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ENGINEERING
MEDICINE

GULF RESEARCH PROGRAM

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Scientific Research Disaster Recovery Grants

KEY DATES & INFORMATION

AWARD INFORMATION

Total Funding Available: \$2 million

Maximum Award Amount: \$50,000 (grant funds cannot be used on institutional overhead or indirect charges)

Award Duration: Up to 12 months

TIMELINE INFORMATION

This opportunity consists of two cycles to help researchers resume their research quickly as well as give them more time to assess their losses.

Cycle 1

November 6, 2017: Online submission opens

January 3, 2018: Applications due by 5:00 pm Eastern time

January 2018: Award selection

Cycle 2

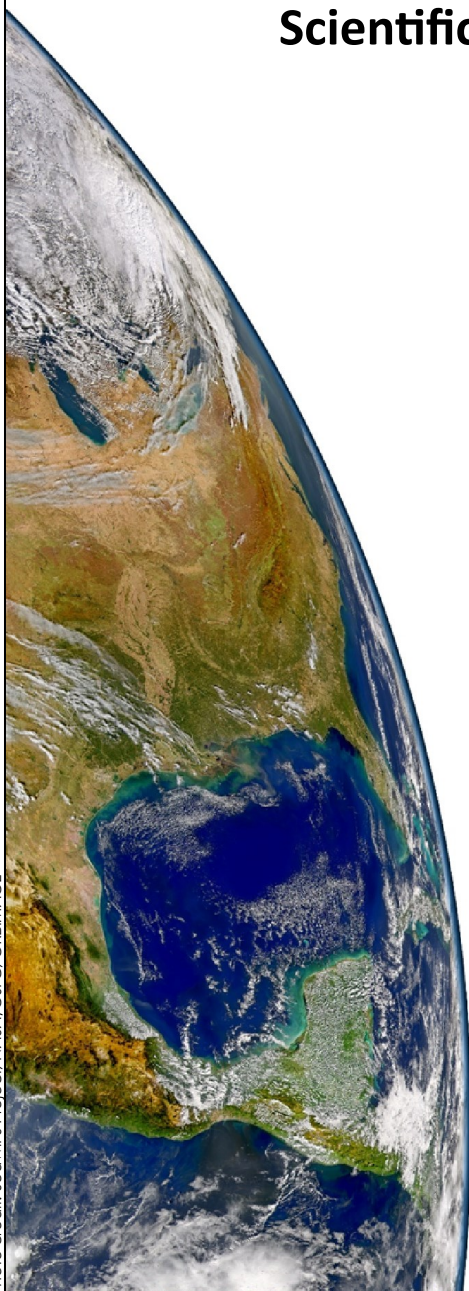
January 8, 2017: Online submission opens

February 28, 2018: Applications due by 5:00 pm Eastern time

March 2018: Award selection

Version 1.0—Issued on 11/06/2017

(Check if an updated version of this RFA has been issued at nas.edu/disaster-recovery.)



SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH DISASTER RECOVERY REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)

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GENERAL INFORMATION

About the Gulf Research Program

The Gulf Research Program is an independent, science-based program founded in 2013, as part of legal settlements with the companies involved in the 2010 *Deepwater Horizon* disaster. It seeks to enhance offshore energy system safety and protect human health and the environment by catalyzing advances in science, practice, and capacity to generate long-term benefits for the Gulf of Mexico region and the nation. The program has \$500 million for use over 30 years to fund grants, fellowships, and other activities in the areas of research and development, education and training, and monitoring and synthesis. The program is a division of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine—a private, nonprofit organization with a 150-year history as an independent advisor to the Nation on issues of science, engineering, and medicine.

Contact Information

Address:

Gulf Research Program
National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine
500 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Web: <http://www.nas.edu/gulf>

Email (General): gulfprogram@nas.edu

Email (Grants): gulfgrants@nas.edu

Email (Fellowships): gulfellowships@nas.edu

Learn More

- About the Gulf Research Program: Visit <http://www.nas.edu/gulf>.
- [Sign up for e-updates](#) to receive the most current information about activities and funding opportunities.
- About this Funding Opportunity: Submit questions about this opportunity to gulfgrants@nas.edu. All information contained in this document is also available online at <http://nas.edu/disaster-recovery>.

Important Version Information and Revision Notes

Version 1.0: If a revised RFA is issued, an explanation of the revisions will appear here.

KEY DATES

Cycle 1:	November 6, 2017: Online submission opens January 3, 2018, 5:00 pm ET: Applications due January 2018: Award selection
Cycle 2	January 8, 2017: Online submission opens February 28, 2018, 5:00 pm ET: Applications due March 2018: Award selection

AWARD INFORMATION

Award Duration:	Up to 12 months .
Maximum Amount Per Award:	\$50,000 (Grant funds cannot be used on institutional overhead or indirect charges)
Total Amount Available:	\$2 million is anticipated to be available for this funding opportunity.
Estimated # of Awards:	To be determined. Resources made available under this funding opportunity will depend on the applications received. The Gulf Research Program reserves the right to negotiate, some, one, or none of the applications received in response to this solicitation.
Anticipated Award Notification:	Cycle 1: January/February 2018 Cycle 2: March/April 2018

ELIGIBILITY

The Gulf Research Program welcomes applications from all types of U.S. organizations, excluding federal agencies, on behalf of qualified individuals. The applying organization will be referred to as the “applicant” hereafter. The individuals who will lead the proposed project will be referred to as “project directors” hereafter.

Project directors usually initiate applications that are officially submitted by their employing organizations (the applicant). When initiating an application, the project director typically is responsible for ensuring the application meets all the requirements outlined by the Gulf Research Program as well as any requirements set by the employing organizations.

The applicant must not have received any other support or be seeking support from other funders for repair, replacement, or recovery of this equipment, data, or research material loss. The applicant must also certify that this loss will not be covered by insurance.

U.S. organizations (excluding federal agencies) that have a valid federal tax ID number are eligible to apply.

Applicants may submit only a single application pertaining to any particular loss or damage. Applicants who are not selected for funding in Cycle 1 for a particular loss or damage may not submit an application for the same loss or damage in Cycle 2.

Eligibility is not limited to a particular career stage, however the GRP is particularly interested in assisting graduate students, post docs, and early-career researchers whose careers may suffer setbacks as a result of hurricane-related losses.

PURPOSE

In response to the impacts of Gulf Coast hurricanes Harvey and Irma on scientific research, the Gulf Research Program (GRP) will fund small grants to help with repair, replacement, or recovery of equipment, data, and/or other research materials damaged or lost due to the hurricanes and their aftermaths. These awards are intended to help scientists recover from their losses and minimize downtime for their research efforts.

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

We will accept applications from organizations on behalf of scientists who:

- Conduct research relevant to at least one of the following three [GRP Initiatives](#): Healthy Ecosystems, Thriving Communities, and/or Safer Offshore Energy Systems. Applicants are encouraged to review the detailed description of each of the three GRP initiatives.
- Need relatively fast support to help repair, replace, or recover equipment, data, and/or other research materials damaged or lost as a result of the impacts of the 2017 Gulf Coast hurricane season.

The types of things the GRP anticipates funding include, but are not limited to:

- Repair or replacement of sensors that were damaged or lost as a result of the hurricanes.
- Recovery of data lost due to server or computer failure from flooding or other impacts.
- Locating and re-establishing communication with research participants displaced by the hurricanes.

The GRP may also consider funding for travel to remote field sites to assess the state of deployed resources (e.g., ship time to reach deployed sensors). Grant funds cannot be used on institutional overhead or indirect charges.

Applicants will be asked to provide:

- A short description of the types of equipment, data, or other research materials that were lost and/or damaged as well as how and where in the Gulf region they were lost and/or damaged (up to 250 words).
- A short description of the project or projects that use the lost or damaged equipment, data, and/or other research materials (up to 500 words).
- An explanation of how the research effort is relevant to the Gulf Research Program (i.e., it supports healthy ecosystems, thriving communities, and/or safer offshore energy systems; up to 500 words).
- A justification of the need for relatively quick repair, replacement, or recovery, including how the loss could result in a major setback to the research effort and/or the researcher's career progression (up to 500 words).
- A short explanation of each line item in the budget (up to 500 words).
- Information about the original funding source for the research effort through which the equipment, data, or other research materials were acquired.
- Certification that the loss will not be covered by insurance.
- A budget.

Applications will be [evaluated](#) based on relevance to the GRP and need.

APPLICATION PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Project directors are advised to review application preparation and submission instructions carefully and submit any questions to gulfgrants@nas.edu well in advance of the submission deadline. Although the Gulf Research Program strives to respond to applicants' questions within 2 business days, the response time depends on the volume of questions received and the complexity of the question asked. The Gulf Research Program does not guarantee that applicants' questions will be answered before submission deadlines. Applicants are advised to submit applications well

in advance of the submission deadlines as a precaution against unanticipated delays. Please plan ahead.

Please be advised that the Gulf Research Program expects applicants to have reviewed the Grant Agreement (see p.8) prior to submitting an application to ensure that the applicant is aware of the applicable terms under which the grant is offered. It is the policy of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to entertain potential modifications to the Grant Agreement only under the most exceptional circumstances. Rather, successful applicants are strongly encouraged to sign the Grant Agreement as presented.

Application

Applications must be submitted via the [online application system](#). Applications submitted by other means (including mail, fax, or e-mail) will not be considered.

The Application must include the following elements:

I. Required [Contact Information Form](#) that includes:

1. Required Information on the:
 - a. Applicant
 - b. Project Director
 - c. Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR)
 - d. Grant/Contract Administrator (if different from AOR)
2. Optional Information. Responses in this section will not be shared with reviewers and will not affect the application evaluation.
 - a. How did you hear about this funding opportunity
 - b. Demographic Information

[CLICK HERE](#) to see sample form.

II. Required [Application Form](#) that includes:

1. Project Title
2. Amount Requested
3. Description of Loss (up to 250 words)
4. Project Description (up to 500 words)
5. Relevance to GRP (up to 500 words)
6. Need for Disaster Recovery Funding (up to 500 words)
7. Budget Justification (up to 500 words)
8. Original Funding Source
9. Certification that the loss will not be covered by insurance.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see sample application form.

III. Required [Budget Form](#):

[CLICK HERE](#) to download the budget template.

Research Involving Human Subjects

If the proposed project involves research on human subjects, the applicant shall comply with the Department of Health and Human Services Regulations (Title 45 Code of Federal Regulations Part 46) regarding the protection of human research subjects, unless that research is exempt as specified in the regulation.

All projects involving human subjects must have approval from an institutional review board (IRB), unless they qualify for an exemption from IRB review, before an award can be made. Where applicable, applicants must certify that IRB approval was obtained for the original project.

If a proposed project involving human subjects is exempt from human subjects regulations [see 45 CFR 46.101(b)], the applicant must provide documentation that an IRB (or some authority other than the project director or key personnel) has declared the project exempt from the human subjects regulations. Documentation should include the specific category justifying the exemption.

EVALUATION PROCESS

All complete applications will be evaluated for relevance to the Gulf Research Program and need for relatively fast replacement, repair, or recovery of lost or damaged research equipment, data, or materials. [CLICK HERE](#) to see a sample review form. Program staff will examine the applications and review and prepare a grant-funding plan taking into consideration reviewer comments and the program's funding availability, current portfolio, objectives, and goals. The grant-funding plan will be subject to oversight by a subset of the Gulf Research Program's Advisory Board members. The Gulf Research Program strives to have Advisory Board members not affiliated with institutions that submitted applications oversee the grant-funding plan and recommend a list of applications for funding. Individual applications and their reviews will not be reviewed by Advisory Board members affiliated with the institution that submitted the application. Advisory Board members are recused from individual applications involving conflict of interest. The final decision for funding will be made by the Gulf Research Program of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see the Gulf Research Program's conflict of interest, and confidentiality policies.

MAKING THE AWARD

Selection Notice

When the evaluation of an application is complete, the project directors will be notified that (1) the application has been selected for funding pending contract negotiations, or (2) the application has not been selected. These official notifications will be sent via email to the project director identified on the application. If an application is selected for award, the Gulf Research Program reserves the right to request additional or clarifying information for any reason deemed necessary, including, but not limited to, indirect cost information or other budget information. Awardees are free to accept or reject the grant agreement as offered.

Award Notice

The Gulf Research Program transmits award notices to organizations via e-mail. The award is not finalized and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine is not obligated to provide any funding until a signed copy of the award agreement has been received by the Academies.

Grant Periods

Upon receipt of the award notice, the awardee should note the effective date and the expiration date. Effective date is the date specified in the grant notice on or after which expenditures may be charged to the grant. Charging

expenditures to the grant prior to the effective date is strictly prohibited. Expiration date is the date specified in the grant notice after which expenditures may not be charged against the grant except to satisfy obligations to pay allowable project costs committed on or before that date.

Once an award is made, the effective date cannot be changed. The expiration date may be changed as a result of approval of a request for a no-cost extension. If approved, the Gulf Research Program will issue an amendment to the grant.

If additional time beyond the performance period and the established expiration date is required to assure adequate completion of the original scope of work within the funds already made available, the awardee may apply for a one-time no-cost extension of up to 6 months. A formal request must be submitted to the Gulf Research Program at least 45 days prior to the expiration date of the grant. The request must explain the need for the extension and include an estimate of the unobligated funds remaining and a plan for their use. This one-time extension will not be approved merely for the purpose of using the unliquidated balances. Because these grants are intended to help scientists resume their research activities quickly, requests for no cost extensions will be considered only under extraordinary circumstances.

Post-Award Reporting Requirements

After an award is conferred, the grantee shall provide a semi-annual financial report to the Gulf Research Program to report on grant expenditures to date under the grant. Within 30 days of completion of all grant activities, the grantee shall provide in writing a final grant report. The final grant report shall address the original objectives of the project as identified in the application, describe any changes in objectives, describe the final project accomplishments, and include a final project accounting of all grant funds.

Scientific Integrity

A fundamental purpose of the Gulf Research Program is to facilitate the advancement of knowledge and the application of the science to address challenges relevant to the Program's mission. All activities of the Gulf Research Program will be conducted to meet the highest standards of scientific integrity. All grantees have a responsibility to use the funds wisely. To continue the emphasis on scientific integrity throughout the award period, the Gulf Research Program will ask all researchers, trainees, and fellows to comply with professional standards as defined by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine report *On Being A Scientist: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in Research* (<https://www.nap.edu/catalog/12192/on-being-a-scientist-a-guide-to-responsible-conduct-in>).

Grant Terms and Conditions

Please be advised that the Gulf Research Program expects applicants to have reviewed the Grant Agreement prior to submitting an application to ensure that the applicant is aware of the applicable terms under which the grant is offered. It is the policy of NAS to entertain potential modifications to the Grant Agreement only under the most exceptional circumstances. Rather, successful applicants are strongly encouraged to sign the Grant Agreement* as presented.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view a sample grant agreement if the applicant is a public institution.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view a sample agreement if the applicant is a private institution.

*NOTE that these are the general GRP grant agreements. The grant agreement for this specific funding opportunity may differ (e.g., no overhead or indirect charges will be allowed under this funding opportunity.)

URLs FOR IMPORTANT HYPERLINKS

Below are shortened web addresses that will take you to the destination of important hyperlinks present in this document if you are viewing it in hard copy. Enter the URLs into a browser exactly as they appear, including letter case.

- Sign up for e-updates: <http://www.nas.edu/gulf/enews>
- GRP Initiatives: <http://www.nas.edu/gulf/about/initiatives/index.htm>
- GRP Online Application System: <https://gulfresearchprogram.fluidreview.com>
- Sample contact information form: <http://bit.ly/2ypx7as>
- Sample application form: <http://bit.ly/2zdWw6a>
- Budget template: <http://bit.ly/2hywyRp>
- Sample review form: <http://bit.ly/2zss8WM>
- GRP conflict of interest and confidentiality policies: <http://bit.ly/2hALt4>
- Sample grant agreement—public institution: <http://bit.ly/2nfSd5g>
- Sample grant agreement—private institution: <http://bit.ly/2nwlweJ>

Questions? Send questions about this funding opportunity to gulfgrants@nas.edu.

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