Applicant's Next Steps – Tier 2

Boating Infrastructure Grant Program
Notice of Funding Opportunity Requirements

This document will guide you through the next steps of your Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) grant application. All applicants must submit the information required through PRISM Online, our online project data system.

For complete federal notices please visit GRANTS.GOV - Federal Opportunity Number: F17AS00215.

Step 1: Applicant Submits an Application by July 5, 2017

PRISM Data Fields

Log into PRISM Online, open the application you have already started, and make any revisions necessary. Use the "Check Application for Errors" button on the "Submit" screen to make sure you have completed everything.

Required PRISM Attachments

To be considered for funding under this funding opportunity, an application must contain the following information. Applications must be formatted to fit on 8.5" X 11" paper, with 1" margins at the top, bottom, and both sides, and page numbers at the bottom of the page. Fonts must be no less than 12 point Arial, Times New Roman, or other commonly used font.

In accepting Federal funds, you must comply with all applicable Federal laws, regulations, and policies. If we select the application for award, you will need to provide evidence of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and other Federal laws as part of the post-award approval process.

- ❑ **Evaluation: Project Summary (1 page maximum).** Briefly summarize the project, in one page or less. Include the title of the project, geographic location, and a brief overview of the need for the project. Goal(s), objectives, specific project activities, anticipated outputs and outcomes can also be included in this section.

- ❑ **Evaluation: Project Statement (10 pages maximum).** A concise project statement that addresses the following elements must be included in the application. In general, the project statement must provide sufficient information so reviewers may verify that the proposed activities are eligible for funding and substantial in character and design. Please see the WSFR Standard Project Statement Wiki for general examples and guidance.

Images that show existing structures and facilities, the proposed BIG-funded facility, and relevant details, such as the number of transient slips or the amenities for eligible users should be included in the **Evaluation: Packet Visuals** attachment (see below).

1. *Need*: Explain why the project is necessary and how it fulfills the purpose of BIG;
    a. Describe existing facilities available for eligible vessels at your location and near the proposed project;
    b. Describe how the proposed project fills a need or offers a benefit not offered by existing facilities;
    c. Give information to support the number of transient boats expected to use the facilities in the proposed project area and demonstrate why existing facilities are insufficient to meet demand;
2. *Purpose*: State the ultimate purpose for the proposed project and link the purpose to the demonstrated need;
3. *Objectives*: Identify specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) objectives to be accomplished during the project period. Please see the WSFR Standard Project Statement Wiki for examples;
4. *Results or benefits expected*: Describe the expected results or benefits from accomplishing the objectives;
    a. Describe each capital improvement (see § 86.3), service or other product that will result from the project;
    b. Describe how the structures, service, or other products will address the need(s) and benefits for eligible users;
5. *Approach:* Describe the approach to be used in meeting the objectives;
    a. Describe the methods, designs, and/or procedures to be used to achieve the objectives, providing enough information on the status of required permits or other compliance requirements (National Environmental Policy Act, Section 7 of Endangered Species Act, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act) for us to make a preliminary assessment;

b. Identify the project officer who has or will have detailed knowledge of the project, state whether she or he is the Federal Aid Coordinator for the State agency, give the contact information, and state whether he or she has signatory authority for committing the grantee to a course of action;

c. Give the name, contact information, qualifications, and role of each known concessioner or subgrantee;

d. Explain how you will exercise control to ensure the BIG-funded facility continues to achieve its authorized purpose during the useful life of the facility;

e. Provide a timeline of activities;

6. *Relationship with other grants:* Describe any relationship between the proposed project and other related work funded by Federal grants that is planned, anticipated, or underway.

❑ **Evaluation: Written Criteria Responses (12 pages maximum).**

Criteria: Criteria for reviewing and ranking BIG Tier 2 applications are in the Final Rule for BIG (50 CFR 86.51) published May 6, 2015 in the Federal Register. There are a total of 36 points possible per application. Please see Attachment A for frequently asked questions and clarifications to the ranking criteria. You must fully address the following criteria to demonstrate that the proposed BIG project will:

(a) Meet a Documented Need, Improve Eligible Boater Access, and Demonstrate Cost Efficiency (20 total possible points.)

(1) Will the proposed boating infrastructure meet a need for more or improved facilities? (0–10 points)

In evaluating a proposed project under this criterion, we consider whether the project will:

a. Construct new boating infrastructure in an area that lacks it, but where eligible vessels now travel or would travel if the project were completed;

b. Renovate a facility to improve its physical condition, follow local building codes, improve safety, or adapt it to a new purpose;

c. Create accessibility for eligible vessels by reducing wave action, increasing depth, or making other improvements;

d. Expand an existing facility that is unable to accommodate current or projected demand by eligible vessels; or

e. Make other improvements to accommodate an established need.

(2) Will eligible users receive benefits from the proposed boating infrastructure that justify the cost of the project? (0–7 points)

In evaluating a proposed project under this criterion, we consider the total cost of the project, the benefits made available to eligible users, and the objectivity or reliability of the data and information used to demonstrate benefits relative to costs. Relate costs and benefits to the need for the project (See § 86.43(a)). We may consider the availability of preexisting structures and amenities, but only in the context of the identified need. As costs vary depending on local factors, we do not use a cost per slip to compare projects. Describe in your application any factors that would influence costs such as:

a. The need for specialized materials to meet local codes, address weather, future sea level rise, or terrain, or extend useful life;

b. Increased transportation costs due to facility location; or

c. Other factors that may increase costs but support needed benefits.

Describe any costs associated with providing a harbor of safe refuge, if applicable.

(3) Will the proposed boating infrastructure accommodate boater access to significant destinations and services that support transient boater travel? (0–3 points)

In evaluating a proposed project under this criterion, we consider:

a. The degree of access that the BIG-funded facility will provide;

b. Activities, events, or landmarks near the facility, how well known they are, how long they are available, and how likely they are to attract boaters to the facility.

c. The availability of services and the degree of safety at and around the facility, the ease of access to these services, and how well they meet the needs of eligible boaters.

(b) Meet Match Requirements and Demonstrate Partnerships (10 total possible points)

(1) Will the proposed project include private, local, or State funds greater than the required minimum match? (0-7 points)

As given in § 86.56, we will award points under this criterion as follows. Please note that, while in-kind services and materials may be included in the minimum 25 percent match requirement, your proposal will only be scored on this criterion for additional cash match.

Percent Cash Match	Points
26–30	1
31–35	2
36–40	3
41–45	4
46–50	5
51–80	6
81 or higher	7

(2) Will the proposed project include contributions by private or public partners that contribute to the project objectives? (0–3 points)

Partners may include non-Federal entities such as subgrantees, private businesses, other State agencies other than the primary recipient of BIG funds, non-profit organizations, or Federal agencies other than the Service. To be considered a partner, the entity must commit a financial or in-kind contribution or take a voluntary action that is necessary for, and directly and substantively contributes to, completion of the project. See § 86.55 and § 86.57 for additional guidance. In evaluating proposed projects under this criterion, we consider:

a. The significance of the contribution to the success of the project;

b. How the contribution supports the actions proposed in the project statement;

c. How the partner demonstrates its commitment to the contribution; and

d. The demonstrated ability of the partner to fulfill its commitment.

(c) Demonstrate Innovation and Environmental Stewardship (6 total possible points)

(1) Will the proposed project include physical components, technology, or techniques that improve eligible user access? (0-3 points)

In evaluating a proposed project under this criterion, we consider whether the project will increase the availability of the BIG-funded facility for eligible users or improve eligible boater access to the facility. Describe whether you will be:

a. Using a new technology or technique;

b. Applying a new use of an existing technology or technique;

We will consider if you choose to complete the project using an optional or advanced technology or technique. If you choose to go beyond the minimum technical requirements for a project component, you must describe the current standard and how you will exceed the standard. We will not award points for following standards set by law.

(2) Will the proposed project include innovative physical components, technology, or techniques that improve the BIG-funded project? (0–2 points)

In evaluating a proposed project under this criterion, we consider if the project will include physical components, technology, or techniques that are newly available, or repurposed in a unique way. Examples include components, technology or techniques that:

a. Extend the useful life of the project;

b. Are designed to help save costs, decrease maintenance, or improve operation;

c. Are designed to improve services or amenities for BIG-eligible users;

d. Reduce the carbon footprint of the facility;

e. Reduce negative environmental impacts (beyond compliance requirements); or

f. Improve facility resilience.

(3) Has the facility where the project is located demonstrated a commitment to environmental compliance, sustainability, and stewardship and has an agency or organization officially recognized the facility for its commitment? (0–1 points)

In evaluating a project under this criterion, we consider if the application documents that the facility has received official recognition for its voluntary commitment to environmental compliance, sustainability, and stewardship by exceeding regulatory requirements. The official recognition must be part of a voluntary, established program administered by a Federal or State agency, local governmental agency, Sea Grant or equivalent entity, or a State or Regional marina organization. The program must require the facility to use management and operational techniques and practices that will ensure it continues to meet the high standards of the program and must contain a component that requires periodic review. The facility must have met the criteria required by the program and received official recognition by the due date of the application.

- ❑ **Evaluation: Packet Visuals (20 Page Limit).** Your proposal will be scored, in part, on the quality of the access you provide for eligible boaters to significant destinations, services, and other amenities. In addition to addressing the project location generally in the Project Statement, please provide additional context by visually depicting the following visuals/graphics, which should include a north arrow, scale, and labels for any major highways, roads, cities, water bodies, etc.:

  1. Site development plan that shows the proposed improvements at the site. Development site plans should show project boundaries, major site features, and proposed project elements. Existing and future elements should be distinguished from those in the current project. Master, schematic design, development design, and construction document level plans are suitable for development site plans.

  2. The location of the project site using Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates in the following format: *degrees:minutes:seconds*;

  3. All existing structures, facilities, and amenities; use photos (ground shots and aerials), to adequately display the site and proposed improvement areas;

  4. All proposed project components;

5. Clearly marked areas that are for (1) eligible transient recreational vessels, (2) areas that are for others, and (3) areas that are for shared use;

6. Water depths (before and after planned dredging, if applicable);

7. If dredging is proposed, you must include an aerial photograph or schematic drawing to indicate the specific area(s) you intend to dredge;

8. Measurements for all docks, bulkheads, breakwaters, and other features where boats will be accommodated;

9. Any other information that will assist reviewers to identify project components, prorating criteria, or other factors involved with ranking.

10. A small State map that shows the general location of the project;

11. A local map that shows the facility location and the nearest community, public road, and navigable water body;

12. Maps or images that show proximity or distances to significant destinations, services that support eligible users, terrain considerations, access, or other information applicable to your project;

13. Any other map that supports the information in the project statement.

- ❑ **Budget Narrative.** Explain and justify all requested budget items and costs. Demonstrate a clear connection between costs and the proposed project activities. Describe resources you used to develop cost estimates for your project. Describe any item that under the applicable Federal cost principles requires the Service's approval and estimate its cost. If Federally-funded equipment will be used for the project, provide a list of that equipment, including the Federal funding source. Please also address the following:

  - **Match and other partner contributions:** Identify the cash and in-kind contributions that you, a partner, or other entity contribute to the project and describe how the contributions directly and substantively benefits completion of the project. See §§ 86.32 and 86.33 for more information.

  - **Contingency Costs:** Contingency costs estimated using broadly-accepted cost estimating methodologies are permissible but must be separately identified in your budget, they must comply with federal cost principles, they must be necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient accomplishment of project or program objectives, and they must be verifiable from your financial records (2 CFR 200.433). Explain how any contingency costs were calculated and why they are necessary to improve the precision of your budget estimates.

- **Proration:** Costs for facilities that will benefit operators of boats other than transient recreational vessels at least 26 feet long must be prorated. Common examples of costs that often must be prorated include fuel docks, restrooms and showers, retaining walls, bulkheads and breakwaters, pumpout stations, dredging, and other features that are expected to partially benefit ineligible users. You do not need to allocate costs between user groups when you propose to construct, renovate or maintain facilities solely for eligible users, or when you propose to produce information and education materials. This list is not exhaustive; therefore, contact your RCO grants manager if you are unsure of the need to prorate a cost, or if you believe proration is not required based on the following information. For each discrete project component or element, clearly state:

    a. The basis or method you used to allocate costs between eligible and ineligible users. For example: Your facility has slips for 100 vessels, and 20 are dedicated for transient recreational vessels. Your prorating basis would be 20 percent. If you propose to construct a wave attenuator that will benefit the entire facility, you may only charge 20 percent of the construction costs of the wave attenuator to the project.

    b. Your reasoning and evidence supporting use of this method. Include relevant documentation to validate your basis for allocating costs between eligible and ineligible users, such as facility use records or trends.

    c. When prorating is not necessary. If a proposed facility, component, or element which is primarily designed to benefit eligible users happens to provide a secondary, tangential benefit to ineligible users, or if the value of a project component or element is $5,000 or less, you do not have to prorate costs. For more guidance, see § 86.19. However, we recommend that you fully explain your approach in the application as uncertainty regarding how you prorate costs can negatively impact your score.

  Note: After you submit your proposal, we may contact you to clarify your proration basis or method, or to negotiate a more equitable allocation prior to award.

- **Program Income:** Program income is gross income earned by you or your subgrantee that is directly generated by a grant-supported activity, or earned as a result of the grant, during the grant period. Estimate the amount of program income that the project is likely to generate (see § 86.90). If necessary, indicate the method or combination of methods (deduction or addition) of applying your expected program income (see § § 86.77 and 86.78 for more information). You should request the Regional Director's approval for the additive method prior to the deadline and include documentation of your method and approval in this section and in attachments. Note that program income which is not approved for use as additive prior to the obligation of BIG funds will be applied using the deductive method.

- **Equipment**: Provide a list of equipment to be purchased with BIG funds, if any. Typically, equipment includes tangible personal property having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost of $5,000 or more. See 2 CFR 200.33 for more information.

- **Useful life:** Estimate the useful life in years of each capital improvement for the proposed project. A capital improvement is typically a structure that costs at least $25,000 to build, or a repair or renovation of a structure costing at least $25,000 that increases the structure's useful life by 10 years or more (see § 86.3). If awarded funds, you will be required to explain how you estimated the useful life of each capital improvement. You must reference a generally accepted method used to determine useful life of a capital improvement; however, your estimates do not need to be certified by a licensed engineer or other professional. You may be required to revise or adjust useful life estimates during the approval process. See §§ 86.73 and 86.74.

❑ **RCO Fiscal Data Collection Sheet.**

❑ **Assurances for Construction Programs – 424D** (development projects only). Applicants must provide a signed copy of this federal standard form.

❑ **Authorizing Resolution/Application Authorization** to show the application is supported by the elected council or commission, board, or executives of your organization. You must adopt the text verbatim even if you choose to use your own format.

❑ **Certification of Applicant Match** to show what amounts and sources of match you have in hand for the project.

❑ **Control and Tenure** Documentation (development projects only). Include property ownership information such as a deed, and any applicable lease, easement, or use agreement. See *Manual 4, Development Projects*, for additional details about control and tenure.

❑ **Map: Area of Potential Effect** (development projects only) shows the geographic areas where a project may change directly or indirectly the character or use of historic properties or archaeological resources. The map must include a polygon of the entire project area and should show location-identifying features such as section, township, and range. For most projects a topographic base map is most appropriate, though in dense populated urban settings an aerial base map can be used.

- ❑ **Photograph.** All applications require at least one general project photograph in .jpg format. A current ground shot or aerial view of the project site is appropriate.

Note that letters and other documented expressions of project support submitted with the application will be made available for advisory committee review. Applicants also may summarize this support when responding to the evaluation questions.

Also note that except for a few protected items, such as cultural resources data or confidential appraisal documents, as soon as you start your application, it and most attachments will be available for review by RCO staff, evaluators, and the public.

Step 2: Technical Review – July 20-28, 2017

RCO sends your application to the advisory committee for review. RCO also reviews the application for eligibility, completeness, and clarity and then returns the application with committee feedback, questions, or suggested changes.

Step 3: Re-Submit Application by Technical Completion Deadline August 15, 2017

- ❑ Applicants address issues raised during technical review and make modifications, if needed.
- ❑ Applicants must complete all revisions and resubmit the application in PRISM Online by the technical completion deadline or the application will be deemed ineligible.

Step 4: Evaluations – National Review Panel – September 2017 – April 2018

RCO's director will approve the list of Tier 2 proposals to be sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service without state evaluation. Once the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's regional office accepts an application, it is sent to the National Review Panel. The panel scores and ranks projects and submits a funding recommendation to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service director, who makes the final funding decision, anticipated in spring 2018.

RCO then announces the results of the evaluation and posts the preliminary ranked lists on its Web Site.

Step 5: Applicants Submit Pre-Agreement Materials – Summer 2018

- ❑ Applicants provide information necessary to complete federal permitting, including NEPA, Section 106 (cultural and historic resources), Section 7 (Endangered Species Act), and Corps of Engineers.
- ❑ Applicants provide any other requested pre-agreement materials as required by RCO or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Step 6: Grants Awarded and RCO Issues Agreements – Fall 2018

- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approves the grant awards and notifies RCO.
- RCO works with the applicant to execute a project agreement before work begins.
- Applicants review other RCO policy manuals:
    - *Manual 7, Funded Projects*
    - *Manual 8, Reimbursements*
- Applicant participates in a Successful Applicant Webinar; then completes the project.

Attachment A: BIG Program Questions and Answers

1. ***How can I use BIG funds for dredging? Does it have to be only for dredging in the direct route from open water to the slips?***

   The BIG final rule allows for a maximum of $200,000 in BIG Federal funds per year for dredging costs. This includes any and all costs associated with dredging, so you cannot receive more than $200,000 by requesting permitting, engineering, disposal, etc. costs related to dredging in other parts of the grant proposal. You may receive the maximum $200,000 BIG Federal funds for a BIG Tier 1-State grant, a BIG Tier 2-National grant, or both.

   If a State receives a grant award under BIG Tier 2-National that includes $200,000 in Federal funds for dredging ($266,666.67 total with match), and the actual dredging costs exceed this amount, it is permissible for a State to use a BIG Tier 1-State grant to supplement Tier 2-National award.

   The dredging must support the project, but can be anywhere in the basin. You must state in your application how the dredging is necessary and reasonable for completion of the project and meeting the objectives of the project.

2. ***May I use BIG funds in the future for maintenance dredging?***

   Yes. However, remember there is no guarantee of future funding and you still must commit to maintaining the dredged area for the useful life of the project. You may use either BIG Tier 1- State or BIG Tier 2-National funds for maintenance dredging. Use of BIG Tier 1-State funds for dredging is a State-level decision; BIG Tier 2-National funds are nationally competitive and may not score well if maintenance dredging is a primary purpose unless the applicant clearly identifies compelling reasons for it.

3. ***Are services such as food service, retail, or lodging considered eligible boating infrastructure facilities for this program?***

   No. BIG will not fund services or structures for food service, retail, or lodging. This includes ship stores, food courts, and hotels.

   BIG can fund restrooms and laundry facilities for boaters piloting transient recreational vessels 26 feet or greater in length. You must prorate costs for these facilities to account for any use by others.

4. ***Are parking lots and access roads adjacent to boating facilities for transient, recreational vessels eligible costs?***

   No. Parking lots, access roads, walkways and other surface areas damaged as a direct result of BIG-funded construction may be repaired, but new construction or renovation of these components is not an eligible cost.

5. ***I want to "get the word out" about my BIG-funded facility. Can I do anything using BIG funds?***

   Yes. Public communication, which may include advertisements, magazine articles, web site information, etc. are allowed only when the focus of the message is the BIG program and/or the BIG-funded facility. The majority of the communication must focus on the BIG-funded project and services or amenities for eligible transient boaters and cannot focus on the agency or the marina in general.

6. ***Can I fund a pumpout or floating restroom with BIG funds?***

   Yes. However, you must prorate costs if a proposed facility will be used by anyone other than boaters operating transient recreational vessels 26 feet in length or longer.

   We encourage you to use Clean Vessel Act (CVA) funding for pumpouts and floating restrooms, as available. A State may require a pumpout be funded through the CVA Program.

7. ***What does it mean to record the Federal Interest on my property? Does this put a lien on my property?***

   Recording a Federal Interest on the property attaches a notice to the deed that alerts interested parties that the property contains a project that was paid for in part with Federal funds, and therefore the Federal government has an "interest." It is not a lien. It does however, show that there is an interest that the current, or future owner of the property must continue to fulfill according to the terms and conditions of the BIG grant.

8. ***Are applications that propose to fund only engineering studies and other planning efforts eligible for BIG funds?***

   Yes, we may award BIG funds for projects that involve only engineering, economic, environmental, historic, cultural, and feasibility studies, as well as other activities necessary for the planned construction of facilities for transient boaters. We list these as eligible activities for the program (50 CFR 86.11).

   The Service will accept and score applications that include only these activities in anticipation of the development of transient boating opportunities. However, since these applications do not include the development of transient boating facilities they will likely receive lower scores and are unlikely to be funded with Tier 2 – National funds.

   We encourage applicants to consider using BIG Tier 1 – State funds for this type of preliminary work or contact the Regional Office to discuss other possible funding strategies.

9. ***May I purchase land, or an interest in land, with BIG funds?***

No, land acquisition or an interest in real property (fee simple, easement, lease) is not an eligible cost under the BIG regulation.

10. ***May I use the value of existing boating infrastructure as non-Federal match?***

Generally you may only use the value of any structure completed before the beginning of the period of performance as match if the Service approves the activity as a pre-award cost.

11. ***May real property serve as the State match? May I use BIG funds for leasing land, buying an easement, or other real property transactions?***

Match may not include any real property interest in land or water, including existing riparian rights. Land or water, or any interest in land or water, is not an eligible cost.

12. ***What do we consider real property?***

Real property as defined at 2 CFR 200.85 is "land, including land improvements, structures and appurtenances thereto, excluding movable machinery and equipment."

13. ***How do I allocate (pro-rate) costs between eligible and ineligible uses?***

Unless the proposed boating infrastructure will benefit only transient recreational boaters operating vessels 26 feet or more in length, you must show in your application how you divide project costs between eligible and ineligible uses. You must do this for costs of all discrete elements and major components in your project. You must tell us the basis or method used to determine what percentage of use is for eligible users and what percentage is for ineligible users. Explain your reasoning. Some examples of methods used may be equipment usage records, square footage or number of slips, vessel surveys, etc.

14. ***What about not having to prorate for secondary benefits?***

This consideration is only for components where the primary benefit is 100% for eligible vessels/users. We recommend if you have a component that meets this standard and it also has a secondary benefit that is not strictly for eligible users, you contact your Regional WSFR Office to discuss. Your Regional Office will advise if the secondary benefit is significant enough to require you to allocate (pro-rate) costs. If we determine that the component significantly benefits both eligible and ineligible users, we will expect you to pro-rate costs. Failure to do so may result in your application not being scored.

15. ***What if a component has a low value as discussed in § 86.19(c)(3)? Do I need to allocate (pro-rate) costs?***

We generally expect that all costs will be appropriately allocated. However, if the value of a project component or element is $5,000 or less, you do not have to prorate costs. If you have a component that has a value under $5,000 and you would like to take advantage of this option, you should contact your Regional WSFR Office to discuss prior to submission of your proposal. The component must be clearly stand-alone and not a smaller part of a larger component. Be advised that if, when the project is completed the cost ends up being above the $5,000 threshold, you are responsible for the increased cost and cannot charge the excess to the grant.

16. *What parts of the application may I discuss/negotiate/change after the due date?*

There are three basic items that we may discuss with you after the due date and we may ask you to make changes to your application as a result of discussions/negotiations after the due date:

1) How you allocate (pro-rate) costs;

2) Useful life estimates; and

3) Clarifications/incorrect information and project scope as described in 50 CFR 86.46.

17. *How long do I have to finish my project?*

We must obligate BIG funds through an approved grant within three Federal Fiscal Years from the beginning of the award year. Example: for FY 2018 awards, we must obligate by September 30, 2020. We will assign a grant start date during this time. From the assigned start date, you have three years to complete the project. If justified, you may request up to a two-year extension. One more extension is available, but must be approved by the WSFR Regional Director and Assistant Director.

18. *How much detail must I give for useful life in the application?*

By the application deadline, you must give an estimate of useful life for all discrete components of your project. This information must briefly state how you derived the useful life information you give. You do not need reports or complicated methodologies at this stage. After you are notified you have received an award, you may be asked for more information.

However, if you are requesting consideration for points under criterion § 86.51(c)(2), you must give more detailed information. You must discuss how the technology, approach, equipment, etc. you propose using in your project will extend the useful life of the project. You must provide credible information to show how the useful life will be extended over other technology, approaches, equipment, etc.

19. ***What if there is a component of my project that costs less than $25,000? How do I assign a useful life?***

Per § 86.74(a)(1)(iv), all auxiliary components of your project must be associated with the capital improvement it supports. If it supports more than one component, then choose the one with the longest useful life. That component will then assume the useful life as associated with the capital improvement it supports.

20. ***Must my project display the Sport Fish Restoration symbol and/or credit the program some other way?***

Yes. You may use various methods of communication to credit the Program and identify the funded facilities. When your project is completed, you must show us how you credit the Sport Fish Restoration Program for your project and identify BIG-funded areas or components.

21. ***I want to charge more than the closest marina does for user fees. This is because I will have more amenities and the higher fees will help us maintain the facility.***

The rule requires you to charge reasonable fees based on the prevailing rates for a marina in your area with similar amenities. If you offer more benefits, services, etc. than other marinas in your area, you may charge higher fees. If you are a subgrantee, you must request State approval for a change in fees or to charge a higher fee than the prevailing rate in your area.

22. ***I'm required to give public access. Does this mean that once the project is completed, I can let anyone use it?***

No. The project is only for eligible users, except where components have been identified as mixed use and pro-rated accordingly. You may allow use by others only if their use does not interfere with the intended purpose of the facility. Public access means that you must be open for reasonable hours, allow access to all parts of the BIG-funded facility and associated amenities and services, and not discriminate against any eligible users.

23. ***Who should I contact if I have additional questions?***

Contact your RCO grants manger