



FY 16 Section 306 PDC Competitive Grant Project Guidance

Section 306 PDC Competitive Grants

Contingent upon receipt of NOAA funds, the Virginia CZM Program intends to award grants on a competitive basis to coastal planning district commissions for the FY 2016 grant year (10/1/16 to 9/30/17). The intent of these grants is to provide PDCs the opportunity to address one or more of five priority topics selected by the Virginia Coastal Policy Team (CPT): water quality, coastal resiliency, working waterfronts, habitat restoration, and public access. A brief description of the types of activities for each topic follows:

- **Water Quality:** Provide technical assistance and develop tools for local governments that help to attain the nutrient reduction goals proposed by the Chesapeake Bay TMDL, Virginia's WIP, and Virginia storm water management regulations. Projects should be clearly oriented toward pollution reduction.
- **Coastal Resiliency:** Extend efforts of previous PDC projects or expand geographic coverage to those regions interested in addressing coastal resiliency and adaptation to climate change.
- **Working Waterfronts:** Expand and complement past Virginia CZM efforts through projects that help ensure the sustainability of working waterfronts and related industries.
- **Habitat Restoration:** Undertake projects to promote habitat restoration through social marketing (e.g. native plant campaigns) or undertake habitat restoration on public lands.
- **Public Access:** Develop public access plans or conduct small construction enhancement projects on *public lands* based on current 306A guidance (e.g. floating docks, nature trails, etc):

Section 306 PDC Competitive Proposal Guidelines:

- Although final CZM grant amounts are not yet available from NOAA, we anticipate that the maximum amount available for the PDC Competitive grant will be about \$150,000. Grantees should attempt to provide 1:1 match. However, should some Section 306/306A FY16 projects show overmatch, some competitive grants could be allowed to under-match. Each PDC may submit up to two proposals for this competitive funding. We anticipate awards to PDCs will be between \$10,000 and \$40,000.

- Joint proposals among PDCs will be accepted.
- Construction activities must meet CZMA Section 306A guidelines.
- Subcontracts are allowed and must be submitted using the embedded Sub-contractual budget Excel file in the proposal template with a description of the work to be performed accompanying the budget. Subcontracts must be awarded, at minimum, consistent with State procurement procedures.
- Proposals will be evaluated by a panel of reviewers and Virginia CZM staff with input from members of the Coastal Policy Team and selected technical experts.
- Proposals will be evaluated based on relevance to the goals of the Virginia CZM Program, potential for positive economic and environmental impact, technical merit, feasibility, and cost effectiveness. See details on the evaluation criteria and point system below.

Scoring Criteria and Possible Points (total possible points = 50)

- **Relevance to the Goals of the Virginia CZM Program (0-10 points, 10 being most relevant)** How well does the project address a topic included in the 2016 PDC Competitive Grant Guidance, and the relevant goals of the Virginia CZM Program?
- **Potential for Positive Economic and/or Environmental Impact (0-10 points, 10 being most positive)** To what degree will the project result in a positive economic and/or environmental impact?
- **Technical Merit (0-10 points, 10 being best)** How thorough, innovative and clearly articulated is the scope of work in describing the project, including plans for how final products will be disseminated and used?
- **Feasibility (0-10 points, 10 being most feasible)** How realistic is the proposed work given the level of funding requested and the one year timeframe for completion?
- **Cost Effectiveness (0-10 points, 10 being most cost effective)** How well do the outcomes of the project justify the level of funding requested? Points will not necessarily be deducted for under match if other projects (e.g. technical assistance grants) are over-matched.

Submission instructions: Proposals should be submitted via e-mail to April.Bahen@deq.virginia.gov using the Virginia CZM Program FY 16 project template (attached) **NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM, Wednesday, February 17, 2016**. Late proposals will not be considered for funding.

Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program Goals

(Goals highlighted in yellow address the 5 competitive grant priorities.)

Goal 1: To protect and restore coastal resources, habitats, and species of the Commonwealth. These include, but are not limited to, wetlands, subaqueous lands and vegetation, beaches, sand dune systems, barrier islands, underwater or maritime cultural resources, riparian forested buffers, and endangered or threatened species. **(Habitat Restoration)**

Goal 2: To restore and maintain the quality of all coastal waters for human and ecosystem health through protection from adverse effects of excess nutrients, toxics, pathogens, and sedimentation. **(Water Quality)**

Goal 3: To protect air quality.

Goal 4: To reduce or prevent losses of coastal habitat, life, and property caused by shoreline erosion, storms, and other coastal hazards in a manner that balances environmental and economic considerations. **(Coastal Resiliency)**

Goal 5: To provide for sustainable wild fisheries and aquaculture.

Goal 6: To promote sustainable ecotourism and to increase and improve public access to coastal waters and shorefront lands compatible with resource protection goals. **(Public Access)**

Goal 7: To promote renewable energy production and provide for appropriate extraction of energy and mineral resources consistent with proper environmental practices.

Goal 8: To ensure sustainable development on coastal lands and support access for water-dependent development through effective coordination of governmental planning processes. **(Working Waterfronts)**

Goal 9: To avoid and minimize coastal resource use conflicts through research, planning, and a forum for coordination and facilitation among government agencies, interest groups, and citizens.

Goal 10: To promote informed decision-making by maximizing the availability of up-to-date educational information, technical advice, and scientific data including the use of new tools such as marine spatial planning.