

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Coastal Management Program Grants

2024 Funding Guidelines

Application Deadline

Friday, December 15, 2023

Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion, or other non-merit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271; 217/785-0067, TTY 217/782-9175

2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity

Funding Opportunity: Illinois Department of Natural Resources -- Coastal Management Program
Announcement Type: Initial Announcement
Federal Agency Name: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Dept. of Commerce
CFDA Number: 11.419 **CSFA Number:** 422-30-0103
Application Deadline: December 15, 2023
Grant Start Date: September 1, 2024 **Grant End Date:** Spring 2026
Minimum Grant: $1,000 **Maximum Grant:** $150,000 **Match Requirement:** *Vary
Application Information: https://dnr.illinois.gov/cmp/grants.html

*-Local Government Applicants from Economically Challenged Communities qualify for reduced match

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2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity

Applications are now being accepted for IDNR Coastal Management Program Grants through December 15, 2023. All application information and additional resources are available at: https://dnr.illinois.gov/cmp/opengrants.html

Overview

IDNR Coastal Management Program Grants protect, conserve, and restore the natural and cultural resources along the Illinois Lake Michigan shoreline. Funding is available for projects that:

1. Improve the health of the coast and Lake Michigan
2. Enhance coastal public access, recreation, and coastal-dependent economic development
3. Advance coastal community resilience

This funding opportunity is administered by the Coastal Management Program (CMP), part of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). Federal funding for CMP originates through a cooperative agreement between IDNR and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management.

All applicants submitting an application must be pre-qualified on the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Website (https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/) to receive funding.

This is a reimbursement grant. Full documentation of all grant and match expenses is required for reimbursement. Total funding available in past rounds has ranged from $550,000 to $975,000 per funding year.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include units of local government (e.g., municipalities, park districts, school districts, forest preserve districts), universities, and non-profit organizations. Private individuals, for-profit organizations, and organizations that cannot be pre-qualified through the State of Illinois grantee portal (https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/) are not eligible to receive grant funds.

Public landowners and long-term lease holders are the only eligible applicants for on-the-ground projects such as low-cost construction or habitat restoration (please note - these are not being funded in this round). For planning projects, we require a letter of commitment from the landowner if the applicant does not own the land.

Funding Opportunity

I. Funding available and match requirement

Applicants may request between $1,000 and $150,000 with a 1:1 match required for most projects. Match must be directly related to work on the project and within the Coastal area. Local governmental applicants from Economically Challenged Communities qualify for a lower match requirement. Citizen science grants are limited to $10,000.

II. Timeframe

The funding period is 18 months. Projects should plan to begin on or around September 1, 2024 and end Spring 2026 (precise start and end dates depend upon approval by NOAA and state funding authorization). Proposed projects can take less than 18 months, but not more than that timeframe.

III. Application Materials

Application information and additional resources are available at:
https://dnr.illinois.gov/cmp/opengrants.html

New for this year: All applications must be submitted through the AmpliFund Grants Management System

The State of Illinois adopted AmpliFund as the statewide online grant management system in 2021. This system is used to apply for grants, complete grant reporting, and request payments. It allows grantee organizations to manage their State of Illinois grants in one place. The AmpliFund Grant Management System uses a single log-in that is also used in the Grantee Portal. It pulls data from the Grantee Portal and the statewide Catalog of State Financial Assistance (CSFA) to reduce the need for duplicate data entry.

Link to "Instructions for Applying to DNR Grant" -
https://dnr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/dnr/grants/documents/how-to-apply.pdf

Direct link to Coastal's funding opportunity on AmpliFund:
https://il.amplifund.com/Public/Opportunities/Details/ba181302-a2fa-40b0-946f-f1acd05e5176

The required components that must be filled out in AmpliFund include:

1. Project Information
2. Uniform Grant Application
3. Application Project Narrative
4. Performance Plan/Timeline of Tasks
5. Programmatic Risk Assessment Questionnaire
6. Budget

Letter of Committment is an optional document that should be filled out if partners are committing their resources towards the project. For planning projects, we require a letter of commitment from the landowner if the applicant does not own the land.

To aid in preparation of the project narrative, the project narrative questions are available in a Word document format at https://dnr.illinois.gov/cmp/opengrants.html. Once you fill out the Word document, the responses can then be copied and pasted into AmpliFund.

All applicants submitting an application must be pre-qualified on the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Website (https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/) to receive funding.

IV. Reporting

Successful applicants will need to report progress on their work after the grant is awarded. Periodic Performance Reports and Periodic Financial Reports are required quarterly for all projects. Final narrative reports are required after project completion.

Submitting your application

The deadline for applications is **5:00 pm CST, Friday December 15, 2023**. Applications must be submitted through AmpliFund by this deadline to be considered for funding.

Application can be accessed on AmpliFund at:
https://il.amplifund.com/Public/Opportunities/Details/ba181302-a2fa-40b0-946f-f1acd05e5176

Applications received after the application deadline will not be considered. Submission of an incomplete application does not extend the application deadline and will disqualify the applicant. Please plan on submitting your application prior to the deadline to address any technology issues that may come up. Paper applications, emailed applications, or any other submissions will not be accepted.

Multiple applications may be submitted by the same organization, but each application must be for a stand-alone project and shall not be dependent upon funding the other application(s).

Summaries of previously-funded projects are available on our website at:
https://dnr.illinois.gov/cmp/2019grantawardees.html

Background

The Illinois Lake Michigan Coastal Area stretches from the Wisconsin border to the Indiana border and includes portions of 24 communities with over 117,000 households, 52 beaches, more than 50 forest preserves and local parks, as well as two state parks. The region is economically diverse and includes portions of some of the poorest and richest communities in the state. It is also ecologically diverse; it occupies a transitional zone between the forests of the upper Midwest and the downstate prairies and contains valuable remnant wetlands.

Effective coastal resource management reflects the reality on the ground and prioritizes coastal problem solving at a local to regional scale. In Illinois, coastal management tackles local coastal issues ranging from invasive species to coastal erosion to inequities in coastal recreational access.

The goals of this funding opportunity include enhancing and protecting coastal habitats and species; improving coastal public access, recreation, and coastal dependent economic development; and supporting coastal community resilience. We encourage applicants to review existing plans and to think through how your proposed project aligns with previous and ongoing work in the region.

Geography

CMP works within a designated coastal area. To receive funding, a project must advance CMP's priorities within the coastal area boundary. Habitat planning projects (including signage) must be located entirely within the Illinois coastal area. Education and broader planning projects may be located outside of the coastal boundary but must advance coastal priorities.

Here are some resources to determine whether your project is within the coastal area

- Zoomable Google Map: https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=zjYdrXWqrOnI.kIY3ESxnNVrc
- PDF Maps: https://dnr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/dnr/cmp/documents/appendix-b.pdf
- Google Earth layer (downloads kmz file): https://dnr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/dnr/cmp/documents/googleearthlayercoastalzone.kmz
- ArcGIS layer (downloads zip file): https://dnr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/dnr/cmp/documents/coastalzoneboundary.zip



Figure 1: Map of the Illinois Coastal Area

Funding Category 1: Coastal Habitats and Species

Background

The Illinois Coastal Area, while highly urbanized, contains a variety of remnant habitats including oak savannah, woodlands, coastal bluffs and ravines, prairies, wetlands, urbanized waterways, beaches, and dune/swale habitats, as well as nearshore habitat, ancient cobble reefs, and open-water benthic and pelagic habitats. Habitat loss and degradation have caused a wide range of issues ranging from impaired water quality to invasive species to reduced ecosystem services.

Overview of the goals of this category

Projects in this category work towards protecting and improving coastal habitats for the species that depend upon them, plan to mitigate threats to habitats or species, or lay the groundwork for future conservation. Projects must show clear connection and make progress toward these goals.

Please note - in this grant cycle, we are not able to fund on-the-ground restoration work. We are able to fund planning, education, outreach, engagement, and other activities that meet the habitat goals and priorities of the Coastal Program.

2024 Funding Priorities

All eligible projects that meet the goals above will be considered for funding, however, projects achieving the following objectives will be given preference in 2023:

1. **Provide educational programming, outreach, and/or resources that highlight coastal-specific natural habitats, species, and the value of our coastal natural resources.**

   Examples include but are not limited to:

   - *Educational programming for schools, faith-based groups, and other organizations and groups*
   - *Community outreach and awareness materials, programs, or events*
   - *Creation of interpretive signs*
   - *Creation of curricula or other education or outreach materials; events, workshops, or symposia*

   Installation of interpretive signage may be funded but will require additional environmental review. For any projects that include signage, we recommend installation on existing structures to facilitate quick review. We also recommend including installation costs as match for the same reason.

2. **Develop plans for acquisition, enhancements, and restoration of publicly owned and accessible coastal habitats, especially ravines and wetlands that are hydrologically connected to Lake Michigan.**

   Examples include but are not limited to:

   - ➢ *Restoration planning or prioritization*
   - ➢ *Acquisition feasibility planning*
   - ➢ *Shoreline management planning*
   - ➢ *Engineering and design for restoration projects*
   - ➢ *Building partnership coalitions centered around habitat management*

   Installation of interpretive signage may be funded but will require additional environmental review. For any projects that include signage, we recommend installation on existing structures to facilitate quick review. We also recommend including installation costs as match for the same reason.

3. **Improve nearshore habitats by addressing sources of water quality degradation.**

   Examples include but are not limited to:

   - ➢ *Planning to identify, prioritize and address significant stormwater management issues*
   - ➢ *Engineering and design to implement nature-based solutions that improve water quality*
   - ➢ *Assessments to identify and reduce barriers to best management practice implementation*
   - ➢ *Building partnership coalitions centered around water resource management*

No on-the-ground restoration work will be funded in this grant cycle.

Funding Category 2: Coastal Public Access, Recreation, and Economic Development

Background

Recreation and public access amenities in the Illinois Coastal Area include parks, forest preserves, swimming beaches, canoe and kayak launches, hiking and biking trails, boat launches, fishing piers, and so much more. Ports, harbors, and marinas contribute to local and regional economic vitality. Enhancement of these opportunities improves quality of life, draws in tourists, creates jobs, and enhances the coastal-dependent economy.

Overview of the goals of this category

Projects in this category support and facilitate coastal economic development, recreation, access, and tourism.

Please note - in this grant cycle, we are not able to fund implementation of on-the-ground projects, such as installation of recreation amenities. We are able to fund planning, education, outreach, engagement, and other activities that meet the goals and priorities of the Coastal Program.

2024 Funding Priorities

All eligible projects that meet the goals above will be considered for funding, however, projects achieving the following objectives will be given preference in 2023.

1. **Enhance and promote Lake Michigan coastal recreation opportunities in Illinois and regionally.**

   Examples include but are not limited to:

   - ➢ *Recreation and tourism programming that connects under-served, diverse, and economically disadvantaged populations to coastal resources*
   - ➢ *Community outreach, events, and awareness materials or programs*
   - ➢ *Creation of interpretive signage or recreational wayfinding signage*
   - ➢ *Regional tourism planning*
   - ➢ *Creation of curricula or other education or outreach materials; events, workshops, or symposia*

   Installation of interpretive signage may be funded but will require additional environmental review. For any projects that include signage, we recommend installation on existing structures to facilitate quick review. Preference is to include installation costs as match as that facilitates review.

2. **Improve economic viability and capacity of Illinois' Lake Michigan coastal ports, harbors, and marinas.**

   Examples include but are not limited to:

   - ➢ *Sustainability planning*
   - ➢ *Needs assessments and feasibility studies*
   - ➢ *Planning, engineering and/or design of clean marina best management practices*

3. **Promote economic development within the climate resiliency sector and develop a workforce skilled in addressing coastal issues (e.g. nature-based solutions implementation, green infrastructure maintenance, etc)**

   Examples include but are not limited to:

   - ➢ *Skills training program development*
   - ➢ *Partnership building and coordination with employers*
   - ➢ *Outreach and engagement for worker recruitment*
   - ➢ *Capacity building for workforce development and community-based organizations*

No on-the-ground work will be funded this grant round.

Funding Category 3: Coastal Community Resilience

Background

The Lake Michigan shoreline is a dynamic system, with coastal hazards such as erosion, sand accretion, fluctuating lake levels, stormwater volume, and flooding posing major challenges. The health of coastal communities requires sustainable solutions to challenges that balance the needs of residents, recreational users, nature, and commerce.

Overview of the goals of this category

Projects in this category move communities towards solutions that mitigate coastal hazards and ensure the long-term health of community assets. Goals include identification and improved understanding of hazards, planning for long-term solutions, increased capacity and coordination among communities to collaboratively solve regional problems, and inclusion/evaluation of nature-based solutions.

Please note - in this grant cycle, we are not able to fund on-the-ground construction work. We are able to fund planning, education, outreach, engagement, and other activities that meet the goals and priorities of the Coastal Program.

2024 Funding Priorities

All eligible projects that meet the goals above will be considered for funding, however, projects achieving the following objectives will be given preference in 2023.

1. **Enhance regional collaboration for improved coastal community resiliency.**

   Examples include but are not limited to:

   - ➢ *Outreach, education, and training*
   - ➢ *Partnership and coalition building*
   - ➢ *Capacity support for regional initiatives*

2. **Advance planning, design, and engineering of resilience projects. Inclusion of green infrastructure/nature-based solutions is encouraged where possible.**

   Examples include but are not limited to:

   - ➢ *Capacity support*
   - ➢ *Hazard vulnerability assessments*
   - ➢ *Land-use planning and master plan development*
   - ➢ *Development of tools or resources to improve decision-making*
   - ➢ *Development of engineering and design plans*

Projects that focus solely on development of hardened shoreline structures and gray infrastructure will not be as competitive as those that consider nature based solutions or that have a habitat component.

No on-the-ground work will be funded this grant round.

Grant Program Rules and Guidelines

Restrictions

Grant and match funds cannot be used for:

- Food and beverage
- On-the-ground or site-specific planning projects outside of the Coastal Area (see Figure 1)
- Land acquisition
- Academic research
- Any costs that are not allowed under section 306A of the Coastal Zone Management Act (https://coast.noaa.gov/data/czm/media/guide306a.pdf). This includes large-scale construction, improvements that result in private or commercial gain, hardened shoreline structures, beach re-nourishment, dredging, gray infrastructure, transportation projects, and general recreational facilities such as playground equipment.
- Any costs that are not allowed under Federal Grant Cost Principles (2 CFR 200, Subpart E, https://coast.noaa.gov/czm/act/sections/#306A

See our FAQ or contact CMP for more details.

Additional Environmental Information

Depending on the scope of the project, Coastal Management Program may need to request additional information pertaining to environmental impacts and environmental data collection for review and approval by IDNR and NOAA. Prompt attention to requests for additional information is appreciated.

Reduced Match Requirement

Most applicants are required to provide a 1:1 match, meaning the grant funds 50% of the total project cost.

The only exception is local governmental applicants from Economically Challenged Communities, which qualify for a 1:3 match requirement (which means the grant funds 75% of the total project cost).

- Economically Challenged Communities for this round of grants are defined as communities partially or completely within the Illinois coastal area having a 2022 per capita equalized assessed valuation (EAV) below $17,000 and more than 14% of the population below the national poverty level according to the US. Census Bureau.
- For this round of grants, local governmental entities in the following municipalities qualify: Blue Island, Calumet City, Calumet Park, Dolton, North Chicago, Riverdale, Waukegan, and Zion.
- The criteria for Economically Challenged Communities are specific to this funding opportunity. It may be modified in subsequent grant rounds for this program to better assist such communities within the coastal area in accessing this funding program.

Integrating DEAI into Grant-funded Projects

One of the priorities of the Illinois Coastal Management Program is to ensure that all communities in the Illinois coastal zone have equitable access to our shared coastal resources. Through our competitive grants, we hope to expand the reach of federal funds to prioritize communities that have been historically underinvested in. We thus encourage applicants to advance the principles of diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion in their work and the projects they submit for funding.

We will be prioritizing projects that can demonstrate a direct benefit to communities and groups that have historically been underserved or disproportionately affected by environmental harms.

Examples of direct benefits to incorporate into your project, with an emphasis on underserved groups:

- Increased community resilience
- Improved health outcomes through cleaner air and water
- Increased access to green spaces
- Increased recreational opportunities
- Reduced safety hazards
- Reduced maintenance costs for local municipalities
- Community revitalization
- Direct employment of members of the community
- Providing a pathway for workforce development
- Increased business opportunities within the community

Ways to make planning, outreach, and engagement efforts more accessible and inclusive:

- Develop a project which is community-driven and includes meaningful engagement to ensure community needs and priorities are amplified
- Build relationships with the community – work with local community groups, leaders, and artists to drive the project
- Ensure a diverse advisory group is involved early on in outreach strategy planning
- Identify which communities and groups the project will most impact; Identify stakeholders traditionally left out of the engagement process (e.g. renters)
- Identify and reduce potential barriers for community members to engage – language, technology, time, childcare, transportation, internet service, safety, etc.
- Translate outreach materials to languages spoken in the community
- Use a mix of digital and analog methods for communication – consider technology access
- Compensate community members for their time (this can be built into your grant budget)
- Meet the community where it's at – farmer's markets, community centers, libraries, restaurants, etc.
- Listen to feedback and follow up after engagement – show that community input is actually informing the decision-making process

Move from community engagement to community *ownership*: https://movementstrategy.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/The-Spectrum-of-Community-Engagement-to-Ownership.pdf

Examples of Metrics

Quantifiable metrics provide a way to measure the impact of the project. Example of metrics include:

Environmental

- Acres of land restored
- Number of trees planted
- Gallons of stormwater diverted from runoff
- Number of green infrastructure installations added

Outreach and engagement

- Number of students taught through the program
- Number of people who received outreach materials
- Number of engagement events held
- Number of educational or safety signs installed
- Number of management plans developed

Socioeconomic

- Number of people employed by the project
- Number of people who received technical training
- $ saved through the project

These are just examples and applicants may discuss other impacts and metrics in their application.

Grant Management Experience

Coastal grants require quarterly progress and financial reports. If you are a new applicant please reach out to CMP to discuss the requirements. We are happy to provide resources and guidance. If your organization is new to managing a grant of this scale, we would also encourage building funds into your project budget to hire a contractor to help with grant management and accounting.

Selection Process

All applicants submitting applications must be pre-qualified on the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Website (https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/) in order to receive funding.

Applications will be reviewed by IDNR Coastal Management Program Staff and Technical Advisory Committee. Projects with the highest point totals will be recommended for funding. To ensure regional disbursement of funding the highest ranked project may be funded from each region (North, Central, South).

Full Application Scoring Criteria

- Need (**14 points)**
- Anticipated Impact **(14 points)**
- Feasibility and Timeline **(10 points)**
- Under-Served Communities and Populations **(8 points)**
- Partnerships and Local Support **(6 points)**
- Capacity and Qualifications **(4 points)**
- Cost Effectiveness **(4 points)**
- Past Performance **(3 Points)**

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS: 63

Projects selected for funding are subject to the State of Illinois Comprehensive Environmental Review Process (CERP) and National Environment Policy Act Review (NEPA) as well as approval by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the IDNR Director.

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a grant agreement with the IDNR that includes standard terms and conditions that are not subject to modification. Failure of a successful applicant to complete all required steps will result in cancellation of the grant award.

Release of Information

- Application information cannot be kept confidential. Grant applications are considered public information under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/2.5.
- The NOAA Environmental Data Sharing Policy requires all grant recipients to make environmental data and information collected through this grant program visible, accessible, and independently understandable to general users at no cost no later than two years after the data are collected or created. Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) compliant metadata are also required.

Contact Information

For more information on IDNR Coastal Management Program Grants, contact:

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Coastal Management Program
160 N. LaSalle St., Suite S-703
Chicago, IL 60601

Telephone: 312-814-1405
Email: DNR.CMP@illinois.gov
Website: http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/cmp/Pages/grants.aspx