

Enhancing Sea Grant's Ability to Help Coastal Communities Adapt to Climate Change

There is clear scientific consensus that climate change is taking place and coastal communities will need to make decisions in the coming years about adapting to the impending impacts. With limited resources, Sea Grant programs have been working with states and communities to inform policy and management decisions and to help communities prepare by considering possible strategies and actions.

The need for technical support for coastal communities beyond what is currently being provided has been documented. The Sea Grant Advisory Board, Sea Grant Association, Assembly of Sea Grant Extension Leaders, and Sea Grant experts in hazard resilience, climate change and sustainable communities have all called for increased involvement by Sea Grant, and NOAA's Climate Service has recognized the need for these services.

In order to begin to address these concerns, Sea Grant will undertake an FY 2010 and 2011 initiative, the Sea Grant Coastal Communities Climate Adaptation Initiative (CCCAI), making available \$1.0M each year (\$30K per Sea Grant program) for the purpose of conducting rapid response, community-based, climate adaptation demonstration projects in each Sea Grant state. The projects' primary objectives will be to provide the selected demonstration communities with sufficient information to consider alternatives, enable them to make better informed decisions, and ultimately develop and implement customized solutions to the hazards and climate change challenges which threaten their economic and social well-being. A key to success will be identifying and engaging local experts as well as tapping regional and/or national expertise as needed to support these efforts. The suite of demonstration projects will be evaluated to identify best practices and enable Sea Grant to focus its subsequent efforts on those activities shown to have the greatest benefit for the target communities.

The CCCAI funds will be an enhancement to each program's Sustainable Coastal Community Development project that is currently funded at \$50K per year through the omnibus grant process. The state Sea Grant programs will have discretion as to the scope of the project and principal investigator(s), as long as each project addresses the CCCAI objectives.

To receive the FY 2010 CCCAI funding, each Sea Grant program will be required to submit a one-page Work Plan and budget for their CCCAI demonstration project by May 1, 2010. The projects are expected to be designed and conducted in collaboration with the target communities as well as other partners such as the NOAA Coastal Service Center, the NOAA Climate Program Office, NOAA's eight Regional Collaboration Teams, state Land Grant partners, as well as state and local constituents, including nongovernmental organizations. The demonstration projects must be completed by September 30, 2010 and the programs will report on their FY 2010 accomplishments during Sea Grant Week in October 2010. Those reports will inform planning for Sea Grant's climate adaptation efforts for FY 2011 and beyond, subject to the level of available funding resources.

The Work Plan is to be completed using Attachment 1 and must include targets for one or both of the national performance measures for the "Hazard Resilience in Coastal Communities" Focus Area. Letters of support/endorsement from the target community/communities need to be included with the proposal.

Attachment 1

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Sea Grant Program: _____ Principal Investigator: _____

Title of Project: _____

- I. **Background and Community Need:**
- II. **Proposed Project and FY 2010 Activities:**
- III. **Partners and roles:**
- IV. **Deliverables:**
- V. **Performance Metrics** (indicate the target number for this demonstration project for one or both measures):
 - Number of coastal communities and citizens provided with information/trained in local hazard resiliency, and hazard mitigation tools, techniques, and best practices. (# of communities by October 2010)
 - Number of coastal communities and citizens who adopt/implement hazard resiliency practices to prepare for and respond to/minimize coastal hazardous events. (# of communities by [date])
- VI. **Summary of Program's current and pending involvement in climate adaptation (include both Sea Grant-supported and other leveraged projects):**