

Introduction to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's National Coastal Resilience Fund

Overview

Established in 2018, the NCRF invests in conservation projects that restore or expand natural features such as coastal marshes and wetlands, dune and beach systems, oyster and coral reefs, forests, coastal rivers and floodplains, and barrier islands that minimize the impacts of storms and other coastal hazards on nearby communities while also enhancing habitat for fish and wildlife. Approximately \$140 million of National Coastal Resilience Fund (“NCRF”) funding was available in 2022.

Program Priorities

NFWF will make investments in planning, design, and restoration projects that:

- **Identify or implement nature-based solutions**, such as restoring coastal marshes, reconnecting floodplains, rebuilding dunes or other natural buffers, installing living shorelines;
- **Benefit coastal communities by reducing threats from coastal hazards** (such as rising sea- and lake-levels, more intense storms, increasing flooding and erosion, and melting permafrost) to property and key assets, such as hospitals and evacuation routes; AND
- **Benefit fish and wildlife habitat** by enhancing the ecological integrity and functionality of coastal ecosystems.

*Additional consideration will be given to projects that address the disproportionate risks faced by **underserved communities**, projects that are **community led** or incorporate direct community outreach and engagement, and projects that incorporate **innovative, sustainable, or transferable approaches**.*

Who are the NCRF Field Liaisons?

[Throwe Environmental, LLC \(TE\)](#) will renew its role as national Field Liaisons, expanding its services to include new partnerships with the [Native American Fish and Wildlife Society \(NAFWS\)](#) and the [American Society of Adaptation Professionals \(ASAP\)](#). Throwe has served as the sole NCRF Field Liaisons since February 2021. As Field Liaisons, TE, ASAP, and NAFWS provide direct outreach to potential NCRF applicants, leverage their expansive networks to provide NCRF-specific peer-to-peer learning opportunities and resources, and connect historically underserved communities, including Tribes and Alaska Native communities with NCRF funds.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include non-profit 501(c) organizations, state and territorial government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Tribal governments and organizations, educational institutions, or commercial (for-profit) organizations.



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Project Categories

- **Community Capacity Building and Planning** that engages stakeholders and builds the capacity to plan and execute a variety of future resilience strategies, projects, and other activities.
- **Site Assessment and Preliminary Design** of best options to address restoration and resilience goals of pre-identified and prioritized communities.
- **Final Design and Permitting** for on-the-ground projects. Funding may be used for developing conceptual or preliminary designs into final designs and engineering plans, continued stakeholder engagement, detailed cost estimates, communications with permitting officials, and tasks to position projects for implementation.
- **Restoration and Monitoring** of projects that have been prioritized through planning, address coastal resilience, have completed all design and engineering plans necessary for implementation, and are ready to secure or have secured all permits and other approvals necessary for implementation.

Applicants should only choose one of the above categories per project application.

Proposals should not straddle multiple project categories.

Geographic Boundary

Projects must be located within the **coastal areas of U.S. coastal states, including the Great Lakes states, and U.S. territories and coastal tribal lands.** The coastal area includes all coastal Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 8 watersheds that drain to the sea and any adjacent HUC 8 watersheds that are particularly low-lying or tidally influenced, identified in the [NCRF boundary map](#).



Interested applicants are encouraged to share proposal ideas with the **Field Liaison** team prior to submission of pre-proposals. This feedback is optional and has no impact on pre- or final proposal evaluation or awarding of funds. It is intended solely to assist the applicant in developing a more competitive proposal. **To discuss potential projects, or ask questions about the RFP please contact nrcf@throwe-environmental.com.**



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