U.S. Geological Survey

**Notice of Funding Opportunity**

USGS Earthquake Hazards Program External Research Support Announcement for Fiscal Year 2026

Funding Opportunity Number

G26AS00244

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# BASIC INFORMATION

**Announcement Type:** Initial

**Funding Opportunity Number:** G26AS00244

**Assistance Listing Number(s):** 15.807

**Estimated Total Program Funding:** $5,000,000

**Expected Number of Awards:** 60

**Award Ceiling:** $0

**Award Floor:** $0

Cost Sharing Required?

No

Closing Date Explanation

All proposals must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov on or before: **May 28, 2025, at 6 pm, Eastern Daylight Time.**

**OMB Control Number:**

Have Questions?

For **programmatic technical assistance**, contact:

Jill Franks, Associate Program Coordinator for Earthquake Hazards External Research, U.S. Geological Survey

Telephone: 571-294-1718 (mobile)

Email: jfranks@usgs.gov

For **program administration assistance**, contact:

Margaret Eastman, Contracting Officer, Office of Aquisition and Grants, U.S. Geological Survey

Telephone: 703-648-7366; 703-283-9642 (Mobile)

Email: mrussell@usgs.gov

### Executive Summary

The USGS Earthquake Hazards Program (EHP) issues this annual Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for assistance to support research in earthquake hazards, the physics of earthquakes, earthquake occurrence, and earthquake safety policy. This activity is authorized by the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (Public Law 95-124, 42 U.S.C. 7701 et. seq.), and as amended by the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-307).

It is estimated that a total of $4 million will be awarded in support of competitive research grants in FY2026, with a maximum total of $7 million. Based on awards in recent years, approximately 50 to 70 new awards are funded each fiscal year. There is no maximum award amount (i.e., any amount may be proposed if it can be justified appropriately), however, the majority of grants range between $30,000 and $120,000. This estimate does not bind the USGS to a specified number of awards or to the amount of any award unless that amount is specified by statute or regulation.

**Grants.gov Subscription:**Principal Investigators (PIs) are urged to sign up for Grants.gov’s subscription service to receive notices about the Earthquake Hazards Program grant funding opportunities and possible updates during the application period. Sign up is through the Grants.gov website; our CFDA number is 15.807.

**Anticipated Award Date:**January 01, 2026

**All projects must propose start dates between January 1, 2026 and September 1, 2026.** The start date requested in the applicant’s submitted proposal is considered the applicant's official start date and may not be changed by the applicant. If funding delays do not allow for a project to be funded by the applicant's requested start date, the award will be issued as soon as funds become available, and the applicant will be notified of the new start date by the USGS Contracting Officer.

During the application period an applicant may submit a revised or corrected proposal through grants.gov. Include a cover letter as the first page of the proposal stating that the proposal is revised and indicating that the previous submission is to be withdrawn from consideration. Such submissions must be completed by **May 28, 2025, at 6:00 pm Eastern Daylight Time**. The Project Narrative instructions, found in the “Prepare Your Application” Section of this NOFO, describes requirements for the proposal and other application components.

Please allow sufficient time for the proposal to be submitted electronically through Grants.gov and allow time for possible computer delays. Applicants are strongly advised not to wait until the last minute for submission. A proposal received after the closing date and time will NOT be considered for award. If the USGS determines that a proposal will not be considered for award due to lateness, the applicant will be notified immediately.

**Program Website Link:**

<https://www.usgs.gov/programs/earthquake-hazards/science/external-grants>

# ELIGIBILITY

### Eligible Applicants

Unrestricted (i.e., open to any type of entity above), subject to any clarification in the text field entitled “Additional Information on Eligibility”

Additional Information on Eligibility

This Announcement is open to all individuals and entities EXCEPT for the ineligible categories listed below.  
  
The following proposals are **NOT** eligible for consideration under this Announcement:

1. Proposals for regional seismic monitoring or establishing Data Centers.
2. Proposals for long-term operation of geodetic networks or instruments.
3. Proposals from U.S. Government agencies or U.S. Government employees.
4. Proposals from Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC).
5. Proposals in which there is a real or apparent conflict of interest.
6. Proposals principally involving the direct procurement of a product, equipment, or service.
7. Proposals having subcontracts for 50 percent or greater of total direct costs.

**Excluded Parties:**

USGS conducts a review of the SAM.gov Exclusions database for all applicant entities and their key project personnel prior to award. USGS cannot award funds to entities or their key project personnel identified in the SAM.gov Exclusions database as ineligible, prohibited/restricted or otherwise excluded from receiving Federal contracts, certain subcontracts, and certain Federal assistance and benefits, as their ineligibility condition applies to this Federal program.

**Involvement of Federal Employees:**

Federal employees, including USGS employees, **are prohibited from serving in any capacity** (paid or unpaid) on any application submitted under this Announcement; federal employees may not assist in the development of proposals. Proposals that have a real or apparent conflict of interest related to Federal employees will not be processed for evaluation. This does not prohibit cooperation or collaboration between USGS and non-USGS scientists once a grant or cooperative agreement is in place. The Program Description, found in the “Program Overview” Section of this NOFO, describes Collaborative Proposals.

**Restrictions and Requirements for Non-U.S. Entities or Projects**

* We do not fund [countries supporting terrorism subject to U.S. sanctions](https://www.state.gov/state-sponsors-of-terrorism/).
* We do not fund [countries under U.S. Treasury sanctions without licenses](http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Pages/default.aspx).
* You must get all required approvals for work outside the U.S. We are not responsible for your compliance with local rules.
* For projects over $500,000, you may need to comply with [2 CFR 175.105(b)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-I/part-175) before we make an award.

## Cost Sharing Requirement

Cost Sharing Required?

No

# GET READY TO APPLY

## Required System Registrations

**Unique Entity Identifier and SAM.gov Registration**

Before applying, all **applicants** except individuals applying as a natural person **must be registered in SAM.gov**. During the SAM.gov registration the entity will obtain their Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

**The SAM.gov registration process can take several months. If your organization is not already registered in SAM.gov, begin the registration process as soon as possible.**

**To register in SAM.gov**, go to the [SAM.gov website](https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration) and use the available resources to complete registration.

* **Financial assistance registrants** must review and certify compliance with the SAM.gov “Financial Assistance General Representations and Certifications”.
* **Already registered?** You already have a Unique Entity ID. Before applying, check that your “Financial Assistance General Representations and Certifications” on SAM.gov is complete. Remember to renew your registration every year to keep it active while you have an award or application in progress. You can update your registration whenever you need, including during renewal.
* **Need help?** For additional information and contact information on the [SAM.gov Help page.](https://sam.gov/content/help)

**GRANTS.GOV**

This program accepts applications through [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov/applicants/applicant-registration) so once you receive your UEI return to Grants.gov to [register](https://www.grants.gov/applicants/applicant-registration) with Grants.gov. Please allow 30 days to register and set up a Workspace in Grants.gov. See [Submission Instructions](#_bookmark236683) section below for additional details.

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

## Program Goals

* The USGS Earthquake Hazards Program (EHP) External Grants Office strives to advance the science that underlies EHP products by funding research that poses and tests new hypotheses, develops novel data acquisition tools, analysis methods, and products, as well as improves information dissemination and makes research results more effective in mitigating losses from earthquakes. External grants funded by the USGS EHP further our understanding of the genesis, propagation, characterization, and effects of earthquakes and advance our ability to assess and communicate earthquake hazards and risks. Attachment A describes EHP research priority topics for FY2026.

## Program Description

**Research Priorities:**

The Research Priorities presented in Attachment A reflect the mission of the USGS Earthquake Hazards Program (EHP).

Applicants must review the high-priority targets listed in Attachment A for each region and topic in addition to the four major program elements described in Attachment A to determine if an application is appropriate under this Program Announcement. **Proposals should clearly address both applicable program element(s) and priority topic(s).**

**Application Requirements:**

1. Proposals must be for a duration of either one or two years with a clearly stated objective for the requested term. For more detail on requirements for 2-year proposals, see Section titled "Two-Year Proposals" below.
2. The majority, greater than 50 percent, of research activities must be conducted by the Applicant. The Applicant must retain administrative and technical control of project activities.
3. Proposals for geologic investigations shall be clearly oriented toward earthquake hazard research and assessment. Research Priorities are described in Attachment A.
4. USGS personnel are prohibited from assisting any organization in preparing its proposal for competitive funding under this Program Announcement.
5. Proposals to fund research in foreign countries will be considered only if the research is clearly oriented toward providing new knowledge or new techniques transferable to a U.S. seismogenic zone.

**Out-of-Cycle Awards:**The USGS may accept proposals outside of the normal competitive cycle under **very limited** circumstances:

1. Research proposals may be accepted and approved out-of-cycle (after the closing date) only in cases where there is compelling circumstance or emergency (*e.g.*, seismic event), which must be acted on before the next competitive review cycle. Proposers should contact the appropriate Regional or Topical Coordinator prior to submitting out-of-cycle proposals.
2. Congress mandates directed awards to support activities that evaluate earthquake hazards and losses. In this case, the USGS will solicit applications.

**Collaborative Proposals:**

Two types of collaborative proposals are acceptable: 1.) Collaboration between two or more external organizations that are seeking funding from the USGS/EHP External Research Support and 2.) Collaboration between an external organization seeking such funding and a USGS internal project. Collaborative proposals are **not** instances where persons from a second organization are hired as consultants or other contractual agreements to conduct work on behalf of the grant or cooperative agreement recipient.

Please note that collaborative research between a USGS internal project and external investigator(s) must be structured such that neither project could succeed without the other being funded. While many external research projects either directly or indirectly support or cooperate with ongoing internal USGS projects, these projects are **not** considered collaborative projects because their research objectives can be pursued with or without the existence of the internal USGS research.

1. For collaborative proposals that propose work by two or more separate institutions or organizations, each individual organization must accept responsibility for specific parts of the work proposed. A separate proposal must be submitted from each external organization involved in collaborative studies. Major sections of each proposal shall be **identical,** and each proposal must clearly define the objectives to be performed by each organization, and each institution shall submit a **separate** budget, which clearly reflects their objectives and responsibilities.
2. Each Principal Investigator and his/her institution that is recommended for funding will receive a separate grant or cooperative agreement and shall accept financial responsibility for administering the grant and technical responsibility for submitted required technical reports.

Collaborative proposals must be clearly identified in the proposal title. The application title shall read “Proposal Title: Collaborative Research with First Institution name, and Second Institution name.”

1. Recipient of collaborative awards must submit one Progress Report (for 2 -year awards) and one Final Technical Report, incorporating the efforts of all collaborators.
2. USGS reserves the right to fund only some of the Applicants involved in a collaborative study.

**IMPORTANT:** In the case of collaborative proposals involving external organizations and USGS scientists, the external proposal **MUST** include the collaboration letter template (included in this NOFO as Attachment B), filled out and signed by the relevant internal USGS scientist(s) and their direct supervisor. The collaboration letter template states that the scientist(s) will include specific efforts in his/her agreed-upon internal work plan for the period of time of the proposal to EHP. The scientists' supervisor must also sign the form in showing their approval of the work. Any letters provided by USGS scientists that do not use the template provided in Attachment B **WILL BE REMOVED** from consideration prior to proposal review and your proposal will be at risk for rejection. The letter template may also be used for USGS scientists to confirm their commitment of providing resources (providing datasets, equipment, etc.) instead of a collaborative effort. The signed collaboration/commitment statement will be the last page(s) of the submitted proposal and will not count toward the 15-page limit.

**Two-year Proposals:**

Most proposals are funded for one year; all work that can be completed in one year should be proposed as a one-year project. However, if the proposed work is such that two years are required to complete the research, then a two-year proposal is appropriate and should be submitted. Applicants should carefully consider their time commitments and request the required grant duration and funding to accomplish the project goals. The peer review panel may recommend funding only the first year of a two-year proposal when the proposed research is easily divided into two, one-year projects or when they feel that results from the first year’s proposed work will need to be evaluated before a second year of research can be considered. Applicants should be sure to address the stipulations for two-year proposals in the “Prepare Your Application” Section of this NOFO, Project Narrative Instructions, Item F.2: Project Plan. The second year of funding of a two-year grant is contingent upon the availability of funds and satisfactory progress by the Recipient. Progress will be determined through technical review of a Progress Report by the External Research Coordinator and his or her agent. The Progress Report shall be submitted by the Recipient, in accordance with grant award Special Terms and Conditions.

## Legislative Authority

The U.S. Geological Survey’s requirement to provide notifications of earthquakes and monitor earthquakes and their effects is established in the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act, 42 U.S. Code 7701-7709, as amended through P.L. 115-307.

## Type of Award

Projects will be funded through G (Grant).

# PREPARE YOUR APPLICATION

## Application Content and Format

## Application Documents

Applicants must submit the following forms with their application as specified below. Instructions for accessing and submitting application forms are provided in the [Submission Instructions](#_bookmark236683) section of this document below. For instructions on completing form fields, see the form instructions on the [Grants.gov Forms Repository](https://www.grants.gov/forms/forms-repository.html).

| **Forms/Assurances/Certifications** | **Submission Requirement** |
| --- | --- |
| SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance  Note: For applicants requesting more than $100,000 in Federal funds, the Authorized Representative’s signature (or electronic equivalent) on the Application for Federal Assistance form also represents their certification of the statements in [Appendix A to 43 CFR 18-Certification Regarding Lobbying](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-43/subtitle-A/part-18#Appendix-A-to-Part-18) | Required from all applicants |
| SF-424A, Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs | Required for non-construction projects |
| SF-424C: Budget Information – Construction Programs | Required for construction projects |
| SF-429 (Cover Page & Attachment B), Request to Acquire, Improve, or Furnish Real Property  Note: The SF-429 forms are only available in the [Grants.gov Forms Repository](https://www.grants.gov/forms/forms-repository.html). Applicants must download the form and include the completed form as an application attachment. | Required if requesting to acquire, improve, or furnish real property. |
| SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities | Required if requesting more than $100,000 in Federal funds and the applicant has used or plans to use funds other than Federal appropriated funds for lobbying related to the proposed project. |
| Project Abstract Summary (OMB 4040-0019). Must include, in plain language: • Award purpose,  • Activities to be performed, • Expected deliverables or outcomes, • Intended beneficiaries, Subrecipient activities (if known or specified at time of award) | Required from all applicants |
| DOI Research and Development (R&D) – Current and Pending (Other) Support Note: This form is available on the [DOI website](https://www.doi.gov/grants/policies-and-guidance). Applicants must download the form and include the completed form as an application attachment. | Required for research projects. |
| DOI Research and Development (R&D) – Biographical Sketch Note: This form is available on the [DOI website](https://www.doi.gov/grants/policies-and-guidance). Applicants must download the form and include the completed form as an application attachment. | Required for research projects. |

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### Project Narrative

**Highlights for FY26: Proposal page limit is now \*15\* pages, maximum. See "IMPORTANT" below for new and updated details.**

Your electronic submission shall consist of forms SF-424, SF-424A, and SF-424B, plus the items described below. No additional documents or materials may be submitted. Failure to comply with the required application components listed below may result in the proposal being rejected. The USGS cannot request or receive supplemental or replacement application components after the closing date/time under this NOFO. To view complete forms instructions, please visit the Grants.gov Forms Repository at [Forms Repository | Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov/forms/forms-repository/).

**IMPORTANT**: Items as described below shall be combined into one single document, in the order noted below, and submitted through Grants.gov in either MS Word or PDF format. The application **shall not exceed 15 single-spaced pages** (including figures, tables, appendices, etc.), and the type size shall not be smaller than 11 point. All pages of the application shall be numbered. All text, figures, and tables shall be sized to fit on 8½" by 11" paper. The SF forms, data management plan, references, curriculum vitae, letters of support from institutions outside the USGS and any USGS scientist collaboration/commitment statement form do **NOT** count toward the 15-page limit. The application shall be in color as needed for review by peer review panel members.

**PROJECT NARRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS:**

The application submitted through grants.gov as the Project Narrative Attachment Form (in MS Word or PDF format) and shall be assembled in the following order and combined in ONE document:

**A. Proposal Information Summary.** This summary is mandatory for the Grants.gov submission for each proposal. The same format, with ALL information as shown in Attachment C shall be included in each applicant’s Grants.gov submission. The two- or three-letter panel designation (also known as Regional or Topical Area), found in the “Application Review Information” Section of this NOFO and in Attachment A, shall be indicated in Item 1 of Attachment C. Only ONE panel designation may be chosen per proposal. **If you do not submit this page, your proposal will be rejected.**B**. Project Abstract Summary.** The abstract shall be no longer than one single-spaced page. The Project Abstract Summary for all financial assistance awards is required to include the following information:

* Include a plain language description Award purpose (avoid acronyms or Federal or agency-specific terminology);
* Activities to be performed;
* Deliverables and Expected Outcomes;
* Intended beneficiary(ies) as well as
* Subrecipient activities, if known or specified at time of award.

**NOTE: Upon issuance of the grant, this Project Abstract Summary will be publicly available at USAspending.gov.**

**C. Table of Contents.  
D. Budget Summary.** The proposed budget shall be presented in two parts: a one-page summary, which shall be in the format shown in Attachment D. The detailed budget is described below.  
**E. Detailed Budget.** The detailed proposed budget shall be keyed to the Budget Summary. Non-federal funds available to support the project may be reflected in the detailed budget or the SF 424, as appropriate.  
The project budget shall include detailed information on all cost categories and must clearly identify all estimated project costs. Unit costs shall be provided for all budget items including the cost of work to be provided by contractors or sub-recipients. In addition, applicants shall include a narrative description of the items included in the project budget, including the value of in-kind contributions of goods and services provided to complete the project when cost share is identified to be included. Cost categories can include, but are not limited to, those costs items included on the SF424A or SF424C. See Attachment D., Budget Summary Template.  
For two-year projects: The Applicant shall provide summary information (see Attachment D) as well as a detailed budget for the second year. The SF-424 shall reflect both years.

The detailed budget **must** include the amount proposed for each of the following items in this order:  
1. Salaries and wages. Identify individuals by name and position, estimated hours or percent of time, and the rate of compensation proposed. Include an explanation of the amounts included for projected increases if the rate of pay shown is higher than the current rate of pay. Identify each person with an objective in the project. Principal Investigator and senior staff time should be limited with the majority of salary for students and junior staff.

**IMPORTANT:** As a general policy (without strong justification), USGS EHP limits the salary compensation requested in the proposal budget (and therefore awarded) for senior personnel to no more than two months of their regular salary in any one year. Additionally, USGS funding in support of salaries under awards made pursuant to this NOFO shall be capped at Executive level II rate ([Pay & Leave : Salaries & Wages - OPM.gov](https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/salary-tables/25Tables/exec/html/EX.aspx)), where salary rate is calculated as a full-time calendar year appointment. Any difference between the salary paid to recipient personnel and the salary cap shall be borne by the recipient.

Tuition remission and other forms of compensation paid as, or in lieu of, wages to students performing necessary work are allowable provided that the tuition or other payments are reasonable compensation for the work performed and are conditioned explicitly upon the performance of the work. Tuition and/or tuition remission should be identified in this section of the budget.

2. Fringe benefits/labor overhead. Indicate the rates/amounts in conformance with normal accounting procedures. Explain what costs are covered in this category and the basis of the rate computations. Indicate whether rates are used for proposal purposes only or whether they are also fixed or provisional rates for billing purposes.

3. Equipment. Show the cost of all special-purpose equipment necessary for achieving the objectives of the project. "Special-purpose equipment" means scientific equipment having a useful life of more than 1 year and having an acquisition cost of $5,000 or more per item. Each item should be itemized and include a full justification and a dealer or manufacturer quote, if available. General-purpose equipment must be purchased from the applicant's operating funds. Title to non-expendable personal property shall be vested solely with the Recipient. Under no circumstances shall property title be vested in a sub-tier recipient.  
  
4. Supplies. Enter the cost for all tangible property. Include the cost of office, laboratory, computing, and field supplies separately. Provide detail on any specific item, which represents a significant portion of the proposed amount. If fabrication of equipment is proposed, list parts and materials required for each and show costs separately from the other items.

5. Services or consultants. Identify the objectives or problems for which such services would be used. List the contemplated sub-recipients by name (including consultants), the estimated amount of time required, and the quoted rate per day or hour. If known, state whether the consultant's rate is the same as she/he has received for similar services or under Government contracts or assistance awards. Note the restriction on sub-recipients efforts indicated in the “Program Overview” Section of this NOFO, under Application Requirements.

6. Radiocarbon or other dating. Include the type of analyses, number of samples, cost per sample, and facility likely to perform the analyses. IMPORTANT: If the dating is to be done at a national lab, include the full contact information for the contact at the lab; a separate award will be made to the national lab, however, include the national lab costs within the grant application budget.

7. Travel. State the purpose of the trip and itemize the estimate travel costs to show the number of trips required, the destinations, the number of people traveling, the per diem rates, the cost of transportation, and any miscellaneous expenses for each trip. For travel requested to meetings or conferences, include a description of the benefit to the proposed project. Failure to provide this information may result in a determination of the cost as unallowable. Calculations of other special transportation costs (such as charges for use of applicant-owned vehicles or vehicle rental costs) should also be shown.

8. Publication costs. Show the estimated cost of publishing the results of the research. Include costs of drafting or graphics, reproduction, page or illustration charges.

9. Other direct costs. Itemize the different types of costs not included elsewhere; such as, shipping, telemetry, computing, and equipment-use charges, not specifically identified for other budget sections, above. Provide breakdowns showing how the cost was estimated; for example, computer time should show the type of computer, estimated time of use, and the established rates.

10. Total direct costs. Total items 1 through 9.

11. Indirect cost/general and administrative (G&A) cost. Show the proposed rate, cost base, and proposed amount for allowable indirect costs based on the cost principles applicable to the Applicant's organization. G&A should not be calculated for any tuition remission. If the Applicant has separate rates for recovery of labor overhead and G&A costs, each charge should be shown. Explain the distinction between items included in the two cost pools. The Applicant should propose rates for evaluation purposes, which they are also willing to establish as fixed or ceiling rates in any resulting award. NOTE: A copy of the indirect negotiated cost agreement with the Federal Government will be requested from all applicants recommended for an award. This request will be made at the time of recommendation notification. Please note that in the absence of a negotiated cost agreement, the maximum indirect rate that may be charged is 10% (see Section 200.414(f) of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards). This requirement applies to ALL applicants including nonprofits, small businesses, and individuals.

12. Amount proposed. Total items 10 and 11.

13. Applicant’s contribution to Project Cost.

14. Total Project Cost. Total Federal and non-Federal amounts, if any.  
  
**F. Proposal:** The description of the proposed research shall consist of the following parts:  
1. Significance of the Project. In a separate paragraph of the proposal, discuss the specific problem addressed and its importance. Describe the significant contribution the project will make to one or more of the Priority Topics under the 10 Research Areas in Attachment A. **This description is required.**

2. Project Plan. Discuss the specific hypotheses or research questions, the conceptual framework or model to be used, as well as the data collection and analysis plans, and relationship with past studies. Plans should also include procedures to be used to insure objectivity and balance in the project. Include project milestones and related due dates for the proposed work and required reports (See Attachment E, Sections 3 and 4). Time allocations, responsibilities for the project staff members, and level of effort for personnel must also be described separately for each year of the proposal; this is critical for two-year proposals.

3. Final Technical Report and Dissemination. The USGS considers dissemination of research data and results to potential users of those results to be an integral and crucial aspect of projects it funds. See Attachment E, Section 3: “Dissemination of Results and Reporting Requirements”.

4. Related Efforts. Describe significant, related studies conducted by members of the research team and discuss any planned coordination with other workers in the field. Include descriptions of current and recent USGS/EHP External Research Support grants or cooperative agreements, the relationship of those to this proposal (if any), and relevant results from previous grants or cooperative agreements.  
  
5. Institutional Qualifications. State the resources available at, and the relevant experience of, the institution. Resources include personnel, computer and library facilities, and ties to both sources of data and potential users of the results.

6. Current Support and Pending Applications. List all sources of support (in addition to the proposed effort) to which the senior research members have committed a portion of their time for the period covered by the proposal. The information should account for 100 percent of the work time of each investigator and include titles, annual budget levels, period of the awards, and the person- months committed in each case. This section must also list research being considered by, or that will be submitted to, other possible sponsors. If identical or similar work is also proposed to another institution (e.g., National Science Foundation), an explanation of the relationship of such work to this proposal should be provided.

7. Current or Past IPA Appointments. List any Intergovernmental Personnel Act Appointments you or your co-Is or anyone on your Research Team has had or currently has with the USGS in the last 5 years. Include a description of the work completed during the appointment.

8. Past USGS-Supported Projects. List the total amount of funding per year for which support was provided by the USGS for previous work related to the proposed research effort, as well as the duration of each award (including no-cost extensions) and the total number of person-months committed by each Principal Investigator each year.

**NOTE: Items 9-12 below do not count toward the 15-page limit.**9. Data Management Plan (DMP). **A DMP is required**. Instructions for writing an acceptable DMP are found in this Section under "Data Management Plan Requirements".

10. References/Works Cited.

11. Project Personnel and Bibliography of Directly Related Work. Provide curriculum vitae for all professional staff, summarizing education, experience, and the last five years’ bibliographic information related to the proposed work; a length of one-page is recommended. Curriculum vitae for non-PI researchers who contribute significantly to the project must also be included.

12. Letters of Support/USGS Scientist Signed Statement of Collaboration/Commitment. Letters of Support are useful for all proposals that include coordination with or participation by researchers at institutions other than those submitting the proposal or from a USGS employee. Such letters are NOT acceptable from USGS scientists and if included, WILL BE REMOVED from consideration prior to proposal review and your proposal will be at risk for rejection. Instead, a signed "USGS Scientist Collaboration/Commitment Statement Form" is REQUIRED and MUST be included if a USGS scientist intends to collaborate with or commit resources to the proposal Applicant. The USGS Scientist Collaboration/Commitment Statement Form is included in this NOFO as Attachment B. The Applicant is responsible for providing the form to the USGS scientist to fill out and sign along with the USGS scientist's direct supervisor.

**G. Data Management Plan Requirements:**Proposals submitted to USGS must include a supplementary document of no more than four pages labeled "Data Management Plan" (DMP). This supplementary document should describe how the proposal will conform to USGS policy on the dissemination and sharing of research results and associated data. A valid DMP may include only the statement that no detailed plan is needed (e.g. “No data are expected to be produced from this project”), as long as the statement is accompanied by a clear justification. This supplementary document may include:  
- the types of data, samples, physical collections, software, curriculum materials, and other materials to be produced in the course of the project;  
- the standards to be used for data and metadata format and content (where existing standards are absent or deemed inadequate, this should be documented along with any proposed solutions or remedies);  
- policies for access and sharing including provisions for appropriate protection of privacy, confidentiality, security, intellectual property, or other rights or requirements;  
- provisions for re-use, re-distribution, and the production of derivatives; and  
- plans for archiving data, samples, and other research products, and for preservation of free public access to them.  
Additional guidance on data management plans is available from the USGS Data Management website here: [https://www.usgs.gov/products/data-and-tools/data-management/data- management-plans](https://www.usgs.gov/products/data-and-tools/data-management/data-%20management-plans). Simultaneously submitted collaborative proposals and proposals that include sub-awards are a single-unified project and should include only one supplemental combined DMP by the lead PI that also addresses all subaward data management needs, regardless of the number of non-lead collaborative proposals or sub-awards included.

It is the expectation of the USGS that Principal Investigators will publish the results of funded research in peer-reviewed scientific or technical journals. Scientific or technical journals are NOT acceptable to satisfy the requirements of a Data Management Plan. The DMP must be written to follow the guidance above. In addition, all source data and data products and computer codes must be made readily available within the public domain upon completion of the project. **If you do not include a data management plan or a statement with justification that no plan is needed, your proposal will be rejected.**

### Budget Narrative

Applicants must describe and justify items and costs listed in their budget. The budget narrative must identify the following cost items: total estimated costs, non-Federal cost share, third-party contributions, and any pre-award costs. Total project cost is the sum of all allowable costs, including required and voluntary cost share and third-party contributions.

Budget items must be**:**

* Reasonable, allowable, allocable, and necessary
* Compliant with [2 CFR §200 Subpart E](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-200/subpart-E) cost principles

Indirect Costs: Applicants must indicate in their budget narrative how they will charge indirect costs, including the rate to be applied:

* De Minimis Rate: If eligible, state if your organization is opting to use the de minimis rate of up to 15% of total modified direct costs. Entities that do not have a current Federal negotiated indirect cost rate (including provisional rate) may propose to use the de minimis rate. For more information, refer to [2 CFR 200.414(f)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-E/subject-group-ECFRd93f2a98b1f6455/section-200.414).
* Negotiated Rate: State if you will negotiate with your cognizant agency. If your organization has previously negotiated a rate, attach a copy of the most recently negotiated rate agreement (active or expired).

**Conflict of Interest and Unresolved Matters Disclosures:**

If any actual or potential conflict of interest exists related to this project at the time of application, the applicant must provide sufficient information to support a program determination of significance per [2 CFR 1402.112](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-B/chapter-XIV/part-1402#1402.112). Refer to [2 CFR 200.112](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-B/section-200.112) Conflict of Interest and [2 CFR 200.113](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-B/section-200.113).

**Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement:**

Applicants must state in their application if the activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel proposed in this application overlap with those in any other Federal proposal or award or not. If no overlap exists, include a statement to that effect. If any overlap exists, provide:

* Activities: Description any overlapping activities.
* Costs: Description of any overlapping costs.
* Time: Description of any overlapping key personnel time.
* A copy of any overlapping or duplicative proposal submitted to any other potential funding entity.
* Details on when any overlapping proposal was submitted, to whom, and the expected date of the funding decision.

# SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

## Address to Request Application Package

Electronic Application Requirement: For the FY2026 funding cycle all proposals shall be submitted electronically via Grants.gov (http://www.grants.gov). Hard/paper submissions will NOT be accepted. Electronic copies submitted via e-mail will NOT be accepted under any circumstances. **All proposals must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov on or before: May 28, 2025, at 6 pm, Eastern Daylight Time.**

**SAM REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL APPLICANTS TO INCLUDE FOREIGN RECIPIENTS AS WELL AS INDIVIDUALS. FAILURE TO REGISTER AT SAM.GOV MAY AFFECT THE USGS'S ABILITY TO ISSUE AN AWARD.**

Please be aware that the electronic submission process requires first time users to register using an e- Authentication process. This registration process can be somewhat complex and can take up to 3 weeks to complete. Be advised that it is virtually impossible to begin the process of electronic submission for the first time if you start just a few days before the due date. If you are from a university, contact your Office of Sponsored Programs. They may already have completed the registration process and should work with you to submit the application. If you have any questions or problems with the registration process, or the completion of the application package, please contact the grants.gov help desk at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov.

## Submission Dates and Times

**Closing Date for Applications:** 05/28/2025

Closing Date Explanation

All proposals must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov on or before: **May 28, 2025, at 6 pm, Eastern Daylight Time.**

## Submission Instructions

### Apply Through Grants.gov

To apply through [Grants.gov](https://grants.gov/register), please follow the instructions in the [Quick Start Guide for](https://www.grants.gov/quick-start-guide/applicants) [Applicants](http://www.grants.gov/quick-start-guide/applicants). Before applying, ensure that at least one person at your organization is registered and has the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR). Only the AOR can submit the application. If you need more users, they must create their own Grants.gov account. Follow these steps below to apply:

* *Create a Workspace*: Creating a workspace allows you to complete it online and route it through your organization for review before submitting.
* *Complete a Workspace*: Invite participants to the workspace so you can collaborate on the application. Required applications forms are included in the Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Package and can be completed in the Workspace, unless noted otherwise in the Required Forms table above. Check for errors before submission.
* *Submit a Workspace*: An application may be submitted through workspace by clicking the Sign and Submit button on the Manage Workspace page, under the Forms tab
* *Track a Workspace* *Submission*: After successfully submitting a workspace application, a Grants.gov Tracking Number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) is automatically assigned to the application.

The system generates a date and time stamp and sends it to the applicant’s AOR via email as proof of submission*.* Make sure your application passes the Grants.gov validation checks. Do not encrypt, zip, or password-protect any files. Only registered individuals in SAM as both a user and an AOR can submit applications. Please allow 30 days to register in Grants.gov.

**Application System Technical Support:** For Grants.gov technical registration and submission, downloading forms, and application packages, contact Grants.gov Customer Support at 1-800-518-4726 or by email at Support@grants.gov.

# APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

## Eligibility Review

During the eligibility review, the application is checked for timely submission, completed packages (see [Application Documents](#_bookmark236665) above) and alignment with the requirements of this announcement. The Federal agency may remove an application if it does not pass the eligibility review.

**Review and Selection Process.**

A. Proposals pertinent to one of the ten research areas will be evaluated by multidisciplinary peer review panels. The panel members read all the proposals assigned to their panel prior to their meeting and at the panel meeting discuss each proposal according to the evaluation criteria. The four to seven panel members are scientists and engineers drawn from academia, Federal, State, local, and regional agencies, non-profit organizations, and private industry. In addition, one USGS member is often chosen for each panel. The panels will evaluate the technical merit of the proposals especially in the context of development of an integrated program of investigations for that region with attention to the research priorities (see Attachment A).

B. The peer review panel makes recommendations and provides advice on each proposal based on the merit criteria in the section below. The panel ranks proposals into priority groupings based on their scores in accordance with the criteria. The panel rankings are the principal determination of proposal success pending available funds; the Earthquake Hazards Program Office makes final funding decisions based on the panel's recommendations and the EHP Science Priorities for the Fiscal Year. The results of the peer review will assist the USGS in making final award determinations under this Announcement. The panels include five regional panels, and five topical panels for earthquake hazards, impacts and risk, earthquake source processes, earthquake rupture forecasting, ground motion research, and earthquake early warning research. Applicants must indicate in the Proposal Information Summary (Attachment C) the panel that is most appropriate for their proposal. Although it is required to indicate the panel when submitting a proposal, the USGS Regional or Topical coordinator reserves the right to reassign proposals to a more appropriate panel as necessary.

The panels and their designations are as follows:

**Designation Panel Name**

CEUS Central and Eastern United States

EEW Earthquake Early Warning Research

HIR Hazards, Impacts, and Risk

ESP Earthquake Source Processes

ERF Earthquake Rupture Forecasting

IMW Inter-mountain West

GM Ground Motion Research

NC Northern California

PNA Pacific Northwest and Alaska

SC Southern California

Applications can be directed to only ONE panel. If unsure of which panel is most appropriate, contact the applicable Regional or Topical Coordinator (see Attachment A for contact information).

**Rejection of Applications after Initial Review:**

If an application does not meet all requirements specified in the Announcement, as determined by the Contracting Officer in consultation with the External Research Coordinator, the institution and Principal Investigator will be promptly notified that the proposal will not be reviewed indicating the reason for its rejection.

If an applicant selected for funding hasn't finished their SAM.gov registration (see [2 CFR 25.200](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/section-25.200) and [2 CFR 25.110](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-I/part-25/subpart-A/section-25.110)) when the federal agency is ready to make an award, we may decide that the applicant is ineligible for the award and choose to grant it to someone else. Please refer [2 CFR 25.205](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-I/part-25/subpart-B/section-25.205) for more information.

Prior to making an award, the DOI checks the anticipated recipient and their key project personnel against the current list of prohibited or restricted persons or entities in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Exclusions database. We are prohibited from making an award if a recipient or any key personnel are found ineligible, prohibited, restricted, or otherwise excluded from receiving or participating in an award, as their ineligibility condition applies to this program.

If removed from consideration for ineligibility, the Federal agency will notify the applicant in writing.

## Merit Review

All proposals are considered in accordance with the criteria set forth below. All criteria are to be weighed equally by the panel reviewers when deriving their overall score.

1. EHP Research Priorities. The Research Priorities presented in Attachment A reflect the mission of the USGS Earthquake Hazards Program (EHP). Applicants must review the high-priority targets listed in Attachment A for each region and topic in additional to the four major program elements described in Attachment A to determine if application is appropriate under this Program Announcement. Proposals should clearly address both applicable program element(s) and priority topic(s).
2. Relevance and Timeliness. This factor considers the relevance and timeliness of the proposed research activities as they relate to the USGS Earthquake Hazards Program goals and address the Department of Interior’s Secretarial priorities, including regional emphasis where appropriate (see Attachment A).
3. Technical Quality of the Proposal. This factor considers the scientific merit of the proposed approach and the probability of achieving positive results within the designated period.
4. Competence and Recent Research Performance of Principal Investigator (PI) and Research Team. This factor considers the scientific and technical competence of the PI and coworkers and promptness of disseminating completed research results to the scientific community. This factor includes performance records and capability of providing required facilities and support needed to assure satisfactory completion of the proposed work. The competence of new applicants or early career scientists should be weighed equally to seasoned applicants or senior level scientists. This factor also includes the timely publication of project results and data in peer-reviewed scientific or technical journals, the impact of the results, and whether reporting requirements from previous USGS awards have been satisfied.
5. Appropriateness and Reasonableness of the Budget. This factor considers whether the proposed budget is commensurate with the level of effort needed to accomplish the project objectives and whether the cost of the project is reasonable and relative to the value of the anticipated results. As indicated in the Program Announcement, time commitments from senior PIs and staff should be limited, with a salary focus instead on students and junior level staff. PIs should not be penalized for high institutional overhead costs.

## Review and Selection Process

This program reviews proposed budgets to ensure:

* figures are correct
* estimated costs are necessary and reasonable and clearly linked to project narratives
* avoid obviously unallowable costs
* identify costs requiring prior approval
* ensure indirect cost rates are applied correctly
* confirm cost sharing requirements are reflected in the budget.

This program reviews applications for potential overlap or duplication between the proposed project and any other funded or proposed project. Depending on the circumstances, DOI may choose to not make an award.

Award Terms and Conditions: Award Recipients must comply with grant award Special Terms and Conditions (Attachment E). Submittal of an application constitutes the applicant’s acceptance of these terms and conditions for inclusion in any award resulting from their application. Any concerns with the requirements of the Special Terms and Conditions shall be presented to the Contracting Officer at least three days prior to the closing date of the Announcement.

Please be aware of the following are additional conditions:

1. No pre-award costs are authorized.

2. No-Cost Extensions to the Project Period: No-cost extensions are discouraged. The USGS/EHP awards grants and cooperative agreements for research that extends or supplements the ongoing research within the USGS. The timely conduct of funded projects is of great importance to the achievement of the goals of the program. Applicants should consider their time commitments at the time of applying for a grant. Requests for no-cost extensions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Applicants should supply documentation supporting their request for an extension, as described in Attachment E, Section 5.

3. Supplemental Funds: Increases in funds beyond the amount awarded are also discouraged. The peer review panels recommend funding at a rate commensurate with their judgment of the scientific merit of a proposal and their expert knowledge of the expenses likely to be incurred in the conduct of the research. The USGS is aware that the course of any research cannot always be predicted. However, the bulk of the funds available for grants and cooperative agreements are expended early in the fiscal year and little is retained for expenses beyond emergencies or special opportunities for the program. Requests for increased funding will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Applicants should supply documentation supporting their request for increased funding.

4. Dissemination of Results: When award recipients have completed their studies, a Final Technical Report must be submitted within 90 days; these reports will be posted at https://earthquake.usgs.gov/cfusion/external\_grants/research.cfm. It is the expectation of the USGS that Principal Investigators will publish the results of funded research in peer-reviewed scientific or technical journals. However, scientific or technical journals are NOT acceptable to satisfy the requirements of a Data Management Plan. In addition, all data products and computer codes must be made readily available within the public domain and the recipients’ data management plan to ensure public data accessibility should be included in the Final Technical Report. See Attachment E, Section 3 and the “Prepare Your Application” Section of this NOFO, under Project Narrative Instructions, Section G. Data Management Plan Requirements, for details on Data Management Planning.

## Risk Review

Prior to making an award, the program assesses the risk posed by the applicant per [2 CFR 200.206](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/section-200.206). If an award will be made, the program may apply special conditions corresponding to the risk assessed. For awards over the simplified acquisition threshold (currently $250,000), the program reviews eligibility and financial integrity information in the applicant’s SAM.gov records per [2 CFR 200.206(a)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-200#p-200.206(a)). The program also assesses financial management capabilities, project delivery experience, staffing resources, past performance, administration and reporting compliance records, and overall project complexity and potential challenges.

# AWARD NOTICES

Notices of Federal Award are sent electronically via GrantSolutions or e-mail. These notices outline the terms, conditions, and payment instructions per [2 CFR 200.211](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/section-200.211). The Notice of Federal Award signed by an authorized Grants Officer is the legal instrument obligating financial assistance to a recipient. Any other prior notice is not an authorization to begin work. If the program allows pre-award costs per [2 CFR 200.458](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/section-200.458), beginning performance before receiving a Notice of Federal Award is at the applicant’s own risk.

**Anticipated Project Start Date:** 01/01/2026

**Anticipated Project End Date:** 12/31/2026

Following the peer panel reviews, the USGS will make funding decisions and will notify applicants of one of three possible decisions: the proposal has been recommended for funding at full or reduced levels of support, subject to appropriations; the proposal is being declined and will not be funded; or the proposal is on hold, and may be funded if sufficient funds become available during the fiscal year in question. The USGS intends to provide initial notifications to the institution and PI by the end of November 2025. For proposals that are placed on hold, secondary notification regarding funding will be provided on or before the following February or when appropriations are known.

# POST AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

## Administration and National Policy Requirements

For award administration and national policy requirements, see the [DOI General Terms and Conditions](https://www.doi.gov/grants/doi-standard-terms-and-conditions). Infrastructure projects require the use of American iron, steel, manufacture products, and construction materials per [2 CFR 184](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-I/part-184).

**Geospatial Data**

If you receive financial assistance from the Department of the Interior (DOI), recipient must follow these rules for geospatial data:

Follow Federal Standards: All geospatial data you collect or create must meet the standards set by the Federal Geospatial Data Committee (FGDC) or the Department of the Interior. This is required by the Geospatial Data Act of 2018, which is part of Public Law 115-254, specifically in Subtitle F (Geospatial Data), sections 751-759C (codified at [43 U.S.C. *§§* 2801–2811](https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?hl=false&edition=2019&path=%2Fprelim%40title43%2Fchapter46&req=granuleid%3AUSC-2019-title43-chapter46&num=0&saved=L3ByZWxpbUB0aXRsZTQzL2NoYXB0ZXI0Ng%3D%3D%7CZ3JhbnVsZWlkOlVTQy1wcmVsaW0tdGl0bGU0My1jaGFwdGVyNDY%3D%7C%7C%7C0%7Cfalse%7Cprelim)).

Include Metadata: Your Geographic Information Systems (GIS) files must include complete metadata. Metadata is information that describes the data, such as where it came from, how accurate it is, and how it should be used. This is to ensure that anyone using the data understands its context and quality.

Check for Existing Data: Before you start collecting new geospatial data, you need to check GeoPlatform.gov. This is to see if there is already existing geospatial data from federal, state, local, or private sources that can meet your needs and is available for free. If such data is available, you should use it instead of gathering new data.

These rules help ensure that geospatial data is reliable, high-quality, and that resources are used efficiently.

## Reporting

The recipient’s Notice of Award will detail all reporting requirements, including frequency, due dates, and instructions for requesting extensions. In general, but not limited to, recipients must:

* Submit Federal Financial reports and Program Performance reports.
* Use the [Federal Financial Report (SF-425) form](https://grants.gov/forms/forms-repository/post-award-reporting-forms) for financial reporting,
* Monitor award activities and report on program performance per [2 CFR 200.329](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/section-200.329),
* Promptly notify the awarding program in writing of any issues, delays, or conditions impairing award objectives per [2 CFR 200.329(e)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/section-200.329),
* Disclose any conflicts of interest related to their award that arise during the award period per [2 CFR 1402.112](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-B/chapter-XIV/part-1402/subpart-B/section-1402.112),
* Report on the status of real property acquired under the award in which the Federal government retains an interest per [2 CFR 200.330](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-D/subject-group-ECFR36520e4111dce32/section-200.330), and
* Report all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award per [2 CFR 200.113](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-B/section-200.113).
* Report any matters related to recipient integrity and performance to SAM.gov per [Appendix XII to 2 CFR 200](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200#Appendix-XII-to-Part-200).
* If the Federal share of the award is more than $100,000 and the recipient makes or agrees to make any payment using non-appropriated funds for lobbying in connection to the award, disclose those activities using the Disclosure of Lobbying (SF-LLL) form per   
  [43 CFR 18.100](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-43/subtitle-A/part-18).
* Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA) requires certain recipients to report information on executive compensation through SAM.gov and information on all sub-awards, subcontracts, and consortiums over $30,000 to the [FFATA Subaward Reporting System (FSRS)](https://www.fsrs.gov/).

### Other Information

**Payments:**

Domestic recipients are required to register in and receive payment through the U.S. Treasury’s Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP), unless approved for a waiver by the USGS program. Foreign recipients receiving funds to a final destination bank outside the U.S. are required to receive payment through the U.S. Treasury’s International Treasury Services (ITS) System. Foreign recipients receiving funds to a final destination bank in the U.S. are required to enter and maintain current banking details in their SAM.gov entity profile and receive payment through the Automated Clearing House network by electronic funds transfer (EFT). The Bureau will include recipient-specific instructions on how to request payment, including identification of any additional information required and where to submit payment requests, as applicable, in all Notices of Award.

**Payments to Foreign Recipients:**

The Department of the Interior requires all payments under financial assistance awards be made using the Department of the Treasury Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) system. HOWEVER, ASAP cannot make payments to foreign recipients. As such, payment to foreign recipients will be made by Treasury Check in U.S. funds upon receipt of properly prepared SF-270, “Request for Advance or Reimbursement”. Requests should be submitted on quarterly basis. Payments may be drawn in advance only as needed to meet immediate cash disbursement needs. Foreign recipients are further advised that, although ASAP cannot handle foreign recipients, a waiver from use of ASAP is required. This waiver is processed by the USGS and no award may be issued until such time as the waiver is approved.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: OMB Control Number: 1028-0051, Expiration Date: September 30, 2025

The Paperwork Reduction Act says that the agency must tell you why we are collecting this information, how we will use it, and whether you have to give it to us. This information is being collected to determine the eligibility of the applicant and as a basis for approval or disapproval of the proposed research. The purpose of the program is to support research in earthquake hazards and earthquake prediction to provide earth science data and information essential to mitigate earthquake losses. Response to this request is required to obtain and retain a grant, under the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977, Public Law 95 -124. Public report burden for this collection is estimated to average 45 hours per grant application and 12 hours to prepare a final technical report. Direct comments regarding this collection of information may be sent to the Bureau Clearance Officer, U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS807, Reston VA 20192.