

CSCRC 2021 Project Stipend Overview

The NOAA funded "Citizen Science, Civics, and Resilient Communities" ([CSCRC](#)) project is pleased to make available one-time stipends to 20 recipients selected through a competitive application process. The purpose of the stipend is to support the implementation of the CSCRC project, which includes engaging public participants in active learning about climate hazards through citizen science, deliberative forums and resilience planning. This project is led by the Museum of Science, Boston in partnership with SciStarter, Arizona State University (ASU), Northeastern University (NEU), and the National Informal STEM Education Network (NISE Network).

These partners will work with 20 stipend recipients to connect a set of deliberative forum modules that will engage participants in active learning and resilience planning about four natural hazards (extreme heat, sea level rise, extreme precipitation, and drought) with citizen science activities selected in close collaboration with resilience planners.

If selected as a CSCRC site, you will receive a \$2,000 stipend to cover some of the costs associated with planning and implementing a local citizen science campaign and deliberative forum. A resource you may find beneficial is the [Forums Manual](#), which is a great tool for planning and organizing a forum. All the climate hazard forum materials can be viewed and downloaded [here](#). An additional resource you may find valuable is the [NOAA Community Resilience Education Theory of Change](#).

COVID-19 Statement: Due to COVID-19, holding in-person deliberative forums may not be an option for your state or local area. Over the past year, the Museum of Science (MOS) and team has worked on creating a virtual forum using Zoom. If you are accepted as a site, you will have two options to choose from based on your preference and state guidelines:

1. Participate in a nation-wide virtual forum coordinated and run by MOS.
 - a. Four national forums will be held; one forum per hazard (extreme heat, sea level rise, extreme precipitation, and drought). Your site and participants would attend the forum for the hazard you selected.
2. Run your own local virtual or small in-person forum.
 - a. MOS team will help with technical and Zoom support.

TIMELINE

December 1, 2020 – Application opens

January 15, 2021 - Application deadline

February 15, 2021 - Applicants to be notified of award status

February - March 2021 – Stipend awardees participate in training webinars held by MOS

April - June 2021 – Stipend awardees design and implement local citizen science projects

April - June 2021 – Stipend awardees hold virtual individual local forum or participate in virtual national forum

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to as a CSCRC site and receive a stipend, an institution must be:

- Informal science education institutions; such as science museums, science centers, natural history museums, children’s museums, zoos, nature centers, aquariums, botanical gardens, and public planetariums and observatories; or
- Academic and/or College or University outreach centers
- Located in the United States

Priority will be given to institutions that have prior experience in one or more of the following:

- Hosting deliberative forum programs
- Education programs about climate resilience topics
- Participating in citizen science activities

Please note that K-12 schools, afterschool programs, libraries, and locations outside of the United States are **not** eligible. Consider downloading digital materials if your organization does not meet eligibility criteria. Digital forum materials can be found on the [forum archive](#) and all citizen science projects can be viewed on [SciStarter.org/NOAA](https://scistarter.org/NOAA).

DIGITAL MATERIALS

Digital versions of the forum materials will be available online as a free download for anyone to use. We will support the use of the materials across the network through trainings and/or webinars that will engage anyone, including network partner institutions, that are not selected to receive a stipend.

Forum Materials:

- <https://www.mos.org/pes-forum-archive/noaa-forum>

Citizen Science Materials:

- <https://scistarter.org/noaa>
- This project page will be updated as the project progresses.

Additional resources you may find beneficial:

- Museum of Science’s pilot year [CSCRC project around extreme heat](#)
- [Forums Manual](#), a great tool for planning and organizing a forum
- [Public Engagement with Science Guide](#), designed to help informal science educators develop, implement, and evaluate events that incorporate multi- directional dialogue and mutual learning.

ORGANIZATION EXPECTATIONS

If selected as a CSCRC site, you will receive a \$2,000 stipend to, with guidance and support from Core Project Partners (MOS, NEU, SciStarter), complete the following:

- Participate in online trainings run by MOS and our project partners
 - Three, hour long training sessions: overview of the project, how to engage your audiences in and coordinate citizen science projects, and how to run a virtual forum.
- Consult with local resilience planner(s) to:
 - Select one climate hazard: Sea Level Rise, Extreme Heat, Drought, or Extreme Precipitation
 - Select relevant citizen science activity(s)
 - It is encouraged to use an existing citizen science project. In the definitions section below there are some examples of projects to fit with the climate hazards.
 - Recruit a community of local citizen scientists
 - Implement citizen science program
 - Create and disseminate a visual summary of local citizen science data, with assistance from MOS and partners
 - Establish a plan for using data within community
- Coordinate a forum event for your climate hazard using already created MOS [Climate Hazard Resilience Forum Materials](#) from the previously funded NOAA project.
 - If you are accepted as a site, you will have two options to choose from based on your preference and state guidelines:
 - Participate in a nation-wide virtual forum coordinated and run by MOS.
 - Four national forums will be held; one forum per hazard (extreme heat, sea level rise, extreme precipitation, and drought). Your site and participants would attend the forum for the hazard you selected.
 - Run your own local virtual or small in-person forum.

AUDIENCES

Eligible intended audiences are:

- The same audience should be invited to participate in all three project deliverables; citizen science project, deliberative forum, and evaluation.
- The deliberative forum is designed for audiences ages 16 and up.

- We recommend aiming the citizen science campaign for youth and adults, ages 16 and up.
- Evaluation for youth under 18 will need guardian consent.

Reaching specific local audiences:

- Underserved populations, such as marginalized populations vulnerable to climate impacts, particularly persons of color and low-income populations.
- Vulnerable populations that have been historically stigmatized within STEM disciplines.
- Youth populations.

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions are used for this project:

Climate hazard:

- Your proposed project must fit into one of four climate hazard categories: extreme heat, sea level rise, extreme precipitation, and drought. Each site will focus on at least **one** of these climate hazards to focus on for this project. All proposed plans should fit within that **one** climate hazard.
- All the climate hazard forum materials can be viewed and downloaded [here](#).

Local resilience planner(s):

- Resilience planners are special representatives of the public who seek usable scientific information that can help inform choices they face in preparing their communities for current and future hazards.
- The resilience planner should help with choosing a climate hazard, recruiting and being involved in the citizen science project, and collecting the citizen collected data from the project.
- Examples of resilience planner(s) can be: town/city planners, state planners, or anyone who works on climate resiliency planning as their main job.

Citizen science:

- Citizen science is the collection of scientific data by members of the general public. Citizen science allows the general public to participate in scientific research, while increasing their own knowledge of science. The term “citizen” is used in a broad, inclusive way, and does not imply any citizenship among participants (*Eitzel et al., 2017; Strasser et al., 2019*).
- A note from the National Academies [Citizen Science report](#):
 - *“As a note, the committee uses the term citizen science because that is the term most commonly used within the scientific and science education communities to describe these activities. We recognize that the term “citizen,” particularly in the United States, connects to a contentious immigration debate about who is*

eligible to participate in civic life, including science and education. While other terms can be used to describe citizen science, such as community science, public participation in scientific research, participatory action research, and community-based participatory research, none of them is as complete or widely used as citizen science. The committee uses citizen science despite its associated tensions” [Learning Through Citizen Science: Enhancing Opportunities by Design](#) (2018), page 14.

- For this project, it is encouraged to use an existing citizen science project. Below are some examples of projects to fit with the climate hazards. You can find a full list of all citizen science projects here: <https://SciStarter.org/affiliates>. Designing your own custom program from scratch is not expected or required, however if you have a local citizen science project in mind for this project please give more details about it in the application.
- Suggested citizen science projects:
 - Drought - [Globe Observer Land Cover](#)
 - Sea Level Rise - [MyCoast](#)
 - Extreme Heat – [ISeeChange](#)
 - Extreme Precipitation - [CoCoRaHS](#)
- We will provide a review of these projects, along with alternatives and descriptions in the citizen science training after the stipends are awarded.
- For more information about citizen science and potential citizen science activities, visit [SciStarter.org](#) or <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/citizen-science/>.

Virtual Forum:

- Due to COVID-19, MOS has transitioned its forums into an online, virtual experience. We recommend planning for virtual programming in 2021. However, we will follow the latest scientific updates and consider any changes for the next year.
- The virtual forums will be held over Zoom, meeting style, using the Climate Hazard Resilience Forum Materials from the previously funded NOAA project.
- MOS will pay for the Zoom room and coordinate with the sites to set up the logistics of the forum. *You do not have to pay to buy or upgrade Zoom for this project.*
- As mentioned above, there are two options for the virtual forum:
 1. Participate in a nation-wide virtual forum coordinated and run by MOS.
 - Four national forums will be held; one forum per hazard (heat waves, sea level rise, extreme precipitation, and drought). Your site would participate in the forum for the hazard you selected.
 2. Run your own local virtual or small in person forum with your own team members.
- In both options your institution will be in charge of recruiting participants to the forum.

- If state/local guidelines allow, you may host a smaller, in person forum. We will coordinate with your site on how to safely do this.

EVALUATION & REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Recipients of a CSCRC 2021 Stipend must agree to participate in REQUIRED project evaluation including:

- Meeting with project evaluators prior to your activities to develop a schedule and plan
- Gathering email addresses of forum and citizen science participants and sharing those emails with the project evaluators (if participants use the SciStarter platform for forum registration and for citizen science activities, the platform will gather these emails automatically)
- Keeping the evaluators apprised of any changes to your activities, schedule, or approach for gathering email addresses.

BUDGET AND EXPENSES

Stipend recipients will receive a check of \$2,000 to cover staff time, benefits, catering and other applicable costs directly related to implementing the CSCRC project. Stipends may only be used for work directly relating to the project – indirect costs cannot be paid by the stipend.

Examples of eligible expenses

- Staff time – planning meetings, recruiting forum participants and citizen scientists.
- Audio/Visual – photography, videography, A/V. *You do not have to pay to buy or upgrade Zoom for this project.*
- Subsistence – participant food and non-alcoholic beverages during forum
- Honorarium for outside presenters (i.e., subject matter experts) to incorporate into a local climate hazard forum.
- Other – parking and incidental expenses for guest presenters

Ineligible expenses

- Stipend cannot be used to pay for indirect costs (overhead)
- Stipend cannot be used for alcohol
- Stipend cannot be used to pay participants to attend the forum
- Stipend cannot be used for any prizes or entertainment costs

Budget

The forum stipend is \$2,000. Stipend recipients will receive a check to help support staff time and benefits, subsistence for participants, and other applicable costs directly related to implementing the proposed CSCRC project. This is estimated project budget, it can be modified or changed.

The core project team may also provide certain physical materials to stipend recipients to support the implementation citizen science and/or forum activities. These materials, and the process for providing them, will be determined after stipends are awarded to selected recipients.

Be sure all blanks are filled, use "0" and "NA" as necessary.

	Amount (in dollars)	Brief description of expense
Salary		
Benefits		
Other		
STIPEND TOTAL	2,000	—

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications for a **CSCRC project stipend application** must be submitted online using Qualtrics by **January 15, 2021**:

- https://museumofscience.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2fukI4UY84PfJRP

Preview the application: The forum stipend application is an online process. Applications can be saved in the Qualtrics site, but we strongly suggest you write your responses in a Word doc, save, and then cut and paste that information into this application. You may download the application in a Word document format here:

- <https://www.nisenet.org/CSCRC>

SELECTION PROCESS

A total of 20 stipends will be awarded through a competitive award process. Applications will undergo a review process by the CSCRC project team and issue awards only to organizations that meet the eligibility criteria. Successful applications will demonstrate strong alignment with the goals of the CSCRC project, help achieve geographic and organizational diversity, and comply with the terms of the stipend. Priority will go to sites that have previously hosted deliberative forum programs, education programs about climate resilience topics and participated in citizen/community science activities.

Applicants will be informed of their award status in February 2021.

GOALS FOR THE PROJECT

As part of the project, we hope that participants will:

- Sustain engagement and increase environmental literacy among forum and citizen science participants
- Contribute citizen-created data, local knowledge and community values to local resilience planning efforts

Stipend awardees may be able to:

- Increase capacity among ISE institutions for convening and leading participatory activities to engage citizens in resilience planning and data collection
- Expand their existing forum program and/or increase their adult offerings
- Reach new audiences

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This material was prepared using federal funds under award NA18SEC0080008 from NOAA. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of NOAA or the US Department of Commerce.