



## **GULF RESEARCH PROGRAM**

National Academy of Sciences  
National Academy of Engineering  
Institute of Medicine  
National Research Council

Over its 30-year duration, the Gulf Research Program will work to enhance oil system safety and the protection of human health and the environment in the Gulf of Mexico and other U.S. outer continental shelf areas by seeking to improve understanding of the region's interconnecting human, environmental, and energy systems and fostering application of these insights to benefit Gulf communities, ecosystems, and the Nation.

## **Upcoming Funding Opportunity: Gulf Research Program Data Synthesis Grants – Award Year 2015**

**TOPIC: Tapping the Potential of Existing Observation and Monitoring Data through Integration and Synthesis**

### **Opportunity:**

The Gulf Research Program seeks innovative ideas on the use of existing data collected in the Gulf of Mexico and associated coastal communities to advance understanding of environmental conditions, ecosystem services, and community health and well-being, including community vulnerability, recovery, and resilience. A number of programs supported by different entities are monitoring the physical, environmental and health parameters in the Gulf of Mexico region for various reasons. The data derived from different sources or collected for different purposes have the potential to be synthesized and integrated to obtain novel insights or to increase the generality and applicability of scientific research. Data integration and synthesis can be applied within or across physical, environmental, health, social and other relevant disciplines and across professional sectors to improve understanding of the Gulf of Mexico as an ecosystem and of its dependent communities and people. Through this funding opportunity, the Program aims to expand the use and extend the lifespan of data collected in the Gulf of Mexico while advancing the [goals](#) of the Gulf Research Program as outlined in its [strategic vision](#).

A recent NRC workshop summary, [Opportunities for the Gulf Research Program: Monitoring Ecosystem Restoration and Deep Water Environments](#), describes how integration of observations and monitoring data in combination with predictive modeling could inform the planning of or decision-making for the numerous restoration activities being undertaken or planned for the Gulf of Mexico. The same summary also highlights the importance of increasing knowledge of Deep Gulf ecosystems in order to better protect their living resources as the Gulf's oil and gas industry increases its offshore exploration and production activities in the Deep Gulf. Therefore, this Request for Applications seeks to stimulate the use of existing observations and monitoring data to either

- Inform plans and efforts to restore and maintain the services provided by Gulf coastal ecosystems, or
- Enhance understanding of the Deep Gulf, or the connectivity of the Deep Gulf to the coast, including physical and biological connectivity to coastal communities.

More information about this opportunity is available at [www.nas.edu/gulf/datagrants](http://www.nas.edu/gulf/datagrants). To be notified when the online application opens in May 2015, sign up to receive email updates at [www.nas.edu/gulf](http://www.nas.edu/gulf) or scan the QR code (right).



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