

## **NOAA Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program CELCP**

### **PURPOSE OF CELCP**

- To protect important coastal and estuarine areas with significant values or that are threatened by conversion and that can be effectively managed.
- Purposes related to ecological and conservation values include the protection of
  - fish and wildlife in the coastal zone
  - estuaries to provide opportunities for long-term research, education, interpretation and stewardship,
- Purposes related to recreational, historical, and aesthetic values include:
  - maintenance and enhancement of environmentally sound public access to the coasts for recreation purposes.
  - protection of barrier islands within the coastal zone to provide protection against storm surge, wave damage and flooding, and maintain sand supplies and protect important recreational areas
  - provide consideration for coast dependent uses including recreation
  - assist in the sensitive preservation and restoration of historic, cultural, and esthetic coastal features.
- CELCP Funds may be used for the purchase of properties or interests in properties from willing sellers provided that the terms and conditions will ensure that the property will be administered for conservation in perpetuity.

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR PROPOSED PROJECTS**

- The State must have an approved Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan.
- Property must be located in a coastal or estuarine area included within a state's approved coastal and estuarine land conservation plan and meet national criteria:
  - Protect important coastal and estuarine areas that have significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical, or aesthetic values or that are threatened by conversion from the natural or recreational state to other uses.
  - Give priority to lands which can be effectively managed and protected and that have significant ecological value
  - Advances the goals and objectives of the State's CZM, NERR management plan, or watershed protection plan.
  - Is consistent with the state's approved coastal management program.
- Willing seller
- Match is 50% of TPC or a 1:1 match.
- Government entity must hold title
- Provide for access to the general public or other public benefit, as appropriate and consistent with resource protection.

- A strategy for long-term stewardship must be developed for each project that identifies the entity responsible for ongoing stewardship, and monitoring of conservation easements or ongoing activities..

## **INITIAL SCREENING CRITERIA**

AK CELP program requires the following information in the proposal:

- Name of property
- Location of property; must be in the CELC Plan
- Legal description
- Property value and what value is based on. Date of appraisal, if appraised.
- Encumbrances
- Identify ownership of subsurface or mineral estate
- Describe legal access to property
- Description and acreage of any structures
- Hazardous materials or waste
- # of tracts
- Total acreage; chart of acreage of proposed tracts
- If this is a phased project
- Project financial information (federal funds being requested are the following federal fiscal year's appropriation)
- Project description
- Letters from partners and stakeholders
- Maps and color photographs

For fee-simple acquisitions:

- Government entity that will hold title
- Documentation that this entity is willing to hold title

For conservation easements:

- Documentation that a government entity has agreed to manage the CE and monitor the property in perpetuity

## **PROJECT PRIORITIZATION AND FUNDING PROCESS**

OMB and Congress

- DC FLP office submits a prioritized project list to OMB for funding consideration in the President's budget
- Appropriate House and Senate Committees and Subcommittees reviews FLP budget
- Congress passes final federal budget

