to convene a range of federal, state, local, territorial, and tribal agencies, non-governmental organizations, trade, and academic organizations, and other relevant entities to identify regional and/or sector-specific needs and market opportunities related to the identified climate resilience theme areas. NOAA will provide technical assistance and support to successful applicants throughout the process to ensure that the accelerator program design aligns with the identified goals and objectives. Applications for Phase One should propose to design a climate resilience accelerator program focused on ocean-based climate resilience solutions, which should include one or more of the following program priorities:

- Climate Resilience Theme Area: Ocean Renewable Energy – Climate resilience will require the development of ocean observation technologies and information services to support siting, construction, and operation of ocean renewable energy resources. These technologies are also necessary to support forward-looking analyses, science, and research to ensure ocean renewable energy progresses in tandem with biodiversity protection, ocean co-use, and future changes due to climate change. This effort should not support the development of energy technologies themselves but rather the tools and information services that enable sustainable, safe, inclusive and informed ocean energy development.

- Climate Resilience Theme Area: Coastal and ocean carbon sequestration monitoring and accounting - There is growing interest in enhanced natural and engineered sequestration of carbon in the coasts and oceans. To support climate resilience as these initiatives, move from pilot to large operational scale, there will be a need for ocean observation and information

services that monitor their effectiveness and environmental impact and verify and monitor the quantities of carbon they remove. This effort should not support the development of carbon sequestration technologies themselves but rather the tools and information services that can measure the effectiveness and monitor the impacts of their deployment.

- Climate Resilience Theme Area: Hazard mitigation and coastal resilience - To facilitate climate resilience, coastal communities require accurate wind and water level predictions to prepare for and mitigate beach erosion, coastal flooding, and prevent loss of human life. Accurate wind-wave forecasting in enclosed or semi-enclosed basins, nearshore coastal areas, islands, and estuaries require high resolution observations and modeling at a regional scale. These regional scale observations and model products are currently not available to vulnerable coastal communities nationwide; therefore, it is not possible to accurately predict the magnitude or extent of coastal flooding during episodic storms, King tides, and other wind and wave driven events.

- Climate Resilience Theme Area: Ecosystem Services, including change detection, change analysis (cause and effects) and change adaptation and /or mitigation - Many decision makers, including natural resource managers, offshore operators, permitting agencies, and others, require the best available science, data, and predictions to reduce uncertainty in decision making processes. Advances in ocean and coastal observation technology, modeling, and analytics are required to accurately assess and forecast ecosystem changes, such as shifts in species location, biological production, biogeochemical regulation, and physical phenomena like marine heat waves or changes in sea level. Improved predictive capabilities will provide natural resource managers and other decision makers with the ability to adapt climate resilience efforts at meaningful spatial and temporal scales.

- Other ocean-based climate resilience theme areas, as determined by the applicant.

NOAA will provide accelerator entities with access to subject matter experts (SMEs) who will provide feedback on accelerator programming design; assistance on development of selection criteria for cohort businesses; federal, state, and local networking opportunities; and other resources relevant to selected Climate Resilience Challenge area(s). SMEs may include technical experts from NOAA and other federal agencies, as needed. SMEs will meet regularly with Accelerator Entity leadership at a mutually agreed upon cadence.

Phase One Concept Proposal

Eligible applicants should develop a Concept Proposal that outlines a vision for the development or expansion of an Accelerator program and identifies the climate resilience

challenge area(s) that the program will address. The Concept Proposal must describe the applicant's existing and planned resources, including climate resilience expertise. Resources and expertise may exist as part of the accelerator entity, current partners, or new proposed partnerships. For current and proposed partners, the Concept Proposal should describe the partner's role and commitment to economic growth in the selected climate resilience challenge area(s). The Concept Proposal should also include a description of how the Phase One award funds will be spent and a timeline for the development of an accelerator program design including key design milestones. The Concept Proposal must also include a plan for how the Accelerator entity will advance diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and accessibility (DEIJA).

See the Project Narrative section (IV.B) of this NOFO for more detailed information on the requirements for a Concept Proposal and DEIJA plan. NOAA will review Concept Proposals consistent with the evaluation criteria in (Section V.A.) of this NOFO.

Phase Two- Climate Resilience Accelerator Program Implementation: Phase One winners will have the opportunity to apply for funding in Phase Two through a subsequent funding opportunity announcement to be released approximately one month from the start of Phase One with applications due in 150 days. NOAA anticipates awarding a subset of accelerators from Phase One with up to \$10,000,000 each over a 4–5-year award period in Phase Two to implement accelerator program designs developed in Phase One. Applications for Phase Two funding should describe an accelerator program plan that utilizes a significant portion of the total funds requested from NOAA for Technology, Development, and Commercialization Awards to be distributed to meritorious cohort participant businesses, and the remaining funds for operations and implementation. Funding for accelerator implementation and operations will be expected to support accelerator program operations, facilities, and cohort selection.

Successful Climate Resilience Accelerator Programs will include the following components for Phase II implementation:

- Structured Curriculum for Start-ups: Implemented Climate Resilience Accelerator Programs should include a structured curriculum that incorporates evidence-based entrepreneurial education, to support cohort-participating businesses in navigating commercialization pathways. Each program is expected to provide the curriculum-based training to multiple cohorts of businesses. Programs should include a 12-month off-ramp of support for graduates as they develop and execute their business and technology plans.

- Technology Development and Commercialization Awards: As described above, a

significant portion of funding in Phase Two is expected to be awarded by the Accelerator Entity to cohort participant businesses in the form of Technology Development and Commercialization Awards. These awards will directly support cohort participant businesses as they implement activities that were identified through the accelerator process as key commercialization pathways for their product/service. Successful Accelerator Entities will have a clearly identified process for selecting appropriate startups and/or entrepreneurs for accelerator cohorts, and infrastructure to evaluate, select, and fund the most promising ocean-based climate resilience business propositions.

- Technological, Market, and Economic Analysis: Climate Resilience Accelerators should consider performing climate resilience challenge analysis for cohort-participating businesses focused on providing robust due diligence on the technology, the applications, customers, markets, and the potential technical and market competition.

- Strong Mentorship Program: Climate Resilience Accelerator programming should consider a mentorship program which can include, but is not limited to, entrepreneurs-in-residence programs, peer-to-peer mentorship networks, subject matter mentors, and legal mentors.

- Strong and Committed Board of Advisors: Accelerator Entities may choose to establish a new board or expand an existing board to include experts in the selected Climate Resilience Theme area for the purposes of this funding opportunity. The Board of Advisors should include individuals with diverse subject matter expertise related to the accelerator challenge areas as well as relevant business and/or investment experience.

- Access to Capital and Strategic Partners: Climate Resilience Accelerators should provide cohort-participating businesses with a strong understanding of the ecosystem of early-stage capital providers including venture capital, grant makers, lenders, and other sources of funding. Accelerators should assist businesses in identifying potential investors and strategic partners, facilitating connections, and securing capital. Strong evidence of corporate, investor, and other key relationships with accelerator entities will be critical for a successful accelerator program.

- Access to Prototyping and Demo Facilities, if appropriate: Climate Resilience Accelerators should determine if access to prototyping and demonstration facilities is important for successful implementation of their planned Accelerator program design. If access to these facilities is necessary, accelerators should develop a plan to meet the needs of cohort-participating businesses which could include existing (in-house) facilities or entering into agreements with government, academic, NGO, or industry partners to provide access to

resources.

- **Demonstrated Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, and Accessibility:** Climate Resilience Accelerators will demonstrate a commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and accessibility throughout the proposed effort including within the accelerator's own organizational culture and practices, by engaging in partnerships with diverse organizations and stakeholders, through the entrepreneurs and businesses that are selected to participate in accelerator program design, and by prioritizing addressing climate resilience challenges that impact marginalized and underserved communities.

- **Strong Commitment to Data Collection and Performance and Accountability:** Accelerator Entities will be required to collect data to assess progress and outcomes for cohort participant businesses and overall program execution. Proposed metrics may include valuation, number of qualified exits, qualified fundraising, business survival, commercialization outcomes, and founder satisfaction. Additional metrics may also be developed as needed. Accelerators may also collect metrics related to services provided to non-cohort businesses. Accelerators should demonstrate a long-term commitment to data collection that will continue beyond the Phase Two award and actively participate in program evaluation processes by providing related data and metrics to NOAA and a potential third-party evaluation, as requested.

During Phase II, NOAA will work closely with Accelerator Entities throughout the process, including in the selection of cohort participating businesses and awarding of Technology Development and Commercialization awards, to provide support and technical guidance and assist accelerator programs, cohort participant businesses, and selected technologies align with the Climate Resilience priorities and objectives, as described in this NOFO.

C. Program Authority

The Secretary of Commerce is authorized under the following statutes to provide grants and cooperative agreements for the purposes described in this announcement, including Section 40001 of the Inflation Reduction Act (Public Law No: 117-169), and in Title 1, Sec. 12305 of the Coordinated Ocean Observation and Research Act (Public Law No: 116-271).

II. Award Information

A. Funding Availability

In FY 2023 - 2024 it is estimated that up to \$5 million will be available from the Inflation Reduction Act. Multiple awards are anticipated, subject to availability of funds, in

amounts up to \$250,000 for 9 months for Phase One. The number of awards is anticipated to support up to 15 and may be adjusted based on availability of funds or number of qualified proposals. Information regarding this Announcement, including webinars and additional background information, is available at the Ocean-Based Climate Resilience Accelerator website, <https://ioos.noaa.gov/about/governance-and-management/inflation-reduction-act/accelerators/>.

There is no guarantee that funds will be available to make awards for this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) or that any proposal will be selected for funding. If an applicant incurs any costs prior to receiving an award agreement signed by a NOAA grants officer, the applicant does so at the applicant's own risk. In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for any proposal preparation costs. Recipients and subrecipients are subject to all Federal laws and agency policies, regulations, and procedures applicable to Federal financial assistance awards. Applicants must be in good standing with respect to all existing NOAA awards to receive funds.

B. Project/Award Period

Applicants may request funding for up to 9 months. Funding is contingent upon availability of funds and the satisfactory performance of the recipient and is at the sole discretion of NOAA. As noted above, Phase One awardees will have the opportunity to apply for a Phase 2 solicitation that will be released roughly 1 month from the start of the Phase One project period of performance. This will give awardees sufficient time to familiarize themselves with the Phase 2 solicitation requirements and incorporate them into their Phase One project execution. Project dates must start on the first day of the month and end on the last day of the month.

C. Type of Funding Instrument

NOAA will make awards using a cooperative agreement instrument. A cooperative agreement provides substantial involvement by the Federal government. Some examples of substantial federal government involvement include coordinating external and internal partners and teams to accomplish the work, assisting with technical aspects of the project, and coordinating access to Federal data or facilities needed to support the work.

NOAA anticipates making staff available to support each awardee to promote access to NOAA expertise and to facilitate connections to NOAA's network of place-based partners including but not limited to:

- Regional Ocean Partnerships;

- Integrated Ocean Observing System Regional Associations;
- National Marine Sanctuaries;
- National Estuarine Research Reserves;
- Coastal Zone Management programs;
- Sea Grant College Programs;
- NOAA and state-based Regional Climate Service Providers;
- NOAA Laboratories, Science Centers, and Cooperative Institutes;
- University-based Climate Adaptation Programs; and
- National Weather Service Coordination and service delivery networks.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are US-based, geographically concentrated entities to include the following: a) for-profit organizations, which may include corporations, partnerships, and joint ventures, b) academic institutions, including institutions of higher education and NOAA cooperative institutes, c) nonprofit organizations, d) Tribal organizations, e) state, territorial, or local governmental entities, agencies or instrumentalities, or f) Tribal governments or consortia of Tribal governments. Applicants are encouraged to form partnerships, with one accelerator entity serving as the lead and primary applicant. NOAA recognizes that the terms “accelerator” and “incubator” are at times used interchangeably, and that some organizations which call themselves “incubators” may meet the lead institution criteria specified in this NOFO. By using the term “accelerator,” NOAA does not seek to dissuade qualified incubators from applying. Federal agencies or institutions and foreign governments may not be the primary recipient of awards under this announcement. If a primary applicant proposes a non-federal partner(s) who would receive funds, the lead entity will be expected to use subawards. If a primary applicant proposes federal partners, other appropriate mechanisms should be used to provide funds to the partner(s).

B. Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement

There is no non-federal matching requirement for this funding.

C. Other Criteria that Affect Eligibility

None.

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Address to Request Application Package

Application packages are available online as part of the NOFO announcement on grants.gov and final applications will only be accepted via submission through www.grants.gov.

B. Content and Form of Application

Consistent with section I.B, a complete Phase One Concept Proposal will include 7 main elements:

1. Title Page
2. Project Summary
3. Project Narrative
4. Standard Form 424A (SF-424A)
5. Standard Form 424
6. Budget Narrative
7. Plan to advance diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and accessibility
8. Appendices
 - a. Supporting materials
 - b. Resumes
 - c. CD-511 Certification Regarding Lobbying
 - d. SF-424B Assurances - Non-Construction Programs
 - e. NOAA National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Questionnaire (Optional).
 - f. Data Management Plan (if applicable).

Additional information about requirement components can be found below.

1. Title Page (Proposal Cover Sheet). Include proposal title, complete contact information for the Project Lead and Financial Representative, duration of proposed project, and funding request by year and total funds requested. If funds are to be transferred to a NOAA partner on the project, also state the amount to NOAA on the cover.
2. Project Summary. Provide a one-page (double-spaced, 12-point font, 1-inch margins) summary of the proposed project. The summary should be prepared to be readable to a broad audience and contain the following sections:
 - a. Project Name/Title
 - b. Primary Contact (name, address, telephone, fax, e-mail)
 - c. Primary Recipient Institution
 - d. Other Recipient Institutions (name, affiliated institution or agency)
 - e. Brief Project Summary including intended climate resilience challenge to address (Section 1.B)
 - f. Partners

3. Project Narrative. The proposal concept proposal must total no more than 5 pages (double-spaced, 12-point font, 1-inch margins). The 5-page limit does not include the proposal title page, table of contents, the data sharing plan, the project summary referenced below under item two (2), and any required appendices. The project narrative should be responsive to the evaluation criteria (see Section V.A Evaluation Criteria) described for Climate Resilience Accelerator Program to receive a consistent review against competing applications. Sufficient detail should be provided to enable reviewers to evaluate the relevance and applicability of the proposed work to program priorities described in Section I.B of this announcement; to determine the merit of the proposed work; to adequately review the qualifications of the applicants; and to assess whether the proposed scope of work raises any concerns with regard to federal policy considerations, such as those related to the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species, Act, Historic Preservation Act, and Marine Mammal Protection Act.

All project narratives must include the following sections:

- The applicant should describe its relevant track record, including providing examples of previous work supporting business and/or entrepreneurs in business development. Previous work supporting climate resilience focused businesses is not required.

- Describes the role and level of commitment of any proposed or existing partners. Describe the geographic and/or sectoral scope of the proposed climate resilience accelerator program including the current challenges and resource limitations that prevent entrepreneurs and startups from bringing climate resilience technologies to market.

- Describe the selected climate resilience challenge area and any previous work supporting private businesses and/or entrepreneurs in the selected challenge area by the applicant or the applicant's partners. Applicants may also describe how they plan to incorporate expertise into their project design (e.g., through partners), if they have not previously supported businesses in the selected climate resilience challenge area.

- Describes the Accelerator Entity's vision for supporting businesses in identifying, developing, and implementing key commercialization pathways related to NOAA's climate resilience mission to help communities prepare, adapt, and build resilience to climate challenges. This should include the economic opportunity presented by the Accelerator Entity in relation to the target industry or industries. Applicants should also describe needs, gaps, and resources available in the target climate resilience challenge area. Applicants should describe any preliminary proposed specific metrics of success in the

commercialization pathway (scaling companies, securing capital, commercializing technology, etc.).

- Describe the overall approach and any existing infrastructure that will be used to solicit, evaluate, and select the most promising ocean technologies and information services.

- A description of how the Phase One award funds will be spent, a timeline for the development of accelerator program design including key design milestones and deliverables. Applicants should include description of any known barriers to meeting design milestones and strategies to mitigate barriers.

- Identifies the types of businesses, entrepreneurs, stakeholders, etc. that the applicant expects to benefit from the climate resilience accelerator program design being proposed. How will the benefits that they gain from participating in your proposed accelerator program design equip and enable them to:

- Identify and pursue viable business opportunities in the defined mission areas.
- Ultimately provide the products and services that result in the achievement of the NOAA climate resilience mission.

Recipients will be required to submit semi-annual progress reports in which progress against these goals and objectives will be reported.

4. Standard Form (SF)-424A. All applicants are required to provide a SF-424A Budget Form that identifies the budget for each fiscal year of the proposal. Place each fiscal year in separate columns in Section B of page one on the SF-424A by filling in the fiscal years 1-5 in Section A Budget Summary - Grant Program Function or Activity column. (Note that this revised SF-424A Section B format is a NOAA requirement that is not reflected in the Instructions for the SF-424A). The budget figures must correspond with the descriptions contained in the Budget Narrative. List total subaward costs under line item 6.h. Other category and contractor costs under line item 6.f. Contractual category on the SF-424A. Each subaward institution should provide a SF-424A listing each year of funding being requested.

5. Standard Form (SF)-424. Application for Federal Assistance

6. Budget Narrative. In order to allow reviewers to fully evaluate the appropriateness of costs, all applications must include a detailed budget narrative to support all proposed budget categories for each fiscal year. For additional budget guidance https://coast.noaa.gov/data/coasthome/funding/_pdf/forms/budget-narrative-guidance-for-NOAA-grants.pdf. Each subaward institution should provide a separate budget justification

that follows the above-mentioned Budget Narrative Guidance for NOAA Grants document.

7. Plan to advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. NOAA is committed to advancing equity for all, including people of color and others who have been historically marginalized, underserved, and underrepresented and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality. Applicants should include in their proposal a plan to address diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility including within the accelerator's own organizational culture and practices, by engaging in partnerships with diverse organizations and stakeholders, through the entrepreneurs and businesses that are selected to participate in accelerator program design, and by prioritizing addressing climate resilience challenges that disproportionately impact marginalized and underserved communities. Applicants should include demographic data of businesses the applicant has previously served as well as a plan to recruit and retain entrepreneurs from underserved communities.

8. Appendices. Appendices should be limited to:

a. Materials that directly support the main body of the proposal (e.g., support letters, references, lists of data sources, and maps), which may not exceed 10 pages in length.

b. Resumes. Provide resumes of the Principal Investigator or Project Lead for the project and other key personnel critical to the success of the project. Ensure that resumes address qualifications relevant to conducting the proposed work, and do not exceed 3 pages per person.

c. CD-511. Certification Regarding Lobbying. Lead institutions can submit these forms through the grants.gov CD-511 document placeholder without a hard signature because electronic signatures are allowed on documents from the submitting institution.

d. Standard Form (SF) 424B. Assurances - Non-Construction Programs. Lead institutions can submit these forms through the grants.gov SF-424B document placeholder without a hard signature because electronic signatures are allowed on documents from the submitting institutions.

e. NOAA National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Questionnaire. This form is not required as part of the application. See Section VI.B.5. for information on NEPA requirements.

f. Data Management Plan. Applications that involve the collection or creation of environmental data should include a general Data Management Plan. See Section VIII for

Data Management Plan requirements.

C. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)

Any applicant awarded in response to this Announcement will be required to use the System for Award Management (SAM), which may be accessed online at <https://sam.gov/SAM/>. SAM enables the use of a universal entity identifier and to build the quality of information available to the public as required by the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act, 31 U.S.C. 6106 Note, to the extent applicable.

Each applicant (unless the applicant is an individual or federal awarding agency that is excepted from those requirements under 2 CFR 25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the federal awarding agency under 2 CFR 25.110(d)) is required to: (i) be registered in SAM before submitting its proposal, which takes an average of 7-10 business days after entering all information into SAM and requires the applicant's Employer Identification Number; (ii) provide a valid unique entity identifier in its proposal; and (iii) continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active federal award or a proposal or plan under consideration by a federal awarding agency. SAM registration must be revalidated and renewed every 12 months.

Applicants are advised to complete SAM registration or renewal well in advance of the full proposal deadline. For UEI registration visited this link, https://sam.directory/UEI?gclid=CjwKCAjw_b6WBhAQEiwAp4HyIJJaUI9DfZ6GgKVQxxeLeLsp72ZneUyTrcA7qQsOB_vQdGh9Z8B_XIRoCm-0QAuD_BwE

NOAA may not make a federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable unique entity identifier and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time NOAA is ready to make a federal award, NOAA may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a federal award to another applicant.

D. Submission Dates and Times

Full proposals must be received no later than 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time on September 11, 2023. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered for funding. For applications submitted through www.Grants.gov a date and time receipt indication is included and will be the basis of determining timeliness. Hard copy, faxed, or emailed submissions will not be accepted.

Applicants should be aware that IOOS Office staff will only be available to answer questions until 5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time on Monday through Friday.

E. Intergovernmental Review

Funding applications to NOAA are subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs." It is the State agency's responsibility to contact their State's Single Point of Contact (SPCO) to find out about and comply with the State's process under EO 12372. To assist the applicant, the names and addresses of the SPOCs are listed on the White House's web site <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/SPOC-4-13-20.pdf>.

F. Funding Restrictions

Since this announcement solicits applications for financial assistance, profit or other increment above cost may not be included on awards issued under this competition.

G. Other Submission Requirements

Full application packages must be submitted through www.Grants.gov/apply. Hard copy, faxed, or emailed submissions will not be accepted.

Applicants using www.Grants.gov must locate the downloadable application package for this solicitation by the Funding Opportunity Number or the CFDA number (11.012). Applicants will be able to download a copy of the application package, complete it offline, and then upload and submit the application through Grants.gov.

Grants.gov will provide information about submitting a proposal through the site as well as the hours of operation. After electronic submission of the application, the person submitting the application will receive within 24 to 48 hours two e-mail messages from Grants.gov updating him or her on the progress of the application. The first e-mail will confirm receipt of the application by Grants.gov, and the second will indicate that the application has been either successfully validated by the system prior to transmission to the grantor agency or rejected due to errors. After the application has been validated, this same person will receive another e-mail when the application has been downloaded by the Federal agency.

Please refer to important information in "Submission Dates and Times" above to help ensure your application is received on time. Please be advised that potential funding applicants must register with Grants.gov before any application materials can be submitted. An organization's one-time registration process may take up to three weeks to complete, so please allow sufficient time to ensure applications are submitted before the closing date.

Grants.gov contains directions for submitting an application, the application package (forms), and is also where the completed application is submitted.

Full proposals must be received in Grants.gov no later than 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time on September 11, 2023. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered for funding. For applications submitted through www.Grants.gov a date and time receipt indication is included and will be the basis of determining timeliness. Hard copy, faxed, or emailed submissions will not be accepted.

V. Application Review Information

A. Evaluation Criteria

a. Importance/Relevance and Applicability of Proposal to the Project Goals (25%)

This criterion addresses whether there is material value in the proposed work and/or relevance to NOAA, Federal, regional, State, and/or local activities. This includes importance and relevance to the topics and priorities described in the Funding Opportunity, including how well the applicant 1) describes the commitment to market and/or economic growth in the climate resilience challenge area and 2) describes the geographic and/or sectoral scope of the proposed program including the challenges and resource limitations that currently prevent bringing climate resilience technologies to market.

b. Technical Approach/Merit (25%)

This assesses whether the project approach is thorough and whether there are clear project objectives and goals. Applications will be evaluated on their vision for supporting businesses in identifying, developing, and implementing key commercialization pathways related to ocean-based climate resilience. Applications will be evaluated on the proposed timeline for the development of accelerator program design including milestones and deliverables.

c. Team Composition (25%)

This criterion assesses whether the applicant team possesses the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and administrative resources to accomplish the project. This assesses the applicant's previous work and technical expertise in supporting businesses and/or entrepreneurs, as well as plans for incorporating new or existing climate resilience subject matter expertise and other partners. Applications will be evaluated on 1) their description of previous work supporting businesses and/or entrepreneurs, 2) plans to incorporate subject matter expertise into the development of accelerator programming for their chosen climate resilience challenge area, and 3) any additional relevant proposed or

existing partnerships.

d. Project Costs (15%)

This criterion evaluates the budget to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the project needs and time frame. Applications will be evaluated on the proposed allocation of Phase One funds as related to the proposed key milestones and deliverables.

e. Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (10%)

This criterion assesses whether the proposed work addresses the requirement that accelerators demonstrate a commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility throughout all its activities and includes clear, measurable goals and metrics related to these objectives.

B. Review and Selection Process

Once a full proposal application has been received by NOAA, an initial administrative review will be conducted to determine compliance with requirements and completeness of the application. Late applications, applications that are missing required elements, or applications coming from ineligible applicants will not be evaluated.

Proposal applications that pass the administrative review will be evaluated and individually scored in accordance with the assigned weights of the above evaluation criteria by an impartial expert merit review process. Each application will be reviewed by at least three (3) merit reviewers. Each merit reviewer will score proposals on a scale of 1 to 100 in accordance with the assigned weights of the evaluation criteria (refer to section V.A.).

The peer merit reviewer applies a rating of 1 – 5 to each criterion (refer to section V.A.), where the rating represents the reviewer's view of how well the applicant met the standards described for a particular criterion using the following scale:

- Poor (1): the applicant has not addressed the criterion adequately and/or it has substantial deficiencies.

- Fair (2): the applicant has minimally addressed the criterion and/or it has moderate deficiencies.

- Good (3): the applicant has addressed the criterion adequately and/or it has low deficiencies.

- Very Good (4): the applicant has addressed the criterion satisfactorily and/or it has no deficiencies.

- Excellent (5): the applicant has addressed the criterion exceptionally well and/or is outstanding.

The total score (0-100) is then calculated using the weights and ratings for each criterion), as follows:

$$[(\text{Rating (a)} \times 25) + (\text{Rating (b)} \times 25) + (\text{Rating (c)} \times 25) + (\text{Rating (d)} \times 15) + (\text{Rating (e)} \times 10)]/5 = \text{Total score}$$

C. Selection Factors

The Competition Manager will present selection recommendations to the Selecting Official as determined by the merit review ratings. The Selecting Official shall award based on that recommendation unless a different proposal is justified to be selected based upon one or more of the following factors:

1. Availability of funding
2. Balance/distribution of funds:
 - a. By number and type of partners
 - b. By project type
 - c. By operational focus
 - d. By type of institutions
 - e. By geographic region
 - f. By industry type
3. Leveraging of other projects funded or considered for funding by NOAA/Federal agencies
4. Project priorities and policy factors
5. Applicant's prior award performance
6. Partnerships with/participation of targeted groups
7. Adequacy of information necessary for NOAA staff to make a determination about the environmental impacts of the project on the environment and draft necessary documentation before recommendations for funding are made to the Grants Officer.

The Selecting Official or designee may negotiate the funding level of the proposal. The Selecting Official makes final recommendations for awards to the Grants Officer who is authorized to obligate the funds.

D. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

It is anticipated that final recommendations for funding under this announcement will be made on October 15, 2023, and that projects funded under this announcement will have a February 1, 2024, start date.

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notices

Successful applicants will receive notification that the application has been recommended for funding by an official of the U.S. IOOS Office. This notification is not an authorization to begin performance of the project. Official notification of funding, signed by a NOAA Grants Officer, is the authorizing document that allows the project to begin.

Notifications will be issued to the applicant's Authorized Representative and the Principal Investigator/Project Lead of the project.

PRE-AWARD COSTS. Per 2 CFR 200.458, NOAA authorizes award recipients to expend pre-award costs up to 90 days before the period of performance start date at the applicant's own risk without approval from NOAA and in accordance with the applicant's internal policies and procedures. Such costs are allowable only to the extent that they would have been allowable if incurred after the date of the Federal award. This does not include direct proposal costs (as defined at 2 CFR 200.460).

In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for direct proposal preparation costs. Pre-award costs will be a portion of, not in addition to, the approved total budget of the award. Pre-award costs expended more than 90 days prior to the period of performance start date require approval from the Grants Officer. This does not change the period of performance start date.

GRANTS OFFICER SIGNATURE. Proposals submitted in response to this solicitation are not considered awards until the Grants Officer has signed the grant or cooperative agreement. Only Grants Officers can bind the Government to the expenditure of funds. The Grants Officer's digital signature constitutes an obligation of funds by the federal government and formal approval of the award.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY. Funding for programs listed in this notice is contingent upon the availability of funds. Applicants are hereby given notice that funds may not have been appropriated yet for the programs listed in this notice. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project or to obligate

any available funds.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

1. The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements

The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the Federal Register notice of December 30, 2014 (79 FR 78390) are applicable to this solicitation and may be accessed online at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-30/pdf/2014-30297.pdf>

2. Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements

Through 2 C.F.R. § 1327.101, the Department of Commerce adopted Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards at 2 C.F.R. Part 200, which apply to awards in this program. Refer to <http://go.usa.gov/SBYh> and <http://go.usa.gov/SBg4>.

3. Successful applicants who accept a NOAA award under this solicitation will be bound by Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and at <http://go.usa.gov/hKbj> This document will be provided in the award package in NOAA's Grants Online system at <http://www.ago.noaa.gov>.

4. Limitation of Liability

Funding for programs listed in this notice is contingent upon the availability of continuing Congressional appropriations. Applicants are hereby given notice that funds have not yet been appropriated for the programs listed in this notice. In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

5. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

NOAA must analyze the potential environmental impacts, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for applicant projects or proposals which are seeking NOAA federal funding opportunities. Detailed information on NOAA compliance with NEPA can be found at the following NOAA NEPA website: <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/>, including our NOAA Administrative Order 216-6 for NEPA,

http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/NAO216_6.pdf, and the Council on Environmental Quality implementation regulations, <https://ceq.doe.gov/laws-regulations/regulations.html>

Consequently, as part of an applicant's package, and under their description of their program activities, applicants are required to provide detailed information on the activities to be conducted, locations, sites, species and habitat to be affected, possible construction activities, and any environmental concerns that may exist (e.g., the use and disposal of hazardous or toxic chemicals, introduction of non- indigenous species, impacts to endangered and threatened species, aquaculture projects, and impacts to coral reef systems).

In addition to providing specific information that will serve as the basis for any required impact analyses, applicants may also be requested to assist NOAA in drafting an environmental assessment, if NOAA determines an assessment is required. Applicants will also be required to cooperate with NOAA in identifying feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of their proposal. Failure to do so shall be grounds for not selecting an application. In some cases, if additional information is required after an application is selected, funds can be withheld by the Grants Officer under a special award condition requiring the recipient to submit additional environmental compliance information sufficient to enable NOAA to make an assessment on any impacts that a project may have on the environment.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: Public reporting burden for this collection of NEPA information is estimated to average 3 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering, and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other suggestions for reducing this burden to NOAA NEPA Coordinator, NOAA Office of Program Planning and Integration, SSMC 3, Room 15700, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. The information collection does not request any proprietary or confidential information. No confidentiality is provided.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subjected to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. The valid OMB Control Number is 0648-0538, which expires on November 30, 2024.

6. Review of Risk

After applications are proposed for funding by the selecting official, the Grants Office will

perform administration reviews. These may include assessments of the financial stability of an applicant and the quality of the applicant's management systems, history of performance, and the applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on non-Federal entities. GMD also performs a search for SAM registration, SAM entity and Key Personnel Exclusions, and when appropriate, a FAC, on the Federal Audit Clearinghouse search to pull a current Single Audit Report. Special conditions that address any risks determined to exist may be applied.

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, includes a requirement for awardees of applicable Federal grants to report information about first-tier sub-awards and executive compensation under Federal assistance awards issued in FY 2011 or later. All awardees of applicable grants and cooperative agreements are required to report to the Federal Sub-award Reporting System (FSRS) available at www.FSRS.gov on all sub-awards over \$25,000.

7. Indirect Cost Rate

If an applicant has not previously established an indirect cost rate with a Federal agency they may choose to negotiate a rate with the Department of Commerce or use the de minimis indirect cost rate of 10% of MTDC (as allowable under 2 C.F.R. §200.414). The negotiation and approval of a rate is subject to the procedures required by NOAA and the Department of Commerce Standard Terms and Conditions.

The NOAA contact for indirect or facilities and administrative costs is:

Raishan Adams
NOAA Grants Management Division
1325 East West Highway, 9th Floor
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
raishan.adams@noaa.gov

8. Minority Serving Institutions

The Department of Commerce/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (DOC/NOAA) is strongly committed to increasing the participation of Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), i.e., Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, Tribal colleges and universities, Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian institutions, and institutions that work in underserved communities.

9. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

If an application contains information or data that you do not want disclosed prior to award for purposes other than the evaluation of the application, mark each page containing such information or data with the words "Privileged, Confidential, Commercial, or Financial Information - Limited Use" at the top of the page to assist NOAA in making disclosure determinations. DOC regulations implementing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) are found at 5 U.S.C 552, which sets forth rules for DOC to make requested materials, information, and records publicly available under FOIA. The contents of funded applications may be subject to requests for release under the FOIA. Based on the information provided by you, the confidentiality of the content of funded applications will be maintained to the maximum extent permitted by law.

10. Department of Commerce (DOC) Terms and Conditions

Successful applicants who accept a NOAA award under this solicitation will be bound by the DOC

Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions. This document will be provided in the award package in NOAA's Grants Online system at <http://www.ago.noaa.gov> and at <https://www.commerce.gov/oam/policy/financial-assistance-policy>.

11. Bureau Terms and Conditions

Successful applicants who accept an award under this solicitation will be bound by bureau-specific standard terms and conditions. These terms and conditions will be provided in the award package in NOAA's Grants

Online system. For NOAA awards only, the Administrative Standard Award Conditions for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Financial Assistance Awards U.S. Department of Commerce are applicable to this solicitation and may be

accessed online at <https://www.noaa.gov/organization/acquisition-grants/financial-assistance>.

12. Human Subjects Research

For research projects involving Human Subjects, an Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval or an exemption determination will be required in accordance with DOC Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions "Research Involving Human Subjects" found at <https://www.commerce.gov/oam/policy/financial-assistance-policy>.

13. Data Sharing Plan

a. Environmental data and information collected or created under NOAA grants or cooperative agreements must be made discoverable by and accessible to the general public, in a timely fashion (typically within two years), free of charge or at no more than the cost of reproduction, unless an exemption is granted by the NOAA Program. Data should be available in at least one machine-readable format, preferably a widely used or open-standard format, and should also be accompanied by machine-readable documentation (metadata), preferably based on widely used or international standards.

b. Proposals submitted in response to this Announcement must include a Data Management Plan of up to two pages describing how these requirements will be satisfied. The Data Management Plan should be aligned with the Data Management Guidance provided by NOAA in the Announcement. The contents of the Data Management Plan (or absence thereof), and past performance regarding such plans, will be considered as part of proposal review. A typical plan should include descriptions of the types of environmental data and information expected to be created during the course of the project; the tentative date by which data will be shared; the standards to be used for data/metadata format and content; methods for providing data access; approximate total volume of data to be collected; and prior experience in making such data accessible. The costs of data preparation, accessibility, or archiving may be included in the proposal budget unless otherwise stated in the Guidance. Accepted submission of data to the NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) is one way to satisfy data sharing requirements; however, NCEI is not obligated to accept all submissions and may charge a fee, particularly for large or unusual datasets.

c. NOAA may, at its own discretion, make publicly visible the Data Management Plan from funded proposals, or use information from the Data Management Plan to produce a formal metadata record and include that metadata in a Catalog to indicate the pending availability of new data. 4. Proposal submitters are hereby advised that the final pre-publication manuscripts of scholarly articles produced entirely or primarily with NOAA funding will be required to be submitted to NOAA Institutional Repository after acceptance, and no later than upon publication. Such manuscripts shall be made publicly available by NOAA one year after publication by the journal.

More information can be found on NOAA's Data Management Procedures at: https://nosc.noaa.gov/EDMC/documents/Data_Sharing_Directive_v3.0_remediated.pdf and at NAO 212-15

Management of Environmental Data and Information:

<https://www.noaa.gov/organization/administration/nao-212-15-management-of-environmental-data-and-information>

14. NOAA Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Prevention and Response Policy
NOAA requires organizations receiving federal assistance to report findings of sexual harassment, or any other kind of harassment, regarding a Principal Investigator (PI), co-PI, or any other key personnel in the award. NOAA expects all financial assistance recipients to establish and maintain clear and unambiguous standards of behavior to ensure harassment free workplaces wherever NOAA grant or cooperative agreement work is conducted, including notification pathways for all personnel, including students, on the awards. This expectation includes activities at all on- and offsite facilities and during conferences and workshops. All such settings should have accessible and evident means for reporting violations and recipients should exercise due diligence with timely investigations of allegations and corrective actions.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.noaa.gov/organization/acquisition-grants/noaa-workplace-harassment-training-for-contractors-and-financial>.

15. Science Integrity

a. Maintaining Integrity. The non-Federal entity shall maintain the scientific integrity of research performed pursuant to this grant or financial assistance award including the prevention, detection, and remediation of any allegations regarding the violation of scientific integrity or scientific and research misconduct, and the conduct of inquiries, investigations, and adjudications of allegations of violations of scientific integrity or scientific and research misconduct. All the requirements of this provision flow down to subrecipients.

b. Peer Review. The peer review of the results of scientific activities under a NOAA grant, financial assistance award or cooperative agreement shall be accomplished to ensure consistency with NOAA standards on quality, relevance, scientific integrity, reproducibility, transparency, and performance. NOAA will ensure that peer review of "influential scientific information" for "highly influential scientific assessments" is conducted in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review and NOAA policies on peer review, such as the Information Quality Guidelines.

c. In performing or presenting the results of scientific activities under the NOAA grant,

financial assistance award, or cooperative agreement and in responding to allegations regarding the violation of scientific integrity or scientific and research misconduct, the non-Federal entity and all subrecipients shall comply with the provisions herein and NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 202-735D, Scientific Integrity, and its Procedural Handbook, including any amendments thereto. That Order can be found at <http://nrc.noaa.gov/ScientificIntegrityCommons.aspx>.

d. Primary Responsibility. The non-Federal entity shall have the primary responsibility to prevent, detect, and investigate allegations of a violation of scientific integrity or scientific and research misconduct. Unless otherwise instructed by the grants officer, the non-Federal entity shall promptly conduct an initial inquiry into any allegation of such misconduct and may rely on its internal policies and procedures, as appropriate, to do so.

e. By executing this grant, financial assistance award, or cooperative agreement the non-Federal entity provides its assurance that it has established an administrative process for performing an inquiry, investigating, and reporting allegations of a violation of scientific integrity or scientific and research misconduct; and that it will comply with its own administrative process for performing an inquiry, investigation, and reporting of such misconduct.

f. The non-federal entity shall insert this provision in all subawards at all tiers under this grant, financial assistance award, or cooperative agreement.

16. Review and Evaluation

The applicant acknowledges and understands that information and data contained in applications for financial assistance, as well as information and data contained in financial, performance and other reports submitted by applicants, may be used by the Department of Commerce in conducting reviews and evaluations of its financial assistance programs. For this purpose, applicant information and data may be accessed, reviewed and evaluated by Department of Commerce employees, other Federal employees, and also by Federal agents and contractors, and/or by non-Federal personnel, all of whom enter into appropriate conflict of interest and confidentiality agreements covering the use of such information. As may be provided in the terms and conditions of a specific financial assistance award, applicants are expected to support program reviews and evaluations by submitting required financial and performance information and data in an accurate and timely manner, and by cooperating with the Department of Commerce and external program evaluators. In accordance with

§200.303(e), applicants are reminded that they must take reasonable measures to safeguard protected personally identifiable information and other confidential or sensitive personal or business information created or obtained in connection with a Department of Commerce financial assistance award.

C. Reporting

NOAA awardees will be required to submit financial and performance (technical) progress reports electronically through NOAA Grants Online on a semiannual basis. Instructions for submitting financial and progress reports will be provided by the NOAA Grants Management Division as part of the award terms and conditions.

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, includes a requirement for awardees of applicable Federal grants to report information about first-tier sub-awards and executive compensation under Federal assistance awards issued in FY 2011 or later. All awardees of applicable grants and cooperative agreements are required to report to the Federal Sub-award Reporting System (FSRS) available at www.FSRS.gov on all sub-awards over \$30,000. Refer to 2 CFR Part 170.

Successful applicants will be requested to ensure that all progress reports: a) clearly state the resulting impact of their project and products in the coastal management community and on forecasting environmental events; and b) indicate whether financial reports have been submitted to NOAA's Grants Management Division and are up to date. Applicants in their final progress report will be asked to certify that "Final financial reports have been submitted to NOAA's Grants Management Division and a final funding draw-down has been made through the Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP)." See <https://cdn.ioos.noaa.gov/attachments/2018/11/Cooperative-Agreement-Progress-Report-Guidance-November-2018.pdf> for general guidance on the content of these progress reports.

VII. Agency Contacts

For questions regarding grants administration contact: Debra Esty, U.S. IOOS via e-mail at debra.esty@noaa.gov.

Please submit technical questions to the Ocean-Based Climate Resilience Accelerator inbox at cr.accelerators@noaa.gov.

VIII. Other Information

None.