

Criteria for Program Development Funding Requests to The Rhode Island Sea Grant College Program

Rhode Island Sea Grant has limited funds each year that are available to support special funding requests for research, outreach and education program development or other special requests. Requests must meet the guidelines explained below and must be submitted in a format to receive federal funding. Final decisions on PD funding are made solely by the Sea Grant Director.

I. Program Development (PD) Requests to Rhode Island Sea Grant

PD requests help fund risky, innovative or unconventional ideas that have the potential to develop new areas of inquiry, have the potential to impact broadly upon Sea Grant's national, regional or state of Rhode Island strategic priorities, or have the potential to develop new partnerships that better or more fully leverage Sea Grant's existing Federal and State funding resources.

Most compelling PD proposals to Rhode Island Sea Grant are those that address new, innovative disciplinary ideas or innovations relevant to our program's strategic interest areas, or those that connect Rhode Island Sea Grant to the larger academic and coastal communities we serve, or proposals that tackle unique, unexpected situations or phenomena where there is an urgent need to take quick action to capture an important, unexpected opportunity (e.g., a unique storm, a new phytoplankton bloom, a large scale marine die-off, development of a barrier island breach, or an agency being suddenly faced with a decision about an urgent coastal/marine issue.) Proposals related to correcting adverse circumstances related to personnel or facilities are not usually considered for PD support (e.g., not having enough money to keep a lab open, monies for construction, or funds to keep someone hired, etc.)

Funds available for PD efforts are limited and in great demand, so Rhode Island Sea Grant will not normally consider requests exceeding \$5,000 (including indirect costs). Duration of PDs is one year or less only.

Sea Grant Administration of PD Requests

Investigators must first discuss their idea with the RI Sea Grant Director who then may request submission of a 1-3 page overview of the idea and its costs. The RI Sea Grant Management Team will then review the PD request, often with input from other Sea Grant staff as appropriate. If the ideas are considered to have merit, the Sea Grant Director will then send the PD request out to 2-3 external (based out of the state of RI) peer reviewers for written mail comments.

If reviewers concur that the proposal has unique merit and fits within the priorities of the 2006-2010 RI Sea Grant Strategic Plan, the Director will request an official NOAA proposal from the investigator(s) that contains all required authorized signatures and forms including a budget with justifications.

Final decisions on PD funding rests solely with the Director of the RI Sea Grant College Program. If a favorable decision is made by the Director, steps can be taken to award funding in a period of time usually not exceeding two months from time of the receipt of the full proposal.

II. Guidelines for Rhode Island Sea Grant (RISG) Support of Conferences, Symposia and Meetings

Rhode Island Sea Grant has limited funds that are available to support conferences, symposia, workshops and meetings. All requests for such support should be made to the Sea Grant Director who will make a decision using the following guidelines.

Priorities for Support

Priority #1: RISG will support meetings led and organized by the RISG Leadership Team and Staff on priorities in research, education and outreach as defined in RISG's 2006-2010 Strategic and Organizational Development Plan.

Priority #2: RISG will support events led and organized by others where the RISG Leadership Team, Staff, or Sea Grant award recipients are leading, are members of, or are collaborating with, the event's organizational or steering committees; and/or many RISG/URI presenters are involved.

Priority #3: RISG will support events not led or organized by the RISG Leadership Team, Staff, or grant recipients, but the proposed event addresses priority issues in the 2006-2010 Strategic Plan of Rhode Island Sea Grant, and/or the Northeast Regional Sea Grant Programs, or the event(s) is/are of importance to the National Sea Grant thematic areas (see the National Sea Grant website at <http://www.nsgo.seagrant.org>).

Administrative Issues

Rhode Island Sea Grant pays no up-front meeting costs. RISG does not make grants to individuals to support meetings; rather, we support direct costs submitted on invoices that identify clearly what items are to be supported (e.g., specific items such as speakers, publications, travel, etc.). No overhead or staff costs will be supported. RISG will not pay for any costs related to food, receptions or alcoholic beverages.

If a favorable decision is made, steps can be taken to award funding quickly via payment of an invoice from the requestor's.

Financial support from RISG requires acknowledgement of sponsorship of RISG, NOAA and URI on all conference materials, event products, posters, banners and publications. Two (2) copies of all meeting materials must be submitted to the RISG Office. Invited and free meeting participation or observation for up to two (2) RISG staff is required to be provided gratis.

III. Special Travel Requests

Travel funds for meeting attendance are limited and are in great demand. As a result, the Rhode Island Sea Grant College Program has developed the following guiding principles for funding “discretionary travel”, which we define as travel not funded/supported by the NOAA Omnibus research, extension and education program funding.

Sea Grant Administration of Requests for Special Travel

Proposers should submit a 1-3 page overview of the activity describing its purposes and intended audience; a budget for all anticipated expenses; and acknowledgement that other named entities have been approached for support.

Priority will be given to support travel expenses incurred by currently funded Rhode Island Sea Grant researchers, education and outreach personnel, and Sea Grant staff who are presenting papers at scientific or other Symposia on their Sea Grant-funded projects; or to support individuals, investigators or Sea Grant staff speaking on potential innovative advances important to new Sea Grant initiatives and themes.

All discretionary travel is approved solely by the Director of the Rhode Island Sea Grant College Program, who will consult with the RI Sea Grant Management Team and with other Sea Grant staff as appropriate. Final decisions on funding of a special travel request rests with the Director of the RI Sea Grant Program.

If a favorable decision is made, travel must be booked using Sea Grant Program Administration and using URI travel guidelines, with appropriate TAR and reimbursements that apply to standard University procedures.

Requirements of Receiving Sea Grant Funding for Special Travel

Acknowledgement of Rhode Island Sea Grant financial support is to be made as an appropriate and normal professional courtesy on all conference presentations, on related materials, and on any funded product(s).

A report to the Sea Grant Director and a seminar at the University of Rhode Island of the important outcomes of the meeting (s) are required aspects of funding all special travel proposals.