

Proposed Draft

Alabama Gulf Coast Recovery Council's Competitive Process for Selection of the State of Alabama's Center of Excellence

The Alabama Gulf Coast Recovery Council (AGCRC) proposes to adopt the rules and policies detailed herein for purposes of selecting a Center of Excellence for the State of Alabama pursuant to Section 1605 of the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (RESTORE Act).

Public Review and Comment Prior to Implementation of Final Competitive Selection Process:

The rules and policies set forth herein as to this proposed Competitive Selection Process, including the [Solicitation for Proposals \(SFP\) attached as Appendix A](#), will be published for public review and comment and remain available for a minimum of 45 days on the following websites:

- Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' (ADCNR) comprehensive coastal restoration website, www.alabamacoastalrestoration.org;
- Alabama Gulf Coast Recovery Council website, www.restorealabama.org;
- Mobile Bay National Estuary Program website, www.mobilebaynep.com;
- Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium website, www.masgc.org; and
- Gulf of Mexico Alliance website, www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org.

In addition, the above entities have agreed to announce the availability of this proposed Competitive Selection Process for review and comment through electronic mailing lists managed by these organizations.

Comments will be accepted via email to agcrc@dcnr.alabama.gov or by U.S. mail to AGCRC, 118 N. Royal Street, Suite 603, Mobile, AL 36602. After meaningful consideration of public input from individuals, businesses, Indian tribes, and non-profit organizations, a final competitive process for selection of the Alabama Center of Excellence will be adopted, posted (www.restorealabama.org), and thereafter implemented by the AGCRC in accordance with all requirements of the RESTORE Act and all other applicable federal, state and local requirements.

Conflict of Interest Safeguards:

All members of the AGCRC, as well as ADCNR as its administrative agent, will appropriately guard against any conflicts of interest and will conduct all activities related to the proposal of and ultimate implementation of the Competitive Selection Process in accordance with the provisions of the State of Alabama Ethics Act (Ala. Code §36-25-1, et. seq.) and other applicable requirements of the Alabama Ethics Commission.

Issuance of Solicitation for Proposals:

ADCNR, acting on behalf of and as administrative agent for the AGCRC, will publish a Solicitation for Proposals to invite candidates to compete for selection as the State of Alabama's Center of Excellence pursuant to the Centers of Excellence Grant Program established by Section 1605 of the RESTORE Act.

The SFP will be advertised, at a minimum, on the following websites:

- ADCNR's comprehensive coastal restoration website, www.alabamacoastalrestoration.org;
- Alabama Gulf Coast Recovery Council website, www.restorealabama.org;
- Mobile Bay National Estuary Program website, www.mobilebaynep.com;
- Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium website, www.masgc.org; and
- Gulf of Mexico Alliance website, www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org.

In addition, the above entities have agreed to distribute an announcement of the issuance of the SFP through electronic mailing lists managed by these organizations.

Proposals will be accepted for a minimum of 30 days. Included in this SFP will be the anticipated Scope of Work as well as a description of the factors to be utilized by the AGCRC in evaluating submitted proposals in relation to a selection of a Center of Excellence.

Process for Selection by the AGCRC:

This competitive process initiated by issuance of the SFP will allow nongovernmental entities and consortia in the Gulf Coast Region, including public and private institutions of higher education, to compete and will give priority to entities and consortia that demonstrate the ability to establish the broadest cross-section of participants with interest and expertise in science, technology and monitoring in the discipline(s) on which the proposal is focused.

The evaluation process will consist of an assessment of all proposals qualifying pursuant to the terms and conditions for submittals under the SFP and will be based upon an evaluation of the factors set forth in the SFP.

Responses to additional requests for information and/or interviews may be required by the AGCRC prior to selection of a Center of Excellence. Final selection of a Center of Excellence eligible to receive pass through funds pursuant to the RESTORE Act will be dependent upon the entry of a written agreement satisfactory to the AGCRC outlining an agreed upon scope of work.