



Association of
Science-Technology
Centers

STEM PUBLIC PROGRAMS: Updates and Opportunities for Science Centers

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*In an effort to make ASTC members more aware of some of the lesser-known programmatic and funding opportunities offered by a variety of sources – and available to science centers and museums across the world – ASTC has launched **STEM Public Programs: Updates and Opportunities for Science Centers**, a series of electronic briefs where we'll share details from meetings and conversations with key representatives from U.S. federal agencies and elsewhere. In this issue, we present the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Environmental Literacy Grants Program...*

On January 18, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) released a new solicitation for its Environmental Literacy Grants (ELG) Program – one that numerous ASTC members have successfully applied for funding through since its inception in 2005.

According to NOAA, the solicitation is designed to “build the capacity of informal educators (including interpreters and docents) and/or formal educators (pre- or in-service) to use NOAA data and data access tools to help K-12 students and/or the public understand and respond to global change.” The agency views successful (and competitive) projects as those that will help educators use scientific data, data visualizations, data access technologies, information products, and other assets from NOAA and others to engage K-12 students and/or other members of the public in a minimum of two U.S. states or territories. As for project topics, they must, not surprisingly, relate to NOAA's mission areas of ocean, coastal, Great Lakes, weather, and climate sciences and stewardship. In addition, they should focus on one or more of the goals of NOAA's Next Generation Strategic Plan, including: healthy oceans; weather-ready nation; climate adaptation and mitigation; and resilient coastal communities and economies. Projects must also specifically emphasize the theme of global environmental change.

NOAA anticipates the availability of approximately \$3,000,000 of total federal financial assistance in FY 2013 for this solicitation, and expects to award 3-5 collaborative projects, each comprising 2 or more individual awards in the form of cooperative agreements. The total amount requested from NOAA by all collaborative applicants for a given project combined must be no less than \$500,000 and no more than \$1,000,000 for all years of the project, including direct and indirect costs.

The application deadline for this funding opportunity is 11:59:59 pm EST on March 12, 2013. As usual, applications must be submitted online via www.grants.gov. Currently, NOAA expects that new ELG awards will be made by September 30, 2013 and that the projects funded under this announcement will have a start date no sooner than October 1, 2013.

For more information, NOAA encourages potential applicants to visit the ELG website at: <http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/grants/elg.html>. There you'll find descriptions of previous awards, funding statistics, a link to the new funding announcement itself, and even some helpful “Grant Dos and Don'ts”. You will notice that NOAA tends to fund projects that are collaborative in nature, involve a robust set of partners, and leverage existing resources and assets, when appropriate.

Want to learn even more? You're in luck: NOAA will soon be hosting two informational webinars with the ELG program officers; the first takes place on Tuesday, February 5 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm EST, and the second takes place the following day, Wednesday, February 6, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm EST. If you're

interested in participating, you've got until noon on February 1 to register. Simply send a message to "oed.grants@noaa.gov" and include "Register for Educator Capacity Building FFO Webinar" in the in the Subject line of the email. Please provide your name, institution, telephone number, email address, and preferred webinar date in the body of the email. You will receive an email response from NOAA containing the log-in information and date for the webinar. NOAA asks that whenever possible, individuals from the same institution should try to join the webinar from the same computer/phone line.

If you have additional questions after the webinar, you may contact the NOAA Office of Education Grants Team at (202) 482-0793 or oed.grants@noaa.gov.

Previous issues of "STEM Public Programs: Updates and Opportunities for Science Centers" have focused on the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, the Science Education Drug Abuse Partnership Awards program, the Museums Connect program, the Environmental Education Grants program, the Women and Minorities in STEM Fields program, the European Commission Work Programme, and the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award. Please visit: <http://www.astc.org/about/government/STEMprog.htm> to view these archived bulletins.