

## Funding Opportunity: NOAA Releases FY 2022 Climate Program Office Competitions

*Lewis-Burke Associates LLC – July 13, 2020*

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Program Office (CPO) has released its fiscal year (FY) 2022 solicitation for approximately 90 new awards with a total of \$15 million in available funds. This annual series of competitions supports research through the CPO's four programs including Earth System Science and Modeling (ESSM); Climate and Societal Interactions (CSI); National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS); and Communication, Education and Engagement (CEE). The FY 2022 competitions will be centered around the four high-priority risk areas which were developed in FY 2020: (1) Coastal Inundation, (2) Marine Ecosystems, (3) Water Resources, and (4) Extreme Heat. While in past years there has been some overlap in the competition topics, this year, all of the programs are brand new. The eight competitions for FY 2022 are:

1. **Fire and Smoke at the Wildland-Urban Interface**
  - This competition invites proposals that will utilize existing NOAA wildfire, atmospheric, and satellite data to develop data management practices, discover new uses for existing tools (FIREX-AQ, GOES and JPSS satellites, etc.), assess fire and smoke impacts on urban areas, and examine emission factors of fires. Applicants with National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) collaborators will be most relevant.
  - Proposals should budget for up to \$750,000 over 3 years, 7-9 awards are anticipated.
2. **Joint Competition to Advance Process Understanding and Representation of Precipitation in Models**
  - This competition seeks projects to improve the “understanding, diagnosing and modeling of key processes for improving the simulation of subseasonal to seasonal (S2S) precipitation in weather and climate models.” The program’s goals are to determine patterns between weather and climate processes associated with precipitation. There are two focus areas for this competition:
    - A. “Identifying and understanding key processes that influence model biases and systematic errors in the simulation of precipitation at the S2S timescale.”
    - B. “Research to advance NOAA’s Unified Forecast System (UFS) prototype operational system for S2S prediction.”
  - Proposals for focus area A should budget up to \$900,000 over 3 years with 5-7 awards expected. Focus Area B should budget up to \$750,000 over 2-3 years with 4-6 awards expected.
3. **Observation and Modeling Studies in Support of Tropical Pacific Process Studies**
  - This competition seeks observations or modeling projects to help improve understandings of equatorial Pacific Climate Systems.
  - Proposals should budget up to \$900,000 over up to three years. Approximately 4-8 projects may be funded.
4. **Improving Climate Understanding and Information For Marine Sanctuary Management Planning.**
  - This competition will focus on understanding climate considerations for Sanctuary reports and management planning. This may also include ecosystem management practices that provide additional adaptation and mitigation benefits for coastal

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communities and ecosystems. There are two competition types for this program (1) a research track and (2) a task force convening track.

- Proposals for type 1 should budget up to \$175,000 per year for up to three years. Proposals for type 2 proposals should budget up to \$250,000 for the project.
5. **Atmospheric Aerosols and Their Potential Roles in Solar Climate Intervention Methods**
    - This competition seeks projects to improve observations of stratospheric conditions and the impact of aerosols on weather, climate, and other Earth systems.
    - Proposals should budget up to \$750,000 over 3 years with 4-6 awards expected.
  6. **Climate-Smart Communities Initiative (CSCI)**
    - The selected project for this four-year cooperative agreement will work closely with NOAA's U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit (USCRT) Team to develop approaches to equitable and sustainable community resilience.
    - In addition to displaying exceptional expertise in climate services and resilience sciences, applicants should also be able to manage diverse teams and partners. The project will be expected to develop hazard assessments and resilience plans for around 300 communities with at least one in each state.
    - The program anticipates providing \$4 million in the first year followed by approximately \$10 million to \$15 million per year, or a total of up to \$49 million for the entire four-year period
  7. **Ecological Drought**
    - This competition is specifically seeking research on the impacts of drought on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and resulting feedback loops. This differs from traditional drought research in that it is not intended to focus on human systems such as agriculture, water access, and hydrologic impacts.
    - Proposals should budget up to \$600,000 over 2 years with 6-7 awards anticipated.
  8. **Building Tribal Drought Resilience**
    - This competition aims to bridge the gap between the management plans that have already been developed by tribal nations and the next steps of implementation. Funds should primarily be used to develop, improve, and/or carry out drought resilience plans for one or more tribal communities.
    - Applications should be developed directly by or in full partnership with one or more tribal nations.
    - Proposals should budget up to \$500,000 over 2 years with 6-7 awards anticipated.

**Deadlines:** Letters of Intent are due at 5:00 pm ET on **August 9, 2021** and full applications are due by **5:00 pm ET on October 18, 2021**.

**Award Information:** NOAA anticipates granting 90 awards across all eight competitions with a total of \$15 million in funding with possible exceptions, pending budget appropriations. Notably, the budget for these competitions is significantly higher than the FY 2021 (\$8 million) competitions.

**Eligibility:** Any U.S. institution of higher education, non-profit, or state and local government is eligible to apply; see each competition program page for specifics. There is no cost-sharing requirement.

*Sources and Additional Information:*

- The full solicitation is available at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=334633>.

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- The CPO overview and notice of funding opportunity as well as brief descriptions and information sheets for each competition are available at <https://cpo.noaa.gov/Funding-Opportunities/2022-Notice-of-Funding-Opportunity>.