NCCOS | NATIONAL CENTERS FOR COASTAL OCEAN SCIENCE

ESLR | Effects of Sea Level Rise Program

An Overview of NOAA's FY2026 Effects of Sea Level Rise (ESLR) Program Funding Opportunity for Potential Applicants

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SCIENCE SERVING COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Outline

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- Definitions
- Funding Opportunity Description
- Collaborative Science Process and Outputs
- Letter of Intent (LOI)
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- Final Advice
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Overview

- **Goal:** Support state-of-the-art information to advance the use of natural infrastructure for coastal flood protection through at least one of **the following focal 3 areas: public-private partnerships, innovative insurance products, or improved sediment management.** This short-term investment supports research teams that include regional intended users to ensure practical, efficient, and cost-effective cross-sector implementation that advances long-term flood and storm preparedness capacity that is led by states and localities.

Overview

- **Eligibility:** Academic, federal, state, and private sector

- **Approach:**
  - Collaborative science/management approach
  - User-driven and outcome oriented
  - Sound science to inform decision making

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Overview

ESLR Active Projects

https://coastalscience.noaa.gov/research/coastal-change/ecological-effects-sea-level-rise-program/

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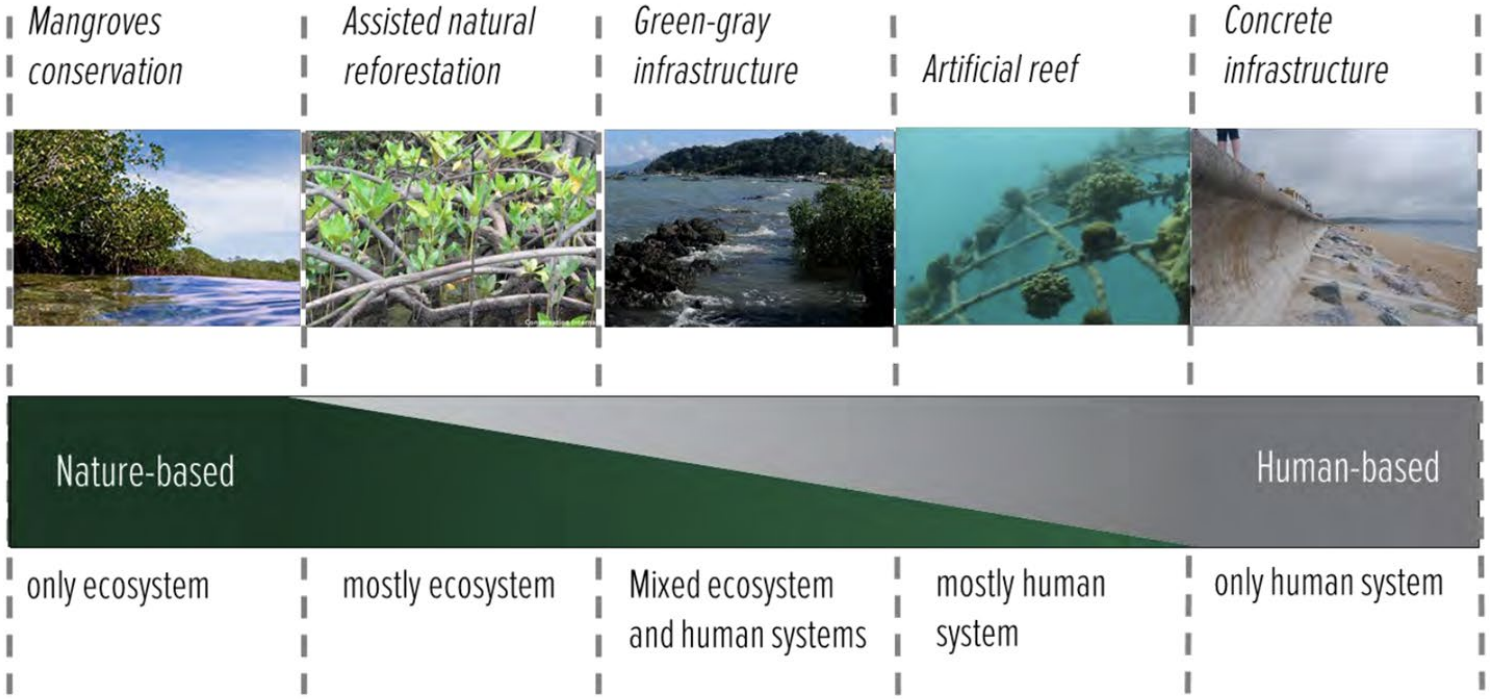
Definitions

- **Natural Infrastructure (NI)** refers to a spectrum of systems that provide communities with protection and environmental benefits. NI encompasses naturally occurring ecosystems, engineered "hybrid" systems, and strategic realignment of built infrastructure.



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Definitions

- **Coastal Decision-Maker/Intended User:** refers to those that can utilize science to reduce coastal flood risk while considering the value of natural infrastructure, including those that take part in planning, emergency management, foreshore and tidal land management, natural resource management, structural engineering, investment, insurance, or policy implementation. An advisory group of these individuals is required

Definitions

- **Model Advancement:** could include dynamic model integration or downscaling, enhanced parameterization, improved uncertainty estimates, expanded model utility in new locations, and/or module development required to assess and evaluate possible approaches to mitigate inundation. Novel application of existing approaches is encouraged, when appropriate. Novel modeling approaches will require significant justification and explicit intended-user demand for funding consideration. Highly local or specialized models are discouraged.

FY2026 Funding Opportunity

- 3-6 projects
- Up to $500k per year for up to 4 years
- Not to exceed $2,000,000 per project

FY2026 Funding Opportunity

Three Priority Areas:

1. Public-Private Partnerships:

- Projects should include private sector team members throughout the life of the project (i.e., project planning, design, and implementation) to advance the science-to-management framework and leverage the strengths of multiple organization types. While ESLR funds cannot be used for construction, funds from other sources may be used by a private sector entity to carry out construction activities based on the proposed work.

FY2026 Funding Opportunity

Three Priority Areas:

2. Innovative Insurance Products:

- Projects should apply scenario-based modeling to examine insurance improvements or innovative funding mechanisms (e.g., parametric insurance concepts or natural capital investments by industry) that maintain and restore natural systems for adaptive coastal flood protection of communities, while offering other co-benefits.

FY2026 Funding Opportunity

Three Priority Areas:

3. Improved Sediment Management:

- Projects should advance approaches that integrate models with consideration of coastal processes to predict how sediment moves, how natural systems establish or respond to material, and how sediment interacts with waves and water levels such that project-specific cost-benefit information can be delivered to both dredgers and pemitters more effectively.

FY2026 Funding Opportunity

Additional Comments:

- A Key objective is the application of scenario-based modeling through a collaborative process with an advisory group of intended users to develop transferable and scalable approaches for coastal flood protection.
- Proposed new or novel modeling approaches require significant justification and explicit end-user demand for funding.
- Where possible, proposals should build on and leverage existing research and prior projects.
- Regional relevance is preferred over a local focus.

FY2026 Funding Opportunity

Funding Limitations

- NCCOS/CRP will not fund start-up or operational costs for private business ventures and neither fees nor profits will be considered as allowable costs.

- NCCOS/CRP will not pay for ship overhead expenses. Ship costs may not be included in indirect cost calculations unless specified within the indirect cost rate agreement of the institution. If indirect costs are applied, an approved indirect cost agreement or budget revision will be required before an application can be recommended for funding.

Collaborative Science Process

- We encourage the inclusion of an advisory group and/or a dedicated principal investigator focused on coordinating end-user engagement at least annually.
- Proposals should clearly demonstrate the value added of the proposed work, partnerships, and, where possible, leverage related regional efforts.
- Examples of potential collaborators and possible results and valued outcomes of the applied and/or enhanced management capabilities are described for each focus area.

Collaborative Science Process

Interdisciplinary Project Teams are most Successful!

Successful proposals are usually highly interdisciplinary and can include ecologist, biologists, chemists, engineers, economists, social scientists, and/or lawyers.

Outputs

- Outputs of actionable information and products should inform coastal decision-makers to help them make sound, long-term decisions. Incorporating outputs into existing resources is preferred, while the creation of viewers and interactive tools should come with clear justification, technical expertise to support product development, and support from an intended user.

- Predicting future flood vulnerability alone is usually an insufficient output.

Letter of Intent

Applicant(s) who do not submit an LOI will not be eligible to submit a full proposal.

No more than 2 pages, single spaced in 12-point font with 1-inch margins, and should include the following:

1. Tentative project title
2. Identify lead and provide contact info for all PIs
3. Approximate cost of the project
4. Statement of the problem and its management relevance
5. Brief summary of work to be completed, methodology to be used, and plan for transitioning results to management application

LOIs must be submitted to nccos.grant.awards@noaa.gov by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on November 9, 2026

Responses emailed ~2 weeks after LOI deadline.

Full Proposal

1. Standard Form(SF)-424
2. Summary Title Page
3. One-page Abstract/Project Summary
4. Project Description
5. References cited.
6. Milestone Chart
7. Biographical Sketch
8. SF-424A
9. Budget Narrative
10. CD511
11. SF-424B
12. List of Collaborators

Full proposals must be submitted to grants.gov by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on February 12, 2027

Review Process and Timeline

- **Letters of Intent (LOI) (**November 9 by 11:59 PM ET)
  - Program led review for alignment with the announcement
  - LOI Feedback provided in approximately 2 weeks
- **Full Proposals (**February 12 by 11:59 PM ET)
  - **Step 1**: Administrative Review
    - Completeness, eligibility, etc.
  - **Step 2**: Independent Panel Review (~50 proposals)
    - Each proposal will be reviewed by three or more experts
    - 5 criteria with a 100 point weight system are used to assess the proposal (page 38/39) but panelists assign a score of 1-5 based on the 100 point scoring system.
    - Applicants here decision by September 2027.

Final Advice

Read the NOFO, read the NOFO, read the NOFO - focus on Program Priorities (Section I. B.)

Submit in advance of the deadlines, we are unable to accept late submissions.

Ensure you are registered with SAM prior to submission.

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Questions?

Letters of Intent due 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on November 9, 2026

Send to nccos.grant.awards@noaa.gov

Full Proposals due 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on February 12, 2027

Submit on grants.gov

Forms & example application package: https://coastalscience.noaa.gov/about/funding-opportunities/application-forms/

Email Trevor.Meckley@noaa.gov and Sarah.Pease@noaa.gov

See ESLR Website for link to funding opportunity and webinar recording:
https://coastalscience.noaa.gov/research/coastal-change/ecological-effects-sea-level-rise-program/

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