

Ohio Sea Grant College Program

The Ohio Sea Grant College Program is accepting small grant proposals for one-year research projects on Great Lakes topics with particular significance to Lake Erie and its watershed. For more information on our funding priorities, please refer to the Ohio Sea Grant Strategic Plan (please reach out to Erin Monaco, monaco.25@osu.edu for a copy).

Ohio Sea Grant accepts small grant proposals on a rolling basis. We receive new funds at the beginning of each calendar year and award proposals until funds are depleted. Please reach out to Erin Monaco (monaco.25@osu.edu) to inquire about the availability of funds or any accessibility needs.

Where to submit a proposal: Ohio Sea Grant accepts small grant proposal submissions on a rolling basis through the application portal which is located on Ohio Sea Grant's website: ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/funding/submit.

Ohio Sea Grant's Strategic Plan and Funding Priorities

Ohio Sea Grant is one of 34 state Sea Grant programs that are part of the National Sea Grant College Program (that is part of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Department of Commerce). Ohio Sea Grant has four main research foci: 1) Healthy Coastal Ecosystems, 2) Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, 3) Resilient Communities and Economies, and 4) Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development.

Ohio Sea Grant encourages projects that build or strengthen partnerships with communities or organizations and that hold similar goals to build research programs are highly valued, including partnerships with community colleges, community-based organizations, and more. Ohio Sea Grant encourages applicants to clearly identify how this research will have broader societal impacts, create intersectionality, or implement solutions for the community. In addition, preference for funding will be given to untenured faculty (Assistant Professor) and proposals that fund high school, undergraduate and/or graduate students.

Ohio Sea Grant staff combine research, education, and outreach, in collaboration with Great Lakes communities, to inform decisions regarding Lake Erie and the region's most important environmental and economic topics with impartiality. Ohio Sea Grant is committed to fostering experiences which value people and local knowledge to reach new audiences, increase participation, and broaden the impact so all members of the community reach their full potential.

Proposal Instructions

A PDF version of the proposal (with all pieces of the proposal mentioned below merged into one PDF document) must be submitted to Ohio Sea Grant application portal. Applicants should submit proposals by accessing the application portal at this website: ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/funding/submit then selecting "Small Grant Proposal" and uploading the file. **Proposals should include, in one single PDF document, the following components:**

- I. **Project summary:** A maximum of three pages of summary narrative (literature cited is not included in page maximum), which must include the rationale, objectives, and methodology, for the proposed project is required.
 - a) **Rationale:** should be a concise statement of why this is an appropriate Sea Grant project. That is, what problem or opportunity is being addressed and why is it important. Discuss how the proposed project addresses one or more of the priorities listed in the instructions. Include the potential end users (for example: management agencies, private sector, etc.) of the project information to be developed if they have been identified. Collaboration with state, regional, and federal agencies is encouraged.
 - b) **Objectives:** should state what the investigator(s) intends to do. Measurable objectives are preferred. Quantifiable and hypothesis-based objectives are well received.
 - c) **Methodology:** should outline the steps and approaches to be taken. The methodology should be specific enough to allow peer reviewers to accurately evaluate the proposal but not too detailed that only content experts can evaluate the strength and value of the proposed work.
- II. **Budget form*:** A budget is required for the one-year project. Individual budgets are also required for all sub-awards on the project. The budget form and instructions are available on Ohio Sea Grant's website (ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/funding). Budgets should request no more than \$10,000 and a 50% match is required; however, if this is a barrier to submission, please reach out to Erin Monaco (monaco.25@osu.edu).
- III. **Budget justification:** A budget justification describing all expenses budgeted for the project is required.
- IV. **Vita:** A two-page curriculum vita for each investigator/project member is required.
- V. **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Data Sharing Directive – Proposal Submission Phase*:** Proposals submitted in response to this announcement must include a Data Management Plan describing how these requirements will be satisfied. To comply with this requirement, the Principal Investigator (PI) must complete the form “NOAA Data Sharing Directive Policy – Proposal Submission Phase” available on Ohio Sea Grant's website (ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/funding). This will allow PIs to explain how the data and metadata will be provided and must include information for all applicable datasets related to the project. If funding is required for data curation and archiving, please make sure that funds are budgeted in the project budget for data management. All data generated through Sea Grant funded projects are required to be completely QA/QC'ed (Quality Assurance and Quality Control) and made publicly accessible by two years after the end date of the project. If the proposed research will not generate environmental data, then a Data Management Plan will need to be stated as such: “This project will not generate any environmental data.”
- VI. **Approval from the applicant's university with appropriate authorized signatures:** At Ohio State University, this is the ePA-005. For investigators outside of Ohio State University, please 1) complete the Subrecipient Letter of Intent form* and include the applicant's university's indirect cost rate agreement.
- VII. **Letters of Collaboration:** Ohio Sea Grant highly recommends a completed Letter of Collaboration form from all project partners that are committing time and/or resources to the project. The Letter of Collaboration form can be found on Ohio Sea Grant's website (ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/funding).

* Required forms can be found on the Ohio Sea Grant website: ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/funding

Review Process: Experts from academia, state and federal management agencies, and/or non-governmental organizations will review proposal submissions. Each criterion listed below will be awarded points as listed below (50 points total). Point totals are then divided by five to get a total score on a scale of 0-10 with 10 being the highest possible rating. Proposals will also be rated on a qualitative +, 0, - scale, with the (+) score meaning this is something that should be funded, (0) is neutral, and (-) stating this proposal should not receive funding at this time.

Rational (15 points): the degree to which the proposal addresses the priorities of the National Sea Grant Program (seagrant.noaa.gov) and Ohio Sea Grant's 2024-2027 strategic plan (ohioseagrant.osu.edu/research/funding), and important state, regional, or national constituencies.

Scientific Merit (15 points): the degree to which the activity will advance the state of the science or discipline through use and extension of state-of-the-art methods.

Innovativeness (15 points): the degree to which new approaches to solving problems and exploiting opportunities in resource management or development, or in public outreach on such topics will be employed; alternatively, the degree to which the activity will focus on new types of important or potentially important resources and topics.

Qualifications and Past Record of Investigators (5 points): the degree to which investigators are qualified by education, training, and/or experience to execute the proposed activity and record of achievement with previous funding.

Additional Information:

- Funding may not be used for routine program implementation, regulatory compliance or mitigation, land acquisition, or on-the-ground restoration or construction.
- Proposals will not be accepted from investigators who are not current with reporting requirements on previous projects funded by Ohio Sea Grant.
- Submitting electronic pre-publication manuscripts to Ohio Sea Grant of work resulting from NOAA funding is a part of investigators' reporting requirements. Please cite related Ohio Sea Grant project using the following sentence, "Funding for this project was provided by Ohio Sea Grant, grant no. NA24OARX417C0032." Please ensure you have the correct grant number by contacting Erin Monaco (monaco.25@osu.edu) prior to publication.