



## NOVEMBER 2018 – REQUEST FOR PREPROPOSALS

### Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program Large Research Grants

**Program Description:** The Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program (IISG) has up to \$600,000 to invest in promising research projects relevant to southern Lake Michigan and surrounding coastal communities in northeast Illinois and northwest Indiana. Work is to be completed in the 2020-2021 biennium. Work can be conducted outside of the area outlined above provided applicants make a compelling case for why their project is relevant to southern Lake Michigan and surrounding coastal communities.

All projects should focus on one or more of the following topic areas:

- Aquaculture
- Aquatic Invasive Species
- Climate Ready Communities
- Fisheries
- Great Lakes Cleanup
- Healthy Waters
- Recreation and Tourism
- Stormwater and Green Infrastructure
- Sustainable Community Planning
- Water Supply

IISG anticipates funding projects that use a variety of experimental techniques, including, but not limited to, field or laboratory studies, social science assessments (e.g., of attitudes or perceptions related to behavior change), economic cost-benefit analyses, and modeling efforts.

IISG-funded research serves as a strong basis for outreach or extension programs; thus, applicants are strongly encouraged to identify clear end users or otherwise make solid connections to stakeholder groups who will benefit from their research. Prospective PIs can find examples of previously funded research projects at [www.iiseagrant.org](http://www.iiseagrant.org). PIs may be able to discuss their project ideas with IISG extension specialists, both to review the potential for their proposed research to have maximal societal impact and/or identify potential stakeholder groups.

**Funding:** Projects can request up to \$90,000 per year for two years (maximum \$180,000 total). Assuming most applicants request the maximum, we anticipate funding three of these projects.

All applicants must demonstrate at least 50% match (one non-federal dollar for every two federal dollars requested). Examples of possible match include salary, volunteer time, equipment time, or unrecovered indirect costs, but specifics of what can be claimed vary among institutions. It is critical that matching dollars come from a non-federal funding source. Funding is available for up to two years beginning February 1, 2020, or the date of the award. All projects should be completed by January 31, 2022.

**Eligibility:** Project investigators from educational or research institutions in Illinois or Indiana, including universities, museums, and other NGOs, are eligible for these funds. Given that IISG supports research, education, and extension activities, IISG particularly encourages submissions that support students (graduate or undergraduate), post-doctoral researchers, and/or early career scientists.

IISG is also committed to supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. For this RFP, IISG specifically encourages applicants to recruit and engage students or fellows from underrepresented groups (particularly those whose backgrounds may have inhibited careers in science), technology, engineering, and math, as well as conduct research with potential to benefit underrepresented communities. The full IISG values statement can be found at [www.iiseagrant.org](http://www.iiseagrant.org).

**Special Focus on Aquaculture:** As part of the Sea Grant National Aquaculture Initiative (<https://seagrant.noaa.gov/Our-Work/Aquaculture>), IISG expects to have additional funds available to support aquaculture research. Thus, we strongly encourage proposals to inform aquaculture in Illinois and Indiana. Projects could evaluate any aspect of aquaculture in the Midwest, including, but not limited to:

- Assessing feasibility of establishing new aquaculture businesses in the Midwest or Great Lakes region.
- Analyses of current regulatory and/or economic impediments and potential solutions for aquaculture growth in Illinois and Indiana.
- Evaluating attitudes and perceptions toward consumption of fish grown in aquaculture.
- Exploring techniques or technologies to improve fish health and growth in aquaculture in the Midwest.
- Analyses to evaluate potential growth of existing markets and facilitate novel aquaculture markets.

If you are interested in submitting an aquaculture-related proposal, you are strongly encouraged to discuss your idea with Stuart Carlton ([carltons@purdue.edu](mailto:carltons@purdue.edu)) or Carolyn Foley ([cfoley@purdue.edu](mailto:cfoley@purdue.edu)) before submission.

### **Special Joint Proposals to Address Lake Michigan Coastal Erosion and Sediment**

**Transport:** The special joint proposals competition is a completely separate one from this RFP. We are encouraging Illinois and Indiana-based PIs to also consider applying to that competition, which requires partnering with at least one PI in another Lake Michigan state. Find more information here: <http://www.iiseagrant.org/newsroom/funding-collaborative-research-coastal-dynamics/>.

**Preproposal Submission Process:** Prospective PIs must submit a preproposal to be considered for funding. Each preproposal should be saved as a single PDF document and contain the following:

1. Cover page. List the Project Title, Principal Investigator and Affiliation, Associate Investigator(s) and Affiliation for all additional investigators (if applicable), plus topic area(s) for your project.
2. Two-page project summary. Single-spaced with no smaller than 11-point font. Outline the Objectives, Methodology and Rationale for your proposed project. As part of the project summary, you should identify stakeholder groups that could use your work outputs, and briefly describe how you will engage these users to that end, as well as potential impacts.

3. One-page preliminary budget. Provide a brief breakdown of anticipated costs plus what will likely be used as the 50% match (Year 1, Year 2, Total). Include overhead as required by your institution. Preproposals do not need a fully executed budget and deviations between the preproposal and full proposal budget are allowed; however, note that budget information is considered in the preproposal screening.
4. Two-page CVs for PI and main project partners. PIs from educational or research institutions in Illinois or Indiana are eligible for these funds. Subcontracts to non-Illinois or Indiana partners are possible.

Preproposals will be screened for the following:

- Does the work fit within the scope of the thematic areas?
- Is the work scientifically significant?
- Does the budget (including match) seem appropriate for the work described? Is the project a good value?
- Will the work fill important knowledge and data gaps?
- Will anticipated results lead to positive societal impacts?

**Preproposal Submission Deadline:** Preproposals are due by 5 p.m. CST (6 p.m. EST) February 4, 2019 to [iisgres@purdue.edu](mailto:iisgres@purdue.edu). Please indicate “2020 Large Grant Preproposal” in the subject line.

**Full Proposal Submission Process:** Only applicants who submit a preproposal on time are eligible to submit a full proposal. Applicants will receive an email encouraging or not encouraging full proposal submission. IISG recognizes that development of full proposal applications can be a significant time investment on the part of the prospective PI. Decisions to encourage or not encourage are based on expected funding levels and are designed to minimize extra work for potential applicants, as preproposals that are not encouraged have a low probability of success at the full proposal stage.

Comments from the screening process will be sent to all applicants who submitted a preproposal. Regardless of whether or not an applicant was encouraged to submit a full proposal, prospective PIs are strongly recommended to consider and address any comments as they craft their full proposal application.

A sample full proposal peer-review form can be found [here](#). Provided that enough proposals are of sufficient quality and scientific rigor, efforts will be made to spread funds across topic areas and institutions.

Each full proposal application should include following required documents. This list below plus templates can also be found at [www.iiseagrant.org](http://www.iiseagrant.org) (explicit links and templates for download will be provided when comments on preproposals are communicated to PIs, i.e. mid-March 2019).

- 1) **Project Summary** – Submit as Word document following the template provided.

- 2) **Proposal Narrative/Plan of Work** – Submit as a PDF, no smaller than 11-point font, twenty pages maximum including figures, tables, and references. The Proposal Narrative should follow the recommended format. The most successful proposals submitted to IISG follow this format closely, including a significant (i.e., 1 full page or more) discussion of dissemination of results. Note this section may include key activities that occur outside of the funding period but will help ensure a successful project.
- 3) **Data Management Plan (where applicable)** – Submit as PDF, no smaller than 11-point font, two pages maximum. A template will be provided but it is not necessary to conform to this. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration requires that all environmental data from funded projects be verified and made accessible, free of charge, or at no more than the cost of reproduction, within two years of completion of the project. To be considered for Sea Grant funds, researchers should outline how their data will be shared and maintained in perpetuity. The contents of the Data Management Plan (or absence thereof), and past performance regarding such plans, will be considered as part of proposal review. If a project does not generate environmental data, note this in your Project Summary.
- 4) **90-4 Budget Form plus Budget Narrative** – Follow guidance, use required forms, and submit entire package as PDF. Investigators can request up to \$90,000 per year for 2 years from IISG for projects, but must provide at least 50 percent non-federal matching funds. Investigators should budget for the negotiated federal indirect costs rates for their home institutions. The full list of budget categories can be found on the 90-4 form. Subawards should be included as a line item in the main budget plus narrative, then fill out a second 90-4 form plus budget narrative just for the sub-award.
- 5) **Abbreviated Environmental Compliance Questionnaire** – Blank form provided.
- 6) **Investigator Bio-Sketch** – Include a maximum two-page bio-sketch or CV for each investigator.
- 7) **Current and Pending** – Include current and pending funding for all investigators and co-investigators.
- 8) **Letters of Support** – If applicable, letters from key stakeholders or communities can help make the case for the usability of your proposed research.

### **Proposal Review Timeline**

February 4, 2019	Preproposals due in program office (with preliminary budgets)
Mid-March, 2019	Encouragement to submit full proposals
May 15, 2019	Full proposals due in program office
Early fall, 2019	Notification of funding, accompanied by panel and peer reviews
Late fall, 2019	Final adjusted proposals due in program office
February 1, 2020	Project initiation (subject to the availability of funds)

**Questions** regarding eligibility or submission requirements may be directed to Carolyn Foley at [cfoley@purdue.edu](mailto:cfoley@purdue.edu) or by phone at 765-494-3601.