

Clean Vessel Act Grant Program

FY 2007

Notice of Availability of Federal Assistance

Program Overview Information

Federal Agency Name:

Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of Federal Assistance

Announcement Type:

Announcement of availability of grants for FY 2007.

Funding Opportunity Number: CVA-07

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:

15.616

Dates: Proposals are due to the Regional Federal Assistance offices by January 8, 2007 or must be received electronically by that date. Late proposals will not be considered. The announcement of awards is expected to be in March 2007.

Additional information:

The Clean Vessel Act of 1992, Subtitle V(F) of P.L. 102-587, established the **Clean Vessel Act Grant Program** to provide funding to States and Territories for the construction, renovation, operation, and maintenance of pumpout stations and waste reception facilities for recreational boaters and also for educational programs that inform boaters of the importance of proper disposal of their sewage. The Act was signed November 4, 1992 (106 Stat. 5039) and amended the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act (Wallop-Breaux Act; 16 U.S.C. 777). Subsequent reauthorizations of the Act have allowed for the continuation of the Clean Vessel Act Grant Program.

Additional information about the Clean Vessel Act Grant Program is on the web at <http://federalaid.fws.gov/cva/cva.html>.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Recreational boating is a popular activity in the U.S. There are approximately 13 million registered boats in the U.S., many of which have on-board toilets for the boaters. Proper disposal of this sewage is important to maintain clean water in the countries aquatic

ecosystems. The Clean Vessel Act Grant Program provides States and Territories federal grant funds to assist with their efforts in preventing aquatic pollution that could occur by disposing of recreational boaters waste into the public waterways and other waters.

Specifically, the Clean Vessel Act Grant Program provides funding for all States and Territories for:

The construction, renovation, operation and maintenance of pumpout and dump stations, including floating restrooms in the water, not connected to land or structures connected to the land, used solely by boaters. Eligible grant activities also include any activity necessary to hold and transport sewage to sewage treatment plants, such as holding tanks, piping, haulage costs, and any activity necessary to get sewage treatment plants to accept sewage, such as installing bleed-in facilities. Also, all States and Territories may request funding for educational/informational programs to educate/inform recreational boaters about the environmental pollution problems resulting from sewage discharges from vessels and to inform them of the location of pumpout and dump stations.

Additionally, coastal States may apply for grant funds for the projects that identify all operational pumpout and dump stations in the coastal zone, and surveys of recreational boat owners of vessels in coastal waters with holding tanks or portable toilets. Coastal states may also receive funds for planning efforts that seek to quantify and ensure that there are sufficient sewage disposal facilities to meet the needs of recreational vessels using the coastal waters of the State.

(b) Eligible grant activities-all States:

(1) Eligible grant activities include education/information program to educate/inform recreational boaters about the environmental pollution problems resulting from sewage discharges from vessels and to inform them of the location of pumpout and dump stations.

(2) Eligible grant activities include the construction, renovation, operation and maintenance of pumpout and dump stations, including floating restrooms in the water, not connected to land or structures connected to the land, used solely by boaters. Eligible grant activities also include any activity necessary to hold and transport sewage to sewage treatment plants, such as holding tanks, piping, haulage costs, and any activity necessary to get sewage treatment plants to accept sewage, such as installing bleed-in facilities.

(c) Ineligible activities:

(1) Activities that do not provide public benefits.

(2) Enforcement activities.

(3) Construction/renovation of upland restroom facilities.

(4) Construction, renovation, operation and maintenance of on-site sewage treatment plants, such as package treatment plants and septic systems, and of municipal sewage treatment plants for primary and secondary treatment.

Ranking decisions are made based on criteria in the Clean Vessel Act Program rules (50 CFR Part 85) See “V. Application Review Information, 1. Criteria.” of this document.

II. Award Information:

There is an estimated \$12.5 million available for grants from the Clean Vessel Act Grant Program. Grant awards typically range from \$30,000 (there is no specific minimum) to approximately \$1,000,000. Grant awards are expected to be announced in March of 2007.

III. Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include any agency or agencies designated by the governor of a State or Territory. It is often times a State natural resource or fish and wildlife agency.

2. Cost-Sharing or Matching

The cost share for this program is 75 percent federal/ 25 percent state share. The following insular areas, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands are not required to provide a match.

3. Other

Although only State agencies can apply for and receive grants under this program, the program does encourage partnering with local governments, private marinas and others.

IV. Application and Submission Information

1. Address to Request Application Package

Potential applicants can receive application forms and other material necessary to apply for this program by contacting one of the Fish and Wildlife Service’s regional offices. The following is a list of regional offices and contact personnel:

States and Territories by Fish and Wildlife Service Region	Regional Contact Information
American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Federal Assistance Eastside Federal Complex 911 NE 11 th Avenue Portland, OR 97232-4181

	503-231-6128
California, Nevada	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Federal Assistance 2800 Cottage Way Sacramento, CA 95825 916-414-6464
Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Federal Assistance P.O. Box 1306 500 Gold Avenue, SW Albuquerque, NM 87103 505-248-7450
Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Federal Assistance Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building 1 Federal Drive Fort Snelling, MN 55111 612-713-5130
Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virgin Islands	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Federal Assistance 1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 324 Atlanta, GA 30345 404-679-4159
Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Federal Assistance 300 Westgate Center Drive Hadley, MA 01035 413-253-8508
Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 134 Union Blvd., P.O. Box 25486 Denver, Colorado 80225 303-236-5420
Alaska	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Federal Assistance 1011 East Tudor Road Anchorage, AK 99503 907-786-3545

2. Content and Form of Application

Grant proposals submitted for funding from the Clean Vessel Act Grant Program must include a narrative that identifies and describes the following:

- a) The need for the proposal within the purposes of the Act (Coastal States with approved plans should indicate how the activities contained in the proposal implements the plan);
- (b) Discrete objective(s) to be accomplished during a specified time period that address the need(s);
- (c) Expected results or benefits from accomplishing the objectives, including the numbers of recreational vessels and people served;
- (d) The approach to be used in meeting the objectives, including specific procedures, schedules, key personnel, cooperators, grant location, innovative approaches, public/private partnerships, education, sensitive waters, public access, and estimated costs;
- (e) Amount and source of matching funds; and,
- (f) Fees for use of facility.

(1) Title Page. No specific requirement.

(2) Project Description. See above.

(3) Project Statement of Work. See above.

(4) Project Budget. See above.

(5) Supporting Documentation. See above.

Federal Assistance Forms:

See the forms listed under the “Content and Form of the Application”.

3. Submission Dates and Times

Proposals must be received either electronically at Grants.gov or in hard copy at the Regional Service offices by January 8, 2007.

4. Intergovernmental Review

The Clean Vessel Act Grant Program is subject to EO 12372 “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs”. States and Territories that have chosen to participate in the Executive Order process have established Single Points of Contact (SPOCs). Applicants from jurisdictions that have not chosen to participate do not need to take any action regarding E.O. 12372. All other applicants should alert their SPOCs early in the application process. If you as an applicant are required to submit materials to a SPOC, indicate the date of this submittal (or the date of contact if no submittal is required) on the Standard Form 424.

5. Funding Restrictions

Ineligible activities include:

- (a) Activities that do not provide public benefits.
- (b) Enforcement activities.
- (c) Construction/renovation of upland restroom facilities.
- (d) Construction, renovation, operation and maintenance of on-site sewage treatment plants, such as package treatment plants and septic systems, and of municipal sewage treatment plants for primary and secondary treatment.

6. Other Submission Requirements

None.

V. Application Review Information

1. Criteria

Criteria for reviewing and ranking projects are in the final rule for administering the Clean Vessel Act Grant Program (50 CFR Part 85) For a detailed explanation of the criteria take a look at Section 84.30 of the rule

(<http://policy.fws.gov/library/02fr49264.pdf>) A brief summary of the ranking criteria follows:

- **Survey/Plan.** This criterion applies only for coastal States. Specifically, has the State completed or have plans to complete a survey or plan?
- **Construction with or without the plan.** Will the construction be completed according to a formal plan designed to ensure adequate number of pumpout facilities for recreational boaters?
- **Partnership.** Will the proposal provide for public/private partnership efforts to develop and operate pumpout and dump stations?
- **Innovative Approaches.** Will the proposal use innovative ways to increase the availability of use pumpout and dum stations?
- **Education.** Does the proposal include an education/information component?
- **Sensitive Area.** Will the proposal benefit waters that are most likely to be affected by the discharge of sewage from vessels?
- **Low Pumpout Ratio.** Will the proposal be completed in areas with a high vessel to pumpout or dump station ratio?

2. Review and Selection Process

Project selection is a three-step process: proposal acceptance, proposal ranking, and proposal selection.

- **Proposal acceptance-** The Regional Federal Assistance Offices decide whether a proposal should be accepted for consideration by determining if the proposal is complete, substantial, and contains activities that are eligible. Proposals that are

not eligible are immediately returned to the State. Revisions and resubmission of returned proposals is allowable up until the identified deadline for proposal submittals.

- Proposal ranking- Once a proposal is accepted by the Regional Federal Assistance Office, the Regional Office sends the proposal to the National Federal Assistance Office, which compiles all accepted proposals and coordinates an internal, interdisciplinary review of all accepted proposals by a National Review Panel which includes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Coast Guard, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency..
- Proposal selection- The National Review Panel scores and ranks all accepted proposals and provides the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service with a list of recommended projects. The final list of projects awarded funding is determined by the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

3. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

The grant awards are expected to be announced in March 2007. All applicants will receive a letter informing them whether their proposal was awarded funding. Applicants whose proposals are selected for funding will also be notified regarding the amount of the award.

VI. Award Administration Information

1. Award Notices

All applicants will receive a letter informing them whether their proposal was awarded funding. The Service will also publish a press release announcing the awards.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Compliance with environmental laws such as the Endangered Species Act, and applicable executive orders must be satisfied before the Service can approve a grant agreement for a project.

A new rule requires organizations to obtain a DUNS number, a unique identifying number. On June 27, 2003, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published a Federal Register notice (68 FR 38402) that announced its final policy on the use of a universal identifier by financial assistance applicants. The policy requires applicants applying for Federal grants or cooperative agreements to obtain a Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number. Only private individual landowners are exempted. Organizations can receive a DUNS number at no cost by calling a DUNS number request line at 1-866-706-5711 or on-line at www.dnb.com.

All financial assistance awards are subject to Federal financial administration requirements. The Service office that administers financial assistance in each Region to ensure will work with you to ensure that all financial arrangements comply with these requirements. To find out more about the rules:

Table 1. Federal Financial Administrative Guidance	
<u>Categories of Recipients</u>	<u>Specific Rules and Guidance</u>
Individuals, private firms, and non-profits excluded from coverage under OMB Circular No. A-122	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Federal Acquisition Subpart 31.2 - 43 CFR 18 (New Restrictions on Lobbying) - 48 CFR 31 (Contracts with Commercial Organizations)
Non-profit organizations covered under OMB Circular No. A-122	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 43 CFR 12 (Administrative and Audit Requirements and Cost principles for Assistance Programs) - 43 CFR 18 (New Restrictions on Lobbying) - OMB Circular No. A-110 (Administrative Requirements for Grants) - OMB Circular No. A-122 (Cost Principles) - OMB Circular No. A-133 (Audits)
Educational Institutions (even if part of a State or local government)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CFR 12 (Administrative and Audit Requirements and Cost Principles for Assistance Programs) - 43 CFR 18 (New Restrictions on Lobbying) - OMB Circular No. A-21 (Cost Principles) - OMB Circular No. A-110 (Administrative Requirements for Grants) OMB Circular No. A-133 (Audits)
States, local governments and Tribes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 43 CFR 12 (Administrative and Audit Requirements and Cost Principles for Assistance Programs) - 43 CFR 18 (New Restrictions on Lobbying) - OMB Circular No. A-87 (Cost Principles) - OMB Circular No. A-102 (Grants and Cooperative Agreements) - OMB Circular No. A-133 (Audits)

3. Reporting

Reporting requirements include retention and access requirements are specified in 43 CFR. 12.82.

VII. Agency Contacts

The Clean Vessel Act Grant is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Additional program information can be obtained by contacting:

Brian Bohnsack, PhD.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of Federal Assistance
Mailstop FA-4020
4401 North Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22203
703-358-1801
brian_bohnsack@fws.gov

Or contact your Regional U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office (see the list under “Address to Request Application Package”.)

VIII. Other Information

The Federal government is not bound to financially support any project until an official Service financial officer has signed off on the grant agreement.