

## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- **Federal Agency Name(s):** Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Commerce
- **Funding Opportunity Title:** NOAA Educational Partnership Program (EPP) with Minority Serving Institutions (MSI), Environmental Entrepreneurship Program (EEP)
- **Announcement Type:** Initial Announcement
- **Funding Opportunity Number:** EPP/MSI/EEP 2005
- **Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number(s):** 11.481 - Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions
- **Dates:** Proposals must be received by the EPP Office no later than 5:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, on October 29, 2004.
- **Funding Opportunity Description:** The NOAA Environmental Entrepreneurship Program is designed to strengthen the capacity of Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) to foster student careers, entrepreneurship opportunities and advanced academic degrees in the sciences directly related to NOAA's mission. The sciences directly related to NOAA's mission include: fisheries, coastal, ocean, climate, atmospheric, environmental sciences, and remote sensing technology.
- For the purposes of this program, Environmental Entrepreneurship is defined as a mechanism to provide student training in the application of NOAA sciences for the creation of business opportunities. This is achieved by MSIs establishing partnerships with NOAA, the academic community, and the public and private sector to engage students in a compliment of entrepreneurial training and technical skills in environmental sciences that will promote commerce and economic development.

## **FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT**

### **I. Funding Opportunity Description**

#### **A. Program Objective**

NOAA recognizes the need to expand commerce and economic business development to confront national challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> century that will enhance the environment, a healthy and growing economy, and public safety. NOAA's role in facing these challenges is to assess and predict environmental changes, protect life and property, provide decision makers with reliable scientific information, manage the Nation's living marine and coastal resources, and foster global environmental stewardship (NOAA's Strategic Plan for FY 2003-2008 and Beyond, March 31, 2003).

The agency has made a commitment to expand and strengthen its partnerships with Minority Serving Institutions. In accordance with NOAA's commitment to foster environmental literacy, outreach and education, the purposes of the NOAA EPP/MSI: Environmental Entrepreneurship Program are to strengthen the capacity at MSIs to foster student careers, entrepreneurship opportunities, and advanced degrees in the sciences that are directly related to NOAA's mission.

Proposals must engage students in applied research that are firmly grounded in ``environmental fields'' directly related to NOAA's mission. The term ``environmental fields'' is defined as those environmental, natural sciences (i.e., biology, earth sciences), physical and social sciences (i.e., economics, anthropology, geography, and history), engineering, professional and technical fields that are directly related to NOAA's mission which is to "understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our Nation's economic, social, and environmental needs".

#### **B. Program Priorities**

The Environmental Entrepreneurship Program is designed to promote careers, job-creation, and business opportunities for students underrepresented in NOAA environmental sciences

as demonstrated by statistics from the National Science Foundation (See <http://epp.noaa.gov/>).

For the purposes of this program, Environmental Entrepreneurship is defined as a mechanism to provide student training in the application of NOAA sciences for the creation of business opportunities. This is achieved by MSIs establishing partnerships with NOAA, the academic community, and the public and private sector to engage students in a compliment of entrepreneurial training and technical skills in environmental sciences that will promote commerce and economic development.

The program is open to all U.S. citizens attending MSIs and partner institutions. Applicant's may submit proposals to address the program's priorities in one of the category's noted below:

**Category I -- High School Science Pipeline Projects:**

Approximately six cooperative agreement awards, each up to a total of \$500,000 (maximum) for up to a five year period. Proposals should attract, recruit and train a pipeline of high school students to pursue careers, advanced degrees or environmental entrepreneurial opportunities in the sciences directly related to NOAA's mission.

This should be accomplished by: 1) MSIs establishing partnerships with NOAA, local high schools, academic institutions, and the public and private sector; and, 2) training a minimum of 50 high school students annually in both classroom and hands-on applied research experiences. The ultimate goal is to ensure students have an understanding of the fundamental concepts of NOAA sciences.

Examples of hands-on applied research experiences include, but are not limited to:

- Students participate in habitat restoration or environmental enhancement activities in their local community;
- MSI and partners mentor and share knowledge and skills with students in the use and application of weather and climate data; and,
- MSI train students in the use of Geographic Information System (GIS) applications to demonstrate how environmental

conditions in their local communities could be improved by using GIS mapping applications to monitor natural resources, water quality, and ecosystem management.

**Category II -- Environmental Demonstration Projects:**

Approximately six cooperative agreement awards, each up to a total of \$500,000 (maximum) for up to a five year period. Proposals should: 1) identify NOAA-related environmental challenges; 2) identify innovative ways to tackle the challenges by engaging students in collaborative field-based learning experiences; 3) identify opportunities to train students using a compliment of entrepreneurial and technical skills that may lead to, 4) opportunities to start their own environmental science businesses in local communities. NOAA environmental challenges include, but are not limited to:

- enhancing and restoring coastal and estuarine habitats,
- preventing marine pollution,
- reducing coastal hazards,
- managing marine protected areas,
- protecting coral reefs,
- reducing the spread of invasive species,
- restoring fisheries and fisheries habitat,
- developing and expanding aquaculture,
- planning community waterfront revitalization,
- improving the prediction of weather and climate phenomena,
- employing remotely sensed data and information systems to support environmental monitoring and prediction.

Applicants should refer to Section IV, Application and Submission Information, for the specific components of proposal including, a) title page, b) abstract, c) project description, and d) budget and budget justification.

**C. Program Authority 15 U.S.C. 1540**

**II. Award Information**

**A. Funding Availability**

This funding opportunity announces that approximately \$6,000,000 will be available through this announcement for fiscal year 2005. Proposals will only be accepted and reviewed that include a total budget of no more than \$500,000. It is expected that approximately twelve awards

will be made, pending the availability of funds. Applicants are hereby given notice that funds have not yet been appropriated for this program.

B. Project/Award Period

This program announcement is for projects to be conducted by principal investigators at MSIs for up to a five-year period with an anticipated start date of March 1, 2005.

Applications must include a scope of work and a budget for the entire award period.

**C. Type of funding instrument**

The funding instrument for extramural awards will be a cooperative agreement since one or more NOAA components will be substantially involved in implementation of the project. Examples of substantial involvement may include, but are not limited to, proposals for collaboration with NOAA personnel, loaned equipment to work on proposed projects, and the use of NOAA laboratories and facilities to train students. EPP/MSI students will benefit significantly from a strong collaboration with MSIs and outside partners that engage students in hands-on training, applied research projects, internships, entrepreneurial and field-based learning experiences.

**III. Eligibility Information:**

A. Eligible Applicants

Minority Serving Institutions eligible to submit proposals include institutions of higher education identified on the most recent Department of Education list:

1. Historically Black Colleges and Universities
2. Hispanic-Serving Institutions
3. Tribal Colleges and Universities
4. Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions

``United States Department of Education Accredited Post-Secondary Minority Institutions'' (at the date of publication of this notice):

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/edlite/ minorityinst.html>

Proposals will not be accepted from non-profit organizations, foundations, auxiliary services or any other entity submitted on behalf of MSIs.

**B. Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement**

No cost sharing is required under this program.

**IV. Application and Submission Information**

**1. Address to request Application Package.**

Applicants may obtain all required application forms through the NOAA grants website at <http://www.ofa.noaa.gov/%7Egrants/appkit.html> or from Ms. Arlene Simpson Porter, NOAA Grants Management Division, (301) 713-0926 ext. 152, [Arlene.S.Porter@noaa.gov](mailto:Arlene.S.Porter@noaa.gov)

**2. Content Form of Application**

All proposals must be typewritten on 8.5 x 11 paper in 12-point font and may not exceed 20-pages. The 20 page limit includes signed title page, abstract, project description including all text and any tables and visual materials (such as charts, graphs, maps, photographs and other pictorial presentations), budget and budget justification. The 20 page limitation does not include literature citation, current and pending support, curriculum vitae, letters of commitment, and standard application forms. All information needed for review of the proposal is indicated below.

The following information is included in the 20 page limitation:

**A. The Title Page must clearly specify:**

1) The Principal Investigator and Institutional Representative identified by full name, title, organization, telephone number, fax number, e-mail and mailing address. The title page must be signed by the Principal Investigator and the Institutional Representative;

2) The full name, title, organization, telephone number, fax number, e-mail and mailing address of the Co-Principal Investigator that will assume the responsibility of carrying

out the proposal in the absence of the Principal Investigator;

3) The project title starting with ``NOAA EPP/MSI: Environmental Entrepreneurship Program:'' followed by the title of the proposal;

4) The proposed category (e.g., High School Science Pipeline or Environmental Demonstration);

5) The NOAA mission area being addressed (i.e., fisheries, coastal, ocean, climate, atmospheric, environmental sciences and remote sensing technology) identified in NOAA's Strategic Plan for FY 2003 - FY 2008 and Beyond (See: <http://www.noaa.gov> for a copy of NOAA strategic plan);

6) The lead MSI partners including, NOAA programs, laboratories, facilities, high schools, the academic community, and the public and private sectors;

7) The funding requested for each year of the project as well as total federal funding; and,

8) Project Period--Start and completion dates. Proposals should request a start date of March 1, 2005.

**B. The Abstract**, must demonstrate it meets the program requirements, as stated and defined in Section I A and B. This should include a concise statement on the goals, objectives, and anticipated approach of the proposed project directly related to the NOAA sciences. The abstract must clearly demonstrate that the applicant meets the definition of environmental entrepreneurship, and meets the requirements in the high school science pipeline or environmental demonstration category. The abstract will be reviewed as part of the initial administrative review to determine compliance with requirements (identified in Section V. B., Review and Selection Process).

**C. Project Description**.

1) Introduction/Background/Justification: How will the MSI foster student careers, entrepreneurship opportunities and advanced academic degrees directly related to the NOAA

sciences? What is the NOAA challenge or issue being addressed directly related to the agency's mission and what is its scientific, technical, educational or socioeconomic importance to the region or nation?

2) Technical Plan: The following program components must be integrated into the technical plan of high school science pipeline and environmental demonstration projects:

a) Applied Research. Projects should engage students in applied research projects. Applied research must engage students in hands-on training and field-based learning experiences outside the classroom in NOAA's core mission areas, including fisheries, coastal, ocean, climate, atmospheric, environmental sciences and remote sensing technology.

b) Outreach & Education. Proposals must include an outreach and education strategy that focuses on how MSIs will share NOAA data, information, products, services, or programs with underrepresented students at MSIs and the local community.

Outreach may be accomplished for example, by MSIs sponsoring career fairs, exhibits, workshops, seminars, conferences; developing brochures, publications, and web sites designed to share NOAA data and/or information on applied research.

Education may be accomplished; for example, by MSIs engaging underrepresented students in hands-on training in the use and application of new skills, tools, and technologies and through field-based learning experiences that will raise awareness of NOAA's issues and encourage underrepresented students and the local community to be stewards of the environment.

The strategy must be clearly and effectively defined in the proposal to demonstrate how outreach and education activities will attract, recruit, and/or train the required number of underrepresented students at MSIs in careers, advanced studies, and entrepreneurship opportunities directly related to NOAA's mission.

c) Partnerships. Partnerships with NOAA programs, laboratories and facilities are required. Proposals must demonstrate that MSIs have established partnerships with NOAA programs, laboratories, and facilities, and high schools, colleges and universities, federal, state, local and tribal agencies, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations (as appropriate). Academic partners must be colleges or universities. High schools can only participate as sub-awardees of colleges or universities in the High School Science Pipeline project component.

Letters of commitment (with original signatures) must be submitted by all partners that clearly outlines: I) specific role and level of involvement such as, mentoring; ii) type of collaborative student hands-on training and field-based learning experiences, iii) the approximate number of student participants; and, iv) anticipated start and end dates for student activities, hands-on training or field-based learning experiences. Letters of commitment must be included along with the original proposal submitted by MSIs. Letters of commitment will not be accepted after the proposal deadline.

d) Commerce and Economic Growth.

Environmental Demonstration projects must strengthen the capacity of MSIs to prepare students with the necessary skills, tools, and technologies that may be applied outside the classroom to pursue careers, create business opportunities, foster environmental stewardship and support economically viable local communities.

High School Science Pipeline projects should ensure that students receive the necessary training to understand the nature and extent of environmental management within local communities and to test and monitor methods for preventing, controlling, and reducing the degradation of natural local environments.

3) Output/Anticipated Benefits: The work plan must include outputs and metrics with measurable benefits that clearly

demonstrates how the MSI will meet the program's goal for the required number of student's to receive training, pursue careers, create business opportunities, and advanced study in the NOAA sciences during the project period.

The work plan must identify specific outputs such as, a) specific skills, tools and technologies that students will learn as a result of participation in collaborative hands-on training or field-based learning experiences; b) student papers and publications that include data collected or analyzed from applied research activities; c) specific products that will be generated; d) internship opportunities, and, e) training students in the practice and skill of establishing environmental science businesses.

The work plan must identify anticipated benefits to the MSI, U.S. students underrepresented in the NOAA sciences, NOAA and the environmental community such as: a) number of students participating in internship opportunities; b) number of students receiving entrepreneurial training; number of students to be trained in the use and application of skills, tools and technologies; c) number of students participating in site visits, seminars, workshops, and conferences, d) number of students exposed to business opportunities, e) number of students that work side-by-side with scientists, practitioners and mentors in the public and private sectors; and, f) number of students that visit NOAA programs, laboratories, and facilities.

D. Budget and Budget Justification: The budget must demonstrate that project costs are realistic and commensurate with the project needs and timeframe. (Please obtain the NOAA application and budget guidelines at: <http://www.ofa.noaa.gov/%7Egrants/appkit.html>)

The following are budget requirements:

1. The budget must reflect at least thirty-five percent [35%] of direct costs to support underrepresented students at MSIs, including, student's travel to attend and participate in conferences relevant to the project, site visits to NOAA programs, laboratories, facilities or other training experiences, stipends, scholarships, and internship placements.
2. MSI funds can not support NOAA personnel travel or site visits.
3. The budget must show student involvement for every year of the project.
4. The budget must include an annual budget for each year of the project as well as a cumulative budget for the entire project.
5. Total budgets that exceed the maximum allowable amount of \$500,000 will not be considered or reviewed.
6. NOAA Standard Form SF424A Budget Information Non-Construction Programs and budget justification narrative are required.
7. Subcontracts should include a separate budget justification page that itemizes all budget items in sufficient detail to enable reviewers to evaluate the appropriateness of the funding requested. No more than 15% of project cost can be directed to a non-MSI.
8. The budget must include sufficient travel funds for the Principal Investigator to participate in the NOAA Educational Partnership Program annual meeting and Grants Workshop.

The following information is not included in the 20 page limitation:

- E. Standard Application Forms: Proposals submitted in response to this solicitation must be completed in accordance

with instructions in the standard NOAA Grants Application package.

Standard Forms 424.

1) SF-F24 (Rev 7-03) - Application for Federal Assistance; Please note that both the Principal Investigator and an administrative contact should be identified in Section 5 of the SF424 or Section 10, applicants should enter ``11.481'' for the CFDA Number and ``NOAA Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions'' for the title. The form must contain the original signature of an authorized representative of the applying minority serving institution.

2) SF424A Budget Information- Non Construction Program

3) SF424B Assurances Non-Construction

Primary Applicant Certifications.

4) CD-511 - ``Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters;

The following explanations are hereby provided:(I) Non-Procurement Debarment and Suspension. Prospective participants (as defined at 15 CFR Part 26, Section 105) are subject to 15 CFR Part 26, ``Non-Procurement Debarment and Suspension'' and the related section of the certification form prescribed above applies; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements and Lobbying, ''

Drug-Free Workplace. Grantees (as defined at 15 CFR Part 26, Section 605) are subject to 15 CFR Part 26, Subpart F, ``Government-wide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants)'' and the related section of the certification form prescribed above applies;

5) Anti-Lobbying. Persons (as defined at 15 CFR Part 28, Section 105) are subject to the lobbying provisions of 31 U.S.C. 1352, ``Limitation on use of appropriated funds to influence certain Federal

contracting and financial transactions,' and the lobbying section of the certification form prescribed above applies to applications/bids for grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts for more than \$100,000, and loans and loan guarantees for more than \$150,000; and

Anti-Lobbying Disclosures. Any applicant that has paid or will pay for lobbying using any funds must submit an SF-LLL, ``Disclosure of Lobbying Activities,' as required under 15 CFR Part 28, Appendix B.

Lower Tier Certifications. Recipients shall require applicants/bidders for sub grants, contracts, subcontracts, or other lower tier covered transactions at any tier under the award to submit, if applicable, a completed Form CD-512, ``Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transactions and Lobbying' and disclosure form, SF-LLL, ``Disclosure of Lobbying Activities.' ORM CD-512 is intended for the use of recipients and should not be transmitted to the Department of Commerce (DOC). SF-LLL submitted by any tier recipient or sub recipient should be submitted to DOC in accordance with the instructions contained in the award document.

F. Literature Citation: Literature cited should be included here.

G. Current and Pending Support: Applicants must provide information on all their current and pending Federal support for ongoing projects and proposals, including potential subsequent funding in the case of continuing grants. The proposed project and all other projects or activities using Federal assistance or that requires a portion of time of the principal investigator or other senior personnel should be included. The relationship between the proposed project and these other projects should be described, and the number of person-months per year to be devoted to the projects must be stated.

H. Curriculum Vitae two pages maximum per all Principal and Co-Principal Investigator(s) involved in carrying out the proposal.

I. Letters of commitment from partnering organizations. Letters of commitment from partners must be included. The letters from partnering organizations should describe: the specific role and level of involvement in the project; type of collaborative student hands-on training and field-based learning experiences; the approximate number of student participants; and, anticipated start and end dates for student activities, hands-on training or field-based learning experiences.

J. Submission Dates and Times

The deadline for receipt of proposals at the EPP Office is 5:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, on October 29, 2004. Proposals received after the deadline will be returned to the sender without further consideration. The EPP/MSI Office determines whether an application has been submitted before the deadline by date/time stamping the applications as they are physically received in the EPP office.

K. Intergovernmental Review

Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of

Federal Programs.”

L. Funding Restrictions

No special restrictions apply.

M. Other Submission Requirements

All applicants are to submit an original and two hard copies of proposals only. Facsimile transmissions and electronic mail submission of proposals will not be accepted. The hard copies may be submitted by postal mail, commercial delivery service, or hand-delivery. Proposals must be submitted to: Jewel G. Linzey, Program Manager, Environmental Entrepreneurship Program, Educational Partnership Program, 1315 East West Highway, SSMC III, Room 10725, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

V. Application Review Information

A. Evaluation Criteria

1. Importance and/or relevance and applicability of proposed project to the program goals (15%). This ascertains whether there is intrinsic value in the proposed work and/or relevance to NOAA, Federal, regional, state, tribal or local activities. For this competition, this includes how well the project provides a mechanism to train students in the application of NOAA sciences for the creation of business opportunities, careers, and advanced degrees.

2. Technical/Scientific Merit (15%). This assesses whether the approach is technically sound and/or innovative, if the methods are appropriate, and whether there are clear project goals and objectives. For this competition, this includes how well the applicant addresses the components (i.e., applied research, partnerships, commerce and economic growth) identified in Section IV, C, 2, Technical Plan.

3. Overall qualifications of applicants (10%). This ascertains whether the applicant possesses the necessary education, experience, training facilities and administrative resources to accomplish the project. For this competition, this means the effectiveness of the MSI's institutional capacity, qualifications of the principal investigator and co-principal investigators at MSI, and the effective use of role models and mentors from academia and partner organizations.

4. Project cost (25%). The budget is evaluated to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the project needs and time-frame. For this competition, high school science pipeline projects are required to engage 50 students annually. For environmental demonstration projects, at least 35% of the total budget in direct student support is required and students must be involved in every year of the project.

5. Outreach and Education (35%). NOAA assesses whether this project provides a focused and effective education and outreach strategy regarding NOAA's mission to protect the Nation's natural resources. For this competition, the strategy must effectively demonstrate how outreach and education activities will attract, recruit, and increase the required number of underrepresented students at MSIs in careers, advanced studies, and entrepreneurship opportunities directly related to NOAA's mission.

#### B. Review and Selection Process

Proposals must be received in the EPP/MSI program office by 5:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, on October 29, 2004 to be considered for funding by NOAA. Once a full proposal is received by NOAA's Educational Partnership Program, an initial administrative review is conducted to determine compliance with requirements and completeness of the application. This will include a determination by the program office or its designated initial review team as to:

- I) Eligibility - Proposals will only be reviewed for funding consideration by eligible MSIs (as defined in Section III);
- ii) Submission date - Proposals will only be reviewed for funding consideration if they are received in the NOAA EPP Office by the designed deadline;
- iii) Program Requirements - Proposals will only be reviewed for funding consideration if they meet the program requirements, as stated and defined in Section I A and B;
- iv) Letters of Commitment - Proposals will only be reviewed for funding consideration if they clearly demonstrate an established partnership with NOAA programs, laboratories and facilities as evidenced by letters of commitment;
- v) Project cost - Proposals will only be reviewed for funding consideration if they meet the requirements for direct student support, do not exceed the maximum allowable budget of \$500,000, and no more than 15% of the total budget is provided to a non-MSI.

Proposals that do not meet these requirements will be returned to the applicant without further consideration.

All eligible proposals will be evaluated and scored individually in accordance with the assigned weights of the above evaluation criteria by an independent peer panel review comprised of representatives of government, industry and academia. Both Federal and non-Federal experts in the field may be used in this process.

The panel members shall rate the proposals using the evaluation criteria and percentage weights provided above. The individual peer panelist scores shall be averaged for each application and presented to the program officer. No consensus advice will be given by the independent peer review panel.

The merit review ratings shall provide a rank order of the proposals. Recommendations for funding are then forwarded to the Selecting Official. In making the final determination, the Selecting Official will award in rank order unless the proposal is justified to be selected out of rank order based on factors listed below in C. Investigators may be asked to modify objectives, work plans or budget levels, and provide supplemental information required by the agency prior to the award. When a decision is made (whether an award or declination), anonymous copies of reviews and summaries of review panel deliberation, if any, will be made available to the applicant. Declined applications will be held by the EPP/MSI Office for the required 3 years in accordance with the current retention requirements, and then destroyed.

#### C. Selection Factors

The selecting official shall award in rank order unless the proposal is justified to be selected out of rank order based upon the following factors:

1. Availability of funding;
2. Balance/distribution of funds;
  - a. Geographically
  - b. By type of institutions
  - c. By type of partners
  - d. By research areas
  - e. By project types
3. Duplication of other projects funded or considered for funding by NOAA and/or other federal agencies
4. Program priorities and policy factors as set out in Section I.B.
5. Applicant's prior award performance
6. Partnerships with participation of targeted group

#### D. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

Subject to the availability of funds, review of proposals will begin in November 2004, and funding should begin in March 1, 2005 for approved projects. March 1, 2005, should be used as the proposed start date on proposals, unless otherwise directed by the Program Officer.

## VI. Award Administration Information

### A. Award Notices

The notice of award is signed by the NOAA Grants Officer and is the authorizing document. It is provided by postal mail to the appropriate business office of the recipient organization.

### B. Administrative and National Environmental Act Policy Requirements

The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements

The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the Federal Register notice of October 1, 2001 (66 FR 49917), as amended by the Federal Register notice published on October 30, 2002 (67 FR 66109), are applicable to this solicitation.

### Limitation of Liability

In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs if these programs fail to receive funding or are cancelled because of other agency priorities. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

### National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

NOAA must analyze the potential environmental impacts, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for applicant projects or proposals which are seeking NOAA federal funding opportunities. Detailed information on NOAA compliance with NEPA can be found at the following NOAA NEPA website: <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/>, including our NOAA Administrative Order 216-6 for NEPA, [http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/NAO216\\_6\\_TOC.pdf](http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/NAO216_6_TOC.pdf), and the Council on Environmental Quality implementation regulations, [http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/regs/ceq/toc\\_ceq.htm](http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/regs/ceq/toc_ceq.htm)).

Consequently, as part of an applicant's package, and under their description of their program activities, applicants are required to provide detailed information on the activities to be conducted, locations, sites, species and habitat to be affected, possible construction activities, and any environmental concerns that may exist (e.g., the use and disposal of hazardous or toxic chemicals, introduction of non-indigenous species, impacts to endangered and threatened species, aquaculture projects, and impacts to coral reef systems).

In addition to providing specific information that will serve as the basis for any required impact analyses, applicants may also be requested to assist NOAA in drafting of an environmental assessment, if NOAA determines an assessment is required. Applicants will also be required to cooperate with NOAA in identifying and implementing feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of their proposal. The failure to do so shall be grounds for the denial of an application.

#### C. Reporting

All financial and progress reports shall be submitted in duplicate (one original and one copy). Financial reports are to be submitted to the NOAA Grants Officer and Performance (technical) reports are to be submitted to the NOAA program officer. Program and financial reports are to be submitted semi-annually.

#### VII. Agency Contact(s)

Contact: Jewel G. Linzey, Program Manager, Environmental Entrepreneurship Program, (301) 713-9437 ext. 118, facsimile (301) 713-9465, e-mail [Jewel.Griffin-Linzey@noaa.gov](mailto:Jewel.Griffin-Linzey@noaa.gov)