



REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT METHODS

*The National
Academies of*

SCIENCES
ENGINEERING
MEDICINE

GULF RESEARCH PROGRAM



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Visit the Gulf Research Program on the web for more [information about this funding opportunity](#).

SUMMARY OF THIS FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Gulf Research Program](#) (GRP) is developing new programming around health and community resilience that prioritizes the needs and challenges of communities that are at risk from climate hazards and other disasters. This funding opportunity is an initial step toward understanding how to effectively engage communities about the impacts of climate change.

Specifically, the GRP is seeking proposals that explore innovative methods or approaches to engage communities about climate change impacts on human health or community resilience. The GRP will accept proposals from nonprofits and community-based organizations (CBOs) with 501(c)(3) status that have an existing climate adaptation or disaster resilience program in the GRP's geographic region.¹

The GRP expects to award up to six proposals under this funding opportunity. Applicants may request up to \$300,000 for projects that are up to 18 months in duration.

KEY DATES

- July 1, 2021: Online proposal submission opens
- August 12, 2021: Full proposals due by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time
- September – October 2021: Award Selection and Notification
- November – December 2021: Anticipated Funding Start Date

THE CHALLENGE

Communities within the GRP's geographic focus region are confronting numerous complex and inter-related challenges associated with climate change, and many have already been impacted by a range of climate-related events such as sea level rise, flooding, severe storms, wildfires, or erosion. Since 1980, there has been an increase in the frequency and cost of billion-dollar weather and climate events (e.g., severe storms, hurricanes, flooding) in the United States.²

Over the past two decades, the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events have been increasing. The fastest rates of sea level rise in the United States are along the Gulf Coast from the mouth of the Mississippi River westward.³ And since 2000, high tide flooding (a.k.a.,

1 The GRP focuses its work in the Gulf of Mexico and the adjacent coastal regions of the five Gulf States (Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas). The GRP also works in other areas of the outer continental shelf of the United States where there is offshore drilling, hydrocarbon production, and transportation, and in adjacent coastal regions. This includes coastal areas of the Southcentral region of Alaska.

2 NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information. 2021. "U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters." Retrieved June 9, 2021 from <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/>.

3 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. January 25, 2021. "Climate Change: Global Sea Level." Retrieved on June 7, 2021 from <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/understanding-climate/climate-change-global-sea-level>.

“nuisance” or “sunny day” flooding) along the Gulf Coast has been increasing, resulting in damages to coastal infrastructure such as homes and roads.⁴

However, despite the increase in exposure or potential exposure to the impacts of climate change, only 41% of adults across the five Gulf Coast states and 39% in Alaska believe climate change will harm them personally.⁵ Engaging communities about climate change can sometimes be challenging, especially if it involves discussions about sensitive issues such as mental health, community displacement, culture, or livelihoods.

PURPOSE OF THIS FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The GRP is developing new programming around health and community resilience that prioritizes the needs and challenges of communities that are at risk from climate hazards and other disasters. This funding opportunity is an initial step toward understanding how to effectively engage communities about the impacts of climate change.

Specifically, the GRP is seeking proposals from nonprofits and CBOs with 501(c)(3) status that explore innovative methods or approaches to engage communities about climate change impacts on human health or community resilience. The nonprofits and CBOs must have an existing climate adaptation or disaster resilience program in the GRP’s geographic region (i.e., the coastal regions of one of the five Gulf of Mexico states or Southcentral Alaska). The GRP encourages partnerships with other organizations, institutions, academia, etc.

Examples of community engagement approaches or methods could include, but are not limited to, community-based monitoring, mobile technology applications (i.e. apps), videos, story maps, art, music, toolkits, manuals, visioning exercises, peer-to-peer learning, or storytelling. Applicants are encouraged to be creative in their approach.

Each project will produce the following deliverables:

1. A report that includes a/an:
 - a. Overview of the location (e.g., city, town, parish) where the project was implemented.
 - b. Description of the general characteristics of the target community that participated in the engagement activity, and a discussion of why the target community was selected for this engagement activity.
 - c. Discussion of the climate change impacts on human health or community resilience that were explored.

4 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. July 2020. *2019 State of U.S. High Tide Flooding with a 2020 Outlook*. NOAA Technical Report NOS CO-OPS 092. Retrieved on June 8, 2021 from https://tide-sandcurrents.noaa.gov/publications/Techrpt_092_2019_State_of_US_High_Tide_Flooding_with_a_2020_Outlook_30June2020.pdf.

5 Yale Program on Climate Change Communication. September 2, 2020. “Yale Climate Opinion Maps 2020.” Retrieved on May 24, 2021 from at <https://climatecommunication.yale.edu/visualizations-data/ycom-us/>.

- d. Description of the approach or method developed and how it was implemented to engage the target community.
 - e. Summary of the beliefs, values, or attitudes of the target community about the climate change impacts before and after their participation in the engagement activity.
 - f. Assessment of the outcomes of the engagement activity (e.g., did it raise awareness, increase knowledge, or change attitudes or behaviors of the target community?).
 - g. Summary of the feedback from the target community about their experience participating in the engagement activity.
 - h. Discussion of the successes and challenges in developing and implementing the engagement activity.
 - i. Identification of possible next steps or follow-on activities.
2. Products (e.g., manuals, toolkits) or access to products (e.g., website, mobile app) that were produced from the community engagement activity.

The GRP will share these deliverables with other organizations interested in engaging their communities about climate change impacts.

GRP grantees are also required to adhere to internal GRP reporting requirements (i.e., progress reports, financial reports). For more information, see “Reporting Requirements.”

PROJECT GUIDELINES

ELIGIBILITY

The GRP will accept proposals from nonprofits and CBOs with 501(c)(3) status. Partnerships with other organizations, institutions, academia, etc. are encouraged.

The applying organization will be referred to as the “applicant” hereafter. The individual who will lead the proposed project will be referred to as “project director” hereafter.

To be eligible to apply for this funding opportunity, applicants must have:

- 501(c)(3) status.
- An existing climate adaptation or disaster resilience program in the GRP’s geographic region.
- A valid federal tax ID number.

REQUIREMENTS

Proposed activities must adhere to the following:

- Applicants must propose a community engagement method or approach to implement.
- The proposed community engagement activity must address climate change impacts on

- human health or community resilience.
- This funding opportunity is for new, distinct activities only. Proposed activities that are part of a broader, existing effort or project may be eligible if the proposal clearly demonstrates that the funding request is for new or distinct activities that would not otherwise occur.
- Proposed activities that are currently under consideration for funding from other sources are not eligible.

Project directors and project team members in a proposal must adhere to the following:

- An individual may be proposed as project director in only one proposal associated with this funding opportunity. If an individual is proposed as project director in any proposal they may also be proposed as key personnel in up to two additional proposals.
- An individual not proposed as a project director in any proposal may be named as key personnel in up to three proposals associated with this funding opportunity.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND REVIEW

Applications for this funding opportunity will be reviewed through a full proposal process. Please review the application preparation and submission instructions and submit any questions to gulfgrants@nas.edu before the submission deadlines. The GRP cannot guarantee that applicants' questions will be answered before submission deadlines.

FULL PROPOSAL

The GRP will only accept proposals submitted via the [online application system](#). Full proposal materials submitted in any language other than English will not be considered. The GRP may reject, without review, proposals that are not responsive to the Request for Proposal instructions.

The full proposal must include the following elements:

- I. Project Team. Applicants are encouraged to assemble diverse project teams. Partnerships with other organizations, institutions, academia, etc. are encouraged.
 - a. Project director
 - b. ORCID (Open Research and Contributor ID)
 - c. Key personnel
 - d. Applicant overview (up to 500 words)
 - i. Describe the applicant (e.g., location, service area, mission, etc.)
 - ii. Describe the applicant's work in the target community, if applicable
 - e. Summary of the project director and project team members' current and prior work within the target community, if applicable. (up to 500 words)
 - f. Involvement of the project director or project team members in other proposals related to this funding opportunity (up to 500 words)

II. Project Details

- a. Project title (maximum 15 words)
- b. Project key words (maximum 10 words)
- c. Project summary (maximum 250 words)
- d. Provide a timeline of activities (maximum 500 words)
- e. Project description
 - i. Provide an overview of the location (e.g., city, town, parish) where this project will be implemented. (maximum 500 words)
 - ii. Describe the target community that will be engaged through the proposed activity (e.g., a specific neighborhood, stakeholder group, group of people with a shared language or culture, etc.). Explain why this target community was selected. (maximum 500 words)
 - iii. Proposed community engagement activity
 1. Discuss the climate change impacts on human health or community resilience that will be explored. (maximum 300 words)
 2. Describe the proposed community engagement approach or method that will be implemented. Other communities should be able to adapt and implement your approach or method. (maximum 300 words)
 3. Explain why your proposed community engagement approach or method is innovative. (maximum 300 words)
 - iv. What are the anticipated deliverables and potential outcomes of this project? (maximum 500 words)
- f. Project assessment
 - i. How will you assess the target community's beliefs, values, or attitudes about the climate change impacts before and after participation in the engagement activity? (maximum 300 words)
 - ii. How will you assess the success of your project? How will you solicit feedback from the target community before and after participation in the engagement activity about their experience participating in the activity? (maximum 500 words)
 - iii. What does success look like for your project? (maximum 300 words)
- g. Information protection. If applicable, how will you ensure that information collected from the target community is protected to ensure privacy? (up to 250 words)

III. Project Budget

- a. Anticipated total project budget
- b. Anticipated budget distribution among organizations you partner with, if applicable.

IV. Required Attachments:

1. **Budget Form** ([template](#)). Complete this form to provide information on the proposed budget. Budget requests should be developed commensurate with the support needed to achieve the project goals.
2. **Budget justification** (maximum 2,000 words). View a [sample budget justification](#).
3. **Resume(s)**: A resume is required for the project director and each individual identified as a project team member. Resumes are limited to two pages for each person. Please combine all resumes into a single PDF document before uploading as an attachment. If a resume is longer than two pages, only the first two pages will be considered in peer review.
4. **Current board members**: Upload a document with a list of names and their affiliation.

5. **Current and Pending Support from Other Sources Form:** [Download](#) the form and complete it to provide information on current and pending support from other sources for the project director and project team members, if applicable, and upload it to the online application system.

RESEARCH INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) require that all participants in funded research projects are treated respectfully and ethically, and that their privacy is protected. If your project is selected for funding, the GRP will assess whether or not the project involves research on humans. If human research is involved, then the GRP will work with you to submit the appropriate documentation about your project to the NASEM Institutional Review Board (IRB) for review and approval before an award can be made. Visit our website for more [information about human subjects regulations](#).

DATA MANAGEMENT

The GRP follows the federal government's definition of data in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) 2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 200.315: "...the recorded factual material commonly accepted in the scientific community as necessary to validate research findings." If your proposal is selected for funding, the GRP will assess if your proposed project involves research that requires a data management plan. If research data is involved, then the GRP will work with you to submit the appropriate documentation, including a data management plan, before an award can be made. Visit our website for [more information about the GRP's data management policy](#).

FULL PROPOSAL PEER REVIEW PROCESS

Only complete applications meeting the eligibility criteria will be evaluated by external reviewers based on the Merit Review Criteria (see below). Funding decisions will take into consideration the reviewer's evaluations and the program's funding availability, current portfolio, objectives, and goals. The final decision for funding will be made by the National Academies. Visit our website to see the [GRP's conflict of interest and confidentiality policies](#).

FULL PROPOSAL MERIT REVIEW CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of four review criteria. The bullets under each criterion should guide applicants in writing their proposals and guide reviewers in evaluating a proposal.

Relevance (35%)

- To what extent does the proposal address the funding opportunity challenge and provide a well justified approach to achieve intended outcomes?
- To what extent is the proposal feasible within the criteria of this funding opportunity?
- To what extent does the proposal engage a community about climate change impacts on human health or community resilience?

Engagement and Impact (35%)

- To what extent does the proposal identify and engage appropriate stakeholders?
- To what extent is the proposed community engagement method or approach innovative within the context of the target community?
- To what extent could the anticipated project outcomes potentially be used by other communities, organizations, institutions or groups within or outside of the project community?
- To what extent is the project's assessment appropriate to determine the success of the approach or method?

Project Team (20%)

- To what extent are project team members well-qualified in their experience, knowledge, and skills to ensure the completion of a successful project?

Budget (10%)

- To what extent is the budget commensurate with the proposed activities?

MAKING THE AWARD

SELECTION NOTICE

The GRP reserves the right to select all, some, one, or none of the proposals received in response to this solicitation.

When the evaluation of a proposal is complete, the project director will be notified that (1) the proposal has been selected for funding pending contract negotiations, or (2) the proposal has not been selected. These official notifications will be sent via email to the project director identified on the application. If a proposal is selected for award, the GRP reserves the right to request additional or clarifying information for any reason deemed necessary, including, but not limited to, indirect cost information or other budget information. Awardees are free to accept or reject the grant agreement as offered.

AWARD NOTICE

The GRP transmits award notices to organizations via e-mail. The award is not finalized and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine is not obligated to provide any funding until a signed copy of the award agreement has been received by the Academies.

GRANT PERIODS

Upon receipt of the award notice, the awardee should note the effective date and the expiration date. Effective date is the date specified in the grant notice on or after which expenditures may be charged to the grant. Charging expenditures to the grant prior to the effective date is prohibited. Expiration date is the date specified in the grant notice after which expenditures may not be charged against the grant except to satisfy obligations to pay allowable project costs committed on or before that date. Once an award is made, the effective date cannot be changed. The expiration date may be changed as a result of approval of a request for a no-cost extension. If approved, the GRP will issue an amendment to the grant.

If additional time beyond the performance period and the established expiration date is required to assure adequate completion of the original scope of work within the funds already made available, the awardee may apply for a one-time, no-cost extension of up to six months. A formal request must be submitted to the GRP at least 45 days prior to the expiration date of the grant. The request must explain the need for the extension and include an estimate of the unobligated funds remaining and a plan for their use. This one-time extension will not be approved solely for the purpose of using the unliquidated balances.

DATA MANAGEMENT POLICY

The GRP follows the federal government's definition of data in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) 2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 200.315: "...the recorded factual material commonly accepted in the scientific community as necessary to validate research findings." If your proposal is selected for funding, the GRP will assess if your proposed project involves research that requires a data management plan. If research data is involved, then the GRP will work with you to submit the appropriate documentation, including a data management plan, before an award can be made.⁶ Visit our website for [more information about the GRP's data management policy](#).

POST-AWARD MANAGEMENT

COORDINATION WITH GRP

After the award is conferred, grantees shall coordinate with GRP to formally initiate the project. GRP staff will periodically request status meetings during the project implementation phase to discuss progress and any unanticipated developments that may affect the project outcomes as specified in the grant agreement. These interactions will help ensure successful management of the grant.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

After an award is conferred, the grantee shall provide a semi-annual financial report to the GRP to report on grant expenditures to date under the grant. The grantee shall provide an annual

⁶ For more information about the GRP's data management policy visit <https://www.nationalacademies.org/gulf/data-management>.

written report to the GRP to report on activities being carried out under the grant, including but not limited to project accomplishments to date and grant expenditures. No later than sixty (60) days after the expiration of the award, the grantee shall provide in writing a final grant report. The final grant report shall address the original objectives of the project as identified in the grant proposal, describe any changes in objectives, describe the final project accomplishments, and include a final project accounting of all grant funds.

SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY

A fundamental purpose of the GRP is to facilitate the advancement of knowledge and the application of science to address challenges relevant to the Program's mission. All activities of the GRP will be conducted to meet the highest standards of scientific integrity. All grantees have a responsibility to use the funds wisely.

GRANT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please review the Grant Agreement prior to submitting an application. It is the policy of National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to entertain potential modifications to the Grant Agreement only under the most exceptional circumstances. Rather, successful applicants are strongly encouraged to sign the Grant Agreement as presented.

- [View a sample grant agreement if the applicant is a public institution.](#)
- [View a sample agreement if the applicant is a private institution.](#)

BACKGROUND

ABOUT THE GULF RESEARCH PROGRAM

The GRP is a division of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine—a private, nonprofit organization with a 150-year history as an independent advisor to the Nation on issues of science, engineering, and medicine. The GRP was founded in 2013 as part of legal settlements with the companies involved in the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster, and received an endowment to carry out studies, projects, and other activities in the areas of research and development, education and training, and monitoring and synthesis.

The GRP seeks to enhance offshore energy safety, environmental protection and stewardship, and human health and community resilience in the Gulf of Mexico and beyond. It focuses its work on the Gulf of Mexico and other outer continental shelves of the United States where there is hydrocarbon production, and on their coastal zones; specifically, this includes the areas of the Southcentral region of Alaska that are or could be impacted by activities (e.g., drilling, production, transportation) associated with hydrocarbon production in the offshore. Where appropriate, the GRP's work may extend farther inland or into adjacent seas.

The GRP uses four strategic approaches to “catalyze, implement, and track positive impact in the Gulf of Mexico and beyond”⁷:

1. Advance science and understanding
2. Bridge knowledge to action
3. Build partnerships and engage networks
4. Monitor for progress and change

THE GRP’S HEALTH AND RESILIENCE PROGRAM

The GRP’s Health and Resilience Program works to put science into action in ways that enhance health, well-being, and resilience across communities in its geographic areas of focus (i.e., the coastal areas of the Gulf region and the Southcentral region of Alaska). Its overarching goals are to:

- Reduce inequities in health and community resilience.
- Advance research and practice related to health and community resilience.
- Promote a culture of health and community resilience.

The Health and Resilience Program uses two complementary frameworks to approach its work:

1. the social determinants of health⁸
2. the six community capitals⁹

Social determinants of health are the conditions in the environment where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. Examples include, but are not limited to, education, employment, environment, health services and systems, housing, income and wealth, public safety, and transportation. The six community capitals—infrastructure, natural, financial, human and cultural, social, and political—represent a community’s assets.

Resilience is the “ability to prepare and plan for, absorb, recover from, and more successfully adapt to adverse events.”¹⁰

7 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2020. *Gulf Research Program: 2020-2024 Strategic Plan*, pp. 3-4. Available at https://www.nationalacademies.org/_cache_of9e/content/4885770000227383.pdf. Retrieved April 24, 2021.

8 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2017. *Communities in Action: Pathways to Health Equity*, pp. 116-9. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/24624>.

9 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2019. *Building and Measuring Community Resilience: Actions for Communities and the Gulf Research Program*, pp. 15-17. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/25383>.

10 National Research Council. 2012. *Disaster Resilience: A National Imperative*, p. 1. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/13457>.