

Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Monitoring Program - EPA-R5-GL2020-CWMP

Questions and Answers

Date	Question	Answer
8/27/20	Are research related proposals eligible under this announcement?	The RFA in this announcement is for applications for a basin-wide monitoring program of Great Lakes wetlands. Applicants must demonstrate how they will collect and analyze data that informs EPA on the status and trends of ecological conditions in all coastal wetlands >4 ha in US and Canadian waters of the Great Lakes (including their connecting channels). Proposals must demonstrate how they will generate this information in a way that maintains continuity between the historical data and new data to be collected. Applicants can propose research studies in addition to the required basin-wide monitoring, but those studies must not compromise the integrity of the required basin-wide monitoring efforts. Therefore, applications that are only research proposals will not be accept
10/9/20	My organization is preparing its application for the FY 2020 Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Monitoring Program for the 10/26/2020 deadline. In prior years, my organization and its partners have had uneven annual totals (slightly more or less than \$2M), though total direct and indirect costs at the end of the five year period has equaled \$10 million. May we arrange our proposal budget similarly this cycle?	<p>Pages 4 and 5 of the RFA, under APPLICATION INFORMATION says the following:</p> <p>“Up to \$10 million may be awarded under this RFA over an approximately five-year period, consisting of incremental funding of <i>about</i> \$2 million per year...”</p> <p>Page 24 of the RFA says the following:</p> <p>“Please include an explanation of expenditure projections, with quarterly fiscal projections and milestones, for the life of the grant.”</p> <p>Applicants should describe their budgets in as much detail as possible, including their best estimate of funding needs by quarter throughout the life of the grant. Applicants are not required to propose exactly \$2 million in costs each year, but should keep in mind that EPA anticipates awarding <i>about</i> \$2 million per year, subject to funding availability, future appropriations, and satisfactory performance.</p>

10/8/20	<p>The Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Monitoring Program (CWMP) has to date focused on coastal wetlands with direct surface water connections to the Great Lakes. I would like to broaden the monitoring effort to include interdunal wetlands. Interdunal wetlands do not meet the CWMP criteria (i.e., at least 4 ha in size with a surface water connection to the Great Lakes) and therefore, have not been included in previous sampling effort. However, what I am finding is there is a strong groundwater connection between interdunal wetlands and Lake Michigan. Would a study focused on interdunal wetlands be considered for funding?</p>	<p>This RFA is for applications for a basin-wide monitoring program of Great Lakes wetlands. As you note, the program has focused on coastal wetlands >4 ha with surface connection to the Great Lakes in US and Canadian waters of the Great Lakes (including their connecting river systems). The Coastal Wetlands Monitoring Program helps EPA satisfy its statutory requirements in the Clean Water Act to establish a Great Lakes system-wide surveillance network to monitor the water quality of the Great Lakes. As such, successful applications for this RFA must demonstrate how they will generate basin-wide monitoring information for these coastal wetlands while maintaining continuity with historical data. Applicants can choose to propose related research studies in addition to the requirements noted above. However, those studies must not compromise the integrity of the basin-wide monitoring efforts.</p> <p>So, proposing to do research studies on interdunal wetlands in the Great Lakes region is acceptable, but applications that do not also describe a plan for basin-wide monitoring of coastal wetlands (that have surface connection to the Great Lakes) will not be accepted. Let me know if you have further questions.</p>