

Weighted Criteria for Evaluation of SECOORA LOIs*

The LOI must state succinct project goals and objectives aligning with the overall goals and priorities of the IOOS FFO and SECOORA request for LOIs. SECOORA staff will conduct this initial screening and noncompliant LOIs will be eliminated from further review.

1. Technical and Scientific Merit: 25%

LOI must demonstrate a credible scientific/technical approach or methodology to meet the objectives. Project team must be comprised of competent members with relevant education, scientific and technical experience.

2. Innovation, Efficiency and Effectiveness: 20%

- Innovation is determined as the extent to which the project will improve, develop or support new applications/products and/or reach new user groups.
- Efficiency and effectiveness are demonstrated by cost-saving and personnel sharing, data usage, etc.

3. Leveraging and Integration Potential: 15%

The LOI must also demonstrate opportunities for integration with other SECOORA activities. Projects that provide extra value by bringing, or having the potential to bring, non-IOOS resources to achieve SECOORA priorities are critical growth opportunities for SECOORA. LOIs should provide quantitative information of the value provided by the activity and/or collaborators including any other projects that are or have the potential to leverage the work that would be funded by SECOORA (as described in the LOI). Evaluation points will be given for demonstrating new integration or leveraging of non-IOOS funded activities.

4. User / Stakeholder Engagement: 20%

The LOI must demonstrate how the project team will directly engage and identify stakeholders, integrate with strategic partners, and result in products or activities that are supported and actively utilized by a significant number of users. LOIs will be evaluated on the extent to which collaborative science approaches are included as demonstrated by the end-to-end involvement of targeted audiences and/or end users, from proposal development to active participation in the study and/or results, potentially as co-investigators on the proposal itself.

5. Budget and Budget Justification- 10%

LOI budget must clearly identify annual costs, schedules and deliverables that demonstrate reasonableness and capability to meet the goals and objectives in the proposed time period.

6. Education and Outreach - 10%

LOIs must include descriptions of education and outreach activities that will be undertaken on behalf of SECOORA to ensure the benefits of the project are known to a broad audience and thus create a larger impact.

* Assumes LOI compliance with NOAA FFO throughout.