Climate Adaptation Partnerships
Formerly RISA

NOAA/OAR, Climate Program Office

Climate and Societal Interactions Division

**FY24 CAP NOFO
Informational Webinar 2**

**Chelsea Combest-Friedman, Sean Bath, Caitlin Simpson,
Ariela Zycherman, Genie Bey, Jessica Garrison, and Hannah Lohman**

Outline

1. Overview

2. Review Process and Evaluation Criteria

3. Proposal Components in Detail

4. Advice from LOI Feedback

Overview

Climate Adaptation Partnerships
Formerly RISA

Mission
Advance equitable **adaptation** through sustained regional research and community engagement
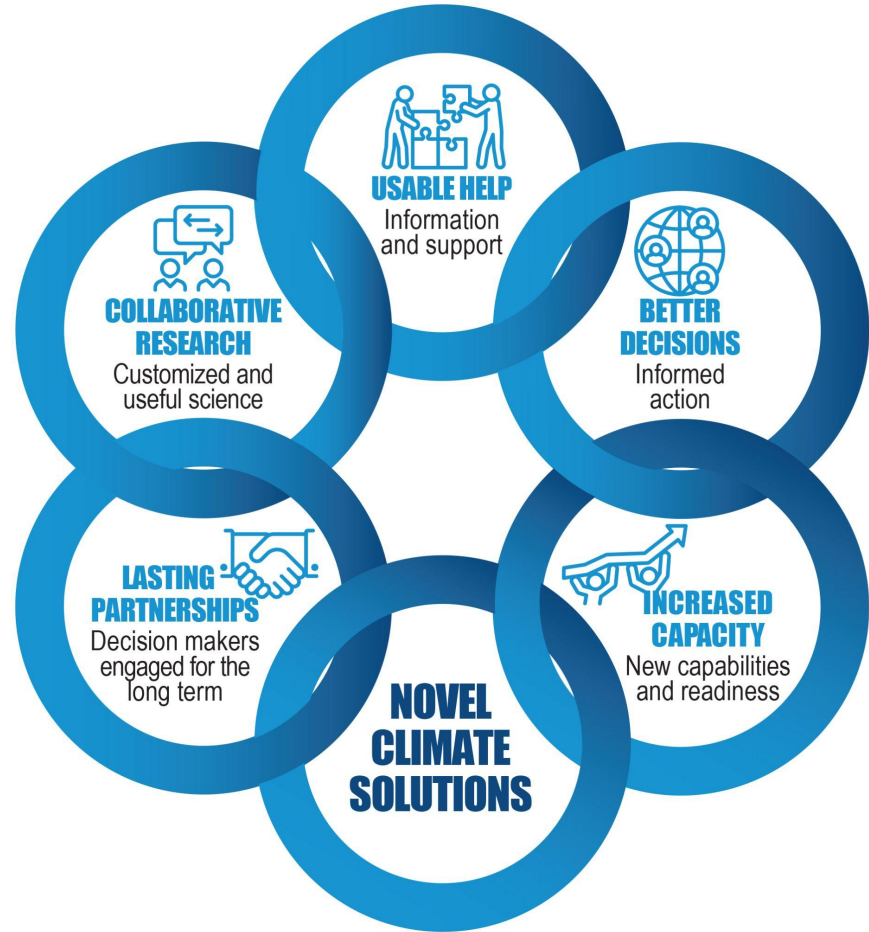
Structure
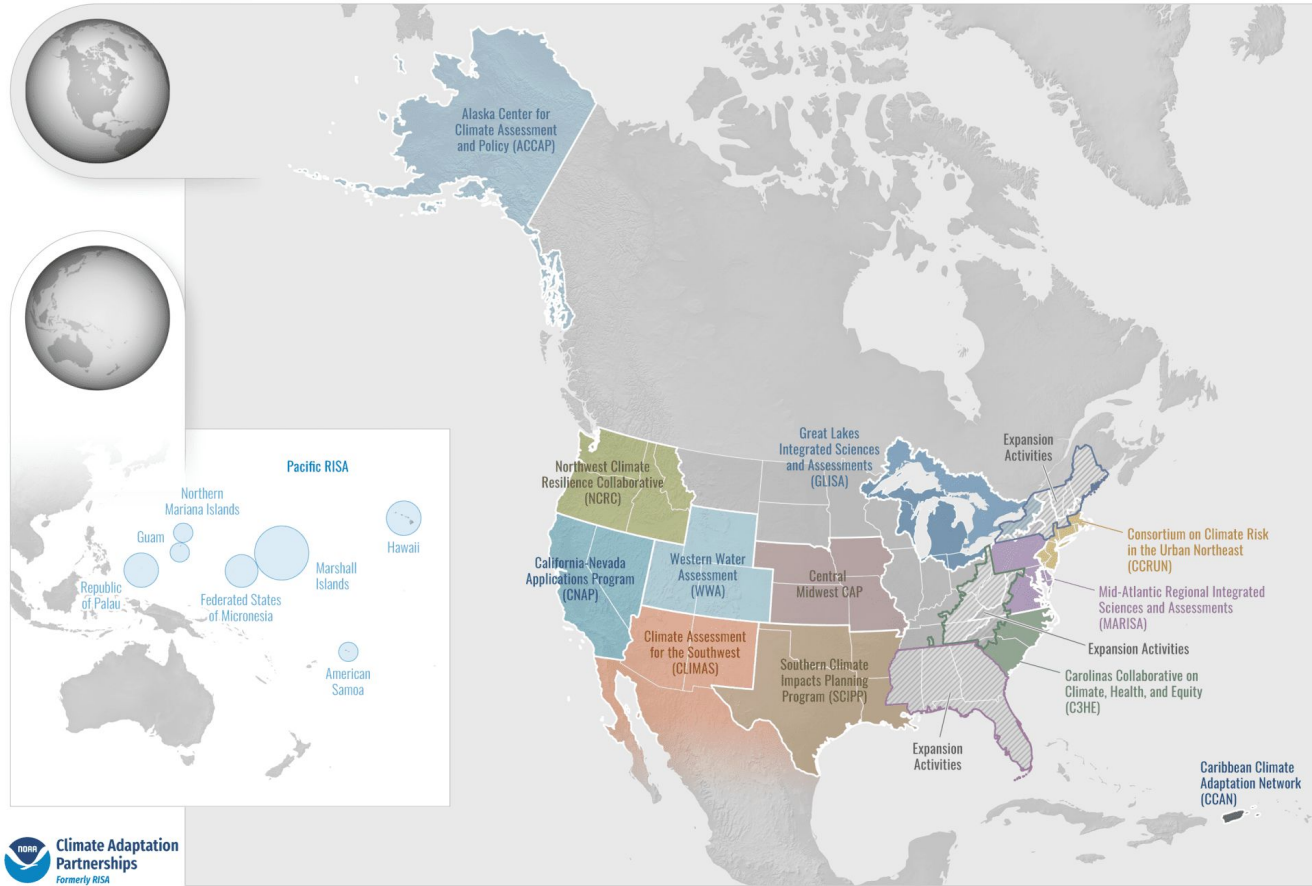5-year grants/**cooperative agreements** between NOAA and teams in multi-state regions.
Teams are composed of researchers & specialists covering several orgs in multi-state regions.

Approach
Co-production of actionable knowledge.
Relationships are key.

USABLE HELP
Information and support

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH
Customized and useful science

BETTER DECISIONS
Informed action

LASTING PARTNERSHIPS
Decision makers engaged for the long term

NOVEL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

INCREASED CAPACITY
New capabilities and readiness

Currently Funded CAP/RISA Teams and Expansion Activities

Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy (ACCAP)

Pacific RISA

Northern Mariana Islands

Guam

Hawaii

Republic of Palau

Federated States of Micronesia

Marshall Islands

American Samoa

Climate Adaptation Partnerships
Formerly RISA

Northwest Climate Resilience Collaborative (NCRC)

Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments (GLISA)

Expansion Activities

California-Nevada Applications Program (CNAP)

Western Water Assessment (WWA)

Central Midwest CAP

Consortium on Climate Risk in the Urban Northeast (CCRUN)

Mid-Atlantic Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (MARISA)

Climate Assessment for the Southwest (CLIMAS)

Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program (SCIPP)

Expansion Activities

Carolinas Collaborative on Climate, Health, and Equity (C3HE)

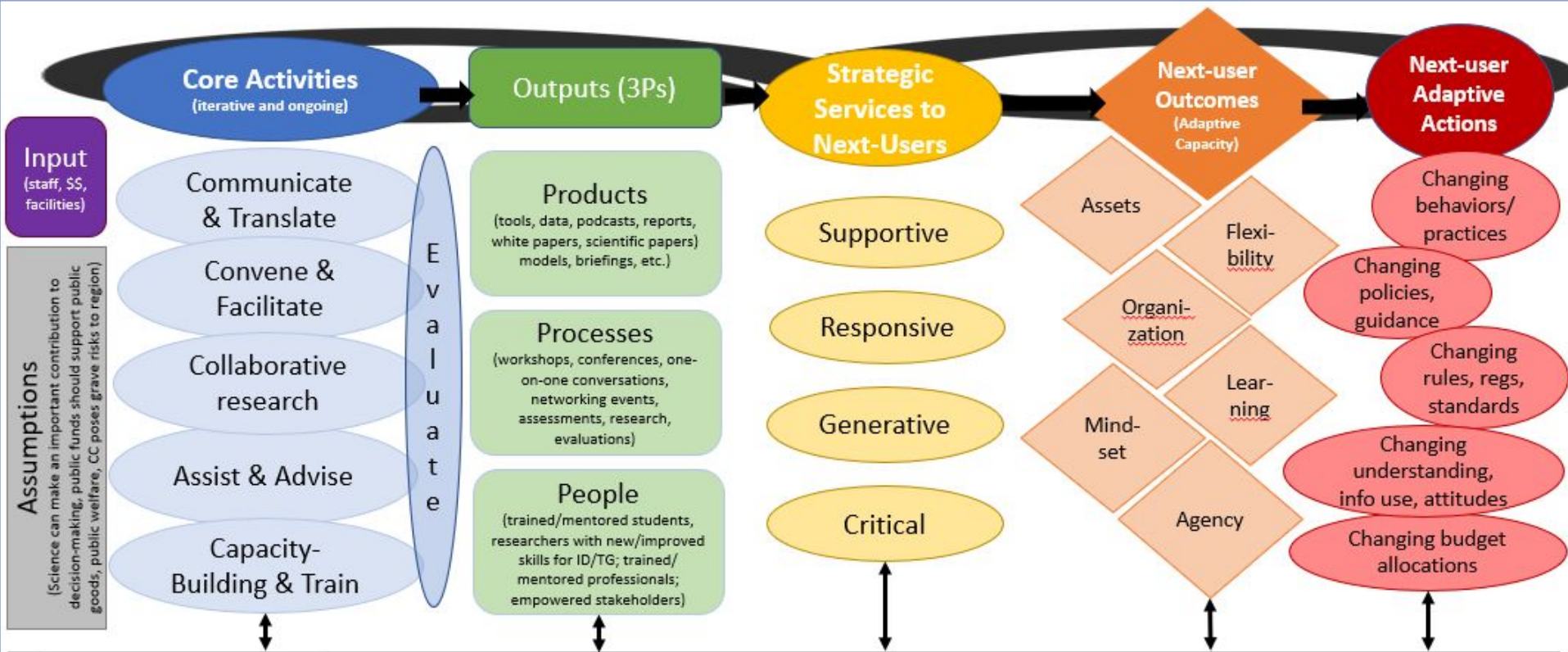Expansion Activities

Caribbean Climate Adaptation Network (CCAN)

FY24 CAP NOFO: Available Funding

- Core CAP work: $1,100,000/year for 5 years

- A minimum of $200,000 within the total budget must directly fund community-based organizations or local governments serving under-resourced frontline communities

- **Total** proposed cost for the five-year proposal should not exceed $5,500,000.

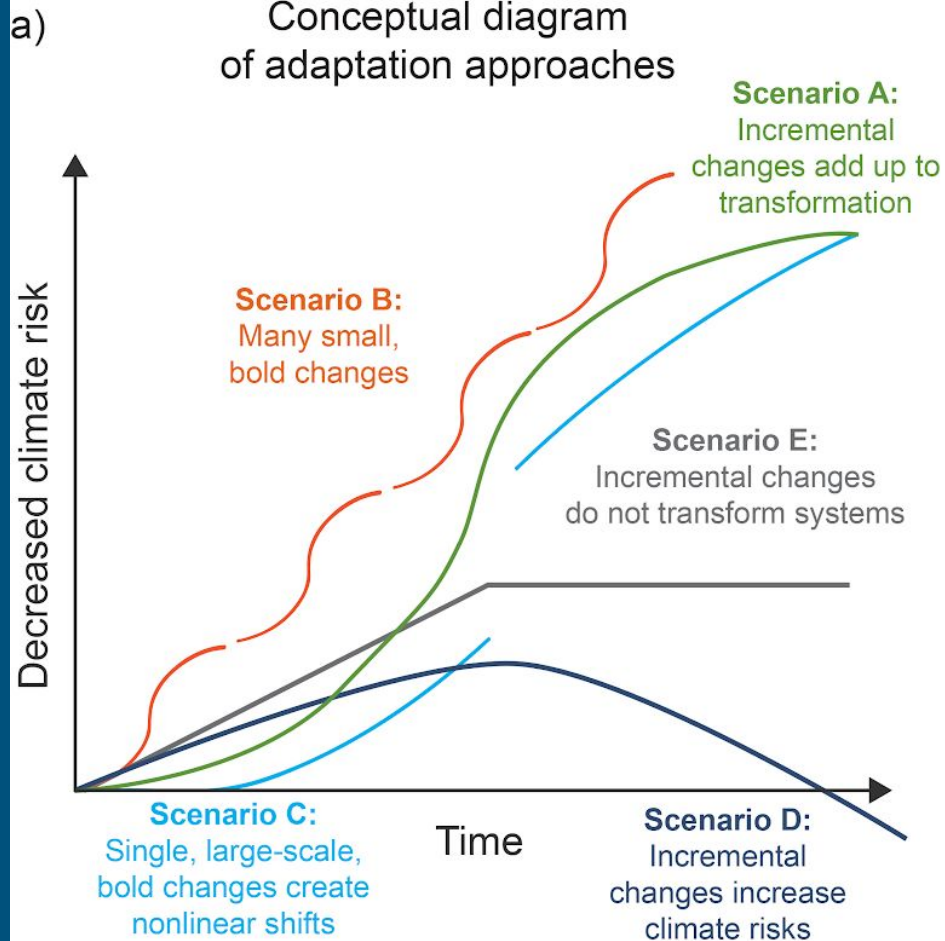# Work of Regional CAP/RISA teams with their partners

Incremental and Transformative Adaptation Approaches

a) Conceptual diagram of adaptation approaches

Decreased climate risk (y-axis) vs Time (x-axis)

Scenario A: Incremental changes add up to transformation

Scenario B: Many small, bold changes

Scenario E: Incremental changes do not transform systems

Scenario C: Single, large-scale, bold changes create nonlinear shifts

Scenario D: Incremental changes increase climate risks

b) Examples to illustrate conceptual approaches

Scenario A Additional nature-based strategies over time build to a transformed landscape

Scenario B Landowners shift land use, transforming parcel by parcel

Scenario C Entire communities choose to move away from flood-prone waterfronts

Scenario D Increased use of fossil-fuel-powered air-conditioning contributes to greater climate risk

Scenario E Precision irrigation reduces drought risk but water scarcity remains

Source: https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/

Strong CAP Team Proposals

- Balance scientific inquiry with community engagement processes

- Provide actionable information on climate variability and change at the scale decision-makers and communities need for short- and long-term planning

- Apply knowledge to action, providing high priority climate research, services, and practices to serve respective regions and the nation

- Use a transdisciplinary science approach, that includes social sciences, from leadership through project design and implementation

- Prioritize local expertise, institutions and community partnerships across the region

- Address issue of justice, equity, diversity and inclusion throughout proposed work

- Include strong program management and interaction/integration across the team

- Evaluate progress of project outputs and regional adaptation outcomes

Review Process and Evaluation Criteria

Review Process

- Panel review process to evaluate technical merit and relevance of the proposed teams
- Panelists come from multiple disciplines and practitioner fields with relevant regional and topical expertise/experience
- Program managers make final recommendations on funding to the agency

Evaluation Criteria: Relevance (40%)

1a. Importance/Relevance and Applicability of Application to Program Goals:
(Relevance Review Weight = 70%) (Final Weight= 28%)
This criterion assesses whether there is intrinsic value in the work and relevance to CSI/CAP program goals, our partners and decision makers across any of the following levels: federal, tribal, regional, state, or local.

1b. Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, JEDI:
(Relevance Review Weight = 30%,) (Final Weight= 12%)
This criterion assesses the proposed project's integration of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion principles. This includes how the proposals have incorporated inclusion, diversity, equity and justice into their research team, project management, research projects, methods, engagement process, and/or expected benefits.

Evaluation Criteria: Technical (60%)

2. Technical/Scientific Merit:

(Technical Review Weight = 70%) (Final Weight =42%)

This criterion assesses whether the approach is technically sound and/or innovative, if the methods are appropriate, and whether the goals of the competition, including JEDI components, will be realized.

3. Overall Qualifications of Applicants:

(Technical Review Weight =20%) (Final Weight = 12%)

This criterion assesses whether the applicant team possesses the necessary education, experience, training, facilities, and/or administrative resources to accomplish the project.

4. Project Costs:

(Technical Review Weight = 10%) (Final Weight =6%)

This criterion evaluates the budget to determine if it is realistic and commensurate with the project needs and time frame.

SAM Number / Grants System

Make sure your institution is registered in SAM
www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM

Register for eRA Commons platform
https://www.commerce.gov/ocio/programs/gems/register-your-organization-era-commons

Proposal Components in Detail

Full Proposals

Full proposals are due at **5:00 p.m. ET on February 5, 2024** through grants.gov.

Proposal Components (page #)

- Title Page (1)
- Abstract (1)
- Results from Prior Research (2)
- Project Narrative/Statement of Work (30)
- Statement on Integration of Justice, Equity, Delivery, and Inclusion (3)
- Data/Information Sharing Plan (2)

- Project Management Plan (3)
- Letter of Institutional Commitment
- Additional Letters of Support
- Budget Narrative
- Budget Table
- Federal Budget Forms
- Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
- Vitae
- Current and Pending Support

General Advice

- Please ensure all requested information is listed very simply in title page and abstract.
  - Panel may rely on this top-level info quite a bit
  - List of team members & institutions is useful
  - Abstract should include concise summary of work
- Keep your document organized and text searchable.

Statement of Work

30 page limit including references and figures featuring:

1. Identification of the problem
   a. Climate risks and adaptation challenges - *climate impacts on people*
   b. Justification of regional relevance - *what has been done, what are key gaps*
   c. Overarching and integrated approach of team
2. Description of project(s)
   a. For each: Goals and objectives; Proposed methodology; Community relevance; Engagement strategies; Partnerships; Relevance to CAP goals
3. Expected outcomes
   a. How is this work moving science and/or adaptation forward in the region? What are the metrics of success? - *not outcomes by project but outcomes of the region*
4. Societal benefits
   a. Consider how the work is expected to change societal decisions and processes and how it will benefit communities.

Statement of JEDI

Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Statement (3 pages) ***Required***

Applicants should use the statement to show transparency and accountability in their efforts to prioritize benefits to frontline communities. It must include:

1. Summary of all ways JEDI has been incorporated into community engagement, team composition, leadership and decision-making, focus areas, community partnerships, and approaches

2. Identification of frontline communities anticipated to benefit from project. Be as specific as possible - Tools are available to identify communities geographically, including: CEJST, Rural Capacity Map, CDRZ.

3. Identification of applicable benefits, direct or indirect, to communities.

4. A description of *how* benefits are expected to flow to communities.

Statement of JEDI

<u>Required Frontline Community Investments</u> (Describe in Statement)

A minimum of $200,000 within the total budget must be set aside to directly fund community-based organizations (CBOs) or local governments serving under-resourced frontline communities.

- The funding approach can vary, but must follow rules and regulations governing subawarding of federal funds.
    - e.g. funding a community champion as a stable CAP team member
    - e.g. developing a process to issue small grants to organizations
- Integrate description into the JEDI Statement. This should cover:
    - How community partners were selected, or what the process will be
    - The sector or climate issue the investment will be focus on
    - Goals and objectives related to enhancing adaptive capacity in region
    - Plans for evaluating the success of investments

Data/Information Sharing Plan

Environmental data and information: recorded and derived observations and measurements of the physical, chemical, biological, geological, and geophysical properties and conditions of the oceans, atmosphere, space environment, sun, and solid earth, as well as correlative data such as socio-economic data, related documentation, and metadata.

Environmental data and information must be made discoverable and accessible to general public in timely fashion.

There are inherent exceptions in the context of human subjects research and indigenous data sovereignty

Data/Information Sharing Plan

Proposals must include **Data Management Plan** (2p), which should include:

- Descriptions of types of data expected to be created
- Tentative date data will be shared
- Standards to be used for data/metadata format and content
- Methods for providing data access
- Approximate total volume of data to be collected
- And prior experience in making such data accessible

Pre-publication manuscripts must be submitted to [NOAA Institutional Repository](#)

Additional info: (1) [Data Sharing Directive](#); (2) [NOAA Administrative Order](#)

Project Management Plan

1. Describe the organizational relationships and reporting structure
2. Describe the processes used to prioritize team activities
3. Articulate how projects will evolve as regional and partner needs emerge.

Full time program manager/coordinator is strongly encouraged

The plan page limit is 3 pages total - 2 pages of text, 1 page of a decision making graphic

Letter(s) of Institutional Commitment

Include a letter describing how the host institution(s) are committed to CAP team efforts. As part of broader goals of the CAP network, host institutions themselves are considered regional partners in this work, therefore the program is interested in understanding how the institution sees their role in hosting and supporting a CAP team as a regional collaborator.

The letter should describe anticipated advantages of hosting or participating in the CAP team, types of additional support for people, processes, or products during or after the CAP award, and any plans for other parts of the institution to collaborate with or complement CAP efforts.

- The letter is required at the least from the host institution; a strong application would include letters from all the institutions who are participating in a significant way.

- A letter from the school or department would be appropriate, but it could also be a letter from the university if the university is offering broader support

Additional Letters of Support

Additional Letters of Support, outside of the Letter of Institutional Commitment, are **not** required, but up to **10** letters may be submitted to supplement information in the Full Proposal. Applicants should:

1. Prioritize letters from partners whose terms of engagement and participation are *already well developed* or in the process of developing.

2. Potential partners or partners at the very early stages of engagement should be described in the narrative as part of the proposal's engagement strategy.

Budget Table & Narrative

Considerations for proposal-writing:

- Project costs as an evaluation criterion.
- Required frontline community investments should be clearly identified in budget in addition to JEDI Statement
- Budgetary investments show the panel key details about how the team will operate and at what scale.
- Consider what the panel doesn't know (e.g. when a team member's time is already paid for or is otherwise being leveraged).

Federal Budget Forms

Forms: SF424, SF424A, SF424B, CD511

- Follow directions carefully, particularly regarding double submission of SF424 (one for years 1-4, another showing year 5 and the Years 1-5 total).

Advice from LOI Feedback

Geographic Guidance

- Carefully review 'Determining Geographic Scope' in the [CAP Information Sheet](#).
- Proposals with institutions and core partners in only one state will **not** be competitive.
- In the Southeast, the program is particularly interested in seeing institutional representation in Alabama and/or Mississippi.
- Proposals focused exclusively on coastal areas will not be deemed relevant.

Integrated Science

- Proposals should articulate clear integrated and interdisciplinary research questions *for* climate adaptation.
- Team should show competence across physical and social science disciplines and knowledge sets (engineering, local knowledge, indigenous knowledge).
- Consider how adaptation is advanced in understanding social and cultural impacts of climate change, law and governance, fiscal policies, adaptation pathways, equity, etc

Multiple Climate Hazards / Issues

- Proposals with work focusing on a single climate driver/hazard/impact/issue are not generally competitive.
- More competitive proposals will show a capacity to address multiple dimensions flexibly
  - Still important to keep it manageable. It is possible to be spread too thin across topics.

Goal of CAP Teams is Adaptive Capacity Outcomes

- The ultimate goal of this program is to build the capacity of decision makers to act on climate variability and change within their lives and professions, through all of the approaches articulated in the NOFO (e.g. regional research and engagement, interdisciplinary integrated science, etc.)

- Tools, models, production of information need to be justified and explained in this context

Partnerships, Data, and Products

- All partnerships will be evaluated in the context of how they are relevant to addressing issues identified by local decision makers and not by how well they make people aware of data and tools.

- Consider guidance on "Developing Partnerships" in [Information Sheet](#)

Experts in Region

- CAP team must be composed of place-based experts from within the region, including non-research partners.
  - Your community-based organization partners can be integrated within the team itself and even on the governance team.
  - This deepens the opportunity for co-production.

Useful Resources

- [Central Funding Opportunity page](#)
  - (You may need to click through the drop-down menus to find everything available here)
- [Full NOFO](#)
- [Grants.Gov Listing](#)
- [Information sheet](#)
- [FAQ on the CPO website](#)
- [Common Characteristics Of Successful CAP/RISA Teams](#)

Questions?

Sign up for office hours

Reach out to the CAP team at
oar.cpo.risa@noaa.gov