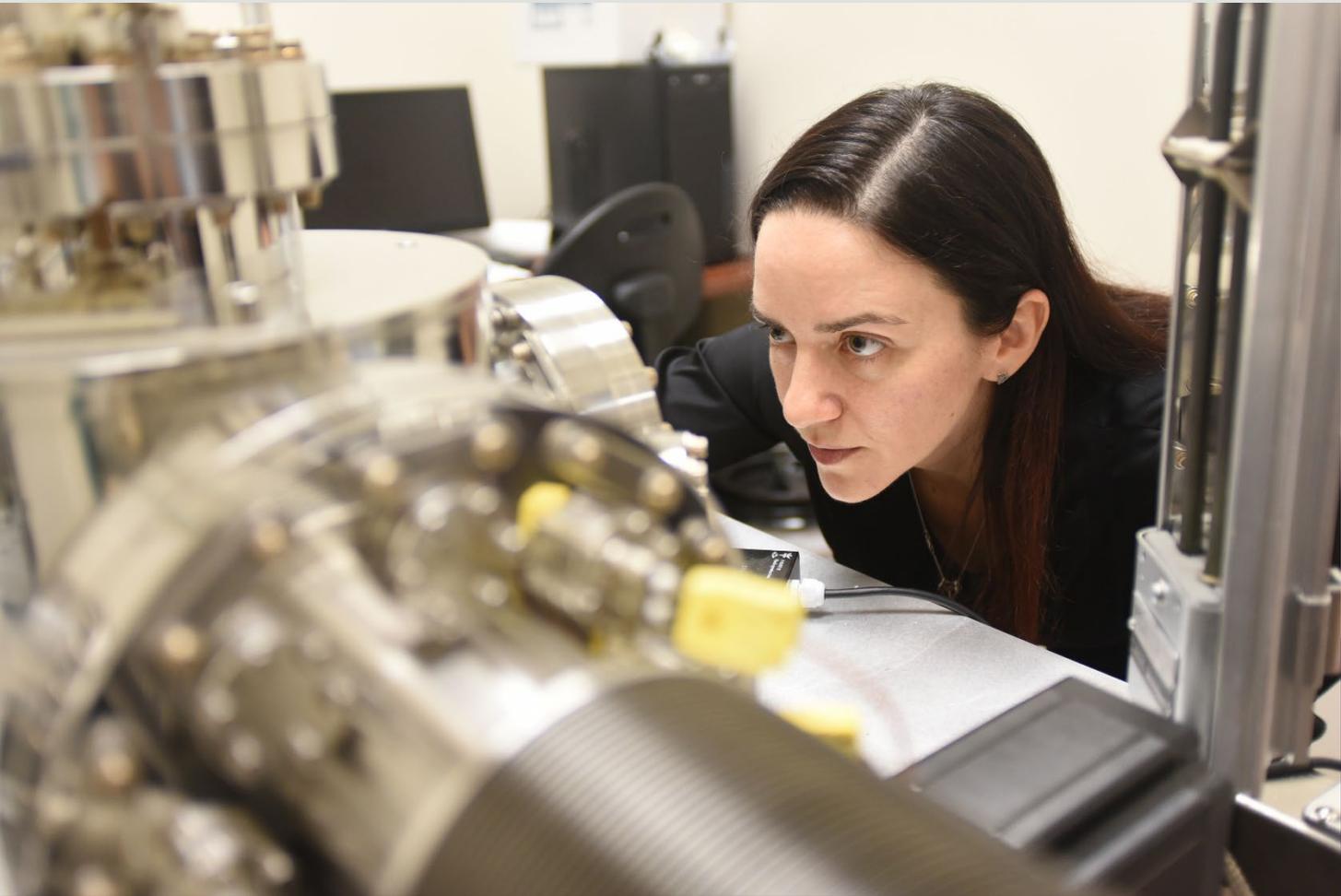


March 23, 2026

# Evidence to Action



**NATIONAL  
ACADEMIES** *Sciences  
Engineering  
Medicine*

**GULF RESEARCH PROGRAM**

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# EVIDENCE TO ACTION

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's [Gulf Research Program](#) (GRP) aims to increase the impact of its work by transforming results and insights (evidence) from previous GRP grants into actionable changes in policy, practice, or technology deployment. The Evidence to Action (E2A) funding opportunity seeks applications from past and current GRP project directors/project team members to demonstrate and facilitate the translation of GRP-funded research results, data, and/or other products or findings to influence decision making in policy; design and implement or modify community or institutional programs; or accelerate deployment of technologies. Through audience-specific deliverables such as data sets, short films, community storytelling, policy briefs, industry or government pitches, and other tools, this call aims to make previously supported project results more visible, accessible, and actionable.

A total of \$1.9 million is available for the Evidence to Action funding opportunity, with the number of applications funded dependent on the quality and quantity of the applications. Two types of awards are available: E2A Catalyst Awards (up to \$50,000 per award) and E2A Implementation & Acceleration Awards (up to \$200,000 per award). Awards may not exceed 30 months in duration.

## KEY DATES

- **March 23, 2026:** Online application submission opens
- **April 22, 2026:** Funding opportunity Questions and Answers Session
- **May 14, 2026:** Submission Help Office Hours
- **May 18, 2026:** Deadline for submissions of applications due by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time
- **September 2026:** Award selection and notification
- **October 1, 2026:** Anticipated funding start date
- Online submission website: <https://gulfresearchprogram.smapply.io/>

## AWARD INFORMATION

- **Total funding available:** \$1.9 Million
- **Specifications for award amount:** Applicants may request up to \$50,000 for E2A Catalyst Awards and up to \$200,000 for E2A Implementation & Acceleration Awards. Award amounts are inclusive of overhead charges (capped at 20% under this funding opportunity).
- **Award duration:** Grants will be awarded to support projects up to 30 months in duration.
- **Estimated number of awards:** Up to 20 awards: Estimated 10 to 12 E2A Catalyst Awards and five to eight E2A Implementation & Acceleration Awards. The number of awards for this funding opportunity will depend on the applications received. The Gulf Research Program

reserves the right to fund some, one, or none of the applications received in response to this solicitation.

- **Award notification:** September 2026

## **PURPOSE**

The Gulf Research Program (GRP) designs its work to have three positive impacts: (1) build a durable scientific evidence base about the Gulf region, (2) generate effective solutions to the region’s pressing challenges, and (3) prepare the future workforce to carry those solutions forward. These three impacts are the guiding strategic objectives for the GRP. The Evidence to Action (E2A) funding opportunity seeks to advance these objectives by accelerating the translation of GRP grantee outputs into compelling, actionable products and activities that elevate and expand impact beyond the life of an initial GRP grant.

We recognize that knowledge producers—including researchers, educators, and community partners—are often constrained by time, institutional demands, and lack of access to specialized expertise needed to translate their work into compelling, high-impact products. In addition to a significant time commitment, producing materials that effectively communicate evidence, elevate community insights, and drive real-world action frequently requires specialized skills in design, storytelling, communications strategy, visual data presentation, multimedia production, and stakeholder engagement.

A core purpose of the Evidence to Action (E2A) grants is to provide resources that enable grantees to engage collaborators—such as graphic designers, writers, communications specialists, evaluators, or community leaders, policymakers, and service providers—who can help transform existing knowledge into accessible, actionable products that deepen reach and accelerate impact.

## **WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR: AREAS OF IMPACT**

The GRP will fund projects that transform evidence into action in three key impact areas: policy change, program enhancement, and technology deployment.

**Policy Change:** activities that aim to inform relevant policies at the local, state, regional, and/or national level. Impact will typically be achieved by engaging relevant stakeholders such as local and state policy makers, government appointed officials, print and news media, and/or community members.

Examples of supported Policy Change activities may include but are not limited to:

- Developing and sharing decision-ready policy memos that translate GRP-funded findings into policy options, tradeoffs, or implementation considerations for specific agencies or jurisdictions with identified points of contacts;

- Creating multimedia materials to disseminate research findings or results to the community and policymakers; or
- Hosting targeted briefings or roundtables with local, state, or regional policymakers to discuss how findings or evidence apply to current policy decisions, to disseminate information to policymakers and/or to draft policy recommendations.

We are looking for clear evidence that GRP-funded research, analyses, or tools can inform policy development, governance decisions, guidance, or formal decision-making processes at local, state, federal, or institutional levels.

**Program Enhancement:** activities that aim to inform relevant government or organization programs. Program activities in areas such as education, health, and environment-- including the implementation of a new tool, methodology or practice--are encouraged. Applicants should use the results, data, evidence, or other outcomes generated by the activities in the originally funded GRP award as the basis for program impact. The impact should be achieved by engaging relevant stakeholders, including GRP or other donor organizations; national, state, and local policymakers; government-appointed officials and regional managers, higher education leaders, civil society groups, or the public.

Examples of supported Program Enhancement activities include but are not limited to:

- Adapting a GRP-supported data product, model, or decision-support tool for use in local or community programs by refining interfaces, outputs, or workflows to match practitioner or organizational needs;
- Delivering training, onboarding, or technical assistance to program staff, practitioners, or community partners on how to interpret and apply GRP-supported data, tools, or methodologies;
- Scaling up an approach, such as a new educational curriculum, into local or community programming; or
- Increasing cross-sector partnerships among community groups, researchers, and policymakers around shared evidence.

We are looking for clear evidence that GRP-funded research, methods, tools, or frameworks can be intentionally adopted, integrated, or adapted by organizations/agencies to inform the design, implementation, or improvement of programs.

**Technology Deployment:** activities that aim to advance a technology developed under an originally funded GRP award and accelerate the reach and uptake by end-users.

Examples of activities supported under Technology Deployment include but are not limited to:

- Training relevant stakeholders to increase use of the technology for real world application;

- Demonstrating the effectiveness of your technology to broader audiences;
- Joining a makerspace to develop a prototype of your technology;
- Launching small-scale production for limited distribution; or
- Conducting a pilot study of the potential impact of your technology.

We are looking for clear evidence that GRP-funded innovations, models, data tools, or technical approaches have been operationalized, embedded, or scaled to influence real-world technology deployment or decision-making.

The National Academies must remain in compliance with federal guidance as it evolves. Given this, we advise applicants to ensure their applications align with applicable executive orders and review criteria and focus on presenting a strong and well-supported proposal.

## PROJECT STRUCTURE

Applicants may apply under one of the following two award categories of Evidence to Action:

### **E2A Catalyst Awards (up to \$50,000 per award, estimated 10-12 awards)**

- Support targeted activities that leverage grant outputs and strengthen the pathway to action.
- Appropriate for: Early-stage translation efforts; stakeholder convenings to shape uptake; development or refinement of communication tools; pilot dissemination strategies; and/or targeted adaptation of tools for a specific audience
- Catalyst Awards emphasize **clarity of pathway and feasibility of uptake**, not scale.

### **E2A Implementation & Acceleration Awards (up to \$200,000 per award, estimated 5-8 awards)**

- Support substantial, well-developed efforts to implement, scale, or accelerate adoption of GRP-funded results in policy change, program enhancement, or technology deployment.
- Appropriate For: Coordinated, multi-partner implementation efforts; state/regional policy adoption strategies; program expansion to multiple communities; and/or full communications and engagement campaigns tied to measurable uptake.
- These awards emphasize **depth of engagement, readiness, and likelihood of real-world adoption**.

All proposals should address three key components:

(A) The intended award category: E2A Catalyst Award or E2A Implementation & Acceleration Award

(B) The GRP Evidence to Action area of impact with a description of how the proposed activity or product will accomplish that impact. The three E2A areas of impact are:

- Policy Change
- Program Enhancement
- Technology Deployment

(C) A description of the activity or product to be used to accomplish the proposed impact, including information on any intended partners or collaborators and a plan for communication to the desired audience(s). Applicants may propose a portfolio of audience-specific deliverables.

Examples of possible activities or products include:

- Short films or digital stories highlighting community impacts or innovations
- Policy briefs, memos, toolkits, or industry-facing summaries showing progress toward scalable solutions
- User manuals, toolkits, implementation guides, or plain-language documentation that support effective use of GRP-funded data products, models, or decision-support tools by practitioners, agencies, or industry partners
- Podcasts, video or slide decks designed for use in philanthropic, public sector, or institutional pitches
- Youth-led or student-informed storytelling projects that illustrate workforce preparation
- Games/serious games to encourage discussions and raise awareness
- Interactive displays at museums to facilitate learning
- Tailored webinars or learning sessions tailored to scientific, practitioners, and/or community audiences
- Engagement materials for local or regional briefings with decisionmakers or community members

Applicants should carefully review the [Merit Review Criteria](#) prior to submitting.

## ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants are **limited to past and current GRP project directors/project team members**. Current GRP grantees are eligible to apply only if they have completed **at least one year of project activities under their current award by May 2026**. Federal agencies, for-profit organizations, foreign institutions, and individuals are not eligible to apply or receive funding; however, they may participate as project partners. 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. All eligible applicants must have a valid federal tax ID number in order to apply.

The Program will not consider funding:

- Applications for political lobbying or advocacy activities.
- The continuation of research activities associated with the originally funded GRP award;
- Academic publications, including journal articles or book chapters, where dissemination to scholarly audiences is the primary objective;
- Conference presentations or attendance (including travel) that focus on sharing research findings without a clear evidence-to-action pathway or targeted stakeholder engagement; and
- Training programs or workshops that were intended to be part of the original work or do not substantially enhance the impact of the originally funded GRP research.

Project Directors usually initiate applications that are officially submitted by their employing organizations (the applicant). When initiating an application, the Project Director typically is responsible for ensuring the application meets all the requirements outlined by the Gulf Research Program as well as any requirements set by the employing organizations.

The Gulf Research Program requires individuals named as Project Director or Key Personnel in an application to adhere to the following:

- An individual may be proposed as Project Director in only one application. If an individual is proposed as Project Director in any application, they may also be proposed as Key Personnel in up to two additional applications.
- An individual not proposed as a Project Director in any application may be named as Key Personnel in up to three applications.
- It is the responsibility of each individual being named as Project Director or Key Personnel in any application to ensure that they are not named in more than three total applications.

To best serve the residents of the region, the GRP aims to limit the overhead charges on grants. As such, overhead charges for this grant opportunity cannot exceed a total of 20%. This limit also applies to subawardee budgets.

## **APPLICATION SUBMISSION**

Applicants can apply for this funding opportunity via the [online application system](#). Applications submitted by other means (e.g., mail, fax, or email) will not be considered. Application materials must be submitted in English.

Project Directors should review the application preparation and submission instructions and submit any questions to [gulfgrants@nas.edu](mailto:gulfgrants@nas.edu) prior to the submission deadlines. The Gulf Research Program strives to respond to applicants' questions within two business days but cannot guarantee that applicants' questions will be answered before submission deadlines.

## APPLICATION GUIDELINES

All complete applications will be reviewed by a review panel and evaluated using the [Merit Review Criteria](#).

The application must provide the following information:

- 1) Project Team:
  - a) Project Director
    - i) ORCID (Open Research and Contributor ID)
  - b) Key Personnel
  - c) Applicant Overview (maximum 500 words)
  - d) Involvement of Project Director or Key Personnel in other applications related to this funding opportunity
- 2) Project Details:
  - a) Project Title (maximum 15 words)
  - b) Project Acronym
  - c) Project Key Words (maximum 10 words). Please highlight key features of your application that make it unique.
  - d) Impact Area (select one): Policy, Program, or Technology Deployment
  - e) Award Category (select one): E2A Catalyst or E2A Implementation & Acceleration
  - f) Project Summary (maximum 250 words)
  - g) Project Partners. Describe project partners role in the proposed work. Project partners may include key personnel.
  - h) Intended Audiences and End-Users (max 50 words). Describe the intended audiences and end-users for your communication product(s) and evidence to action project.
  - i) Evidence: Short description of GRP-funded evidence to translate into action (max 100 words). Evidence is defined broadly to include data, research findings, community insights, or lessons learned.
  - j) Communication product(s). Select from the list.
  - k) Project Timeline
  - l) Project Description (maximum 4,000 words total)
  - m) Measuring Impact (max 1,000 words). Please describe how you will measure your evidence to action and the impact metrics that will be used.
- 3) Proposed Budget
  - a) Total Budget Requested.
    - i) Total award amounts should be inclusive of overhead charges.

- ii) To best serve the residents of the region, the GRP aims to limit the overhead charges on grants. As such, overhead charges for this grant opportunity cannot exceed a total of 20%. This limit also applies to subawardee budgets.
  - b) Budget Justification: Please submit a budget justification. A [sample budget justification](#) is provided (maximum 2,000 words)
  - c) Budget Form: Download the [budget 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. Adequate compensation should be provided for community-based organization partners and community members for the effort they are contributing to the project, if applicable.
- 4) Other Attachments
- a) Data Management Plan: Describe how project data will be collected, managed, stored, protected, and made accessible throughout the lifetime of the project. Certain exceptions apply for evaluation data and projects whose main goal is education. Please refer to the [GRP's Data Management Policy](#) for explicit instructions on developing the project's Data Management Plan. (Maximum 1,500 words)
  - b) Resume(s): Resumes are required for the Project Director and every individual identified as a Project Team member. Resumes may not exceed two pages per person. All resumes should be combined and uploaded as a single PDF document. Do not include resumes for individuals not named as a Project Director or Project Team member.
  - c) Additional Files

**The National Academies must remain in compliance with federal guidance as it evolves. Given this, we advise applicants to ensure their applications align with applicable executive orders, review criteria, and focus on presenting a strong and well-supported proposal.**

## **MERIT REVIEW CRITERIA**

It is important that all applications clearly describe how the anticipated outputs and outcomes are appropriately aligned with the goals of the proposed project.

Applicants should consider the application Guidelines as well as Merit Review Criteria in the development of their application. All complete applications will be evaluated on the basis of the Merit Review Criteria described below. Reviewers may raise additional issues that are not covered by the criteria.

### Potential for Actionable Impact (20%)

- To what extent is the proposed work likely to result in meaningful action, such as policy influence, program adoption or expansion, or technology deployment?

### Measuring Impact (10%)

- To what extent does the proposal identify appropriate, fit-for-purpose indicators to measure and track progress toward meaningful impact?

#### Use of Evidence (15%)

- To what extent does the proposal effectively synthesize and apply data, research findings, community insights, or lessons learned from GRP-supported work to inform decisions, practices, or solutions?

#### Stakeholder Engagement (15%)

- To what extent does the proposal identify and meaningfully engage relevant stakeholders/end-users and strengthen or build cross-sector partnerships that support implementation and use?

#### Communication Products and Strategy (20%)

- To what extent are the proposed communication products well-designed, audience-appropriate, and integrated into the overall strategy to translate evidence into compelling stories, tools, or materials that support engagement and action?

#### Feasibility and Project Design (10%)

- To what extent is the proposed approach clear, feasible, and well-designed, with appropriate activities, timeline, budget, and team expertise to successfully complete the project?

## **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

The copyrights in all written materials, photographs, drawings, software, information products and other works subject to copyright protection created or generated under this Grant shall be owned by Grantee. With respect to such copyrighted works, NAS and the U.S. Government shall have a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable license to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use, and to authorize others to use such copyrighted works for U.S. Government or NAS purposes. In addition to any other rights it may have, the U.S. Government shall have the rights provided in 2 CFR section 200.315, as that section may be revised from time to time. All such copyrighted works shall include a formal acknowledgement of NAS' funding under this Grant Agreement. Grantee shall provide at least one hard copy and an electronic copy of each such copyrighted work to NAS. NAS encourages Grantee to publish and disseminate any such copyrighted works.

With respect to research data, which shall include the recorded factual material commonly accepted in the scientific community as necessary to validate research findings (but not any

preliminary analyses, drafts of scientific papers, plans for future research, peer reviews, or communications with colleagues), Grantee shall retain all rights in said data but shall provide timely and unrestricted access to the data to NAS and the U.S. Government. Without limitation of the foregoing, the U.S. Government and NAS shall have the right to (1) obtain, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the research data first produced under this Grant, and (2) authorize others to receive, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use such data for NAS or U.S. Government purposes.

The policies on patents outlined in 35 USC Sections 200-211, in 37 CFR Section 401, and in the Presidential Memorandum on Government Patent Policy dated February 18, 1983, will serve as basic guidance on patent rights on inventions developed by Grantee during the term of this Grant Agreement so as to encourage the maximum participation in the program. Grantee will have the right to elect title to the patent rights in inventions resulting from work under this Grant Agreement, subject to the U.S. Government and NAS each acquiring a worldwide nonexclusive, non-transferrable (except as provided below), irrevocable, paid-up license to practice or have practiced for on behalf of the U.S. Government or NAS, but in the case of NAS, solely in connection with the Gulf Research Program, and any such invention shall also be subject to the “march-in” rights of the U.S. Government as set forth in the above cited statute and regulations. Without limitation of the foregoing, the license provided to NAS shall include the right to sublicense its rights to contractors and grantees that perform studies, projects, or other activities under the Gulf Research Program, except that NAS shall not have the right to commercialize its rights outside the Gulf Research Program.

## **RESEARCH INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS**

Projects that involve human subjects must be reviewed by an Institutional Review Board (IRB) and either receive IRB approval or be granted exemption from human subjects regulations before an award can be made.

Applicants should determine whether their proposed activities meet the definition of “research involving human subjects” under 45 CFR §46.102. Projects that do not meet this definition do not require IRB review or exemption.

If IRB review is required, applicants are encouraged to begin the IRB submission process at the same time they submit their application to the Gulf Research Program, to avoid delays if selected for funding. An application may be submitted to the Gulf Research Program prior to receiving IRB approval or exemption; however, any award will be conditional upon the applicant providing IRB approval or exemption documentation within 90 days of the notice of conditional award.

If a project is granted exemption from human subjects regulations [see 45 CFR §46.104(d)], the applicant must provide documentation from an IRB (or another appropriate authority) confirming

the exemption and specifying the exemption category. Organizations without access to an internal IRB must seek approval or exemption from an independent review board or other qualified authority.

Applicants uncertain about whether their project requires IRB review may consult their institution's research compliance office or visit the Gulf Research Program [website](#) for more information.

## **DATA MANAGEMENT**

All applications must submit a Data Management Plan. Certain exceptions apply for evaluation data and projects whose main goal is education. Please refer to Section 2 of the GRP's [Data Management Policy](#) for the requirements regarding your application.

Most funded activities produce data. The Federal government defines data in Title 48 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 27.401 as "recorded information, regardless of form or the media on which it may be recorded." The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) further defines data in Memorandum M-13-13 on Open Data as "structured information" which is to be "contrasted with unstructured information (commonly referred to as "content") such as press releases and fact sheets." Unstructured information is commonly referred to as information products.

The GRP currently maintains a contract with GRIIDC, a Gulf science data repository, to help manage and store data and information products produced by recipients of GRP funding. This contract supports the GRP's goal of making data Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable (FAIR), and allows recipients of GRP funding to receive data management training, and to submit data and information products to GRIIDC at no additional cost.

Please refer to Section 3 of the GRP' [Data Management Policy](#) for specific instructions on how to format your plan.

The GRP's [Data Management Policy](#) provides additional information on what must be included in the data management plan submitted as part of an application.

## **MAKING THE AWARD**

### **Selection Notice**

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

When the evaluation of an application is complete, the Project Director will be notified that (1) the application has been selected for funding pending contract negotiations, or (2) the application has not been selected. These official notifications will be sent via email to the project director identified on the application. If an application 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.

### 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. The 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. The 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.

## POST-AWARD MANAGEMENT

### Coordination with GRP

After the award is conferred, grantees shall coordinate with the 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 an annual financial report to the GRP to report on grant expenditures to date under the grant. The grantee shall provide an annual 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 60 days after the expiration of the award, the grantee shall provide final financial and written grant reports. The final written grant report shall address the original objectives of the project as identified in the grant application, describe any changes in objectives, describe the final project accomplishments, and include a final project accounting of all grant funds in the final financial report.

## Data Management

Data management per the GRP's policies will be monitored through the annual and final report process, as well as through regular communication with GRIIDC. All awardees who expect to submit data must set up an account with GRIIDC within 3 months of the project start date and will be monitored regarding their submission of Dataset Information Forms and final datasets.

Specific timelines can be found in the GRP's [Data Management Policy](#).

## 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 GRP'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 AGREEMENT 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.](#)

## ABOUT THE GULF RESEARCH PROGRAM

[The National Academies'](#) Gulf Research Program (GRP) is an independent, science-based program founded in 2013 as part of legal settlements with the companies involved in the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster. The GRP's mission is to develop, translate, and apply science to enhance the safety of offshore energy, the environment, and the wellbeing of the people of the Gulf region for generations to come. It supports innovative science, guides data design and monitoring, and builds and sustains networks to generate long-term benefits for the Gulf region and the nation.