

National Sea Grant Law Center Program Development Funds

Guidelines & Instructions for Applicants

I. Background

Each year the National Sea Grant Law Center allocates part of its budget for Program Development (PD) funds. The National Sea Grant Office allows state programs to award these funds to enhance their strategic plan goals. Typical awards are under \$10,000. Projects exceeding \$10,000 should be discussed with the National Sea Grant Law Center director prior to submission.

Awards are generally for small legal research or pilot projects that fall into several categories:

- Needs assessments
- Strategic planning workshops
- “Proof of Concept” demonstration projects, such as student internships or symposia
- Small-scale research projects or workshops that seek to address timely or pressing legal questions related to ocean, coastal, or Great Lakes law.

Applicants must express how the proposed project will add value to National Sea Grant Law Center’s legal research, extension, education, and outreach efforts in the program’s current strategic focus areas. The National Sea Grant Law Center management team will make decisions on Program Development awards on a rolling basis.

II. Target Allocation

These funds will be provided to projects that align with National Sea Grant Law Center’s strategic goals and objectives. Preference is given to projects that will help build the legal capacity of the Sea Grant Network.

III. To Apply

Interested applicants are encouraged to share their ideas with National Sea Grant Law Center staff prior to submitting a request. Proposals should be submitted by email to Stephanie Otts at sshowalt@olemiss.edu.

IV. Considerations for Proposal Evaluation

The following will be taken into consideration to evaluate the feasibility and merit of project proposals:

- Alignment with National Sea Grant Law Center strategic plan
- Measurable impact on the legal capacity of the Sea Grant Network
- Timeliness and urgency of the proposed activity
- Proof of concept for further development
- Commitment from other partners

- Fostering relationships with other partners
- Innovation and relevance to emerging issues

V. Timing of decisions and distributions

Program Development proposals are accepted and evaluated on a rolling basis. Generally, decisions on proposals are made within one month of submission and disbursements are made as soon as possible based on institutional requirements.