

Division of Boating and Waterways

August 13, 2020

REPORT: Update on Aquatic Center Programming
PRESENTER: Amy Rigby
SUBJECT: DBW Aquatic Center Grant Program

Summary

The Aquatic Center Grants Program provides funding to organizations that offer on-the-water boating safety courses to the public that emphasize practical handling skills, boating laws, rules of the road, equipment requirements and other boating safety information.

Funding can be utilized to purchase boating equipment, provide scholarships for courses, for staff training, and to fund staffing and events associated with National Safe Boating Week.

Application Deadline: Fall 2020 for funding from the 2020/21 federal appropriation.

Application Procedure: Applicants are required to submit a complete application via DBW's online grant application system. Applications are then evaluated competitively and funding is awarded.

FY 2019-20 Funding: A total of \$1,000,000 was awarded to 38 grantees.

Typical Grant Amount: The average award during the last funding cycle was \$26,000. The annual funding cap is \$40,000 per organization with the potential for an additional \$2,000 available for participation in events related to National Safe Boating Week.

Funding Source: Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund administered by the United States Coast Guard.

Eligible Grant Recipients: Colleges or universities, local public agencies, and non-profit organizations.

Restrictions: Funding cannot be used for permanent structures. Courses must have an on-the-water component and be open to the public.

Accomplishments/Planning:

During the 2019 calendar year, over 55,000 people received training in classes conducted by aquatic centers funded through this grant program. Approximately 4,000 people attended National Safe Boating Week events at 19 centers. An additional 100,000 people received boating safety information at other events sponsored or attended by these grantees.

The grant application scoring and ranking, the grant agreement, program guidelines and reimbursement procedures were all revised during the FY19/20 funding cycle. Grant applications were reviewed and scored by an independent review team.