



Request for Resilient Action

Technical Assistance for Coastal Communities



Deadline for Submission: March 31, 2017 at 4:00pm central time

The Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium in collaboration with the Louisiana Sea Grant College Program are seeking proposals from coastal communities for technical assistance to address a priority need related to resilience. Communities that are ready to take action will form a team with local knowledge experts that can work with the Resilience Expert Team to produce realistic solutions. This approach promotes a dynamic resilience response to individual community needs while formalizing a process that is flexible and can be tailored to other situations and municipalities.

Purpose of Technical Assistance Opportunity:

The overarching goal is to pair expertise from a regional Resilience Expert Team with a community Local Knowledge Expert Team to jointly tackle community vulnerabilities. Applicants should be prepared to discuss their proposals and how it relates to community needs at any time during this review period. A meeting or conference call may be arranged if the review panel has additional questions for the applicant.

Objectives:

- Establish plans and actions to address identified community-specific vulnerabilities;
- Identify possible measures that, if implemented, can mitigate future hazard damages; and
- Increase community dialog about preparedness, response, and recovery.

Eligibility: Local governments, county/parish governments, municipalities, and tribal governments are eligible.

Communities are encouraged to complete the Community Resilience Index (<http://masgc.org/ri>), or similar vulnerability assessment, prior to their submission. A meaningful vulnerability assessment includes collaboration with multiple sectors within the community and includes a thorough evaluation of built infrastructure, transportation, existing community and critical businesses plans, social networks, mitigation measures, and wetland/wildlife protection.

Technical Assistance: Types of technical assistance can include (but are not limited to): facilitation assistance with interpretation of data, training on a resilience related tool, design and charrette development, drafting of ordinances, development of outreach materials, assistance with legal questions. Project teams are expected to begin work by June 1, 2017 and projects must be completed within 18 months.

Geographic Requirements: Community projects must be located in the Gulf coast region of Alabama (Mobile and Baldwin Counties), Mississippi (Jackson, Harrison, and Hancock Counties), or Louisiana (St. Tammany, Orleans, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, St. Charles, Lafourche, Terrebonne, St. Mary, Iberia, Vermillion, Cameron, St. Mary, St. Martin, Calcasieu, Tangipahoa, Livingston, Ascension, Assumption, and St. John the Baptist Parishes).

Proposal Guidelines: A short, up to 5-page proposal (including cover page) describing your community vulnerability and need for technical assistance is required for this competition in order to be eligible to receive assistance. The purpose of the proposal process is to inform the review team of project details and commitment of potential participating communities.

Projects will be viewed favorably if they:

- Directly address gaps/vulnerabilities identified during a multi-sector vulnerability assessment. Note: The state leads listed in contacts below are willing to assist with this process prior to proposal submission (if needed).
- Have strong support from city/county officials and/or other relevant boards and commissions within the community as demonstrated by a letter of support, dedicated staff time to the project, and/or leveraged funding.
- Show commitment to forming a team from the city/municipality to engage with the Resilience Expert Team.

Submission materials (one-inch margins, single spaced, 12 point font):

1. Cover page (1 page)
 - Project title
 - Community, State
 - Name, title, affiliation and contact information for people submitting the proposal (include full name, title, address, telephone number, fax number and email address)
2. Proposal Narrative (up to 4 pages)
 - Project details
 1. Provide a brief summary detailing the interest of your community or communities in addressing vulnerabilities identified in your Community Resilience Index assessment or other similar vulnerability assessment tool.
 2. Identify potential experienced staff who will dedicate time to working with the state contacts (listed below) to support the project.
 3. Describe the vulnerability of the community to storm/climate associated risks and what kind of technical assistance would help address those vulnerabilities.
 4. Include a brief timeline for completion of activities.
 - Briefly describe any past demonstrated success in implementing resilience practices.
 - List any existing partnerships that could assist in the project.
 - List what funds you plan to leverage or in kind support you will dedicate to complete the project (optional).

Contacts:

Submission Questions	Tracie Sempier University of Southern MS, MS-AL Sea Grant	Tracie.Sempier@usm.edu (228) 818-8829
State Contacts		
Alabama	Jody Thompson Auburn University, MS-AL Sea Grant	Jody.Thompson@auburn.edu (251) 438-5690
Mississippi	Mississippi: Stephanie Showalter-Otts University of Mississippi, MS-AL Sea Grant	sshwalt@olemiss.edu (662) 915-7714
Louisiana	Louisiana: Melissa Daigle Louisiana State University, LA Sea Grant	Mtrosc2@lsu.edu (225) 578-9968

Submission: Proposals are due by 4:00 p.m. Central Time on March 31, 2017. Proposals must be submitted electronically to Tracie Sempier (Tracie.Sempier@usm.edu) in MS Word or pdf format.

Notification: Applicants will be notified of the panel’s decision on or before April 28, 2017.

Conference Call: If you have questions regarding this call for technical assistance proposals, please join us for a question and answer session on March 7, 2017. Call-in information is below.

Re: Proposal Question and Answer Call

Dial in Number: 1-888-848-0190

Date: Tuesday – March 7, 2017

Participant PIN: 8237967#

Time: 1:00 p.m. – Central/ 2:00 p.m. – Eastern

Why Apply?

If your community has a challenge but does not have the capacity to respond, this opportunity can bring in technical expertise to address the issue. If your community could benefit from external perspectives, ideas, and the application of the most current science, this opportunity provides a chance to work as a team to find cross disciplinary solutions. If your community has ideas for implementing solutions and needs a path forward to sequence those activities towards resilience goals, this opportunity can help facilitate that process.