
Ocean Odyssey

Grants

Ocean Exploration Awards for
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion,
Justice, and Accessibility

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Overview: Creation of Ocean Odyssey Grants

2003

National Marine Sanctuary Foundation partnership begins

2020

In-person workshops pause



2003 - 2020

Foundation-led projects focus on creating education products and leading teacher workshops



2021

Ocean Odyssey Grants are created and offered annually



Ocean Odyssey Grants

Ocean Exploration Awards for DEIJA

Objective:

To increase inclusion in and/or access to STEM education and workforce development opportunities for diverse youth in middle school, high school, or college to learn about ocean science and/or exploration.

Projects should directly or indirectly result in:



Deepening student understanding of the Ocean and/or Great Lakes



Increasing student awareness of ocean careers



Advancing STEM skills applicable to ocean science





Investing In Our Ocean Future

2022 2022 - 2023 2023 - 2024

Ocean Exploration			
Marine Debris			

Map not to scale

3 Years

39 Projects



13,912*
K12 Students



206*
College Students



545*
Educators



Overview

2024 - 2025 Awards

How to Apply





Ocean Exploration Awards for DEIJA

Examples from the past

Butler County High School

Morgantown, KY

Year 1 funds: purchased supplies, offset student field trip costs, connected to an expert

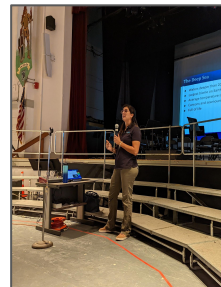
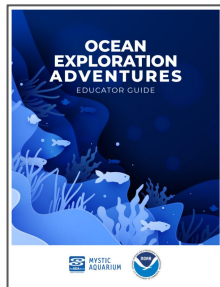
Year 3 funds: covered field trip costs to a local cave for students to use ROVs to explore and study a real-world environment



Mystic Aquarium

Mystic, CT

Year 1 funds: hosted a teacher workshop to introduce local science teachers to ocean exploration classroom materials; purchased teacher kits; brought in an expert



Oregon Sea Grant / OSU

Newport, OR

Year 2 funds: partnered with a local school district to bring ELL students to the OSU campus and out on a research vessel to participate in ongoing research led by near-peer college students





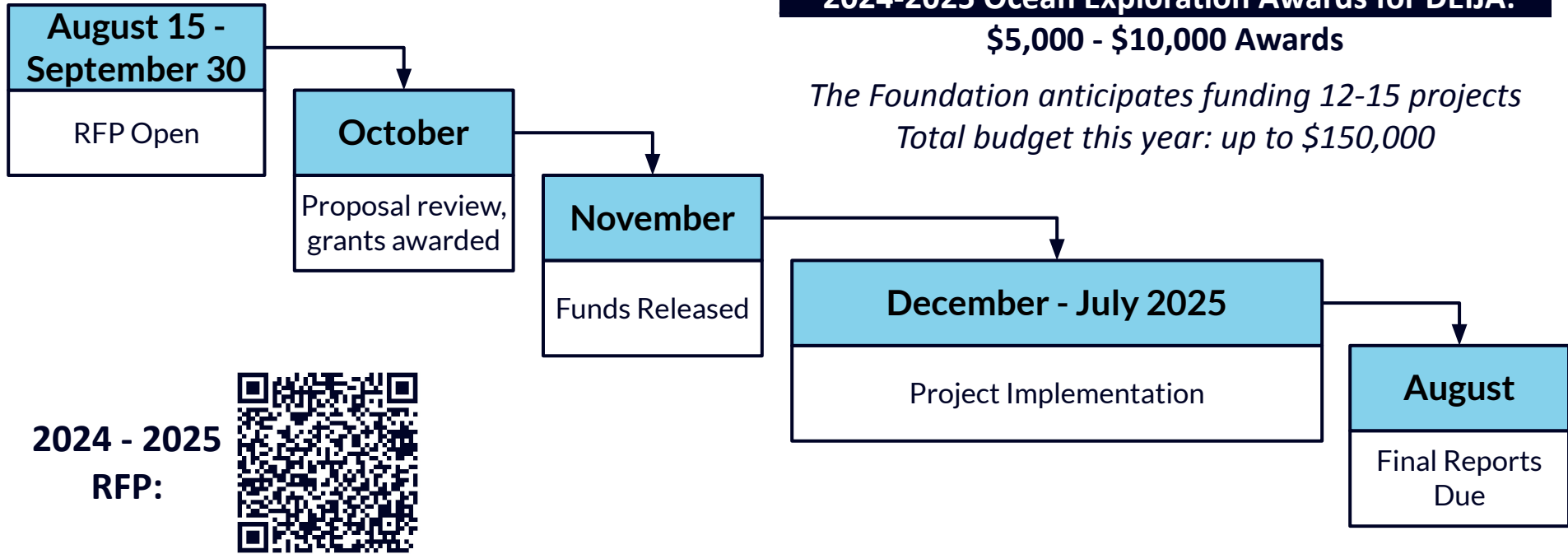
2024 - 2025 Ocean Odyssey Grants

Ocean Exploration Awards for DEIJA

2024-2025 Ocean Exploration Awards for DEIJA:

\$5,000 - \$10,000 Awards

*The Foundation anticipates funding 12-15 projects
Total budget this year: up to \$150,000*



2024 - 2025
RFP:



<https://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/edu/deia-grants/welcome.html>

Overview

2024 - 2025 Awards

How to Apply





2024 - 2025 Ocean Odyssey Grants

Ocean Exploration Awards for DEIJA

Eligibility

- School Districts
- Institutions of Higher Education
- Nonprofit Organizations
- For Profit Institutions
- State and Local Entities
- Competitive awards will not only **incorporate, but prioritize diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and accessibility** when writing their proposals and performing their work.
- Previous grantees are eligible, but preference will be given to new grantees
- Previous grantees may be included as project partners in which they are not the primary organization or principal investigator with no impact on preference.

* Only applicants from and leading projects in the United States, territories, and Freely Associated States are eligible to apply.

*Applications from federal agencies, employees of federal agencies, and/or individuals will not be considered

Overview

2024 - 2025 Awards

How to Apply



National
Marine Sanctuary
Foundation



OCEAN
EXPLORATION



Ocean Exploration Awards for DEIJA

Evaluation Criteria

Does the proposal address historic and/or persistent barriers in the STEM education and workforce pipeline preventing diverse learners from marginalized communities from entering and/or persisting in ocean science and/or exploration careers? **(30%)**

Does the proposal advance ocean workforce development opportunities for diverse learners from marginalized communities? **(30%)**

Is the proposal feasible in the period of performance timeframe? **(15%)**





Ocean Exploration Awards for DEIJA Evaluation Criteria

Is the budget realistic and have a meaningful use of funding? **(15%)**

Does the proposal include plans to measure student (or educator) impact and outputs? **(10%)**

Does this proposed project lend itself to long term sustainability? **(5%)**





Ocean Exploration Awards for DEIJA

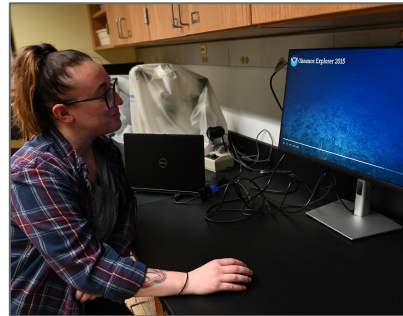
Make Your Project Shine!

Preference will be given to projects that:

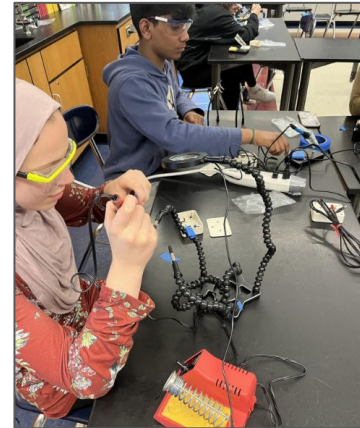
- Engage diverse learners (MS, HS, college)
- Minimize 1+ barrier that limits inclusion of diverse learners in ocean sciences/exploration
- Use NOAA resources - data, lessons, videos, etc
- Focus on open ocean and/or ocean exploration
- Expand the reach ocean exploration education
- Demonstrate an impact
- Demonstrate plans to persist beyond the funding



Reef Check Foundation



SUNY Geneseo



Lincoln Middle School (RI)





National
Marine Sanctuary
Foundation



OCEAN
EXPLORATION

Additional Resources

More Information
about the Grants:



<https://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/edu/deia-grants/welcome.html>

2024-2025 RFP



<https://marinesanctuary.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/FINAL2-Ocean-Odyssey-Grants-24-25-RFP.pdf>

Informational
Webinar



<https://youtu.be/2bbLdS--b8Q>



Ocean Exploration Awards for DEIJA Evaluation Criteria

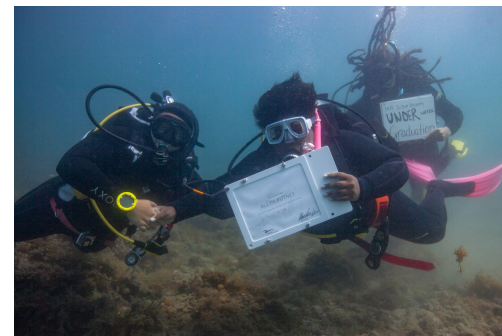
Does the proposal address historic and/or persistent barriers in the STEM education and workforce pipeline preventing diverse learners from marginalized communities from entering and/or persisting in ocean science and/or exploration careers? (30%)

Scored based on how well proposals:

1. Identify a marginalized community this project will support.
2. Identify barriers this community faces.
3. Explains how the project will address the barrier(s).
4. Demonstrate the applicant or project partners experience and capacity to engage and support this community.

Example:

University of Southern California, Wrigley Institute





Ocean Exploration Awards for DEIJA Evaluation Criteria

Does the proposal advance ocean workforce development opportunities for diverse learners from marginalized communities? (30%)

Scored based on how well proposals:

1. Explain how project activities supports one or more of the grant objectives for students:
 - a. Deepening understanding of ocean science
 - b. Increasing awareness of ocean careers
 - c. Developing STEM skills
2. Identify and describe how NOAA ocean educational resources (data, lessons, etc.) will be used in project activities.

Example:

Ocean Research College Academy at Everett Community College (WA)





Ocean Exploration Awards for DEIJA Evaluation Criteria

Is the proposal feasible in the period of performance timeframe? (15%)

Scored based on how well proposals:

1. Demonstrate that the applicant will be able to complete the project within the period of performance timeline.
2. Considerations include:
 - a. Detailed event plans: dates, venues, and recruitment strategies are mapped out.
 - b. Letters of support from all project partners.
 - c. Contingency plans.

Example:

Edmunds Central School District (SD)





Ocean Exploration Awards for DEIJA Evaluation Criteria

Is the budget realistic and have a meaningful use of funding? (15%)

Scored based on how well proposals:

1. Provide a detailed breakdown of all project expenses.
2. Explain how each item in the budget table support project activities.
3. Prioritize funding to directly support opportunities for diverse learners (*program staff salary, fringe, and in-direct budget requests are small fractions of the total budget*).

Example:

University of Southern California, Wrigley Institute





Ocean Exploration Awards for DEIJA

Evaluation Criteria

Does the proposal include plans to measure student (or educator) impact and outputs? **(10%)**

Scored based on how well proposals:

1. Identify outcomes that are tangible, quantifiable, and related to project activities
2. Identify outcomes that are realistic to expect as a result of a short project duration.
3. Provide explanation where necessary to justify numbers provided.
4. Thoroughly describe the evaluation tool and methods being used to measure outcomes.

Example:

Wagner Community School (SD)

31.2 Percentage point gain in those aware of NOAA among teacher participants (68.8% to 100.0%)

28.4 Percentage point gain in those aware of NOAA among student participants (6.7% to 35.1%)

18.9 Percentage point average gain of those indicating an interest in a future STEM career among student participants (29.1% to 48.0%)

26.8 Percentage point gain in those that have used NOAA Exploration resources in the classroom among student participants (1.7% to 28.5%)





Ocean Exploration Awards for DEIJA Evaluation Criteria

Does this proposed project lend itself to long term sustainability? (5%)

Scored based on how well proposals:

1. Demonstrate the ability for the project activities and/or project outcomes to continue beyond the funding period.

Example:

Butler County High School (KY)

