

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

Overview

The National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF), established in 2018, invests in nature-based solutions that protect coastal communities while enhancing habitats for fish and wildlife. The National Coastal Resilience Fund invests in conservation projects that restore, increase and strengthen natural infrastructure such as coastal marshes and wetlands, dune and beach systems, oyster and coral reefs, rivers and floodplains, coastal forest, and barrier islands that mitigate the impacts of storms and other coastal hazards to communities.

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 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 \(Throwe\)](#) has served as the sole NCRF Field Liaisons since February 2021. As Field Liaisons, Throwe provides direct outreach to potential NCRF applicants, leveraging their expansive networks to provide NCRF-specific peer-to-peer learning opportunities and resources to communities seeking to develop competitive NFWF proposals.

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.



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 must apply under the ONE category that best describes the purpose and activities that will be carried out during the project. NFWF will NOT fund projects across combined 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 ncrf@throwe-environmental.com.**