



NOAA announces matching fund pilot program opportunity, request for proposals, and request for interest

NOAA's Offices of Coast Survey and National Geodetic Survey jointly announce the FY2023 NOAA Admiral Richard T. Brennan Ocean Mapping Matching Fund program, known as the Brennan Matching Fund, to identify and match funds with partners on ocean and coastal hydrographic surveys and mapping. Proposals will be evaluated and prioritized for funding based on submitted justifications. NOAA will select proposals using the review process and criteria evaluation described in section IX of the [Federal Register Notice here](#).

NOAA priorities for the FY23 Brennan Matching Fund include climate and infrastructure, and the goals of the National Strategy for Mapping, Exploring, and Characterizing the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (NOMECE), Alaska Coastal Mapping Strategy (ACMS), and the Coast Survey Ocean Mapping Plan. Those goals include:

- **Map the United States Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ):** The goal is to coordinate mapping efforts to compile a complete map of deep water by 2030 and nearshore waters by 2040. Completing this goal will give the United States unprecedented and detailed information about the depth, shape, and composition of the seafloor of the United States EEZ (NOMECE Goal 2).

- **Expand Alaska Coastal Data Collection to Deliver the Priority Geospatial Products Stakeholders Require:** Using targeted and coordinated data collections will potentially reduce overall costs and improve the cost-to-benefit ratio of expanded mapping activities. (ACMS Goal 2).

- **Map the full extent of waters subject to U.S. jurisdiction to modern standards:** Based on updated analysis of data holdings in NOAA's archive, 53 percent of waters subject to U.S. jurisdiction are unmapped, covering an area of about 3.6 million square nautical miles (Coast Survey Ocean Mapping Plan, 2021 Progress Report on Unmapped U.S. Waters).

GOALS

- Grow NOAA/non-federal mapping partnerships
- Receive and match funds to acquire more ocean and coastal hydrographic survey data for mutual benefit
- Expand collection of publicly accessible mapping data
- Increasing hydrographic surveying and coastal mapping to help improve:
 - Safe navigation
 - Coastal and ocean science
 - Coastal community resilience
 - Blue Economy
 - Integrated ocean and coastal mapping
 - MANY** other activities

Eligibility: Non-Federal entities. Examples include: State/local governments, Tribal entities, Universities/academia, Private sector, NGOs/philanthropic orgs, Coalitions of non-federal entities. Qualifying proposals must demonstrate the ability to provide at least 50% matching funds, for transfer to NOAA by September 2022 via a memorandum of agreement.

Proposals due by October 29th, 2021. Interested but the timing doesn't work? Submit a one page letter of interest: Tell us what your timing hurdles are, where/what you are interested in, potential partners, etc.

Full Federal Register Notice here:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/07/27/2021-15970/notice-of-matching-fund-opportunity-for-ocean-and-coastal-mapping-and-request-for-partnership>

Informational Webinar on September 9, 2PM ET, registration here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7914808480326041357>

Summary and questions/answers from the expired FY22 Matching Fund Webinar may provide more information; available here:

<https://iocm.noaa.gov/planning/contracts-grants-agreements.html>

- For more information, contact iwgocm.staff@noaa.gov or ashley.chappell@noaa.gov

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration • Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping