Explore the Coast Grants

****ANNOUNCEMENT & APPLICATION

****

Coastal Conservancy Explore the Coast Grants

The California State Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy) announces the availability of grants to public agencies, tribes and nonprofit organizations for programs that facilitate and enhance the public’s opportunities to “Explore the Coast.” The purpose of this grant program is to help more people to explore California’s spectacular coast. Explore the Coast seeks to increase recreational, educational, or stewardship opportunities particularly for people and communities that may face challenges getting to or enjoying the coast.

This grant program seeks to fund projects that meet one or more of the following priorities:

* Provides a coastal experience for people that may face challenges getting to or enjoying the coast (such as lower-income people, people with disabilities, English as a Second Language (ESL) communities, students from Title 1 schools or others).
* Creates opportunities for people to visit the coast for the first time.
* Provides a valuable recreational, environmental, cultural, or historic learning experience.
* Increases stewardship of coastal resources.

Approximately $750,000 will be awarded in this grant round. There is no minimum grant amount; the anticipated maximum grant amount is $50,000. Grantees can expect that projects could start in late 2018 or early 2019 and should be completed by February 2021. The Conservancy will base the size of the award on each project’s needs, its overall benefits, and on the extent of competing demands for funds.

**Applications must be submitted by April 16, 2018.**

**Background**

The Coastal Conservancy is a non-regulatory state agency that works to preserve, improve, and restore public access, natural resources, and agricultural lands along the Pacific coast and the San Francisco Bay shoreline and its adjacent counties. The Conservancy’s work complements the work of the California Coastal Commission and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission by undertaking projects and working with public agencies and non-governmental organizations to accomplish these goals.

Increasing public access to California’s coast is a core component of the Conservancy’s work. With the Explore the Coast Program, the Conservancy seeks to support programs that bring people to the coast and/or enhance visitor experiences. The Explore the Coast grants will not fund construction of new facilities. However, through other grant programs, the Conservancy has funded the construction of hundreds of projects to build new trails, trailheads and other amenities (beach stairways, bathrooms, overlooks, etc.).

Funding for Explore the Coast grants will come from the Coastal Access Account, which comes from fees for permits issued by the California Coastal Commission, and the California Environmental License Plate Fund.

**Eligible Applicants**: Public agencies, tribes, and certain nonprofit organizations are eligible for funding. To be eligible, a nonprofit organization must qualify under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and its articles of incorporation must demonstrate that the organization’s purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, the Coastal Conservancy’s enabling legislation.

**Eligible Project Locations:** Projects must involve visiting the coast of California or the shore of San Francisco Bay. The Conservancy is very interested in supporting programs that bring participants to the coast from throughout the state.

**Eligible Projects:** Eligible projects include a wide range of programs and activities that will help to bring more people to the coast and/or enhance their experiences. Below are some examples of types of eligible projects. This is not an exhaustive list.

* Provision of transportation for people that may face challenges getting to or enjoying the coast (such as lower-income people, people with disabilities, ESL communities, students from Title 1 schools or others) to take part in recreational, educational, or stewardship programs.
* Programs that maximize barrier-free access to the coast for persons with disabilities, including beach wheelchairs or guided programs. These grants will not fund construction of facilities.
* Festivals, docent programs, or other outreach events to raise public awareness of access opportunities and/or promote recreational uses of the coast.
* Programs that create opportunities for people to visit the coast for the first time.
* Programs to support volunteer stewardship of Coastal Trail segments or other coastal access points and habitats.
* Programs that promote the use of public transit to access the coast.

 **Questions**: Prospective applicants are encouraged to discuss their projects with Conservancy staff (from the appropriate region) prior to submitting applications. Questions about the application process and potential projects may be directed to:

* Karyn Gear, North Coast Program Manager (Del Norte to Coastal Marin), 510-286-4171 or karyn.gear@scc.ca.gov
* Matt Gerhart, San Francisco Bay Area Program Manager (nine counties of Bay Area), 510-286-0317, matt.gerhart@scc.ca.gov
* Trish Chapman, Central Coast Program Manager (Coastal San Mateo to Santa Barbara), 510-286-0749, trish.chapman@scc.ca.gov
* Joan Cardellino, South Coast Program Manager (Ventura to San Diego), 510-286-4093, joan.cardellino@scc.ca.gov

**Application Submittal**: The Explore the Coast grant application is attached. Complete applications should be submitted via email to grants@scc.ca.gov.

The application should be emailed as a word document. Applicants are welcome, but not required, to attach a small number of relevant photos (preferably as jpgs) and maps (as jpgs or pdfs); these attachments should not exceed 10MB total. Relevant photos and maps should demonstrate the location, context, and proposed outcomes of the project.

**Submission Dates**: Applications must be submitted by April 16, 2018.

**Application Review and Grant Award Process**

**Project Review:** Conservancy staff will evaluate each application based on how well it meets the Selection Criteria stated below. Applicants may be contacted to provide additional information during the review process. Conservancy staff may seek assistance in evaluating the proposals from individuals and/or technical experts with pertinent expertise from other governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, and other entities. Applicants can anticipate being notified as to whether their project will be recommended for funding in summer 2018.

**Selection Criteria**: Projects will be evaluated against the following criteria:

* The extent to which the project increases recreational, educational, or stewardship opportunities;
* The extent to which the project serves people and communities that may face challenges getting to or enjoying the coast (such as lower-income people, people with disabilities, ESL communities, or others);
* The impact of the project on participants;
* Project description is clear and concise, budget is reasonable;
* Project is ready to proceed in a timely manner; and
* The applicant’s ability to carry out the project.

**Conservancy Board Approval:** Projects recommended by staff for funding are subject to approval by the Coastal Conservancy Board at a noticed public meeting. Conservancy staff will present the recommendations for Explore the Coast grants to the Conservancy Board in fall 2018. Applicants are required to provide staff with all pertinent information in a timely manner to ensure Board consideration.

Project funding will not be available until a grant agreement between the Conservancy and the grantee has been executed which will generally take at least a month after Board approval (late 2018, early 2019). Grantees may be required to have General Commercial Liability insurance and other commercial insurance appropriate for the activity proposed in the grant.

**EXPLORE THE COAST GRANT APPLICATION**

**CONTACT INFO**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Organization\***  |  |
| **Contact Person** |  | **Email** |  |
| **Position/Title** |  |
| **Phone** |  | **Fax** |  |
| **Address** |  |
| **Federal Tax ID#** |  |

**\*If applicable, Include name of fiscal or project sponsor.** – If applicant qualifies as a 501(c)(3) organization, provide your IRS 501(c)(3) letter and Articles of Incorporation as attachments to your completed [Non-Profit Questionnaire.](http://scc.ca.gov/webmaster/forms/Non%20Profit%20Pre-Award%20Questionnaire.pdf) *Note: Applicants who have submitted these documents in the past two years do not need to resubmit.*

**PROJECT INFO**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project Name**  |  |
| **Summary**  |  |
| **Total Project Cost** | **$** | **Amount Requested** | **$** |
| **Start Date** |  | **End Date** |  |

**LOCATION INFO**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **County** |  | **Specific Location** |  |
| **Latitude** Decimal Degrees |  | **Longitude** Decimal Degrees |  |
| **What point is represented by the lat/longs (eg., parking lot, center of site, etc):** |  |
| **What specific facility(ies) will the project use/visit (e.g., Santa Monica Pier, Stinson Beach, Point Reyes National Seashore)?** |  |

**LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Districts** | **Number(s)** | **Name(s)** |
| **State Assembly** |  |  |
| **State Senate**  |  |  |
| **Congressional** |  |  |

Please limit your response to the following eight questions to no more than four pages.

1. **Brief Project Description.** Describe the proposed project.

1. **Community Served.** Include quantitative and qualitative metrics on the estimated number and demographics of the people anticipated to be served by the project.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Approximately how many people in total will your project serve? |  |
| Approximately how many kids? |  |
| Approximately how many adults? |  |
| Approximately how many participants will have first time coastal visits? |  |
| Approximately how many participants speak languages other than English at home? |  |
| Approximately how many participants will be from low-income households or Title 1 schools? |  |

1. **Participant experience.** What specifically will the participants do?

Estimated duration of program for each participant (e.g. a few hours, whole day, overnight, week long):

1. **Explore the Coast Program Priorities:** Explain how the project meets one or more of the Explore the Coast Program Priorities:
* Provides a coastal experience for people that may face challenges getting to or enjoying the coast (such as lower-income people, people with disabilities, ESL communities, or others).
* Creates opportunities for people to visit the coast for the first time.
* Provides a valuable recreational, environmental, cultural or historic learning experience.
* Increases stewardship of coastal resources.
1. **Specific Tasks.** Identify the specific tasks that will be undertaken and the work that will be accomplished for each task. Please be specific about the actual work the grant would fund.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **#** | **Task Name** | **Description** |
| 1 |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |
| 4 |  |  |

*Add or delete rows as necessary.*

1. **Applicant capacity.** Briefly describe the organizational capacity of the applicant. How long has your organization existed? Will this grant fund an existing program or a new program?
2. **PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND SCHEDULE**

In the budget table below, relist the tasks identified in #5 above and for each provide: 1) the estimated completion date for the task, 2) the estimated cost (cash amounts) of the task, and 3) the funding sources (applicant, Conservancy, and other) for the task. Do not include in-kind services in this table, describe them below. The table will automatically sum the totals for each row and column. To do this, highlight the whole table and hit F9. Provide information about the specific source of other funding, and whether that funding has been secured or is dependent on a future award or authorization. This specific funds information should be provided below the table.

**Note: Please do not include in-kind services or contributions in the table below*.* Please also note that food and drinks are not allowable expenses.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Task Number** | **Task** | **Completion Date** | **Applicant’s Funding** | **Coastal Conservancy** | **Other Funds** | **Total Cost** |
| 1 |  |  |  |  |  | **$ 0** |
| 2 |  |  |  |  |  | **$ 0** |
| 3 |  |  |  |  |  | **$ 0** |
| 4 |  |  |  |  |  | **$ 0** |
| **TOTAL** |  |  | **$ 0** | **$ 0** | **$ 0** | **$ 0** |

**In Kind Services**

In-kind services or contributions include volunteer time and materials. Describe and estimate the value of expected in-kind services.

1. **Additional Information.**

Are you requesting Conservancy funds to pay for transportation? ❒ YES ❒ NO

If yes, please indicate expected mode: van, bus, etc.

Is there an existing document that covers all or specific parts of this project under the California Environmental Quality Act? ❒ YES ❒ NO
If yes, please include a link to or a copy of the document with your application.

If the applicant is a nonprofit organization, has your organization submitted the Conservancy’s Nonprofit Pre-Award Questionnaire within the last two years?

 ❒ YES ❒ NO

If no, please complete the questionnaire, found on our website at [http://scc.ca.gov/webmaster/forms/Non%20Profit%20Pre-Award%20Questionnaire.pdf](http://scc.ca.gov/webmaster/forms/Non%20Profit%20Pre-Award%20Questionnaire.pdf%20) and submit with your application along with your organization’s IRS 501(c)(3) letter and Articles of Incorporation*.*