



# COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS CLIMATE RESILIENCE

**EPA Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Funding Opportunity  
Funding Opportunity Number (FON): EPA-G2024-STAR-C1**

Informational Webinar – April 2, 2024

# Webinar Objectives



Review application information requirements in the funding opportunity



Provide guidelines for eligibility, submission and technical aspects of application process



Answer questions about the application process

# Webinar Ground Rules



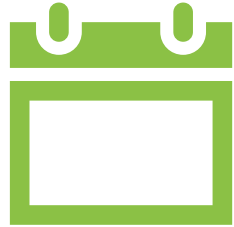
- During the presentation, you may type your questions in the comment box
- Questions will be addressed after the presentation
- No specific research project or idea can be discussed but clarifying questions regarding what is written in the funding opportunity announcement may be answered
- These slides along with the Q&A will be posted online on the funding opportunity webpage

# Agency Contacts

- Technical Contact:  
Sarah Ludwig-Monty, Project Officer  
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- Eligibility Contact:  
Ron Josephson, Eligibility Officer  
[josephson.ron@epa.gov](mailto:josephson.ron@epa.gov); 202-564-7823
- Electronic Submissions:  
[electronic-grant-submissions@epa.gov](mailto:electronic-grant-submissions@epa.gov)
- If interested in being on the **Peer Review Panel**, rather than applying, please contact:  
Ron Josephson, Science Review Officer  
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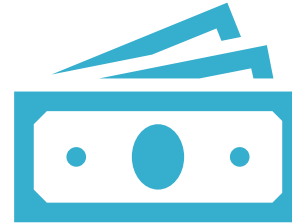


# Funding Opportunity and Award Information



## Deadline for submission

May 1, 2024 at 11:59:59 pm Eastern Time



## Funding level

Anticipated total for all awards: \$8 Million

Estimated number of awards: 7

Maximum funding per award: Up to \$1,200,000

Maximum 3 years project duration

# Research Background and Goals

- Seeking innovative approaches for assessing the health and resilience of coastal ecosystems facing the impacts of climate change and cumulative stressors.
- Characterize, quantify, and define indicators or metrics of resilience for various types of coastal ecosystems, especially those ecosystems that have climate mitigation and adaptation and/or blue (ocean-stored) carbon sequestration potential
- Develop methods and approaches to advance economic valuation of resilience benefits provided by coastal ecosystems.

# Expected Outputs and Outcomes



Outputs expected may include publications of research results in peer-reviewed journals, guidance documents, decision support tools, models, demonstrations and case studies, reports, and presentations.



Outcomes should facilitate a better scientific understanding of the mechanistic bases of resilience in coastal ecosystems, advance the development of quantitative indicators or metrics of coastal ecosystem resilience, and advance the economic valuation of resilience benefits provided by coastal ecosystems.

# Research Scope



## Coastlines

ONLY Estuarine and Marine Coastal Ecosystems (no freshwater lakes, reservoirs, rivers, etc.)



## Geographic application

The goal of this research is to collectively provide coverage for all the nation's relevant coastal areas.

The final suite of metrics, indicators, or methods developed by the project research area should not be limited to one geographic region.



## Research Areas

There are two distinct areas of research covered by this solicitation. Applicants should respond in depth to at least one of the two research areas described below.

Applications may respond to one research area or integrate across two research areas.



# Research Areas

**Research Area 1:** Characterize, quantify, and define indicators or metrics of resilience for various types of coastal ecosystems, especially those ecosystems that have climate mitigation and adaptation and/or blue carbon sequestration potential (i.e., tidal wetlands and marshes, seagrass beds, mangrove forests).

**Research Area 2:** Develop methods and approaches to advance economic valuation of the resilience benefits of coastal ecosystems.

*Applicants must respond in-depth to at least one of the two research areas.*

***Applications may respond to one research area in-depth AND integrate across two research areas.***

# Innovation and Sustainability

- Innovation for the purposes of this funding opportunity is defined as the process of making changes; a new method, custom, or device. Innovative research can take the form of wholly new applications or applications that build on existing knowledge and approaches for new uses. Reviewers will draw from all of the below-mentioned innovation and sustainability definitions in the review/evaluation process of research applications (see Section V.A).
- Research applications should include a discussion on how the proposed research is innovative (see Section IV.C.5.iii.a). The goal of sustainability, derived from the is to “create and maintain conditions, under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony, that permit fulfilling the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations.”
- Research applications should include a discussion on how the proposed research will seek sustainable solutions that protect the environment and strengthen our communities (see Section IV.C.5.iii.a).

# Application Review Information

- **Peer Review Criteria** (see Section V.A for details, including sub-criteria)

1. Research Merit
2. Responsiveness
3. Project Management
4. Innovation and Sustainability

- **Relevancy Review Criteria** (Section V.B)

1. The degree to which the proposed science/research is relevant to EPA's priorities as described in Goal 1: Tackle the Climate Crisis, Objective 1.2: Accelerate Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change Impacts and Goal 5: Ensure Clean and Safe Water for All Communities, Objective 5.2: Protect and Restore Waterbodies and Watersheds, of EPA's FY2022-2026 [Strategic Plan](#).
  2. The degree to which results (i.e., outputs/outcomes) of the research have broad application or affect large segments of society
  3. The degree to which the research is designed to produce data and methods that can immediately and/or with little to no translation be utilized by the public, states, and tribes to better assess or manage environmental problems.
- See **Section V** for more detail on the above criteria and other review components

# Eligibility Information (1)

## Eligible Entities

Public and private nonprofit institutions/organizations in the U.S. and U.S. territories

Public and private nonprofit institutions of higher education in the U.S. and U.S. territories

Hospitals located in the U.S. and U.S. territories

State and local governments in the U.S. and U.S. territories

Federally Recognized Indian Tribal Governments

U.S. territories or possessions

# Eligibility Information (2)

- The following entities are **NOT** eligible:
  - Profit-making companies
  - Foreign governments
  - International organizations
  - Federally-funded research and development centers (FFRDCs)
  - Federal agencies
  - Individuals
- Eligible entities may partner with some ineligible entities under [EPA's Subaward Policy](#)
- For profit companies are NOT eligible and may NOT be subawardees
- For profit companies may be consultants
  - Consultants are not to be considered key personnel
  - Contacts/Consultants are subject to competitive procurement requirements (see Section IV.C.5.iv.f)

# Eligibility Information (3)

- Applications must be submitted via Grants.gov
  - If you cannot access [Grants.gov](https://www.epa.gov/grants), see <https://www.epa.gov/grants/exceptions-grantsgov-submission-requirement>.
  - You must have [SAM.gov](https://www.sam.gov) registration ACTIVE in order to apply via [Grants.gov](https://www.epa.gov/grants).
- Applications that exceed federal funding or performance period time limits will not be reviewed
  - Period of performance must be 3 years or less
  - Projects usually start six to twelve months after the end of the solicitation period
- Applications must include a discussion on innovation and sustainability (see Section IV.C.5.iii.a).
- Applications from ineligible organizations, or that are somehow not substantially compliant, will not be reviewed
- Organizations and PIs may submit more than one application, as long as the applications are substantially different

# Application Materials

- See Section IV. “Application and Submission Information”
- To apply under this solicitation, use the application package available at [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)
  - For further submission information see: Section IV.F. “Submission Instructions and other Submission Requirements”
- All necessary forms are included in the electronic application package, with the exception of the current and pending support form, which is available at: [Research Funding Opportunities: How to Apply and Required Forms](#)
- Letters of support or intent from EPA employees are prohibited

# Application Materials (2)

Component	NOFO Section	Page Limit
¥Standard Form 424	IV.C.1	N/A
¥Key Contacts, EPA Form 5700-54; Additional Key Contacts, if appropriate	IV.C.2	N/A
¥EPA Form 4700-4, Preaward Compliance Review Report	IV.C.3	N/A
¥Budget (Standard Form 424A, Section B)	IV.C.4	N/A
Table of Content	IV.C.5.i	None
Abstract	IV.C.5.ii	1
Research Plan	IV.C.5.iii.a	15
Quality Assurance Statement (QAS)	IV.C.5.iii.b	3
Human Subjects Research Statement (HSRS)	IV.C.5.iii.c	4
Scientific Data Management Plan (SDMP)	IV.C.5.iii.d	2
References	IV.C.5.iii.f	None
Budget Justification	IV.C.5.iv	3
Resume	IV.C.5.v	2 per investigator/senior personnel
¥Current and Pending Support (w/ certification statements)	IV.C.5.vi	N/A
Letters of Intent/Letters of Support	IV.C.5.vii.a	1 per letter

¥Forms are available at <https://www.grants.gov> and/or <https://www.epa.gov/research-grants/research-funding-opportunities-how-apply-and-required-forms>



# Electronic Submissions

- See Section IV.F “Submission Instructions and Other Submission Requirements.”
- If you experience difficulty with [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), do the following steps **before** the end of the solicitation period (Section IV.F.5.):
  - Contact [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) Support Center
  - Document the Grants.gov ticket/case number.
  - Send an email with the FON (EPA-G2024-STAR-C1) in the subject line to [electronic-grant-submissions@epa.gov](mailto:electronic-grant-submissions@epa.gov) , including the following information:
    - i. Grants.gov ticket/case number(s)
    - ii. Description of the issue
    - iii. The entire application package in PDF format.
- You may resubmit an application before the deadline, but changes are not permitted after the solicitation period ends. If we see duplicates of the same application, we will process the most recent one
- If you are experiencing a natural disaster and cannot submit on time, please contact us immediately

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