Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund Guidelines
FY 2019 - 2020

Administered by: N.C. Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Division of Water Resources (DWR), 1611 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C., 27699-1611. Contact Coley Cordeiro at Coley.Cordeiro@ncdenr.gov or (919) 707-9013.

Who is Eligible: Unit of local government.

Application Deadlines: Applications must be sent via email to Coley.Cordeiro@ncdenr.gov on or before April 30, 2020.

Funding Source/Documents: Session Law 2019-224

Eligible Purposes and Cost-Share Percentages: Session Law 2019-224 allocated $11,500,000 to DWR's Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund to be used to provide grants in an amount not to exceed $2,500,000 for each unit of local government during the 2019-2021 fiscal biennium. Notwithstanding G.S. 143-215.73M, no cost-share shall be required for these grants.

Additional Requirements:
Applicants may submit applications for more than one project but must submit a separate (and complete) application for each project.

Application Submittal:
Application Spreadsheet (MS Excel) - Applications must be completed and returned via email to Coley Cordeiro at Coley.Cordeiro@ncdenr.gov.

No Conflict of Interest Certification – The applicant must provide certification that it complies with the requirements and prohibitions set forth in NCGS § 14-234, has and complies with its own duly executed conflict of interest policy, and has conducted a reasonable inquiry and concluded that it does not have any actual or apparent conflict of interest with respect to the project for which it has applied.

Project Maps –The applicant must submit a map or maps showing, at minimum, the following information relevant to the proposed project:

1. project site plan and borrow area locations;
2. upland ownership of property, indicating federal, State, local, or private ownership;
3. approximate location of Mean High Water; and the first line of stable and natural vegetation (FLSNV), the Static Vegetation Line (if applicable), or Development Line (if applicable) and the long-term oceanfront erosion rates as determined by the NC Division of Coastal Management

Engineering Studies and Post-Project Monitoring
The applicant must submit engineering studies that have been completed for the project and plans for standardized pre- and post-project monitoring.

Beach Nourishment Permit Application or Copy of Approved Permit
The applicant must include in its application all permit applications and issued permits that relate to the project. The applicant has an ongoing obligation to provide to DWR copies of permit applications and issued permits as promptly as possible.

Additional Information
The applicant may submit additional information, including but not limited to letters of support, discussion of relevant nearby projects, studies, inventories, analysis, or planning documents related to the proposed project. Relevant information will be considered as part of the funding review process.

Note: It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure the application submitted to DWR is accurate and complete. Erroneous or incomplete information in an application may prevent a project from being recommended for grant funding and may delay processing of contracts and funds for approved projects.

Funding Selection Criteria

All applications will be evaluated to determine if the proposed beach nourishment activity meets the minimum requirements and then ranked on a relative basis according to the six considerations listed below. Each element of the funding consideration criteria is rated using the following numerical evaluation to assess the degree that the application meets the criteria:
High - 3 points
Medium - 2 points
Low - 1 point
Does not meet criteria (a resource or factor is present, but the proposal has been evaluated as having no value or not having the intended benefit) - 0 points

Considerations during the review process are as follows:

1. Environmental Benefits/ Mitigation Measures

- Improves the ecological function of the beach and dune system.
- Restores degraded dune habitat.
- Restores habitat used by threatened or endangered species.
- Project is designed to avoid significant adverse impacts to threatened and endangered species and fish, shellfish & wildlife resources.

2. Social Benefits

- Protects existing or historic public recreation areas.
- Improves the public accessibility to the beach.
- Provides or enhances full and complete public access.

3. Economic Benefits

- Protects public property or infrastructure, or historic or culturally significant structures.

- Protects economically important land uses.
- Reduces potential storm damage to private property.

4. Expected useful life of project

- Anticipated life expectancy of project benefits.
- Time to complete project and time required for stabilization of beach in years.
- Longevity of previous nourishment projects.

5. Financial Resources

- Availability of funds to complete the project

6. Project Efficiency

- Incorporates project efficiencies through regional planning at the County level or through the involvement and cooperation of two or more local governments
- Incorporates the beneficial use of clean, beach quality dredged material from the navigation channels within the nearshore, beach or inlet shoal system.
- Readiness to proceed based on the project phase, status of the permit, local funding source, construction easements, and construction schedule.

Post Grant Funding Award

After DWR issues the applicant an award notice, the applicant must enter into a grant contract with DEQ for DEQ to begin distributing grant funds. Any changes to the scope of the project or project budget after submission of a grant application will require the written approval of the DWR Grant Administrator and may also require a DEQ contract amendment. In seeking DWR approval, the grantee must submit, at a minimum, a justification for any proposed changes, revised scope of work narrative, and a revised budget. Unapproved changes to the project scope or budget shall not be eligible for, and may result in additional reductions to funding.

A DEQ grant contract is considered 'fully-executed' once it has been signed by both a signatory authority of the grantee and DEQ Financial Services. A copy of the fully-executed contract will be provided to the grantee after being signed by DEQ.

State funds may not be used to reimburse a grantee for a project that has been or will be fully reimbursed with federal funds. If a project receives State funds and subsequently receives federal funds, the Grantee must return any State funds that have become federally reimbursable to the Office of State Budget and Management within 90 calendar days of the municipality receiving federal reimbursement.

Project Sponsor Obligation – Environmental Permitting

The applicant/grantee is responsible for complying with applicable federal and State laws, including obtaining and complying with all applicable permits.

Contract Duration & Extension Requests

Grant contracts for funds appropriated under Session Law 2019-224 will have a term of two

years. Grantees may request a one-year extension. A request for an extension must be submitted in writing on official letterhead and include the following information:

1. Justification for the extension request
2. Summary of the current project status
3. Anticipated project schedule moving forward

A request for an extension must be submitted 45 days prior to the contract expiration date and must be submitted via email to Coley Cordeiro at Coley.Cordeiro@ncdenr.gov. Extension requests that are approved by DWR require a grant contract modification.

Project Close-Out

The grantee shall notify the DWR Grant Administrator upon project completion and provide DWR with the most recent set of permits, as-built/record, post-surveys in Adobe PDF format prior to the project close-out.

The DWR Grant Administrator may schedule a close-out inspection of the completed project with a representative of the grantee. This inspection will verify that the project was implemented in accordance with the information provided in the grant application, along with the approved plans and specifications.