The University of Texas at Austin
Marine Science Institute

Texas Gulf Coast Impact 2030 Grants
2024 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Submission Deadline: January 31, 2024, 5:00 PM CT

DESCRIPTION

The Texas Gulf Coast Impact Grant Program is an internal funding mechanism meant to foster interdisciplinary collaborations and partnerships in order to solve scientific, technological, policy, and economic challenges facing the Texas Gulf Coast with the goal of preserving thriving Texas coastal communities. The program is led by the Texas Gulf Coast Research Center at the University of Texas at Austin's (UT Austin) Marine Science Institute (UTMSI) and is administered by The University of Texas Marine Science Institute with support from the College of Natural Sciences' (CNS) Strategic Research Initiatives team.

The proposed projects must be located at or of specific relevance to the Texas Gulf Coast and not general in nature.

Track 1: Impact 2030 Grants (Round 2)
- Purpose: To support applied research projects that address near-term challenges facing the Texas Gulf Coast by engaging local municipalities and/or state natural resource agencies as external partners. All proposals must adopt a user-driven approach, be grounded in reciprocal relationships, and meet a need of a Texas Resource Agency or municipality.
- Minimum Requirements
  - Project teams must include at least one Principal Investigator (PI) with at least a 50% appointment at the Department of Marine Science OR the Marine Science Institute as lead PI.
  - Project teams must also include at least one non-academic, external partner who advances or informs policy on the Texas Gulf Coast. Eligible partners include relevant municipality, state/city resource agencies, environmental nongovernmental organizations, or industry (e.g., Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Coastal Conservation Association, Gulf Coast Growth Ventures, Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program).
  - The external partner(s) role(s) can be either paid or unpaid (i.e., consulting or advisory); however, their contributions should be critical to the success of the proposed project.
  - Project teams may also, but are not required to, include one or more PIs with a primary appointment at UT Austin outside of the Department of Marine Science.

AWARD INFORMATION

Up to **four** Gulf Coast Impact 2030 Grants **($150,000 maximum each)** will be awarded. Projects should be proposed with a performance period of 18 months with an end date of August 31, 2025. No extensions are allowed.

Allowed Expenses

- Faculty salary (summer or otherwise) up to 1-month, but not to exceed $10,000 for each PI and one Co-PI
- Graduate student support including tuition (UT-Austin only)
- Technician, Postdoc and Research Scientist support (UT-Austin only)
- Staff support for collaboration (UT-Austin only)
- Materials/supplies/consumables
- Equipment <$5,000
- Equipment >$5,000 with justification included in the proposal
- Analytical services
- Boat and vehicle fees
- Publication charges or consultant charges
- Travel within Texas or workshop hosting (ex. stipends, travel, and subsistence)
- External Partner support (Through an exclusive acquisition justification such as a purchase order or contract).

Unallowed Expenses

- Basic administrative support
- Indirect costs
- Office supplies
- Computers, unless there is justification for specialized use included in the proposal

ELIGIBILITY

See specific requirements above. Applications must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- UT team members must be tenure-track faculty, professional faculty, Mission-Aransas Reserve PIs, or research-track scientists with PI status. Adjunct faculty, visiting researchers, and postdocs are not eligible to serve as Co-PIs but may be named as investigators in proposals.
- Cross-college collaborations are allowed.
- Previously awarded investigator teams are not eligible to submit a new Gulf Coast Impact Grant proposal as a team.
- Non-awarded applicants from previous cycles may submit their proposal twice (i.e., original submission and one resubmission).
- Preference may be given to lead PIs that do not already hold a TGCRC Impact Grant.

APPLICATION COMPONENTS

All application documents should be formatted using 1-inch margins and no smaller than 11-point font. Recommended fonts are Arial, Georgia, Helvetica, and Times New Roman. The documents listed below are required, unless otherwise noted, and must be submitted by the application deadline.

1. **Lay Summary**. In 300 words or less, provide a lay summary for your collaboration and proposed project. Describe the potential impact to the Texas Gulf Coast for a general audience.

2. **Proposal**. Limit to five (5) pages. Organize the proposal in the specified order using the section headings and instructions provided below.

a. *Background and Goals*

Explain the challenge(s) facing the Texas Gulf Coast that your team will address. Explain why these challenge(s) are important to address in the stated time horizon for the award track. Discuss the specific project goals and potential impact of the proposed project on the Texas Gulf Coast.

b. *Approach*

Detail the team's approach to addressing the stated challenge(s). Describe why your approach is novel and innovative. Describe key milestones and any anticipated deliverables. The Gulf Coast Impact Grants review panel will not be experts in your specific field; please write this section accordingly.

c. *Participating Team Members*

List participating members, providing a clear explanation of each team member's role in the collaboration and level of effort. This section should clearly describe why each team member is critical to the project's success.

d. *Collaboration Plan*

Identify the municipality or agency's primary user(s) and their needs. Describe how the user's input helped to shape the project. Describe a clear process that will ensure iterative engagement and contribute to reciprocal relationships with the users identified in the project scope.

3. **Letter of Support:** No page limit. Provide evidence of the municipality, Texas resource management agency, nongovernmental organization or industry's interest in the project.

4. **Bibliography/References**: No page limit. List citations/references in a document separate from the proposal.

5. **Budget and Budget Justification**. No page limit. Submit a detailed budget with justification that outlines expenditures in the following categories:

   a. A&P salary (ex., faculty & postdoctoral fellows)

   b. Classified Salary (ex. research technician)

   c. Wages (ex. student salaries)

   d. Equipment >$5,000

   e. Supplies (Ex. materials, analytical services, boat fees, partner contracts, tuition)

   f. Travel

6. **Response to Prior Reviews**: Limit to one (1) page. For applications being resubmitted, summarize any changes made to the proposal to address prior reviews.

7. **Current and Pending Support**: For all investigator team members, submit a list of current and pending funding information (direct cost per year and total duration).

APPLICATION SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications must be submitted through Competition Space, UT's online submission interface. To apply, visit https://utexas.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1924167. Login using your UT EID and password

to create your application. Complete the application form and upload the required application documents described above and click "Submit Application" at the bottom of the page. You will also have the option to save a draft and return to continue your application at a future time. If this is your first time submitting a proposal through Competition Space, refer to the "Note" at the end of this RFP for further instructions. Application components should be combined and uploaded as a single pdf and submitted by the **deadline of 5:00 PM CT on January 31, 2024**.

REVIEW CRITERIA

A review panel composed of faculty and non-academic experts will evaluate Gulf Coast Impact Grant applications. Proposals should be written in a manner accessible to non-experts in your specific field. The following evaluation criteria will be used and given an approximate weight based on the indicators below:

1. The project has the potential to impact the Texas Gulf Coast by addressing clearly identified challenges facing the region within the time horizon of the award track. (30 points)

2. The scientific merit and rationale of the proposed project are sound, and the scope of the proposal is feasible for the performance period. (25 points)

3. The proposed project has a solid collaboration plan to ensure the end goal will impact policy or promote change to Texas coastal resources. (15 points)

4. The proposed team members have the expertise to advance the project and are clearly committed to the project's success. (15 points)

5. The proposed project represents a novel and innovative approach to solving an identified challenge. (15 points)

POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS

Awardees will be required to submit a one-page status report at 6-month, and 12-months, and a final report upon project completion. Reports will be due no later than 30 days of the end of each reporting period. Awardees may be asked to serve on a standing review committee for future Gulf Coast Impact Grant competitions. Awardees may also be asked to describe results of Gulf Coast Impact Grant-funded work at future UTMSI events or provide content for social media and outreach events. Budget transfers between expense categories may be restricted to 10% of total project cost. Awardees shall provide acknowledgment of support in any publication (including Web pages) of any material based on or developed under this project in the following terms:

"This material is based upon work supported by the 88th Texas State Legislature for the Texas Gulf Coast Research Center at The University of Texas Marine Science Institute."

UTMSI support also must be orally acknowledged during all news media interviews, including popular media such as radio, television and news magazines.

TIMELINE

Submission window opens: December 1, 2023
Submission deadline: January 31, 2024
Announcement of awardees: February 2024
Anticipated award start date: March 1, 2024

Award end date: August 31, 2025

CONTACT INFORMATION
Application website: https://utexas.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1924167

Program questions should be directed to Sally Palmer: sally.palmer@utexas.edu

Application submission interface questions should be directed to CNS Strategic Research Initiatives: CNS_SRI@austin.utexas.edu

The form and timing of Gulf Coast Impact Grants are subject to change in subsequent years.

The content of this announcement is relevant only for the 2024 competition cycle.

Note: *If this is your first time submitting a proposal through the proposal submission website, you will first need to affiliate yourself with the College before you can submit. To do this, login with your EID and password, then click on the "Hello, [Name]" link at the top right of the website. This will take you to your user profile. In your user profile, under "Primary School or Department," select "Natural Sciences, College of" and then scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the Save Changes button. You will now be able to apply.*