

NEP Coastal Watersheds Cooperative Agreement

Overview

EPA has awarded a cooperative agreement to Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) in the amount of \$4 million dollars to administer a national competitive subaward program. RAE is a national nonprofit alliance of 10 coastal conservation groups dedicated to restoring and preserving America's estuaries and coasts. RAE was chosen because of its strong relationships with coastal communities and proven track record working with state and local groups in partnership to restore coastal habitats.

The goal of this National Estuary Program (NEP) Coastal Watersheds effort is to address urgent and challenging environmental issues established by Congress that threaten the ecological and economic well-being of coastal and estuarine areas. These issues include, but are not limited to, the loss of key habitats such as seagrass and wetlands, flooding and coastal erosion, microplastics found in coastal and estuarine waters, and harmful algal blooms.

To address these threats to coastal waters and estuaries, RAE will conduct and manage a competitive process to select subaward projects. Subaward projects will help implement actions identified in one of the 28 EPA-approved NEP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans (www.epa.gov/nep), or clearly link to existing state or locally-approved community-based watershed management plans, and must occur completely within the boundary of the identified geographic areas (see map below or go to <https://epa.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=a071db5870714235835c9c7eeec1bd48>).

Eligible entities include state, interstate, and regional water pollution control agencies and entities; state coastal zone management agencies; interstate agencies; and other public or nonprofit private agencies, institutions, and organizations.

In addition to demonstrating on-the-ground or tangible quantifiable improvements to coastal and estuarine habitats and the health of living resources, subaward projects funded are intended to achieve advances in new approaches, practices, methods, or techniques for preventing and addressing threats to estuaries, and establish or improve sustainable local capacity to prevent and address these challenging issues in these in these specified geographic areas.

Eligible Subaward Areas

