Request for Grant Applications (RFGA)

Grants for Eligible Projects

The Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability,
Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economies
of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012
(RESTORE)

- Grants Will Be Contingent Upon
Available Funds -

Solicitation No. 582-16-62136

Project Applications Due: <u>April 15, 2016</u>; 5:00 PM Central **T**ime

Project Applications MUST be submitted on-line through the www.restorethetexascoast.org web site

IMPORTANT NOTICE: To ensure you have time to resolve any technical issues with your submission, it is highly recommended that you submit your project application at least 24 hours before due date and time.

Request for Grant Applications (RFGA)

1. INVITATION AND AUTHORITY

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) acting on behalf of the State of Texas invites applications from eligible organizations for the purpose of selecting and awarding grants under section 311(t) (1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as added by section 1603 of the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 ("RESTORE Act").

2. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE

Selected applicants will be awarded grant funding to perform eligible activities as described below. For this RFGA, TCEQ intends to select multiple entities for grant awards. The number of awards will depend upon several factors including, among others, the quality of project applications, size of projects, and available funding.

TCEQ provides no assurances that an entity that has submitted an application will be selected and awarded a grant. TCEQ shall have no liability for expenses incurred by an applicant prior to the execution of a grant agreement.

3. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Projects funded under this RFGA must be eligible activities that primarily benefit the Gulf Coast Region. Projects funded under this RFGA must be one or more of the following:

- Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast Region.

- Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources.

- Implementation of a federally approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring.

- Workforce development and job creation.

- Improvements to or on State parks located in coastal areas affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

- Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure.

- Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure.

- Planning assistance.

- Administrative costs of complying with the Restore Act.

- Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing.

- Promotion of the consumption of seafood harvested from the Gulf Coast Region.

Project phasing is allowable. Phases may be included in one project application or in several individual project applications.

4. GULF COAST REGION

RESTORE funding is available only for projects where each severable part of the activity is primarily designed to restore or protect the Gulf Coast Region. For purposes of this RFGA, Gulf Coast Region is defined in section 311 (a) (33) of the Clean Water Act as added by the Restore Act. Applicants must demonstrate how all proposed activities meet this requirement. It is not necessary that all physical activities related to a project actually take place in the Gulf Coast Region.

5. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applicants eligible for grant awards include state and local governmental entities, and for-profit and non-profit nongovernmental entities (including sole proprietors, private businesses, charitable organizations, and educational institutions). Applicants may also be separate, legally created entities (including joint ventures) that involve multiple participants through partnerships or other agreements. Applicants may be pre-existing or may be created for the purpose of applying for a grant. If a joint venture is selected, the joint venture entity must be legally created prior to entering into a grant agreement, and the grant agreement will require that the joint venture entity include certain commitments related to its joint venture relationship in its RESTORE grant agreement.

Applicants must be eligible to receive grant funds. Grant project applications must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the instructions included with this RFGA.

6. ANTICIPATED GRANT AGREEMENT

Although selection is expected to occur in 2016, the anticipated date for entering a grant agreement is expected to be no earlier than late 2016 due to federal and state requirements for RESTORE funding (See section 14). The term for the grant agreements is expected to be four years and will not be extended unless approved by TCEQ. Extensions beyond a fifth year require the U.S. Department of Treasury (Treasury) approval as well. TCEQ may post a sample grant agreement prior to the project application submission due date on the Electronic State Business Daily (ESBD) web site through an addendum to the RFGA located at (http://esbd.cpa.state.tx.us).

7. FUNDING

The amount to be awarded under this grant program depends upon the amount of funding available under the RESTORE Act. At this time, it is estimated that there is between $50-56 million available for potential grant awards in Texas.

TCEQ is not obligated to grant the full amount of available funding and reserves the right to cancel the RFGA without awarding any grant funds.

8. OUTSIDE FUNDS/MATCHING FUNDS/LEVERAGING

Grantees will not be required to contribute matching funds (and therefore, waiver of matching funds for economically disadvantaged counties or census tracts is not relevant to this RFGA).

However, leveraging of funds is encouraged. Detailed information on leveraging amounts will be considered in reviewing a project application.

RESTORE funds may be used as recipient match for many other federal grants. If you intend to use funds awarded under this RFGA as a match to other federal funds, Treasury requires specific documentation for those projects that have been funded and those that are in the process of approval or denial. Treasury will not award RESTORE funds to be used as match for another federal grant until the other non-RESTORE federal funds have been awarded and Treasury receives documentation. Documentation requirements are described in the "Instructions to complete Application Addendum," Attachment A.

9. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Under the RESTORE Act, each Gulf Coast State is required to provide annual reports on all grants, including the amount and recipients of the grants, to the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (the "Council")—the federal entity established under section 311(t)(2)(C) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (as added by section 1603 of the RESTORE Act). —Each grantee awarded a grant agreement under this RFGA shall provide information to TCEQ in a format to be specified in the grant agreement that will allow TCEQ to submit the required information to the Council.

There are several performance reports that will need to be created by the grantee on an annual and semi-annual basis and submitted to TCEQ. The grantee will also be required to submit monthly detailed financial and project progress reports to TCEQ. Examples of these reports are below:

- Performance Progress Report (SF-PPR-B) due semi-annually
- Status of Performance Report (standard format provided by Treasury) due semi-annually
- Milestones Report (standard format provided by Treasury) due semi-annually
- RESTORE Council Report (form prescribed by the Council) due annually
- Identification of Other Funding Sources, as related to awarded project
- Significant Development reporting, as necessary
- Environmental Standards reporting, if changes occur after certification
- Financial Status Report (standard format provided by TCEQ) due monthly

10. GRANT AGREEMENT AND PROCEDURES

Entities selected to receive grant funding will be required to sign a grant agreement with TCEQ. All services or work carried out under a grant agreement awarded as a result of this RFGA must be completed within the scope, time frame, and funding limitations specified in that grant agreement.

11. FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

Funds provided pursuant to the RESTORE Act are federally funded grant awards and are subject to all requirements related to federally funded grants, except as specifically provided otherwise in the RESTORE Act or applicable regulations (see 31 CFR Part 34). All grant agreements under this RFGA will include federal conditions and forms (sample Federal Conditions which will be included in an awarded grant agreement can be found at https://www.restorethetexascoast.org/).

12. PAYMENTS

Grants under this RFGA will be reimbursement grants. Grantees will be required to submit invoices in a format that will be provided in the grant agreement and will be required to provide documentation and proof of expenditures for reimbursement on a monthly basis. Advance payments may be allowed on a case-by-case basis with approval from TCEQ and Treasury.

13. MISCELLANEOUS REQUIREMENTS

13.1. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND PATENTS

If grant funds awarded through this program are used to develop a technology which is later patented, including the payment of fees associated with obtaining the patent, all ownership rights in any technology developed will remain with the grantee. However, the grantee will be required to grant to a permanent, royalty-free license, so that TCEQ would not subsequently be required to pay license fees for its own use of a product created or developed with the use of this funding. The same requirements apply to other forms of intellectual property protection, such as copyright, including copyrighted computer software code.

13.2. ELIGIBLE COSTS AND INDIRECT COSTS

All grant funds must be expended in a manner consistent with all applicable state and federal law. Specifically, allowable costs (including indirect costs) must be consistent with the cost principles from 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) 14.10 and the Uniform Grant Management Standards (UGMS) promulgated by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, and the federal Uniform Grant Guidance contained in 2 CFR Part 200.

A budget form has been included as an attachment in this RFGA which must be used in developing costs for the project. This budget form must be included in

the uploaded files as part of your project application. It is highly encouraged that the applicant review UGMS and the federal Uniform Grant Guidance for the proper budget and indirect cost rate; see budget form, Attachment B. Documentation of the applicant's indirect cost rate must be provided prior to entering into a grant agreement.

13.3. PROOF OF INSURANCE

In certain cases and for certain projects which may be funded under a grant agreement resulting from this RFGA, the applicant may be required to supply proof that it is insured for project completion, replacement, and liability. When required, project completion or replacement insurance must be sufficient to cover lost, damaged, or destroyed equipment, and time and effort in case of a disaster unless different limits are agreed to in the grant agreement. When required, General Commercial Liability insurance shall cover both the grantee and indemnify TCEQ against any liability. TCEQ may request proof of such insurance upon approval of a grant agreement.

13.4. FOOD AND LOBBYING

No funds may be expended for food or lobbying purposes under this grant program. As a result, grant funds cannot be used to reimburse for the salary of a registered lobbyist.

13.5. AUDITS

Texas and/or the federal government may conduct audits and reviews of each recipient's accounts and activities.

14. PROJECT APPLICATION PROCESS

The project application and award process applicable under this RFGA includes several steps that involve other federal and state agencies. As a result, it is anticipated that there may be a longer period of time from receipt of project applications until award than there is in other grant programs. The following is a summary of the steps required for the project application and award process under this RFGA:

- Project applications are received through the RESTORE web site
- TCEQ determines which projects will be included in a draft Selected Project List (SPL)
- TCEQ posts a draft Multi-year Implementation Plan (MIP) including the draft Selected Project List (SPL) for a 45-day public comment period
- TCEQ reviews public comments and prepares final MIP-SPL to submit to Treasury

- Treasury accepts the MIP-SPL (**the acceptance of the MIP does <u>not</u> guarantee that all projects in that MIP will eventually be funded**)
- TCEQ selects projects to fund from Treasury-accepted MIP-SPL
- TCEQ submits to Treasury grant applications for each project selected
- Treasury issues an award letter approving selected grant application(s)
- TCEQ posts the awarded projects on the Texas ESBD and RESTORE web site
- TCEQ prepares grant agreements for the awarded projects

14.1.   Project Application Submission

All grant project applications MUST be submitted through the process set forth below. Project applications must be submitted electronically at www.restorethetexascoast.org.

This web site includes a basic application portion and an application addendum, both of which must be fully completed, including supporting documentation. Supporting documentation will be accepted in the following formats: .docx, .doc, .pdf, .png, .xls, .xlsx, .ppt, .pptx, .txt, .gif, .png, .jpeg, .jpg, .bmp, and .tiff. These document files have a maximum size of 5 Mb (uncompressed) per document. No .zip files will be accepted.

A completed budget form must be included as part of your project application submission along with your combined supplemental answers to both the basic application and application addendum.

Supporting documents such as maps, pictures, and other relevant information must be clearly identified and must specify for which application addendum question(s) is being addressed. This information may be in one or more separate uploaded files.

Upon submission of a project application, the applicant will receive a dated and timed response from the web site that the project application was received. It is recommended that the applicant print and retain this response.

You can save an application in the system prior to submitting. Once a project application is submitted, the applicant CANNOT make additional changes to it. If changes are needed, a new project application must be submitted.
If you have previously submitted a basic application without an application addendum, you must resubmit your project application in its entirety with an application addendum in order to be considered under this RFGA.

14.2.   Submittal of Project Information

Information about your project must be submitted electronically at http://www.restorethetexascoast.org/. Include the information described in Attachment A in your electronic submittal.

If one or more of your responses do not fit in a field, then you must submit

those responses in a separate uploaded file. This file must repeat the same headings, in the same order, as the headings in the basic application and application addendum. These same headings appear in Attachment A below.

If you need to include additional information and you must use a different file format, you may submit that information as a separate file but you must label it as an attachment and indicate which question(s) it addresses.

As a reminder, if you are submitting a project application under this RFGA, you must complete the basic application and application addendum. The web site will direct you to the application addendum after filling out the basic application. Your answers (including the budget form) will be used for scoring and ranking purposes. Projects that have not addressed applicable questions in the application addendum will not be considered administratively complete and may not be reviewed.

Provide complete answers to the application addendum questions. If a particular question is not applicable to your project, put "N/A."

Once a project application is submitted, the applicant CANNOT make additional changes to it. If changes are needed, a new project application must be submitted.   If you have previously submitted a basic application without an application addendum, you must resubmit your project application in its entirety with an application addendum to be considered under this RFGA.

All projects must provide information and documentation, if applicable, on both the positive and negative environmental effects of the project and how the applicant intends to mitigate negative effects.

For all applicable questions, indicate how you arrived at your calculations and your estimates as well as the scientific bases that you used in your determinations.

If your project will have secondary benefits, briefly describe the effects. You do not need to quantify secondary benefits.

When completing the basic application, follow the instructions provided at www.restorethetexascoast.org.

14.3.   Additional Application Information

Individuals desiring further information are encouraged to email Adrian Kyle, Contract Specialist, at: Adrian.Kyle@tceq.texas.gov.

14.4.   Public Information

Upon submission, all applications become the property of TCEQ and as such become subject to public disclosure under the Texas Public Information Act (PIA), Texas Government Code, Chapter 552. Except as specified in this paragraph, all information will be deemed not to be proprietary or confidential even if it has been marked proprietary or confidential. Any information the applicant wishes to protect from public disclosure **MUST** be clearly marked: "***Confidential/ Proprietary: inform applicant & seek AG opinion***

before releasing" on *every* page and **MUST** be submitted in a separate uploaded file containing only confidential information.   If the information is responsive to a particular section of the applicant's Statement of Qualifications, that section must be marked "See confidential / proprietary submittal." Any information that is so marked and submitted, if requested under the PIA, will be sent to the Texas Attorney General for a decision on whether it may be withheld. Note that the Attorney General may determine that the information is not confidential and therefore must be released. The applicant will be informed of the request for the Attorney General's decision, but TCEQ is under no obligation to make any arguments in support of withholding the information. It is the responsibility of the applicant to explain the basis for its claim that the information is confidential to the Attorney General.

14.5.   General Project Application Considerations

Although TCEQ intends to award grant agreements under this RFGA, TCEQ has no legal obligation to do so. TCEQ may make any number of awards or reject all project applications as determined to be in the best interest of the state. TCEQ may award the full amount of available funds, or any lesser amount.

TCEQ may select part of a project or a scaled up or down version of a project for funding.

TCEQ is not obligated to fund a proposal from an applicant that has demonstrated marginal or unsatisfactory performance on previous grants and contracts with Texas agencies.

TCEQ is not obligated to fund a proposal from an applicant that is considered to be high risk, based on the financial condition of the applicant and other risk factors. TCEQ may also include additional controls in a grant agreement to address the risks that may be involved with providing a grant to an applicant considered to be high risk.

TCEQ may consider an applicant's environmental compliance in making a funding decision. TCEQ may give preference to recipients who meet or exceed any state or federal environmental standards, including voluntary standards, relating to air quality.

14.6.   Environmental Checklist

Applicants must complete the Environmental Checklist, which is part of the application addendum. Applicant must submit supporting documentation to TCEQ if and when TCEQ includes a project in the MIP submission to Treasury.

14.7.   Pre-submittal Meetings

At this time, no pre-submittal meeting is scheduled. If an instructional workshop is scheduled, it will be posted on the ESBD web site through an addendum to the RFGA.

Applicants may find an instructional video at www.restorethetexascoast.org.

15. <u>SCORING CRITERIA</u>

15.1.

TCEQ will select grant project applications based on the Priorities Document (see below) developed with public input received during Listening Sessions held in September 2015 and comments received through the web site www.restorethetexascoast.org.

<u>PRIORITIES DOCUMENT</u>

A. ECONOMIC BENEFITS **25** Points
- Job Creation and Retention
- Benefits Economy through Infrastructure Projects
- Promotes Economic Resiliency
- Beneficial Impacts to Local & Regional Economy
- Promotes Tourism, Eco-Tourism, Recreation & Wildlife Tourism
- Promotes Gulf Seafood Marketing

B. ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS **25** Points
- Restores, Conserves & Preserves Habitat
- Protects or Enhances Rare and Threatened Resources
- Replenishes &Protects Living Coastal & Marine Resources
- Restores & Protects Water Quality and Quantity
- Contributes to Landscape Level Environmental Enhancement

C. COMPREHENSIVE FACTORS **20** Points
- Complements Other Projects
- Promotes Community Resiliency
- Promotes Ecological Resiliency
- Part of a Federal, State or Local Plan
- Promotes Recreational, Historical, Cultural & Educational Uses

D. PROJECT LOGISTICS **20** Points
- Project Readiness & Planning
- Likelihood of Success
- Long-term Operation & Management
- Success Criteria & Monitoring
- Based on Best Available Science
- Cost-Effectiveness

E. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT **20** Points
- Public Support & Participation
- Financial Partners & Funding

DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY

The final project application rankings are compiled and submitted to the Governor and/or his designee for review and final approval. The Governor or his designee may make changes to the project rankings upon consideration of other discretionary factors related to protecting, preserving, restoring, or enhancing the natural and economic resources of the Texas coast.

**Attachment A:
Instructions to complete Application Addendum**

INSTRUCTIONS TO COMPLETE APPLICATION ADDENDUM

PROJECT TYPE

Identify your project type as a Planning Grant, Implementation Grant, or a Planning and Implementation Grant. Choose one box only. The subheadings below give examples of the types of projects that fall into each project type.

- Planning Grant
  - ➢ Master planning
  - ➢ Planning assistance
  - ➢ Studies
  - ➢ Engineering designs
  - ➢ Permitting
  - ➢ Surveys
  - ➢ Appraisals
  - ➢ Consultations
- Implementation Grant
  - ➢ Construction
  - ➢ Certain types of monitoring
  - ➢ Acquisitions
  - ➢ Conservation easements
- Combination of both Planning and Implementation Grant

ADDENDUM QUESTIONS

ECONOMIC BENEFITS (25 POINTS)

1. **What is the quantity and economic value of the harvest of each species that the project will produce? (e.g. How many tons per species and the value of each species in the commercial market)**

   - This question relates to projects with potential impacts on fishing and related commercial harvest.
   - Provide your best estimates.
   - Indicate how you calculated these numbers and the basis for your estimate.

2. **To what extent will the project increase tourism and what is its economic value to the coastal area? (e.g.: Attract new travelers; support area hotels, restaurants, attractions, cruise ship embarkations and other activities)**

- If your project relates to tourism, including recreational activities, estimate the economic impact.
- Indicate how you calculated these numbers and the basis for your estimate.

3. **How will economic growth and competitiveness be enhanced by the infrastructure proposed by the project?**

- If your project involves planning, construction, maintenance, or improvement to infrastructure, estimate how those improvements will protect the economic interests of the region (including commercial, residential, and recreational uses).
- Indicate how you calculated these numbers and the basis for your estimate.

4. **Is the project located in a rural area? (Rural Area = counties with population of less than 60,000)**

- If your project is in a rural area, provide a brief description of the area, the unemployment rate and poverty rate.
- How will this project impact the area?
- What is the long term success?
- Does it have a commercial impact?
- What are the impacts to the community?
- Indicate how you calculated these numbers and the basis for your estimate.

5. **Number of permanent jobs to be created? (Permanent job = more than 12 months of full time employment)**

- If your project is creating permanent jobs, provide a brief description of the types and numbers of jobs.
- A permanent job is 40 hours a week for at least 12 months.
- Provide the best estimates you can and indicate how you calculated these numbers and the basis for your estimates. Address the long term success of permanent jobs, such as anticipated duration of position.

6. **Average weekly wage to be paid for permanent new jobs?**

- Indicate how you calculated these numbers and the basis for your estimates.
- Methodology can be developed by taking a sample of similar job duties.
- Average wage does not include fringe benefits such as retirement pensions, health and welfare, life insurance, training or any special expenses incurred.
- For assistance, you can use the following link to determine average weekly wage.
  http://www.tracer2.com/cgi/dataanalysis/AreaSelection.asp?tableName=Industry

7. **List capital investment, if any. (Local, State, Federal and/or Private)**

- If your project is funding investment in capital assets, provide a brief description. Explain how those capital assets will be used in the regular conduct of operations or activities at the applicant's site. Capital assets include land, buildings, labor used to construct or renovate a capital asset, furniture,

manufacturing machinery, computers and software, or other machinery and equipment.

- A capitalized lease, if applicable, should be listed as a capital investment. An operating lease should not be listed as a capital investment.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS (25 POINTS)

1. **How does the project promote coastal ecosystem function? (e.g.: Biological, geochemical, physical processes)**

   - If your project directly affects coastal ecosystem function (e.g., wetland creation, sand dunes), provide a brief description of project's effect.
   - Indicate the degree to which there will be long-term sustainable benefits.
   - Describe the effects and the basic science behind your assumptions.

2. **How will ecological resiliency be promoted by the project? (e.g.: Expansion of oyster reef restoration as a method of erosion control, reduced coastal vulnerability)**

   - If your project directly affects ecological resiliency, provide a brief description of the project's effect.
   - Include any adaptive management practices that will be used and describe the effects and the basic science behind your assumptions.

3. **List the type and acreage of each habitat type that will be preserved, restored or enhanced by this project.**

   - If your project directly involves preservation, restoration, or enhancement of habitat, provide a brief description, including the type and acreage of habitat, and indicate if it is rare or threatened.
   - Describe the effects and the basic science behind your assumptions.

4. **How does this project increase or enhance the resource values of a larger landscape? (e.g.: Protection of watershed affecting conservation downstream, completion of a corridor or incorporation of sufficient habitat to make introduction of new ecosystem processes possible)**

   - If your project will increase or enhance the value of natural resources of a larger landscape such as a watershed, wildlife corridor, estuary, etc., provide a brief description.
   - Describe the scale of the anticipated effects and the basic science behind your assumptions.

5. **How much of the project site is habitat for federal or state listed species or species in significant decline? How will the project affect these species?**

   - If your project will affect habitat for a federal or state listed species or species in significant decline, identify the species.

- Provide a brief description of the nature and scale of effects which you anticipate, how you will measure them, and the basic science behind your assumptions.

6. **Quantify project benefits to overall watershed health. (e.g.: How does it benefit hydrology, inflows, recharges and/or water quality?)**

   - If your project will directly affect watershed hydrology, inflows, recharges, or water quality, provide a brief description.
   - What is the nature and scale of the anticipated effects, how you will measure them, and the basic science behind your assumptions.

7. **How will the project benefit bay and estuarine health? (e.g.: Improves salinity regimes, nutrient and sediment transport for estuarine habitats, improves wetland functions, or restores naturalized periodicity of inflow events)**

   - If your project will directly affect bay and estuarine health, provide a brief description.
   - What is the nature and scale of the anticipated effects, how will you measure them, and what is the basic science behind your assumptions?

8. **How will the project affect water quality? (e.g.: Cumulative and secondary impacts, storm water management, reduces storm water runoff, watershed protection, reduces contaminants)**

   - If your project will directly affect water quality, provide a brief description.
   - What is the nature and scale of the anticipated effects, how will you measure them, and what is the basic science behind your assumptions?

9. **How will this project be affected by sea level variability? (e.g.: Subsidence, tidal dynamics, storm surges, floods, coastal erosion)**

   - If your project will affect or be affected by sea level variability, provide a brief description.
   - What is the nature and scale of the anticipated effects?

COMPREHENSIVE FACTORS (20 POINTS)

1. **What is the educational contribution of the project? (e.g.: Implements hazard response programs, develops and distributes materials to schools, nature centers, and/or other educational facilities)**

   - If your project has an educational contribution, provide a brief description.
   - What is the nature and scale of the educational contribution to your particular project, how will you measure the contribution, and what is the basic science behind your assumptions including your plan for dissemination of information?

2. **What is the recreational contribution of the project? (e.g.: Increased recreational hunting and/or fishing opportunities, public access, parks, birdwatching, kayaking, paddling trails)**

   - If your project has a recreational contribution, provide a brief description.

- What is the nature and scale of the recreational contribution to your project, how will you measure the contribution, and what is the basic science behind your assumptions.
- How it will benefit the economy and describe any long range benefits?

3. **Has the project been documented to reduce flood risk by FEMA?**

- If your Project has been identified by FEMA to reduce flood risk, provide a brief description.
- What is the nature and scale of the reduced flood risk of the project?
- How will you measure the long term?

4. **How will infrastructure and coastal community resiliency be promoted by the project? (e.g.: Provides safety elements for the community, implements building codes, setbacks, flood control, moves development out of high-risk zones)**

- If your project will directly affect and promote coastal community resiliency, provide a brief description.
- What is the nature and scale of the anticipated effects, how will you measure them and what is the basic science behind your assumptions?

5. **What coastal assets are protected by the project? (e.g.: Residential areas, infrastructure, ecology, industry, coastal natural resource areas, critical habitat)**

- If your project will directly protect coastal assets, provide a brief description.
- What is the nature and scale of the anticipated effects and protection, how will you measure them, and what is the basic science behind your assumptions?

6. **Will a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) be developed for this project?**

- ☐Yes
- ☐No

7. **Does the project support an existing local, regional, state, or federal plan?**

- Describe the relationship between the project and the plan.
- If your project will directly support an existing local, regional, state or federal plan, provide a brief description.
- How will the project support an existing plan and what is the basic science behind your assumptions?

8. **How does this project benefit the community as a whole, contribute to a larger system or region or accomplish larger planning activities?**

- If your project will directly benefit a community or contribute to a larger system or region, or accomplish larger planning activities, provide a brief description.
- What is the nature and scale of the anticipated benefits and effects, how will you measure them, and what is the basic science behind your assumptions?

9. **How does this project take into account existing land use planning in the project area? (e.g.: Zoning, development trends and demographics, adaptive management plans, sets buffers or setbacks, floodplain management, conservation easements or corridors)**

- If your project will directly affect land use planning in the project area, provide a brief description.
- What is the nature and scale of the anticipated effects, how will you measure them, and what is the basic science behind your assumptions?

PROJECT LOGISTICS (20 POINTS)

1. **List all regulatory and engineering approvals complete at the time of application.**

- If your project requires permits, consistency review, surveys, title opinions, EIS, EIA or NEPA review, or any other federal, state or license approval, provide a brief description.
- If your project requires a coastal lease for submerged lands (required for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit approval for certain construction projects), provide information regarding this lease.
- Describe the processes for items not yet approved and details on those that are complete.

2. **What are the success criteria for the project? (e.g.: Goals or intended results, quantifiable measures of success) How will it help in restoring and protecting the Gulf Coast region?**

- How will your project directly help in restoring and protecting the Gulf coast region and what are the criteria used for success.
- What is the nature and scale of the anticipated benefits and effects, how will you measure them, and what is the basic science behind your assumptions?

3. **What is the basis for those success criteria? (e.g.: Standardized or widely-accepted standards, adaptive management measures, development of decision making tools, modeling, long term trend analysis)**

- Provide details about the success criteria.
- What is the nature and scale of the anticipated basis for success, how will you measure success, and what is the basic science behind your assumptions?

4. **How will success criteria be monitored and measured? (e.g.: Performance measures and details as to how you will monitor those measures)**

- Provide details regarding the nature and scale of the anticipated success and criteria.
- How will you monitor and measure success and what is the basic science behind your assumptions?

5. **If there are post-grant costs for operating, monitoring and managing of the project, how will these costs be funded?**

- Provide details regarding the long term operating, monitoring and management of the project.
- What are the anticipated costs and possible sources of funding for future long term activities?

6. **Will data collected under this project be publically available?**

- If your project will collect data, what is the plan or methodology for data management?
- What is the scale of the anticipated data collection and management, and how will you make the information publically available and updated?

7. **Does the grant recipient have experience in administering state or federal grants?**

- If you have experience in administering state or federal grants provide a brief description, including references with their contact information.
- Do you have other experience that would demonstrate your capability to successfully perform this project?
- Provide all key personnel for this project including the principal investigator; identify who will be involved in the project; and identify who will be compensated through this project.
- Provide supporting documentation of credentials, duties of personnel who will be performing project activities and how their credentials play an important part in this project.
- List the name and contact information for each personnel, including physical address, email, and phone number.

8. **Best Available Science: Has the method to be used been justified using peer reviewed and/or publicly available information?**

- If your project is science-based or uses any type of scientific method provide a brief description on best available science.
- What is the methodology used for the basic science?
- Identify and document the scientific and technical credentials of the personnel, listed above, who will be identifying the best available science methods.

9. **Cite literature sources used to support the science behind the proposal.**

- If your project uses information from published documents and literature, provide a brief description of the literature and the appropriate cite format.

10. **Provide any uncertainties or risks in the bases used in your proposal.**

- Identify the uncertainties and risks involved in the scientific bases or scientific methodologies which support your proposal.
- Explain how you will mitigate those risks.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (20 POINTS)

1. **Does the grant recipient have the authority to undertake this project?**

   - Provide sources on any authority that allows the entity to undertake the project.

2. **Will public access to the project area be provided and how? (e.g.: Owner or deeded access, appropriate parking, signage for the public, dune trails, walkovers, compliance with the American with Disabilities Act)**

   - If your project will provide public access, identify the type of access and regulations that it must meet.
   - Will letters of agreement with landowners, deeded access documents, master planning documentation, etc. be needed? If so, documentation will be required at a later date.

3. **Provide documentation of public support for this project. (e.g.: Letters of support, formal actions by governmental entities, participating relevant stakeholders)**

   - Provide letters in support of the project, describing why it is needed and how it will provide a benefit to the community.
   - Letters of support should demonstrate the credibility of the applicant as well as the project.
   - Recent letters, less than two years old, with specific reference to the project are recommended, as are letters from knowledgeable officials or organizations in the project community, and from State or Federal officials or relevant government entities.

4. **Describe public participation opportunities in developing and implementing this project. (e.g.: Public meetings, surveys, volunteers for project)**

   - Provide a brief description of any public participation opportunities.
   - Include the types of public participation initiated and conducted for the project.

5. **Does this project leverage other funds? Is this funding being used as a match to another project? Additional information such as grant agreements/awards may be requested. Statuses of projects that have not been awarded but anticipated may be requested.**

   - If your project leverages other funds or is proposed to leverage other funds, provide a brief description.
   - Documentation will be required on other funds leveraged with the project.
   - If this project is being used as a match for other federal funds, a copy of the award letter and grant agreement will be requested at a later date.
   - If other funding for the project is proposed but not approved, provide a narrative describing the activity's status and the approximate timeline for approval or decline of the activity.
   - A copy of the application package to the federal agency will be required if project is selected for inclusion in the MIP submittal to Treasury.

- Treasury will not award funds for match until the other federal entity has approved the activity and Treasury receives the executed documentation.

Attachment B:
Budget Form

This budget form must be included in the uploaded files as part of your project application submission.

FEDERAL RESTORE BUDGET

Project Title: _____

Applicant Name _____
Address: _____
City, State Zip: _____
Budget Contact: _____
Email Address: _____

Budget Category	RESTORE	Other funds	Other funds	Total Budget
Salaries/wages	$	$	$	$
Fringe	$	$	$	$
Travel	$	$	$	$
Supplies	$	$	$	$
Equipment*	$	$	$	$
Contractual	$	$	$	$
Construction	$	$	$	$
Land Acquisition	$	$	$	$
Other	$	$	$	$
Subtotal	$	$	$	$
Indirect Costs	$	$	$	$
Total	$	$	$	$

Please justify your request below
*Equipment includes capital purchases

Source of other funds:

**Attachment C:
Instructions to complete Budget Form**

Budget Development Instructions

The following instructions are a tool for your budget development. Documentation for budget calculations will be required at a later time.

- **Personnel:**
    - Itemize personnel name and title of who will work on project
    - Percent of time (or estimated hours) they will be spending on the project
    - Annual salary for calculation purposes will be required at a later time

- **Fringe Benefits:**
    - Using the Personnel and Fringe Benefit rate (show your rate), determine total amount for project.

- **Travel:**
    - Refers to travel costs of personnel that are reasonable and necessary to effectively manage and carry out grant activities, provide oversight, or measure program effectiveness.
    - Air travel, when necessary, should be obtained at the lowest possible customary standard (coach or equivalent fare).
    - Travel costs may be charged on an actual basis, or on a per-diem or mileage basis in lieu of actual costs.
    - This line item does not include travel expenses of the sub-grantee, which are included in the "Contractual" line item.
    - Travel expenses must be in accordance with recipient's travel policies.
    - Per diem and other travel allowance information can be found at: https://fmx.cpa.state.tx.us/fm/travel/travelrates.php.

- **Supplies:**
    - All consumable materials costing less than $5,000 per unit.
    - Other goods such as copy paper, pens and pencils, computers costing less than $5,000.

- **Equipment:**
    - Refers to non-expendable personal property that has a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit cost of $5,000 or more.
    - The only type of equipment that may be acquired with Federal funds is equipment necessary for the operation of the grant.
    - If purchased, the cost of the equipment is to be prorated over the projected life of the equipment to determine the cost to the grant.
    - Use of grant funds to purchase equipment with a unit cost of $5,000 or more requires special review and approval from the TCEQ and Treasury prior to purchase.
    - Shipping, delivery, and installation, if necessary, are a normal part of the cost of equipment and should be included in the budgeted amount.

- **Contractual:**
    - The cost of any contract or sub-grant agreement.

- **Other:**
    - o Direct costs that do not fit any of the aforementioned categories.

- **Indirect Cost: Must be allowable under 2 C.F.R. Part 200, subpart E (Cost Principles)**
    - o Indirect costs must be consistent with the requirements of 2 C.F.R. Part 200, subpart E (see especially 2 C.F.R. §200.412 – 419). Where applicable, indirect costs must be consistent with the indirect cost rate agreement negotiated between the grantee and its cognizant agency (defined as the federal agency that is responsible for reviewing, negotiating, and approving cost allocation plans or indirect cost proposals). Unallowable direct costs are not recoverable as indirect costs.

[END OF DOCUMENT]