

Frequently Asked Questions for Michigan, Illinois-Indiana and Wisconsin Sea Grant Joint Request for Proposals: Understanding and Communicating Coastal Hydrodynamics and Nearshore Sediment Transport Processes on Lake Michigan to Promote Resilient Coastal Communities

Updated December 12, 2018

Q: This RFP requests partnerships across state boundaries. Will funds flow through a single institution?

A: No, funds will flow through each state or bi-state program. Wisconsin funds will flow through a principal investigator (PI) in Wisconsin. Illinois-Indiana funds will flow through a PI in either Illinois or Indiana and 50% match must be demonstrated. Michigan funds will flow through a PI in Michigan and 50% match must be demonstrated. Each set of money will be subject to the overhead rates of the institution the funds flow through. Each of the three programs will award up to \$200,000 over two years (\$100,000 per year) for projects.

Q: Who can serve as a principal investigator (PI) for each state program?

A: In Wisconsin, PIs must be from a Wisconsin college or university. For Michigan and Illinois-Indiana (either program), PIs must be from educational or research institutions in Michigan, Illinois, or Indiana. These include universities, colleges, museums, and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Consulting companies and state or local government organizations cannot serve as PIs on projects, but they can serve as partners and receive funds (see subcontract question below).

Q: Is there anyone who cannot receive funds via these projects?

A: Federal employees cannot receive funds. However, they can provide unfunded support to projects as appropriate.

Q: Are subcontracts allowed? Who can receive subcontracts?

A: Subcontracts from the main PI to other project partners are allowed for all 3 state or bi-state programs (i.e., Wisconsin, Michigan, and Illinois-Indiana). Any entity that is not a federal employee can receive subcontracts. This includes any entity that could also serve as a PI. In addition, though they cannot serve as PIs, consulting firms or local government organizations can receive funds via a subcontract. In general, PIs are encouraged to keep funds in the state(s) supported by their particular program, and keep any out-of-state subcontracts as small as possible.

Q: For the Michigan and Illinois-Indiana partners, is it 50% match or 33% match?

A: It is 50% match. If a PI requests \$100,000 in a year, they must demonstrate \$50,000 in match in that year. What can count as match largely depends on the rules set by the PI's institution.

Q: Should preproposals be submitted through the Wisconsin Sea Grant portal even if there is no Wisconsin partner?

A: Yes, preproposals should be submitted through the Wisconsin Sea Grant portal even if there is no Wisconsin partner. Select the special joint competition and proceed as directed in the RFP.

Q: Is Sea Grant looking for PIs from all 4 states or a PI for each Sea Grant? Is it important that we have someone representing Illinois, or sufficient that we have someone from Illinois-Indiana?

A: As mentioned in the RFP, there will be a preference for preproposals that demonstrate partnerships across all three programs (i.e., an investigator from Wisconsin, Michigan, and Illinois or Indiana). There is no requirement for a PI from each of the 4 states.