

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
FY22 COPING WITH DROUGHT
BUILDING TRIBAL DROUGHT RESILIENCE COMPETITION

UPDATED JULY 15, 2021

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Q: Where can I find more information about the National Integrated Drought Information System?

A: <https://www.drought.gov/about>

Q: Where can I find more information about the NOAA Climate Program Office?

A: <https://cpo.noaa.gov/Who-We-Are/About-CPO>

Q: Where can I find all the details about the FY22 Notice of Funding Opportunity including the Coping with Drought Competition?

A: <https://www.drought.gov/drought-research/coping-with-drought-competition> and
<https://cpo.noaa.gov/Funding-Opportunities/2022-Notice-of-Funding-Opportunity>

Q: Will this brief be posted and if so, where?

A: Yes, participants will receive an email with all materials, we will send it out via the NIDIS communication channels, and it will be posted on the webpages above.

Q: Is the \$1.5 million assigned to this competition only for tribal projects?

A: Yes, each of the two Coping with Drought competitions this year has funds allocated to it. In the case of the CWD Building Tribal Drought Resilience Competition, that is a total of \$1.5 million dollars.

Q: What is the purpose of the LOI?

A: The purpose of the LOI process is to provide information to potential applicants on the relevance of their proposed project to the competition in advance of preparing a full application. This also allows NIDIS to provide some standardized feedback on the project idea related to the requirements of the competition. While a LOI is not required and it is up to the applicant to decide if they want to submit a full proposal no matter what feedback they receive on the LOI (encourage or discourage), we hope that this saves the

energy of both the applicants and reviewers if the project idea does not fit the scope of the competition.

QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE FOCUS OF THE FY22 COPING WITH DROUGHT COMPETITION ON BUILDING TRIBAL DROUGHT RESILIENCE

Q: Is it okay to work with a Tribal College or University (TCU) as a co-PI?

A: Yes! Engagement with the TCUs is encouraged and they are welcome to serve as a co-PI. The intent of this competition is to fund on-the-ground projects to build tribal drought resilience, and therefore, we need to see very close integration and partnership with tribal nations on whose land the project will occur. Please note the requirement that proposals will demonstrate full partnership of tribal nations by including at least one full investigator on the project representing a federally-recognized tribe.

Q: Does the LOI have to be signed by Tribal Council?

A: This will depend on the individual tribal nation and their governance structure. We strongly encourage applicants to be aware of, and follow the necessary steps to ensure the project can move forward from the tribal government perspective. If Tribal Council approval is warranted, this could come at the LOI stage (feel free to send a signed copy to me – britt.parker@noaa.gov) and at the full proposal stage this could come in the form of a signed letter that is attached. Please reach out to me at any time to discuss.

Q: Can projects take place specifically on federal lands, given the land is crucial to adjacent Tribal Nations?

A: Potentially, this would be dependent on the action to be implemented, the federal agency managing the land, and if they action fits within allowable activities. If an action is proposed on federal land, the federal agency should be a partner in the project.

Q: Can the funding be used to implement green infrastructure projects?

A: Yes, as long as it's part of an existing plan – that is fine. I would direct your attention to the following requirement in the Information Sheet; *As part of the description of project activities, provide detailed information on the activities to be conducted, locations, sites, timeline (seasons), species and habitat to be affected, possible construction activities, and any environmental concerns that may exist, as NOAA must analyze the potential environmental impacts, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).*

Q: Can you apply if you are not located in a region with a formal Drought Early Warning System?

A: Yes, there is no requirement that you be located or working within the boundaries of an existing Drought Early Warning System.

PROCESS AND FUNDING QUESTIONS

Q: Is a budget required at the Letter of Intent (LOI) stage?

A: We do not require a full budget, but an estimated total project cost is required.

Q: What do you recommend if we want to include a federal agency partner?

A: In order to submit a proposal that includes PIs from both non-federal and federal agencies, the PI would submit a proposal through www.grants.gov and the federal partner would submit a proposal directly to the program manager (Britt Parker; britt.parker@noaa.gov). Both proposals should adhere to the funding opportunity guidelines. As per page 21, the proposals would be identical but with personalized budget information. If the proposed project is funded, monies would be distributed through two separate mechanisms – a cooperative agreement to the academic institution and an interagency transfer to the federal agency.