



Climate Program Office Review

May 24-26, 2022

Pre-Recorded Presentation Supporting Review Activity
Area 5: Portfolio Management, Administration and
Organizational Excellence

Cooperative Agreement & Cooperative Institute
Management

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Overview



- Cooperative Agreements:
 - NOAA Science Collaboration Program (NSCP)
 - Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Program (CAMP)

- Cooperative Institute:
 - Cooperative Institute for the North Atlantic Region (CINAR)

- Type of federal financial assistance (ie. cooperative agreements, grants, contracts)

- A legal instrument reflecting a relationship between the government and a recipient whenever:
 - The principal purpose of the relationship is to transfer anything of value to accomplish a public purpose of support authorized by a federal statute and
 - Substantial involvement is anticipated between the government and the recipient during performance of the activity.

Management of Cooperative Agreements



Demonstration of Management of Cooperative Agreements

- **Bi-weekly meetings with UCAR staff**
 - Meetings held with UCAR to discuss and resolve any issues that may arise and to monitor award progress.
- **Review of projects**
 - To ensure projects are in compliance with the program priorities.
- **Routine communication with sponsors**
 - To discuss projects that UCAR has proposed with sponsors and coordinate funding.



- Overview:
 - Purpose
 - Major Accomplishments
 - Budget
 - Staffing
 - Successful Programs

Purpose

The NOAA Science Collaboration Program (NSCP) supports a 5-year, \$75M cooperative agreement to the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR). NSCP supports collaborations between scientific research and operational communities, through successful programs that contribute to the professional development and research goals of undergraduate, graduate, and early career scientists.

Major Accomplishments

- **Recompeted a new 5 year cooperative agreement which included:**
 - Writing and publishing a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) with minor edits from the Federal Acquisitions Law Division (FALD)
 - Convened a full panel review for all applications received and submitted final funding recommendations to the Grants Management Division (GMD)
 - Award was approved in June 2021 with no legal objections from FALD.
- **Successfully obligated \$7.4M on new agreement as of today.**



Budget

- \$75M will be awarded over a 5 year period.
 - Funds are collected from Line Offices across NOAA for projects supporting this cooperative agreement.
 - A joint funding request is submitted by NOAA, on behalf of the sponsors, to the Grants Management Division (GMD) on a bi-monthly basis.
 - GMD approves the funding request and sends the funds to UCAR.
- Approximately 25 projects have been supported so far on the new agreement.

Staffing

- Recipient of cooperative agreement: UCAR
- NOAA Federal Program Officer - Grants Management Specialist, (Fed)
 - Oversee programmatic operations of cooperative agreement.
 - Ensure projects are in line with the program priorities.
- NOAA Program Specialist, (Fed)
 - Initiate and submits procurement request in Grants Online to the Grants Management Division.

Successful Programs

- **Climate and Global Change Postdoctoral Program (C&GC)**
 - Originally founded in 1990 by the Climate Program Office, formerly Office of Global Programs (OGP).
 - The overarching purpose of the program is to help create and train the next generation of leading researchers needed for climate studies.
 - Over the past 31 years, the fellowship program has hosted 247 NOAA Climate and Global Change Fellows.
 - A slot will be named after Dr. Lisa Goddard, a former CPO colleague who passed away in January 2022.
- **Significant Opportunities in Atmospheric Research & Science (SOARS)**
 - Undergraduate-to-graduate bridge program for students designed to broaden participation of historically underrepresented communities in the atmospheric and related sciences.
 - Over 90% of SOARS students advance to graduate school and many have entered the workforce with the MS degree, and/or a Ph.D. degree.



- Overview:
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Purpose

CAMP supports research and other activities related to NOAA's mission, primarily through collaborations among scientists and professionals across the full spectrum of NOAA climate sciences. This cooperative agreement will focus on:

- 1) Improved scientific understanding of the changing climate system and its impacts;
- 2) Scientific assessments of current and future states of the climate system
- 3) Mitigation and adaptation efforts;
- 4) A climate-literate public that understands its vulnerabilities to a changing climate and makes informed decisions.

Major Accomplishments

- Recompeted a new 5 year cooperative agreement which included:
 - Writing and publishing a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
 - Convening of a full panel review for all applications received and submitted final funding recommendations to the Grants Management Division (GMD)
 - Worked with PI to revise proposal to address several concerns by FALD
 - Award was approved in September 2021 following submission of a revised proposal
- Successfully obligated \$2.4M on new agreement as of today.



Budget

- \$21M will be awarded over a 5 year period.
 - Funds are collected from Line Offices across NOAA for projects supporting this cooperative agreement.
 - A joint funding request is submitted by NOAA, on behalf of the sponsors, to the Grants Management Division (GMD) on a bi-monthly basis.
 - GMD approves the funding request and sends the funds to UCAR
- Approximately 16 projects have been supported so far on the new agreement.

Staffing

- Recipient of cooperative agreement: UCAR
- NOAA Federal Program Officer - Management & Program Analyst, (Fed)
 - Oversee programmatic operations of cooperative agreement.
 - Ensure projects are in line with the program priorities.
- NOAA Program Specialist, (Fed)
 - Initiate and submits procurement request in Grants Online to the Grants Management Division.



Successful Programs

- National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) - Drought Early Warning Systems
 - DEWS use networks of state, federal, local, tribal and academic partners to make climate and drought science available to decision makers.
 - The systems improve the capacity of stakeholders to forecast, plan for and adapt to the impacts of drought.
 - The Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) Drought and Water Dashboard was developed based on extensive user feedback and will provide the first collection of customized real-time information and tools to support decision making and drought awareness across the ACF River Basin. The site was formally launched in January, 2022

- Grants Enterprise Management System (GEMS)
 - NOAA is expected to be fully transitioned from Grants Online into the eRA application at the beginning of FY23 in order to sync with the BAS implementation date for NOAA.
- FY23: Access an administrative fee to utilize our UCAR cooperative agreements
- The Business Application Solution (BAS)
 - A new Dept. of Commerce systems modernization project which will replace the current system starting FY24 (October 2023).

- NOAA CI's are academic and non-profit research institutions that demonstrate the highest level of performance and conduct research that support NOAA's Mission Goals and Strategic Plan.

Purpose

CINAR's mission to provide a better understanding of physical and biological processes in the Northeast U.S. Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem, thereby advancing sustainable and beneficial management of its ecosystems and resources.

CINAR is a regional consortium of eight partner institutions led by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI). Partner institutions include:

- Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI)
- Rutgers University (Rutgers)
- University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES)
- University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES)
- University of Massachusetts Dartmouth - School for Marine Science and Technology (SMAST)
- University of Maine (UMaine)
- University of Rhode Island (URI)

Major Accomplishments

- Produced more than 64 publications and technical reports
- Provided research training to about 32 students and postdocs

Budget

- \$59.6 million will be awarded in a five year period (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2024)
- Since the award's inception in 2019, NOAA has awarded CINAR \$36.6 million dollars for over 115 projects.
- Funds come from various NOAA line offices, including:
 - Global Ocean Monitoring and Observing (GOMO)
 - National Ocean Service (NOS)
 - NOAA Fisheries
 - National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS)

Staff

- CPO Grants Team Lead, Management and Program Analyst
 - Processes proposals on Grants Online
 - Provide grants guidance to FPOs and CINAR staff

Successful Programs

Ocean Reference Stations

- Collects data that is essential to climate assessments worldwide as well as the development/improvement of climate models

ARGO Float Program

- Global array of ~3900 floats that contribute data to ~3,600 research publications and 300 Ph.D. theses during CINAR's operation

Marine Resources Education Program (MREP)

- Empowers fishermen with better understanding of how, when, and where to engage effectively in fisheries science and management
- MREP workshops are guided by local industry members, ensuring regional relevance for fishermen



Successful Programs (cont.)

Education & Outreach:

CINAR Summer Minority Traineeship

- Provides support for undergraduate student research

CINAR Fellowship in Quantitative Fisheries and Ecosystem Science

- Provides fellowship support to career scientists to help educate and train the next generation of stock assessment scientists, ecosystem scientists, and economists

SMAS-CINAR Postdoctoral Fellow Program

- Supports postdoctoral fellows working with NEFSC sponsors in stock assessment and ecosystem based fisheries management



Look Ahead

- CI Review by Scientific Advisory Board scheduled for 2023
- Possible increase in the dollar amount of the award due to significant interest in CINAR from NOAA FPOs (anticipated end of FY22)

Demonstration of Management

- CPO Grants Team lead attends monthly meetings with CIPO and NOAA FPOs to discuss administrative issues with the CI awards