



# Gulf of Mexico Climate and Resilience Community of Practice Request for Letter of Intent: Climate Adaptation Projects

**Deadline for Submission: January 15, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. central time**

The Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, in collaboration with NOAA's Office for Coastal Management and the Gulf of Mexico Climate and Resilience Community of Practice (CoP), is seeking coastal communities to participate in climate adaptation projects that will serve as local examples for other Gulf communities. This collaborative project will involve financial assistance through a small grant award. Interested communities should submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) detailing the need for incorporating climate considerations into their existing planning frameworks and their interest in implementing a project to reduce risk to coastal climate stressors and/or extreme weather events.

## **Purpose of Funding Opportunity**

The purpose of the available funds is to assist a community in its effort to plan for climate change and natural hazards. Applicants who apply for the funds will demonstrate an ongoing commitment to environmental action by working with the CoP on a short-term demonstration project or outreach activity. The awardee will then report findings from the project with a brief presentation at next year's Climate and Resilience CoP Annual Meeting (2020).

## **Objectives**

1. Identify a climate adaptation and/or hazards resilience challenge (e.g., temperature, flooding, equity, sea level rise, hurricanes, etc.) a community is facing;
2. Describe a project (e.g., public outreach, demonstration project, climate adaptation and resilience planning, hazard mitigation, green infrastructure, etc.) that addresses the climate adaptation and/or hazards resilience challenge and can be implemented within the 1-year time frame of this opportunity;
3. Share results of the project at the 2020 Climate and Resilience Community of Practice Annual Meeting and identify lessons learned that are transferable to other communities in the region. Results should be specific, including a brief description of deliverables, how the results are relevant, and how the project will increase resilience.

## **Desired Criteria for Community Recipient**

- Demonstrates knowledge of climate and/or hazards vulnerabilities in their community and desires to take action.
- Engages local community members with climate and/or hazards information/resources.
- Promotes climate and resilience awareness and education through their work in the community.

## **Eligibility**

Gulf coastal communities in Texas, Florida, Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi (as indicated on the attached map) are eligible to apply. This includes local governments, county/parish governments, municipalities, tribes, and regional councils/commissions.

## **Projects will be viewed favorably if they have:**

- Strong support from city/county officials and/or other relevant boards and commissions within the community (including an official Letter of Support).
- Willingness to participate in the Gulf of Mexico Climate and Resilience Community of Practice.
- Strong leveraging of resources and/or in-kind match (e.g., non-federal funds, staff work hours, facilities provided, travel support, equipment provided, or supplies provided).

## Funding Amount and Duration

Total funding available for this competition is \$28,500 with the expectation of funding one award. The selected project is expected to be completed within 12 months.

## Letter of Intent (LOI)

A letter declaring your interest and willingness to participate in a cooperative project is required for this competition. The purpose of the Letter of Intent (LOI) process is to inform the review team of the interest and commitment of potential participating communities.

## Submission Materials (1-inch margins, single spaced, 12-point font):

1. Cover Page (1 page)
  - Project title
  - Name, title, affiliation, and contact information for people submitting the LOI (include full name, title, address, telephone number, and email address)
2. Letter Body (up to 3 pages)
  - Project details (background, rationale, study area, methodology, brief timeline)
    - a. Provide a brief summary of the project idea and how it relates to future climate considerations (sea level rise, storm surge inundation, etc.) and the community's existing environmental initiatives.
    - b. Identify experienced staff who could dedicate time to the project.
    - c. Describe the vulnerability of the community to associated hazards/risks and why the project would help address those vulnerabilities.
  - Describe the community's demonstrated success in implementing hazard mitigation practices.
  - List any existing partner that could assist in the project.
3. Letters of Commitment/Support (optional)
  - A letter from the local city council, planning commission, mayor, or other government official should detail their support of the project and how it will add value to existing efforts.
4. Budget Summary (1 page)
  - Provide a budget that includes major categories, such as salary, travel, supplies, and contractual costs.

## Not Eligible for Submission

This competition cannot fund projects that must go under environmental review, such as habitat restoration, building, or infrastructure projects.

## Contacts

<b>Submission Questions</b>	Loretta Leist, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant, Research Coordinator	<a href="mailto:loretta.leist@usm.edu">loretta.leist@usm.edu</a> 228-818-8835
<b>Technical Questions</b>	Hank Hodde, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant / Smart Home America	<a href="mailto:hank@smarthomeamerica.org">hank@smarthomeamerica.org</a> 251-206-5634

## Letter Submission

Letters of Intent are due by 4:00 p.m. Central Time on January 15, 2019. Letters must be submitted as e-mail attachments to Loretta Leist ([loretta.leist@usm.edu](mailto:loretta.leist@usm.edu)) in MS Word or WordPerfect format. An additional copy may be provided in Adobe PDF.

## Notification

Applicants will be notified of the project team's decision on or before February 28, 2019.

## Evaluation

Letters of Intent will be evaluated by a review team with representatives from each of the five Gulf states who are active members of the Climate and Resilience Community of Practice. Reviewers will be looking for projects that follow the submission guidelines, show strong involvement by the local/county/parish government, and can be showcased as an example of best practices for other Gulf communities. Project leaders should be prepared to discuss their LOI application and how it relates to community needs at any time during this review period. A meeting or conference call may be arranged if the review panel has additional questions for the applicant.

FIGURE 1: Eligibility- Local governments, county/parish governments, municipalities, tribes, and regional councils/commissions must fall within the shaded green areas.

