



# Investing in America's Coasts

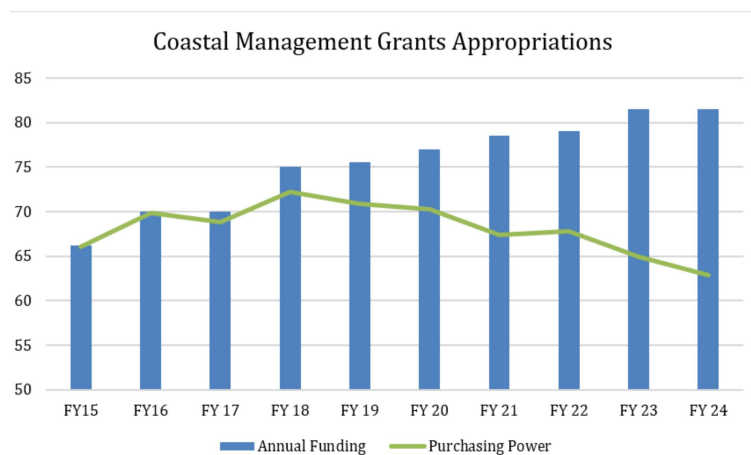
For more than 50 years, State and Territory Coastal Zone Management Programs have effectively tackled the country's most pressing and emergent coastal issues. The CZM Programs support the implementation of the Coastal Zone Management Act, which set out priorities such as effective management, beneficial use, protection, and development of the nation's coastal zone. Healthy and sustainably managed coastal resources support both business and conservation, allowing our coasts to be economic drivers today and into the future.

**FY 2026 Request:  
\$108.5 Million for Coastal Management Grants**

## Increasing Demands, Stagnant Funds

Year after year, the demands on CZM programs increase. Programs must address the continuously more complicated balancing of coastal dependent uses and challenges from coastal hazards, including sea level rise, increased coastal storm frequency, coastal flooding and erosion. To meet these needs, states and territories require sustainable investments from annual federal appropriations, which allow them to maintain and increase their core capacity and resources.

Unfortunately, annual appropriations for coastal zone programs have remained largely stagnant. Between FY 2002 and FY 2017, the appropriations for CZM Grants went up minimally from \$68.93M to \$70M. While there have been more recent increases in funding, with levels reaching \$81.5M in FY 2024, these funding levels have not kept pace with inflation or the increased costs of staffing and operating programs, requiring many programs to effectively run on a deficit. In fact, to meet the current need, an estimated \$133.4M in federal funds are needed.



## Supporting the Core Functions of Coastal Zone Management

CZM programs are a unique federal-state partnership. The federal government, under section 306/306a of the Coastal Zone Management Act, provides grants to states to support the administration and implementation of their state's federally approved coastal management plan. States, as required by law, match these funds dollar-for-dollar. These annually appropriated funds allow state CZM programs to hire staff, cover administrative and management costs (such as those associated with enforcing policies and issuing permits), acquire land, construct projects, maintain and refurbish waterfront infrastructure and more.

Other funding may at times be available for specific projects that go above and beyond the core objectives of CZM programs. However, sustainable funding for section 306/306a grants is necessary for CZM programs to fulfill their mandate under the law.

## 306/306A Funds for States

Funding for 306 / 306A is apportioned between the 34 states with federally approved CZM programs based on a formula that takes into consideration the total amount of state shoreline and the population within a state's coastal zone. In FY 2024, half of all coastal states received the maximum allotted amount, including Texas, Florida, North Carolina, New York, Michigan, California and Washington.