

Louisiana Sea Grant Policy on Allocation of Program Development Funds and Re-Allocation of Funds from Vacated Omnibus Projects

A management goal of Louisiana Sea Grant (LSG) is to maximally advance its program toward the defined strategic and implementation goals through judicious use of all available funds. This statement defines LSG policies and intentions concerning the appropriate use both of Program Development (PD) funds and of other funds that may become available through cancellation, delay, or early completion of projects funded by NOAA through the biennial Omnibus Program.

- PD funds typically represent only about 5 percent of LSG Omnibus funding, or \$70,000 per year. NOAA specifically provides such funds for rapid response purposes; they are intended for transitory opportunities within LSG's mission scope that call for action in good time. We prefer to limit individual PD awards to \$10k or less because such funds are limited. However, at below the \$10k level, such awards are not burdened with indirect costs.
- PD projects of \$10k or less may be funded at the Executive Director's discretion without undergoing peer review by outside scientists. Such projects are typically preliminary investigations on new topics that both are within the scope of the LSG's current strategic plan and have potential for development into competitive full proposals to the Omnibus Program.
- PD funding has provided an especially useful mechanism for LSG to build relationships with early-career researchers and to reach out to talented faculty at Louisiana colleges and universities. The ultimate goal in pursuing such relationships is to expand participation by Louisiana researchers in both the LSG Omnibus Program and other National Sea Grant competitions. Proposals from researchers who either have received or are currently receiving LSG support will have lesser priority for receipt of funding.
- Any proposal seeking PD funds in an amount greater than \$10k must meet the following criteria: It will (a) directly address a high-priority strategic objective of the LSG program; (b) include indirect costs at LSG's prevailing rate; (c) have appropriate cost-sharing (one-third of total project costs); and (d) receive strong peer reviews from at least three outside scientists who are knowledgeable in the field of inquiry. In other words, the project will essentially meet the same criteria as those that apply to our Omnibus solicitation process. This funding mechanism may be appropriate for proposals addressing topics of particular importance to Louisiana that have been favorably reviewed, but not funded, in either an LSG or National Sea Grant competition due to insufficient available funds.
- Projects that meet these criteria may also be supported from re-budgeted funds on a contingency basis. Several projects meeting these criteria were initiated during 2007, replacing approved Omnibus projects that had to be aborted after hurricane-related effects rendered them unfeasible.
- The procedures for applying for Program Development funds are the same as those applied to Omnibus Program proposals. Guidelines, budget worksheet, and appropriate forms for formal Sea Grant proposals, including Program Development proposals, can be found at [Louisiana Sea Grant - Louisiana Proposal Guidelines & Forms](#).