



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

GOMA's 2022 Gulf Star Program: Improving Coastal Community Resilience with Green Infrastructure

Deadline for proposal submission: **July 29, 2022**

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) is a partnership of the five Gulf States, federal agencies, academic organizations, businesses, and other non-profits in the region. Our goal is to significantly increase regional collaboration to enhance the environmental and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico. For more information about the Gulf of Mexico Alliance and the Gulf Star Program visit <https://gulfofmexicoalliance.org/>.

BACKGROUND

The Gulf Star Program is a public-private partnership that leverages contributions from agencies and businesses and is administered by the Gulf of Mexico Alliance. The Gulf Star Program provides funding for projects that accomplish actions identified by the Alliance's Priority Issue Teams and Cross-Team Initiatives in the [*Governors' Action Plan for Healthy and Resilient Coasts*](#).

GOMA's Integrated Planning Cross-Team Initiative supports the implementation of adaptation, conservation, and resilience activities at the local community and regional scale. This includes providing improved access to information, tools, and resources to implement projects that include both the natural and built environment. Through this Request for Proposals (RFP), funding from the Gulf Star Program is available to the Integrated Planning Cross-Team Initiative to implement a green infrastructure project that will improve community resilience and the natural environment.

PROJECT SUMMARY AND SCOPE OF WORK

Green design and infrastructure practices such as rain gardens, living shorelines, marsh plantings, and pervious paving are a cost-effective way to help communities improve resilience and manage stormwater. Benefits can include: reduced flooding; storm protection; cleaner water; and increased habitat for wildlife.

This project will increase the ability of Gulf Coast communities to improve their resilience and reduce water pollution by adopting innovative green design/infrastructure practices. Specifically, GOMA's Integrated Planning

Cross-Team Initiative seeks to fund a project that will implement a green infrastructure project in a community located in one of the following areas:

1. Aransas, Nueces, and San Patricio Counties in Texas (Corpus Christi and surrounding areas)
2. Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, Harris and Jefferson Counties in Texas (Houston and surrounding areas)
3. Calcasieu and Cameron Parishes in Louisiana (Lake Charles and surrounding areas)

AWARD DETAILS

Grant award agreements and payments will come directly from the Gulf of Mexico Alliance. Available funding for the project selected from this RFP is approximately \$41,000, so project proposals should not exceed that value. Minimum award value is \$25,000; proposals for less than \$25,000 will not be considered.

Although project costs cannot include already-incurred costs, projects may include funding for continuation or expansion of existing projects. Cost sharing or matching is not required.

Project duration can be no more than 12 months. Anticipated start date is September 15, 2022.

ELIGIBILITY

Any state or municipal agency, academic/research institution, tribe, business, or non-governmental organization is eligible to submit a proposal and be considered for funding under this RFP. Municipalities (city, county/parish, or other local governments) are strongly encouraged to apply or participate as members of a project team. All applications must include a letter of support from a municipal partner indicating the proposed project meets a local need to improve resilience.

Applicants of winning proposals will be required to attend at least one GOMA meeting (in person or virtual), provide regular project updates, and submit semi-annual progress reports.

Applicants must be U.S. organizations or corporations with a valid tax ID number and will be required to certify that they have the institutional, managerial, and financial capability to ensure proper planning, management, and completion of the project described in the scope; will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain; will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval from the Gulf of Mexico Alliance; and will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations and policies governing this project.

PROPOSAL CONTENT AND FORMAT

Proposals should be submitted in PDF format via email to Christina Mohrman, GOMA Program Manager, at christina.mohrman@gomxa.org by **Friday, July 29, 2022**. Proposals must be submitted using the GOMA Proposal Form that requires three main sections as described below:

(1) Title Page (GOMA fillable PDF form)

(2) Project Description and Budget (GOMA fillable PDF form; 5 pages maximum)

GOMA's Proposal Form requires that the Project Description and Budget be no longer than 5 pages

and should contain the following elements:

Project Description:

In a clear and concise manner, describe what will be accomplished during the project:

- project goals and objectives, methods or approach, and team members
- primary activities that will be accomplished with this grant and the schedule for implementation
- outreach/engagement – stakeholders or users of the results of the project and describe the steps that will be taken to transfer the results of the project to the appropriate audience
- data and information sharing – if applicable, describe how all relevant project-derived material (data, metadata, reports, products, etc.) will be publicly available by the completion of the project.

Budget:

- Project Cost Details: Salary, Fringe, Travel, Supplies, Equipment, Contractual, Indirect
- Travel must include funds to attend at least one in person GOMA meeting (2023 All Hands in Texas; specific dates and venue to be determined)
- Indirect is limited to 10% of the total amount requested
- Justification should be provided for each applicable cost category

(3) Attachments (as appropriate)

Background information or other relevant information can be provided as an attachment. A Letter of Commitment is required for project team members from organizations other than that of the applicant's. A Letter of Support from a local municipality is required indicating the proposed project meets a need to improve community resilience. Letters of commitment and support should be attached as PDF to proposals. Attachments are not included in 5-page limit for the Project Description and Budget.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

Project proposals will be evaluated by members of the GOMA staff and Integrated Planning Cross-Team. Proposals will be evaluated on: rationale (10 points), proposal merit (10 points), impacts and application of results (10 points), applicant (10 points), outreach and engagement and/or data sharing (5 points), and proposal specifications (5 points).

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Rationale (10 points) – Project addresses objectives identified in the GOMA Action Plan IV; clearly states the need for the project and the high primacy in accomplishing project goals.
2. Proposal Merit (10 points) – Project assesses whether the goals and objectives are clear and the methodology is appropriate for the proposed project. Likelihood that the proposed project will attain the stated objectives and GOMA priority issue action it proposes to address.
3. Impacts and Application of Results (10 points) – Project evaluates the overall impact and anticipated outcomes of the completed project. Identifies opportunities for leveraging or complimentary projects (if any).
4. Applicant (10 points) – Principal Investigator and applicant team is well qualified to perform the proposed work and demonstrates intent to be active on GOMA Team(s) throughout the life of the project. Project lead and other project team members are

- experienced and have proper expertise to perform the project.
5. Outreach and Engagement and/or Data Sharing (5 points) – Applicant addressed the Outreach and Engagement and Data Sharing requirements satisfactorily.
 6. Proposal Specifications (5 points) – Proposal is limited to 5 pages and contains all information required by the RFP. Budget costs are reasonable and justifiable.

SUBMITTAL, SELECTION, AND NOTIFICATION

Proposals must be submitted by email to Christina Mohrman, GOMA Program Manager, at christina.mohrman@gomxa.org by Friday, July 29, 2022.

Proposals will be evaluated by members of the GOMA staff and Integrated Planning Cross-Team. The evaluation committee will be composed of subject matter experts (who will remain anonymous). The Team will submit their recommendation to the GOMA Alliance Management Team who makes the final selection regarding funding of the project. The GOMA Alliance Management Team reserves the right to make selections based on the evaluation criteria and their own deliberations.

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance anticipates notifying applicants of their award status in August and the project start date should be planned for September 15, 2022.

QUESTIONS

For questions about this RFP, please contact Christina Mohrman, GOMA Program Manager, at christina.mohrman@gomxa.org.

No questions will be allowed after the submission deadline during the evaluation process.