



REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

GOMA's 2023 Gulf Star Program: Improving Coastal Community Resilience with Green Infrastructure

Deadline for proposal submission: December 15, 2023

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 AND REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

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 Applications (RFA), 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

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: Refugio, Aransas, San Patricio, Nueces, Kleberg, or Kenedy Counties in Texas (Corpus Christi 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 RFA is approximately \$60,000, so project applications should not exceed that value. Minimum award value is \$45,000 and applications for less than this amount 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.

This will be a cost-reimbursement grant award. Only 1 (one) award is anticipated from this RFA.

Project duration can be no more than 18 months. Anticipated start date is February 15, 2024.

ELIGIBILITY

This Request for Application (RFA) is open to all types of domestic applicants other than individuals and for-profit entities. 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.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AT TIME OF APPLICATION:

Applicants must be U.S. organizations or corporations with a valid tax ID number and Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). Non-profit organizations must demonstrate current evidence of good standing, such as a statement from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Applicants 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.

REQUIREMENTS OF SELECTED APPLICANTS:

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

Notification of Award: If chosen for an award, an applicant will generally be notified by electronic mail unless another method is required. Applicant will be required to provide additional information as an agreement is developed and reporting requirements are determined.

Laws and Policies: If selected, applicant must agree to follow provisions of the U.S. Constitution; Federal, state, and local laws and regulations; and terms and conditions of the award agreement.

Compliance with Federal Cost Principles: If chosen, applicant agrees to use cost principles of 2 CFR 200 as a guide for allowable costs.

Reporting: If selected, applicant must agree to financial and programmatic reporting on a regular basis as required by terms and conditions of the award.

Failure to Meet Eligibility Criteria: Failure to meet eligibility criteria at the time of execution of an award may be grounds for eliminating an applicant and making an award to another applicant.

Travel to a GOMA Conference: Applicants of the winning proposal will be required to attend at least one GOMA meeting (2025 All Hands Meeting, June 23-26, in Mobile, Alabama). These costs should be included in proposals.

Letter of Support: A Letter of Support from a local municipality is required indicating the proposed project meets a need to improve community resilience.

APPLICATION CONTENT AND FORMAT

Applications should be submitted in PDF format via email to Christina Mohrman, GOMA Program Manager, at christina.mohrman@gomxa.org by 5pm U.S. Central Standard Time on December 15, 2023. Applications must be submitted using the GOMA Application Form that requires three main sections as described below. Applications must contain an original or digital signature.

(1) Title Page (GOMA fillable PDF form)

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

GOMA's Application 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 (2025 All Hands Meeting, June 23-26 in Mobile, Alabama - \$2,500 recommended)
- Indirect is limited to 25% 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. 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 applications. Attachments are not included in 5-page limit for the Project Description and Budget.

APPLICATION EVALUATION CRITERIA

Project applications will be evaluated on: rationale (10 points), application merit (10 points), impacts and application of results (10 points), applicant (10 points), outreach and engagement and/or data sharing (5 points), and application specifications (5 points).

Applications 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. Application 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. Application Specifications (5 points) – Application is limited to 5 pages and contains all information required by the RFA. Budget costs are reasonable and justifiable.

SUBMITTAL, SELECTION, AND NOTIFICATION

Project applications must be submitted by email to Christina Mohrman, GOMA Program Manager, at christina.mohrman@gomxa.org by 5pm U.S. Central Standard Time on December 15, 2023. Project applications received after the submission deadline will not be considered.

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance anticipates notifying applicants of their award status in January 2024 and the project start date should be planned for February 15, 2024.

Question and Answer Period Regarding this RFA: November 10, 2023, 10am U.S. Central Standard Time through December 8, 2023 4pm U.S. Central Standard Time. Inquiries concerning this RFA should be received during this time period. No questions regarding this RFA will be considered outside of this time period. Questions should be sent by email to Christina Mohrman, GOMA Program Manager, at christina.mohrman@gomxa.org. No questions by telephone will be considered. On December 11, 2023, applicants will receive a copy of questions and answers by email from Christina Mohrman at christina.mohrman@gomxa.org.