

Workforce Development for the Energy Transition

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS



**NATIONAL
ACADEMIES** *Sciences
Engineering
Medicine*

GULF RESEARCH PROGRAM

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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE ENERGY TRANSITION

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's [Gulf Research Program](#) (GRP) aims to contribute to the development of a prepared workforce and to increase the scientific literacy of the Gulf States residents who will become the skilled leaders and professionals of tomorrow. This funding opportunity will enable project participants to acquire skills, knowledge, and credentials to enter careers involved in the decommissioning of orphaned and abandoned oil and gas wells.

Specifically, the GRP is seeking applications for sustainable, data-driven, industry-engaged projects that will provide education and training opportunities for participants without a bachelor's degree and ready those participants to become part of the orphaned and abandoned well-decommissioning workforce. Preference will be given to projects that provide competencies for decommissioning wells in an offshore environment. The applicants should demonstrate how they will partner with local employers and industry associations to use data and evidence to identify skill gaps and labor market needs, design relevant curricula and credentials, and provide education, training, job placement, and/or retention services to participants that will enable those participants to acquire the skills and credentials necessary to join the orphaned and abandoned well-decommissioning workforce. This funding opportunity is open to applicants from educational institutions, non-profit organizations, state and local governments, and tribal entities working in the U.S. Gulf States (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and/or Florida).

A total of \$2.25M is available for this funding opportunity, with the number of applications being funded dependent on the quality and quantity of applications. Applicants must request between \$100,000 and \$750,000 for projects, commensurate with the scope of work, that are between 1 and 3 years in duration.

KEY DATES

- **January 14, 2026:** Online application submission opens
- **February 11, 2026:** Funding Opportunity Question and Answer Session
- **April 7, 2026:** Submission Help Office Hours
- **April 8, 2026:** Deadline for submissions of applications due by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time
- **July 2026:** Award selection and notification
- **September 1, 2026:** Anticipated funding start date
- Online submission website: <https://gulfresearchprogram.smapply.io/>

AWARD INFORMATION

- **Total funding available:** \$2.25M
- **Specifications for award amount:** Applicants may request between \$100,000 and \$750,000. All budget requests must be commensurate with the scope of work proposed.
- **Award duration:** Grants will be awarded to support projects between 1 and 3 years in duration.
- **Estimated number of awards:** Resources made available under this funding opportunity will depend on the applications received. The Gulf Research Program reserves the right to negotiate some, one, or none of the applications received in response to this solicitation.
- **Award notification:** July 2026

PURPOSE

The Gulf Research Program (GRP) seeks to support Gulf States students, employers, and the economy by providing pathways for Gulf States residents without a bachelor's degree to enter high-quality jobs related to decommissioning orphaned and abandoned oil and gas wells. Preference will be given to projects that provide competencies for decommissioning wells in an offshore environment.

Orphaned and abandoned oil and gas wells have emerged as a significant and growing environmental challenge. Orphaned wells are unplugged, nonproducing wells with no known owner or responsible party capable of properly closing them.¹ Abandoned wells are those that are unplugged, or not plugged to modern standards, and that have sat idle for an extended period of time.¹ Orphaned and abandoned wells pose risks to the environment, as they can leak methane, a potent greenhouse gas, and create pathways for hydrocarbons and brine to contaminate groundwater, degrade soil quality, and potentially spill oil into the surrounding area.^{2,3}

Skilled technical workers, those that utilize science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) knowledge in their jobs and careers, but do not have a bachelor's degree, are an often overlooked yet vital part of the science and engineering enterprise that enable the benefits of STEM to reach the

¹ National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2025. Practices and Standards for Plugging Orphaned and Abandoned Hydrocarbon Wells: Proceedings of a Workshop. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/28035>.

² Kang M, Kanno CM, Reid MC, Zhang X, Mauzerall DL, Celia MA, Chen Y, Onstott TC (2014) Direct measurements of methane emissions from abandoned oil and gas wells in Pennsylvania. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 111:18173–18177. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1408315111>

³ Dusseault M, Jackson R (2014) Seepage pathway assessment for natural gas to shallow groundwater during well stimulation, in production, and after abandonment. *Environ Geosci* 21:107–126. <https://doi.org/10.1306/eg.04231414004>

American people.⁴ Careers for skilled technical workers typically provide good-paying jobs with fewer formal education requirements.⁴ Those careers facilitate workers more quickly entering a workforce in which they are more likely to have a higher paying job and lower unemployment relative to other jobs at a similar education level.⁴

The GRP expects the main outcome of this opportunity to be an increase in the number of skilled workers capable of contributing to the decommissioning of orphaned and abandoned oil and gas wells. Specifically, the GRP expects this funding opportunity to contribute to the short, medium, and long-term outcomes identified below.

Short and Medium-Term Outcomes

- Increased awareness and enrollment among Gulf State residents in education or training programs related to decommissioning orphaned and abandoned wells.
- Students gain foundational technical skills, safety knowledge, and required certifications for well-decommissioning and environmental fieldwork.
- Higher completion and job placement rates in well-decommissioning, remediation, or related skilled technical roles.
- Institutions/organizations strengthen and/or expand workforce training programs, including improved curricula, partnerships and program capacity.
- Increased alignment between training programs and employer needs through stronger industry partnerships and feedback loops.

Long-term Outcomes

- A stable, skilled workforce capable of safely and effectively decommissioning orphaned and abandoned wells across the Gulf region.
- A strengthened and sustainable regional workforce development ecosystem supporting long-term environmental remediation and energy future needs.

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

This grant opportunity aims to fund training and workforce development programs related to decommissioning orphaned and abandoned wells, which includes, but is not limited to: site mapping, site maintenance, regulatory compliance, logistics, well monitoring, heavy equipment operation, remediation, and technical skills needed to properly and safely decommission these wells. Preference will be given to projects that provide competencies for decommissioning wells in an offshore environment.

Projects should include partnerships that leverage data to identify labor market needs and associated skills gaps. Partnerships between sectors (such as between academia, industry, local governments, and

⁴ National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2017. Building America's Skilled Technical Workforce. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/23472>.

nonprofits) are highly encouraged. The GRP is particularly interested in projects that establish or strengthen partnerships with potential employers of these technical roles to ensure training programs and curricula are aligned with industry needs, required competencies, and real-world job expectations. Applications should describe their approach to developing technical skills and conferring industry-recognized credentials on participants. Applications should explain how they will put participants on a reasonable path to a skilled technical career as well as the approximate number of participants that the projects expect to engage. Projects are encouraged to engage participants that could benefit the most from the project, training, and career opportunities. Projects should seek to “meet students where they are” and provide and budget for support services (such as transportation, tuition assistance, or personalized support and guidance), as needed.

The National Academies must remain in compliance with federal guidance as it evolves. Given this, we advise applicants to ensure their applications align with applicable executive orders, review criteria, and focus on presenting a strong and well-supported proposal.

PROJECT STRUCTURE

All proposed activities should focus on workforce development initiatives for participants without a bachelor’s degree that will prepare project participants to secure jobs related to decommissioning orphaned and abandoned wells. Applications that form partnerships across sectors (such as academia, industry, nonprofits, local governments) are highly encouraged. The focus of this funding opportunity is the acquisition of key skills and credentials by project participants for jobs and careers related to decommissioning orphaned and abandoned wells. Preference will be given to projects that provide competencies for decommissioning wells in an offshore environment. Applications should explain what data and evidence was used both to forecast demand for careers and develop curriculum that will prepare participants for those forecasted careers.

Applicants seeking funding to sustain and expand existing programming activities should include evidence that demonstrates significant positive impact(s) and the benefits of anticipated programmatic growth. Competitive applications include project partners, such as teachers, community members, and industry representatives, throughout the project lifecycle, from design through implementation. Engaging potential employers early and consistently will help ensure that training content, competencies, and certifications align with industry expectations and workforce needs.

Applicants should carefully review the [Merit Review Criteria](#) prior to submitting.

PROJECT EVALUATION

The GRP requires that all funded projects under this grant opportunity undergo an independent evaluation to assess project implementation and the short-and-medium-term outcomes identified above. Grantees must engage a qualified, external evaluator unaffiliated with the project team or a qualified, internal evaluator who is otherwise not involved with the project to design and implement this evaluation. The GRP can assist awardees in identifying independent evaluators based in the Gulf region to support this requirement. The funding recipient will provide the evaluation report to the GRP.

All applicants must include a brief description of their intended evaluation approach in their proposal. If selected for funding, grantees will be required to develop and submit a detailed evaluation plan with a program logic model within the first six months of the contract period. The GRP encourages the use of established resources to support evaluation planning, such as:

- The **CDC Framework for Program Evaluation** ([CDC Evaluation Resources](#))
- The **BetterEvaluation.org** platform, which provides step-by-step guidance and tools across all stages of evaluation design and implementation ([BetterEvaluation](#))

The funding recipient must allocate at least five percent and no more than ten percent of its budget to project evaluation. This amount, which may include in-kind assistance from partner organizations, is not to be reallocated and is to be spent solely on delivery of the project evaluation as described in the proposal.

The evaluation must be completed within the grant period, and a final evaluation report must be submitted to the GRP with the final written progress report. This report should include a program logic model, methods, findings, conclusions, and, where appropriate, recommendations for improvement or replication.

The GRP may also choose to conduct an independent, external evaluation of this grant series. Grantees are expected to cooperate fully with the evaluation process, including by providing timely access to relevant data, stakeholders, and documentation.

The GRP intends these project evaluations to:

- Help build an evidence-base that both grantees and the GRP can use to understand and communicate their impact.
- Enable organizational learning and increase capacity to provide quality programming.
- Support the sharing of successes, challenges, and insights among funders, grantees, and stakeholders.

If awarded, Project Directors and Evaluators will participate in a Grantee Peer Learning Meeting at the close of the period of performance to share their evaluation results, project highlights, success stories, and lessons learned with their fellow grantees and GRP staff.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants are limited to institutions of higher education; K-12 public and independent schools and school systems; other nonprofits, including community-based organizations and informal education institutions, such as museums, zoos, and aquariums; state and local government agencies; and Indian tribal governments in the United States. Federal agencies, for-profit organizations, foreign institutions, and individuals are not eligible to apply or receive funding; however, they may participate as project partners. The applying organization will be referred to as the “applicant” hereafter. The individual who will lead the proposed project will be referred to as “Project Director” hereafter. All eligible applicants must have a valid federal tax ID number in order to apply.

The Program will not consider funding:

- Applications for political lobbying or advocacy activities.

Project Directors usually initiate applications that are officially submitted by their employing organizations (the applicant). When initiating an application, the Project Director typically is responsible for ensuring the application meets all the requirements outlined by the Gulf Research Program as well as any requirements set by the employing organizations.

The Gulf Research Program requires individuals named as Project Director or Key Personnel in an application to adhere to the following:

- An individual may be proposed as Project Director in only one application. If an individual is proposed as Project Director in any application, they may also be proposed as Key Personnel in up to two additional applications.
- An individual not proposed as a Project Director in any application may be named as Key Personnel in up to three applications.
- It is the responsibility of each individual being named as Project Director or Key Personnel in any application to ensure that they are not named in more than three total applications.

To best serve the residents of the region, the GRP aims to limit the overhead or indirect charges on educational grants. As such, overhead or indirect charges for this grant opportunity cannot exceed a total of 20%. This limit also applies to subawardee budgets.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Applicants can apply for this funding opportunity via the [online application system](#). Applications submitted by other means (e.g., mail, fax, or email) will not be considered. Application materials must be submitted in English.

Project directors should review the application preparation and submission instructions and submit any questions to gulfgrants@nas.edu prior to the submission deadlines. The Gulf Research Program strives to respond to applicants' questions within two business days but cannot guarantee that applicants' questions will be answered before submission deadlines.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

All complete applications will be reviewed by an external review panel and evaluated using the [Merit Review Criteria](#).

The application must provide the following information:

- 1) Project Team:
 - a) Project Director
 - i) ORCID (Open Research and Contributor ID)
 - b) Key Personnel
 - c) Applicant Overview (maximum 1500 words)
 - i) Describe the applicant (e.g., location, service area, mission)
 - ii) Describe the applicant's experiences with workforce development, particularly as it relates to decommissioning orphaned and abandoned wells.
 - iii) Describe the applicant's existing workforce development efforts
 - d) Involvement of Project Director or Key Personnel in other applications related to this funding opportunity
- 2) Project Details:
 - a) Project Title (maximum 15 words)
 - b) Project Key Words (maximum 10 words). Please highlight key features of your application that make it unique.
 - c) Project Summary (maximum 250 words)
 - d) Project Timeline (Excel upload)
 - e) Project Description (maximum 4,000 words total)
 - i) Describe the proposed workforce development initiative; (maximum 1,000 words)
 - ii) Discuss how the proposed workforce development initiative will (1) create partnerships across sectors (such as academia, industry, government, nonprofit) and/or institutions; (2) utilize data and industry input to provide effective, thoughtful educational experiences; (3) provide participants with the necessary skills and credentials for jobs and careers related to

- decommissioning orphaned and abandoned wells; (4) engage participants who could most benefit from the skills and credentials conferred, if applicable; and (5) provide support services (such as transportation, tuition assistance, or personalized support and guidance) and/or job placement and retention assistance. (maximum 2,000 words)
- iii) Discuss the pedagogical approach to the proposed project; (maximum 1,000 words)
- 3) Project Evaluation Approach (maximum 1000 words total)
- a) Provide a brief description of your intended evaluation approach. Specifically, indicate who will conduct the evaluation, whether an evaluator has already been identified, and how funds have been budgeted to support this requirement. Applicants must also acknowledge that they will submit a full evaluation plan within the first six months of the contract. Applicants should describe how they intend to meet these expectations:
- i) Internal capacity: If you plan to conduct the evaluation in-house, explain your team's relevant expertise and how you will ensure the evaluator remains independent from project implementation.
- ii) External evaluator or learning partner: If you plan to engage an external evaluator, briefly describe the type of support they will provide (e.g., facilitation, technical assistance, data collection, analysis) and indicate whether a partner has already been identified.
- 4) Proposed Budget
- a) Total Budget Requested
- b) Budget Justification: Please submit [a budget justification form](#). A sample budget justification is provided. (maximum 2,000 words)
- c) Budget Form: Download the [budget template](#). Complete this form to provide information on the proposed budget. Budget requests should be developed commensurate with the support needed to achieve the project goals. Adequate compensation should be provided for community-based organization partners and community members for the effort they are contributing to the project. Budget requests should, if relevant, include competitive teacher stipends commensurate with the proposed activities, as appropriate.
- 5) Other Attachments
- a) Data Management Plan: Describe how project data will be collected, managed, stored, protected, and made accessible throughout the lifetime of the project. Certain exceptions apply for evaluation data and projects whose main goal is education. Please refer to the [GRP's Data Management Policy](#) for explicit instructions on developing the project's Data Management Plan. (Maximum 1,500 words)
- b) Resume(s): Resumes are required for the Project Director and every individual identified as a Project Team member. A resume may be included for the evaluator. Resumes may not exceed two pages per person. All resumes should be combined and uploaded as a single PDF document. Do not include resumes for individuals not named as a Project Director or Project Team member.

- c) Collaborators and Other Affiliations Form: The purpose of this form is to help the GRP eliminate potential conflicts of interest during reviewer recruitment. Download the [Collaborators and Other Affiliations form](#) and complete it to provide information on the following:
- i) All persons (including their current organizational affiliations) who are currently, or who have been collaborators (i.e. an individual with whom you work closely to co-design or conduct a project) or co-authors with the individual on a project, book, article, report, abstract, or paper during the 48 months preceding the submission of the application.
 - ii) The individual's own graduate and postdoctoral advisor(s) and their current organizational affiliations.
 - iii) A list of your past and current advisees (including their current organizational affiliations)
- d) Current and Pending Support from Other Sources Form: Download the [Current and Pending Support from Other Sources form](#). Applicants must provide information on the current and pending support of the Project Director, and other Project Team members, if applicable, and upload it to the online application system. The form calls for required information on current and pending support for ongoing projects and applications. All current project support from whatever source (e.g., federal, state, local or foreign government agencies, public or private foundations, industrial or other commercial organizations) must be listed. The proposed project and all other projects or activities requiring a portion of time of the project personnel and other senior personnel must be included, even if they receive no salary support from the project(s). The total award amount for the entire award period covered (including indirect costs) must be shown as well as the number of person-months per year to be devoted to the project, regardless of source of support.

The National Academies must remain in compliance with federal guidance as it evolves. Given this, we advise applicants to ensure their applications align with applicable executive orders, review criteria, and focus on presenting a strong and well-supported proposal.

MERIT REVIEW CRITERIA

It is important that all applications clearly describe how the anticipated outputs and outcomes are appropriately aligned to the goals of the proposed project.

All complete applications will be evaluated on the basis of the Merit Review Criteria described below. Applicants should consider the application Guidelines as well as Merit Review Criteria in the development of their application. Reviewers may raise additional issues that are not covered by the criteria.

Partnerships (30%)

- To what extent does the proposed project establish partnerships between sectors (e.g., academia, industry, local governments, non-profits) and institutions?

- To what extent does the proposed project engage industry to ensure that workforce development initiatives will lead participants to actual jobs?

Scientific and Technical Merit (30%)

- To what extent does the proposed project derive its strategy and pedagogy from quality data, methods, and resources?
- To what extent does the proposed project forecast future workforce needs and plan to respond appropriately?
- To what extent does the proposed project prepare participants with the skills to acquire an identified skilled technical career?
- To what extent are the anticipated outputs and outcomes clearly described and appropriately aligned to the goals of the proposed project?

Sustainability and Scalability (20%)

- To what extent does the proposed project have a reasonable path towards sustainability beyond the life of the grant?
- To what extent could the proposed project be effectively scaled if successful?
- To what extent could the proposed project be replicated by others wanting to follow this project's success?
- To what extent does the proposed project provide sufficient participant support services that will contribute to participant and project success (such as transportation to training facilities, tuition assistance, or personalized support and guidance)?

Project Team (10%)

- To what extent are Project Team members and Collaborators well-qualified in their experience, knowledge, and skills to ensure the completion of a successful project?
- To what extent are the evaluator(s) well-qualified in their experience, knowledge, and skills to ensure the completion of a successful project evaluation?

Budget (10%)

- To what extent is the budget commensurate with the proposed activities?

- To what extent is the budget being directed towards ultimately supporting the educators and the participants?
- To what extent is the budget sufficiently supporting the scope of the evaluation planned?

RESEARCH INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS

All projects involving human subjects must be submitted to an institutional review board (IRB) for review and either receive IRB approval or be granted exemption from human subjects regulations. Proposers should file their application with their local IRB at the same time the application is submitted to the Gulf Research Program so that any approval procedure determined as necessary will not delay the project. An application may be submitted to the Gulf Research Program prior to receiving IRB approval or being granted exemption; however, if the application is selected for funding, the award will be made conditional upon IRB granting approval or exemption from human subjects regulations within 90 days of the project start date. If a proposed project involving human subjects is granted exemption from human subjects regulations [see 45 CFR §46.101(b)], the applicant must provide documentation that an IRB (or the appropriate authority other than the Project Director or Key Personnel) has declared the project exempt from the human subjects regulations. Documentation should include the specific category justifying the exemption. Organizations without internal access to an IRB must seek approval or exemption from an independent review board or other appropriate authority. Visit our website for more [information about human subjects regulations](#).

DATA MANAGEMENT

All applications must submit a Data Management Plan. Certain exceptions apply for evaluation data and projects whose main goal is education. Please refer to Section 2 of the GRP's [Data Management Policy](#) for the requirements regarding your application.

Most funded activities produce data. The Federal government defines data in Title 48 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 27.401 as “recorded information, regardless of form or the media on which it may be recorded.” The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) further defines data in Memorandum M-13-13 on Open Data as “structured information” which is to be “contrasted with unstructured information (commonly referred to as “content”) such as press releases and fact sheets.” Unstructured information is commonly referred to as information products.

The GRP currently maintains a contract with GRIIDC, a Gulf science data repository, to help manage and store data and information products produced by recipients of GRP funding. This contract supports the GRP's goal of making data Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable (FAIR), and allows recipients of GRP funding to receive data management training, and to submit data and information products to GRIIDC at no additional cost.

Please refer to Section 3 of the GRP's [Data Management Policy](#) for specific instructions on how to format your plan.

The GRP's [Data Management Policy](#) provides additional information on what must be included in the data management plan submitted as part of an application.

MAKING THE AWARD

Selection Notice

The GRP reserves the right to select all, some, one, or none of the applications received in response to this solicitation.

When the evaluation of an application is complete, the project director will be notified that (1) the application has been selected for funding pending contract negotiations, or (2) the application has not been selected. These official notifications will be sent via email to the project director identified on the application. If an application is selected for award, the GRP reserves the right to request additional or clarifying information for any reason deemed necessary, including, but not limited to, indirect cost information or other budget information.

Award Notice

The GRP transmits award notices to organizations via e-mail. The award is not finalized and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine is not obligated to provide any funding until a signed copy of the award agreement has been received by the Academies.

Grant Periods

Upon receipt of the award notice, the awardee should note the effective date and the expiration date. The effective date is the date specified in the grant notice on or after which expenditures may be charged to the grant. Charging expenditures to the grant prior to the effective date is prohibited. The expiration date is the date specified in the grant notice after which expenditures may not be charged against the grant except to satisfy obligations to pay allowable project costs committed on or before that date. Once an award is made, the effective date cannot be changed. The expiration date may be changed as a result of approval of a request for a no-cost extension. If approved, the GRP will issue an amendment to the grant.

If additional time beyond the performance period and the established expiration date is required to ensure adequate completion of the original scope of work with the funds already made available, the awardee may apply for a one-time, no-cost extension of up to six months. A formal request must be submitted to the GRP at least 45 days prior to the expiration date of the grant. The request must explain the need for the extension and include an estimate of the unobligated funds remaining and a plan for their use. This one-time extension will not be approved solely for the purpose of using the unliquidated

balances.

POST-AWARD MANAGEMENT

Coordination with GRP

After the award is conferred, grantees shall coordinate with the GRP to formally initiate the project. GRP staff will periodically request status meetings during the project implementation phase to discuss progress and any unanticipated developments that may affect the project outcomes as specified in the grant agreement. These interactions will help ensure successful management of the grant.

Reporting Requirements

After an award is conferred, the grantee shall provide an annual financial report to the GRP to report on grant expenditures to date under the grant. Within the first six months of the contract, the grantee must submit a full evaluation plan to the GRP. The grantee shall provide an annual written report to the GRP to report on activities being carried out under the grant, including but not limited to project accomplishments to date and grant expenditures. No later than 60 days after the expiration of the award, the grantee shall provide final financial and written grant reports. The final written grant report shall address the original objectives of the project as identified in the grant application, describe any changes in objectives, describe the final project accomplishments, and include a final project accounting of all grant funds in the final financial report. Once a final project evaluation report is completed, the grantee shall provide the final evaluation report to the GRP along with the final written progress report.

If awarded, Project Directors and Evaluators will participate in a Grantee Peer Learning Meeting at the close of the period of performance to present their evaluation results, grant highlights, success stories, and lessons learned with their fellow grantees and GRP staff.

Data Management

Implementation of a data management plan will be monitored through the annual and final report process, as well as through regular communication with GRIIDC. All awardees who will be submitting data or information products must set up an account with GRIIDC within 3 months of the project start date and will be monitored regarding their submission of Dataset Information Forms and final datasets.

Specific timelines can be found in the GRP's [Data Management Policy](#).

SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY

A fundamental purpose of the GRP is to facilitate the advancement of knowledge and the application of science to address challenges relevant to the GRP's mission. All activities of the GRP will be conducted to

meet the highest standards of scientific integrity. All grantees have a responsibility to use the funds wisely.

GRANT AGREEMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please review the Grant Agreement prior to submitting an application. It is the policy of National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to entertain potential modifications to the Grant Agreement only under the most exceptional circumstances. Rather, successful applicants are strongly encouraged to sign the Grant Agreement as presented.

- [View a sample grant agreement if the applicant is a public institution.](#)
- [View a sample agreement if the applicant is a private institution.](#)

ABOUT THE GULF RESEARCH PROGRAM

[The National Academies'](#) Gulf Research Program (GRP) is an independent, science-based program founded in 2013 as part of legal settlements with the companies involved in the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster. The GRP's mission is to develop, translate, and apply science to enhance the safety of offshore energy, the environment, and the wellbeing of the people of the Gulf region for generations to come. It supports innovative science, guides data design and monitoring, and builds and sustains networks to generate long-term benefits for the Gulf region and the nation.