

Division of Boating and Waterways

August 12, 2021

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, staff training, and to fund staffing and other costs for events associated with National Safe Boating Week.

Application Deadline: October 29, 2021, for funding from the 2021/22 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 2020-21 Funding: A total of \$1,565,000 was awarded to 46 grantees.

Typical Grant Amount: The average award during the last funding cycle was \$34,000. The annual funding cap is \$60,000 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, or 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.

2020 Accomplishments/2021 Planning:

Despite Covid-19 restriction, delays, and cancellations, about 32,000 people were able to receive training, in keeping with the safety guidelines. While 2020 National Safe Boating Week events were cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions, some events were able to be held later in the year or remotely.

DBW continues to refine the application and scoring matrix that was extensively revised for the FY 19/20 grant cycle to ensure that independent reviewers can ascertain the merits of each request and assign scores according to the intent of the funding.