



REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Increasing Participation in the Clean and Resilient Marina Program RFA #122438

Deadline for application submission: **September 20, 2024, 5:00pm Central Time**

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

GOMA's Coastal Community Resilience Priority Issue Team develops strategies and tools that allow communities to prepare for natural and man-made hazards and recover from disasters more quickly. Actions are focused on risk and resilience communication; risk and resilience assessment; and resilience planning and adaptation. Funding is available to the Coastal Community Resilience Team to implement a project that will expand the number of certified marinas and harbors in the Clean and Resilient Marina Program. More information about the Program is available for each state at the websites listed below.

Alabama: <https://masgc.org/clean-marina-program/about>

Florida: <https://floridadep.gov/rcp/clean-marina/content/clean-resilient-marina>

Louisiana: <https://www.dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/124>

Mississippi: <https://dmr.ms.gov/clean-resilient-marinas/>

Texas: https://marinaassociationoftexas.com/About_Clean_Marina

Harbors and marinas along the Gulf of Mexico are directly exposed to storms, flooding, land loss, and other coastal hazards. Being resilient means being able to prevent loss of life and personal injury, reduce property damage, and resume normal business activities as soon as possible after a storm. The Clean and Resilient Marina Program is a voluntary, incentive-based program that promotes environmentally responsible and resilient operations and best management practices.

Through this RFA, funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is available to support government owned and operated marinas and harbors across the five U.S. Gulf states in completing the Clean and Resilient Marina certification process. This effort is needed to increase resilience planning and adaptation as well as enhance data sharing across the region. Therefore, all terms and conditions of the resulting sub-award agreement will be subject to Federal regulations concerning the receipt and use of Federal funds.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Project Title: Increasing Participation in the Clean and Resilient Marina Program

Scope of Work: GOMA seeks applications from local political subdivisions located in coastal counties/parishes within the five U.S. Gulf states (Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas) to complete the certification process for their marina or harbor to become a Clean and Resilient Marina. To become certified, operators and owners must take the following steps: 1) pledge to participate in the program; 2) complete a self-assessment; 3) engage with their state management agency responsible for administering the program to ensure best management practices are in place; and 4) complete certification.

Applicants should review the best management practices included in the Clean and Resilient Marina checklist to identify deficiencies that need to be addressed to achieve certification. Best management practices that need to be addressed along with activities that will take place to complete certification should be described as part of the application. Examples of activities include development of emergency preparedness and evacuation planning procedures, staff training, and outreach materials/signage for boaters.

Applicants should avoid activities such as construction, storm water management, erosion stabilization, or other efforts that may have potential environmental impacts and require a lengthy timeline for planning, approval, and permitting.

Awardees are expected to coordinate closely with the state management agency responsible for administering the Clean and Resilient Marina Program in their state. A state management agency point of contact will be provided to each awardee to assist with the certification process.

Deliverables:

1. Pledge to participate in the program
2. Completed Clean and Resilient Marina Checklist (self-assessment)
3. Completed Certification

ELIGIBILITY

This RFA is open to all types of domestic applicants other than individuals and for-profit entities located in U.S. coastal counties/parishes as defined by NOAA at the following site:

https://noaa.hub.arcgis.com/datasets/0c78ef496c634fe8ac24437b6215ea9c_0/explore.

Eligibility Criteria at time of Application:

1. Applicants must be U.S. organizations or corporations with a valid tax ID number and Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).
2. Entity and Principal Investigators must not be debarred or suspended.
3. 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.
4. Applicants must have established 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.
5. Applicants must have the capacity to initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval from the Gulf of Mexico Alliance.

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.

Requirements of Selected Applicants:

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

Travel to a GOMA Conference: Applicants of the winning proposal will be required to attend at least one GOMA meeting (2025 All Hands Meeting, May 5-8, 2025, in Biloxi, Mississippi). These costs should be included in proposals.

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 Laws, Rules, and Regulations: If chosen, applicant agrees to follow all applicable provisions of 2 CFR 200 and any other federal laws, rules, regulations, or standard terms and conditions that may apply.

AWARD DETAILS

Grant award agreements and payments will come directly from the Gulf of Mexico Alliance. Available funding for projects selected from this RFA is approximately \$40,000, so project applications should not exceed that value. Minimum award value is \$30,000 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. Approximately five awards are anticipated from this RFA.

Anticipated start date is December 1, 2024. Project duration can be no more than 12 months and may not extend beyond/past November 30, 2025.

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.

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 Time on September 20, 2024. 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, contact Christina Mohrman by email at christina.mohrman@gomxa.org to request form)

2. Project Description and Budget (GOMA fillable PDF form; 5 pages maximum, not including requested attachments)

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 included as a milestone chart
- 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, Other, Indirect (Federally negotiated indirect rate or de minimis)
- Travel must include funds to attend at least one in person GOMA meeting (2025 All Hands Meeting, May 5-May 8, 2025 in Biloxi, Mississippi)
- 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.

APPLICATION EVALUATION CRITERIA

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Rationale (5 points) – Project addresses priority issue action(s) 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.
7. Budget (10 points) - Budget costs are reasonable and justifiable.
8. Time Constraints (15 points) - Likelihood that project can be completed within specified time constraints when considering any potential permitting requirements and other factors.

SUBMITTAL AND NOTIFICATION

Submission Instructions: Applications should be submitted via email in PDF format to:

Christina Mohrman, GOMA Program Manager, at christina.mohrman@gomxa.org.

Subject Line: RFA – Clean and Resilient Marinas Program

Application Deadline: September 20, 2024, 5pm U.S. Central Time. Project applications received after the submission deadline will be not be considered.

Notification: The Gulf of Mexico Alliance anticipates notifying applicants of their award status within four (4) weeks of the closing date for the receipt of applications.

Question and Answer Period Regarding this RFA: Questions about this RFA will be received until September 9, 2024, 4pm U.S. Central Time. No questions regarding this RFA will be considered after 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 September 11, 2024, applicants will receive a copy of questions and answers by email from Christina Mohrman at christina.mohrman@gomxa.org.

CANCELLATION OF RFA

GOMA reserves the right to rescind award of an agreement at any time, before execution of the agreement by both parties, if rescission is deemed to be in GOMA’s best interest. In no event shall GOMA have any liability for cancellation of this RFA or the rescission of award.