



Oregon

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September 30, 2013

TO: Oregon Coastal Management Program Partners
FROM: Jeff Weber, OCMP Conservation Coordinator
SUBJECT: NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR COASTAL CONSERVATION LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS

The purpose of this notice is to solicit proposals in Oregon for coastal conservation land acquisition projects to submit for possible federal funding under the *Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program*

The **Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP)** is a national program managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that provides federal matching funds to states for coastal conservation land acquisitions. On September 20 2013, NOAA announced that it is soliciting applications for proposals for possible CELCP funding in 2014. The deadline for proposals to NOAA is November 15, 2013. In Oregon, CELCP is administered by the Oregon Coastal Management Program (OCMP).

This memo directs prospective applicants to websites for NOAA's announcement, the guidelines for project submittals, and other useful resources for assembling a competitive application. It describes the process the OCMP will use to review and possibly select proposals to submit for the national competition.

CELCP provides federal matching funds for the acquisition of **coastal and estuarine lands that have significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical, or aesthetic values, or that are threatened by conversion from their natural or recreational state to other uses.** State agencies and local governments that have authority to own land for conservation purposes are eligible for CELCP funding. CELCP funds must be matched 1:1 with non-federal funds or in-kind contributions. Coastal states may submit up to two proposals for this competition.

NOAA anticipates that about \$3,000,000 in federal funds may be available for CELCP projects in 2014, and expects that FY 2014 CELCP awards will range from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000. However, federal funds have not yet been appropriated for this competition, and it is possible that no funds will be appropriated for CELCP projects in 2014.

Preliminary proposals for CELCP funding in Oregon must be submitted to the OCMP by 5:00 PM on Friday, October 18, 2013. Based on preliminary proposals and discussions with prospective applicants, the OCMP will select up to two projects to submit for the national CELCP competition. The deadline to submit proposals to NOAA for the national competition is November 15, 2013. If you anticipate developing a CELCP proposal, **you must contact the OCMP before October 18th to arrange a pre-application meeting.** See contact information below.

The national CELCP competition is extremely competitive. While the OCMP will manage Oregon's CELCP submittal, prospective applicants will be entirely responsible for the content and quality of CELCP proposals. *The OCMP will not submit an application for the national competition that does not meet the CELCP application requirements or minimum standards for completeness, quality, or accuracy.*

This memo refers to only a few of the numerous CELCP guidelines, provisions and requirements. All the necessary details on the requirements for CELCP proposals can be found at the website that contains the [Announcement of Federal Funding Opportunity](#). Among other things, the announcement includes details on project eligibility, project applications and the submittal of proposals, and the criteria to be used to select projects for funding. Templates for preparing a CELCP application are contained in an appendix to the announcement. Prospective applicants should review the entire announcement for details about CELCP requirements and this competition. The URL for the Announcement of Federal Funding Opportunity is:

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=243275>

The OCMP's Role in CELCP

The Oregon Coastal Management Program (OCMP) manages CELCP in Oregon in consultation with other state agencies, local governments, and conservation organizations. The OCMP developed [Oregon's draft CELCP Plan](#) and solicits and selects Oregon projects for the national-level CELCP competition. States that have submitted a draft CELCP plan for NOAA's approval are eligible to submit CELCP applications.

Oregon's CELCP plan identifies various conservation plans that may be used to support a CELCP proposal. The selection of CELCP projects in Oregon is based on the national CELCP criteria.

The URL for Oregon's draft CELCP Plan (Version 5.0) is:

http://www.oregon.gov/LCD/OCMP/docs/Grants/celcp/Plan_5.pdf

Competition for CELCP funds is particularly intense at the national level. The OCMP will provide some consultation to prospective applicants on the preparation of proposals, but applicants will be entirely responsible for the content and completeness of CELCP proposals. Prospective applicants should review the entire funding notice in detail before deciding whether to submit a proposal for CELCP funding.

If the OCMP receives more than two complete, timely and eligible proposals for FY 2014 CELCP funding, it will select up to two proposals for the national-level competition as described below. Incomplete and ineligible proposals will not be considered.

Eligibility: Only state agencies and local governments that have authority to acquire and manage land for conservation purposes are eligible to receive CELCP funds. Non-government organizations may help an eligible entity develop a CELCP proposal; may provide matching funds and hold title to properties used as match for CELCP acquisitions; and may assist in managing lands purchased with CELCP funds.

Pre-Application and Application Process: If you plan to submit a proposal for CELCP funding, **you must contact the OCMP before October 18th (contact information below) to arrange a pre-application meeting** to present a summary of your project based on the Evaluation Criteria in Section V.A. of the [federal funding announcement](#). Applicants will be asked to describe how their project addresses all the Evaluation Criteria, with particular emphasis on criteria 1. *Importance and/or relevance of proposed project to the program goals*; and 2. *Technical/Scientific Merit*. The OCMP will select up to two proposals for the national level competition.

Deadline for FY 2012 Oregon CELCP Proposals.

Applicants for selected projects must develop a complete proposal, using the template and instructions in the [Announcement of Federal Funding Opportunity](#) and [Oregon's draft CELCP Plan](#). Complete applications must be received by the OCMP in Salem by **5:00 PM on November 8, 2013**. While applicants for selected projects will be responsible for the essential content of CELCP proposals, the OCMP will work with the applicants to assemble a complete grant application

package, and will manage the submittal of projects for the national competition by NOAA's deadline of November 15, 2013.

The OCMP will not accept proposals that are incomplete, ineligible for CELCP funding, inconsistent with CELCP criteria or Oregon's CELCP Plan, obviously lacking in competitiveness, or that have not been reviewed and selected through the pre-application process.

All the materials necessary to submit a proposal for CELCP funding are available at:

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=243275>

The federal funding opportunity announcement includes two appendices that **must be used to complete a CELCP application**. The OCMP will complete the checklist in Appendix C with the assistance of applicants.

Further Information

If you have questions about CELCP or are interested in developing a CELCP proposal and want to arrange a pre-application meeting, contact Jeff Weber, Oregon Coastal Management Program Coastal Conservation Coordinator, at (971)673-0964 or jeff.weber@state.or.us.