



Coastal Incentive Grant Workshop

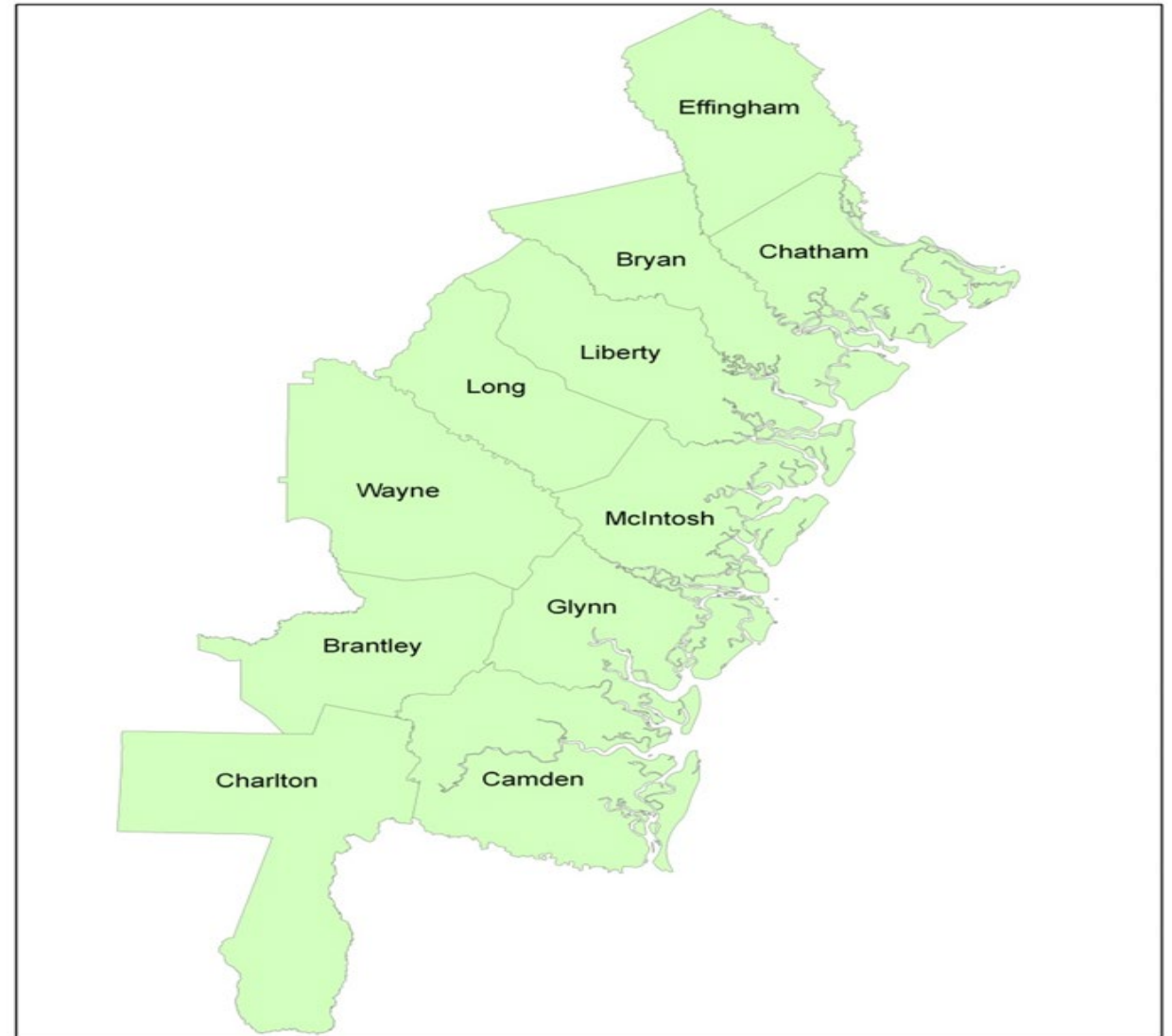
Cycle 29

Background

- The Coastal Incentive Grant (CIG) Program is a competitive pass-through program which is made possible by a federal grant to CRD from NOAA provided to Georgia's Coastal Management Program through Congressional funding
- Approximately \$750,000 is available annually for sub-grants (40% of the Coastal Management Program's annual grant from NOAA)
- Each year, as CRD applies for the federal grant, the successful CIG applications are included as sub-grant projects

Eligible Recipients

- Qualified County and Municipal governments and regional commissions
- State-affiliated Research and Educational Institutions
- Regional and State Agencies (except GADNR)
- 11 Coastal County Service Area



Goals of the CIG Program

- Support the Coastal Management Program's mission to balance economic development in Georgia's Coastal area with preservation of natural, environmental, historical, archaeological, and recreational resources for the benefit of Georgia's present and future generations
- Address local and regional coastal resource protection priorities
- Support research in areas of specific coastal management need

Successful proposals will demonstrate fulfillment of these goals

Cycle 29 (2026-2027) Themes

**Sustainable
Communities**

Oceans and Wetlands

**Public Access, and Land
Conservation**

**Disaster Resiliency and
Coastal Hazards**

Nature-Based Solutions

Themes

Sustainable Communities

- Strengthen local capacity to implement sustainable approaches in planning and development
- Identify and preserve unique community qualities, historical and cultural features, including public education of the above
- Design stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP) recommended by the Georgia Coastal Stormwater Supplement

Themes

Oceans and Wetlands

- Maintain or improve the quality of wetlands
- Conserve and restore wetland habitats
- Improve the understanding of ocean and wetland habitats and their functions

Themes

Public Access and Land Conservation

- Add or enhance physical access for the public to coastal water resources (i.e. rivers, wetlands, beaches)
- Public access planning in support of the “Outdoors Beyond Barriers” initiative
- Conserve riparian habitats through acquisition
- Conserve, preserve, and/or manage, especially for Sea Level Rise retreat

Themes

Disaster Resiliency and Coastal Hazards

- Improve understanding of coastal hazards and potential impacts
- Develop, implement or incorporate adaptation and mitigation strategies/plans or policies
- Strengthen local capacity to implement FEMA's Community Rating System

Themes

Nature-Based Solutions

- Plan & design nature-based projects within the eleven (11) Coastal County service area
- Implement via low-cost construction (306A)
- Actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage ecosystems in a way that addresses the needs of CRD

Research Needs (Not Prioritized)

July 2025

Coastal Hazards:

- Economic cost of action vs. inaction related to coastal hazards
- Effects of Ocean Acidification in Coastal Georgia Waters
- Local Model Ordinances to address Climate Change Impacts
- Reference tide stations to orthometric datum for enhanced accuracy of calculations in reference to land elevations

Water and sediment quality/quantity:

- Bacterial transport – hydrology studies; what are the bacterial sources? (Transport and time-of-travel studies to estimate when a pollution plume would reach a coastal swimming beach)
- Bacterial issues in and around Georgia coastal marinas
- Correlations between DO levels and tannins in Georgia coastal rivers
- Effects of wetlands and land use practices on instream flows (at multiple scales from site to regional)
- Beachfront shoreline change modeling/predictive ability considerate of natural and anthropogenic inputs
- Appropriate DO criteria that is protective of aquatic species present

Green Growth/Stormwater Management:

- Inventory of specific codes, ordinances, and/or individual practices that are hindering green development in coastal counties, including solutions to alleviate these roadblocks
- Future buildout analysis for coastal counties to demonstrate stormwater and flooding impacts with increasing impervious cover (including water quantity and quality impacts)
- Economic analysis of traditional subdivision development patterns versus “green” neighborhood developments utilizing local/regional examples
- Hydrologic analysis of tidally influenced stormwater infrastructure with future precipitation and future sea levels to identify and prioritize needed capacity improvements

Coastal Habitats:

- Economic value of salt marshes via wave attenuation during storm surge
- Environmental and biological data related to health and/or status of Georgia's river drainage systems. Specific needs related to habitat requirements during early life stages of marine organisms
- Reach of tide in major riverine systems
- SLAMM data enhancements (bathymetry, salinity, elevation, etc.)
- Geospatial information for assessing priority species impacts
- Saltmarsh, freshwater marsh and oyster reefs for carbon sequestration
- Relationship between tidal creek sinuosity and ecosystem health

Marine Fisheries:

- Estimates of hooking mortality and causes (handling stress, barotrauma, etc.) in the catch-and-release recreational fisheries
- Potential impacts and changes in fish communities related to climate change and regime shifts
- Complete knowledge of the life history of exploited estuarine and marine fishes indigenous to coastal Georgia
- Improve fishery assessments, with increased/coordinated fishery-dependent and fishery-independent monitoring/surveys region-wide
- Characterization of discards (discard rates, characteristics of discarded fish, and reasons for discards) associated with recreational fisheries, specifically Red Drum and Black Sea Bass.
- Information about shoreline/private access fishing effort and areas
- Characterization of recreational flounder species occurrence, habitats, and distribution in Georgia

Public Access:

- Economic impact, public use trends, and needs assessment
- Identify public access areas for additional access or increased capacity at existing structures

Evaluation Criteria

Criteria to use when developing your proposal

The Review Committee uses two sets of Evaluation Criteria to score applications.

The Criteria are the same *except*:

Non-Research Criteria scores the relevance of the project with local/state or federal planning priorities and the degree to which it protects, conserves or enhances natural resources.

Research Criteria scores the soundness of the science and its transferability to practical usage.

Proposals

A proposal is the planning document that pulls together and presents all the information to make an informed planning decision

Types of CIG proposals

- Research
- Planning
- Education/Outreach
- Construction/Acquisition (306A): Which will require additional documentation

Research Proposals

- Address a documented coastal management need
- Produce information, products, or results immediately useful to coastal managers and/or local communities
- Any project that collects data must complete a Data Management Plan to be approved by NOAA
- All funded research projects will be required to submit a Status Report (semi-annually) and a Final/Technical Report



Marsh dieback research project

Planning Proposals

- Local or regional planning
- Ordinance development or implementation
- Development of Best Management Practices (BMP)
- Resource inventories
- GIS mapping
- Planning documents and engineered drawings



Sustainable Development Planning in
Kingsland

Education/Outreach Proposals

- Public stewardship activities
- Community awareness
- Curriculum development/implementation
- Workshops/training



Ecology education for K-6th grade in
Chatham County

Construction/Acquisition Proposals (306A)

- Must provide public access to a coastal natural resource or a coastal cultural resource

- Types of projects include
 - Interest in land
 - Low-cost construction
 - Revitalization
 - Engineering designs, specifications and reports
 - Educational, interpretive, and management costs

Construction/Acquisition Proposals (306A)

- Must meet the objectives and allowable use guidelines for Section 306A Coastal Zone Management Act
- Site visit by CRD staff is required before the full application is submitted
- All 306A proposals must obtain clearance letters from the GA State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Full applications will require the 306A Checklist, which NOAA will use to conduct environmental compliance reviews
- Projects cannot begin until the NOAA environmental compliance is approved
- The most recent version of the 306A Guidelines can be found on the CRD website at <http://coastalgadnr.org/CIG/application>

Cycle 29 Funding & Terms

- **\$80,000** for Research, Planning, Education, and Construction/Acquisition (306A) projects
- 2-year maximum term
- Separate scope of work and outcomes for each year (tasks and budget cannot cross years)
- A useful interim deliverable must be produced at the conclusion of Year 1 (e.g. report of data collected to date, draft outreach materials, etc.)

Budget, Match, and Indirect

- Grant requests **must be matched 1:1** from non-federal sources
 - Match may be cash or in-kind (applicant services, volunteer work, supplies donated, Fair Market Value of use of facilities or equipment, etc.)
- Indirect costs are allowable as per the applicant's federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA)
 - If no NICRA, then can request 10% de minimus
 - NICRA documentation must be included in the application
 - Indirect may be wholly or partially in the federal request and/or match at the applicant's discretion

Coastal Incentive Grants are REIMBURSABLE GRANTS – funds are paid at the end of the project. Once all deliverables and reports have been reviewed.

Prior to Submittal

- ✓ Visit CRD website at <http://coastalgadnr.org/CoastalIncentiveGrant>
- ✓ Read the RFP and application instructions
- ✓ Note Pre- and Full Application deadlines
- ✓ Understand Pre- and Full Application submittal guidelines
- ✓ Thoughtfully consider project proposal and evaluation criteria
- ✓ Visit the Submission Portal that can be found on the CRD website
- ✓ When in doubt, please contact Shy Duncan at Shyathia.duncan1@dnr.ga.gov or (912) 912-602-8302

Resource Specialists

Contact our resource specialists for questions and guidance when developing a project:

- Green Growth/Low Impact Development- Kelly Hill (kelly.hill@dnr.ga.gov)
- Coastal Hazards- Jennifer Kline (jennifer.kline@dnr.ga.gov)
- Geospatial and Public Access projects- Jan Mackinnon (Jan.Mackinnon@dnr.ga.gov)
- Wetlands Health – Jan Mackinnon (Jan.Mackinnon@dnr.ga.gov)
- Living Shorelines- Meghan Angelina (meghan.angelina@dnr.ga.gov)
- General Questions- Shy Duncan (shyathia.duncan1@dnr.ga.gov)

Staff can provide a Letter of Acknowledgement which can be submitted with the Full Proposal

Application Submittal Process



Coastal Incentive Grant

Sign In/Sign Up Instructions

For New Users:

By clicking **Sign Up**, you will be prompted to enter your email address and create a password. Once you have chosen your password, your account will be created and you will gain access to the portal.

For Returning Users:

Sign into the portal using the email address and the password you created when you originally signed up for the portal. If you have forgotten your password, click "**Forgot your password?**" and follow the prompts to reset your password.

Sign In

Email

Password

Need an Account?

POWERED BY
wizehive

- Pre & Full Applications will be submitted through our web portal:

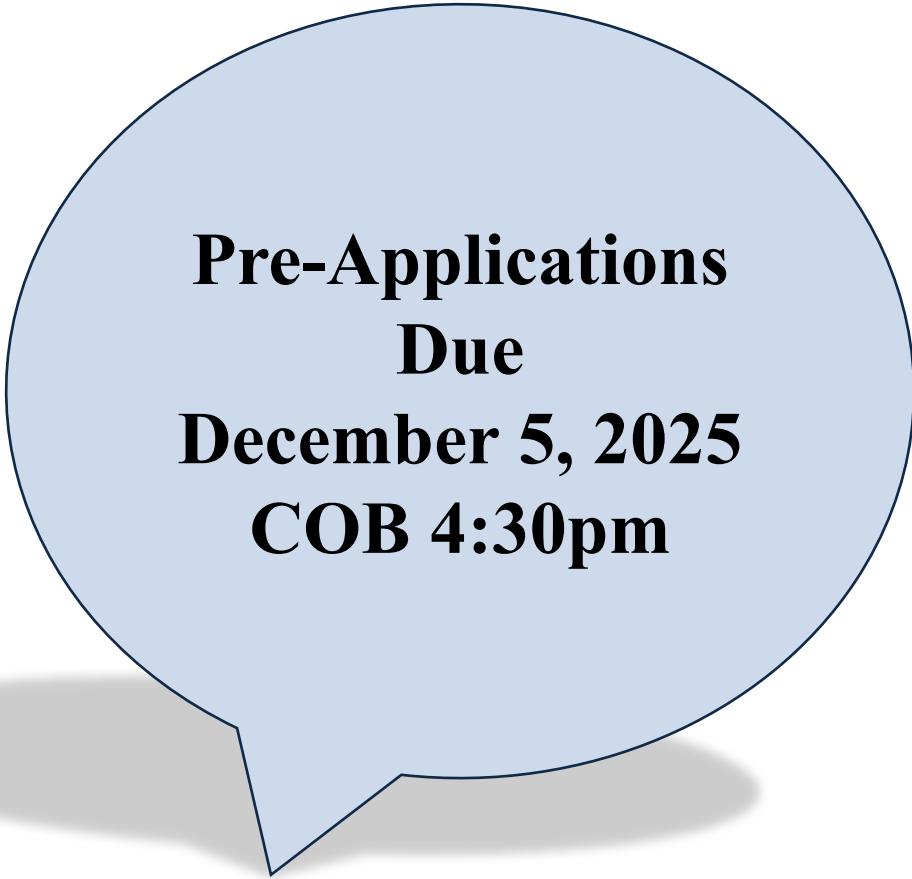
https://webportalapp.com/sp/login/coastal_incentive_grant_gadnr

- Applicant will need to create an account. Only 1 email can be associated with the profile, so you will need to share login information with anyone else needing access to the application.
- If the applicant is a university, check with your grants department about the best way to submit your application.
- You can save your work at any time before submitting.
- Sample forms can be found on our website:

<https://coastalgadnr.org/CIG/application>

Pre-Application Format

- Provide Profile Information
- Background and Justification
 - Project Overview (summary in 4,000 characters or less)
 - Coastal Management Relevance and Other Federal Funding (include practical use of project and relationship with other funding sources in 1,500 characters or less)
 - Project Goals (specific and measurable within terms in 1,500 characters or less)
- Task Descriptions (must have separate tasks in year 1 and year 2)
 - Task title
 - Task objectives and goals
 - Task deliverables
- Estimated Budget
 - Overall total (separate for year 1 and year 2)
 - Minimum 1:1 match required



**Pre-Applications
Due
December 5, 2025
COB 4:30pm**

Pre-Application Review

- Pre-application CRD Review Team
 - GCMP Technical Staff and Program Manager
 - CRD Subject Matter Expert(s) (as needed)
- Reviews and competitively ranks projects in early January 2026
 - Applicability to the GCMP
 - Demonstrated coastal need
 - Clear project goals
 - Budget soundness
 - Applicant's past performance
- Selected applicants are invited to submit a Full Application
 - Notifications will be sent out by mid to late January 2026
 - Review Team feedback will be provided to all applicants

Full Application Format

- Background and Justification (carry-over or revision from pre-application)
- Task Descriptions (details updated from pre-application)
 - Include activities to be performed and by whom
 - Include specific deliverables
 - Include completion date for each task
- Communications
 - Describe a plan for outreach and information dissemination
 - Distinguish between Educational Activity or a Training
- Project Timeline and Milestones (for each year of project)
- Project Management (include all persons involved with project including partners)

Full Application Format

- Project Budget Narrative in Standard form
 - Detailed categorical narrative
 - Separate year 1 and year 2 standard budget forms

- Supplemental Information
 - Match/In-kind Letters of Support (Full Application)
 - Demonstration of Critical Local Need
 - Referenced Plans
 - NICRA documentation (if applicable)
 - Certifications Form
 - Authorizing Resolution
 - 306A Project Checklist
 - Attorney Title Opinion or Certification of Real Property Ownership
 - GA State Historic Preservation Office review request letter and response
 - US Fish and Wildlife Service review request letter and response
 - Site Maps
 - Site Plans

COMPETITIVE
(upon invitation only)
Due by 4:30pm, Friday,
February 13, 2026
Detailed expansion of pre-
application proposal

Full Application Review

- ❖ CIG Technical Review Committee will be held in mid- March 2026
 - Five coastal community professionals: State Resource Management, Local Government, NGO, Academia, and Citizen-at-Large
- ❖ Review and competitively score projects in
 - Research and Non-Research Criteria
 - Number of funded projects dependent on funding
- ❖ Selected projects will be included in the CRD's application for annual funding from the NOAA CZM Grant
- ❖ All applicants will be notified of preliminary approval by April 24, 2026, and upon official NOAA approval for a project start date of October 1, 2026

Additional Proposal Tips

- ✓ Read instructions thoroughly!
- ✓ Demonstrate a sincere desire to conduct outreach/education to a target audience.
- ✓ Include volunteers where applicable (use their time as match).
- ✓ Deliver useful products. Research should not result in models that are one-time runs, cannot be transferred, or cost thousands to update. Planning and Education projects should increase capacity in a local government or institution.
- ✓ Clearly demonstrate how project results will be used by local governments or resource managers. Be specific.

Additional Proposal Tips

- ✓ Staff/student/volunteer time charged or matched to the subgrant proposal must be documented and justified if claiming 100% of worker time.
- ✓ Budgets are carefully considered and reviewed. Be sure to create a realistic, reasonable budget in pre- and full applications.
- ✓ Be sure to indicate what other federal funding sources that may be related to the project proposed.
- ✓ Late or incomplete proposals will **not** be considered.
- ✓ Contact Shy Duncan with any questions:
Shyathia.duncan1@dnr.ga.gov or 912-602-8302



Questions?

