

## APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

NOAA generally makes financial assistance awards to institutions of higher education, state and local governments, private nonprofit organizations, and commercial organizations.

Eligibility requirements for financial assistance programs are contained in the authorizing legislation and program regulations. Applicants should consult the authorizing legislation, program regulations, and request for applications published in the Federal Register to determine what requirements apply.

Eligible nonprofit organizations which have not previously received NOAA support must submit proof of their status with the application for assistance. Any of the following is acceptable evidence of status:

- \* A reference to the applicant organization in the IRS's most recent list of tax exempt organizations under Section 501(c) of the IRS Code;
- \* A copy of a currently valid IRS tax exemption certificate;
- \* A statement from a State taxing body or State Attorney General certifying that the applicant organization has nonprofit status and that none of the net earnings accrue to any private shareholders;
- \* A certified copy of the organization's certificate of incorporation or similar document that clearly establishes nonprofit status; or,
- \* Any of the above proof regarding a parent organization if one exists, and a statement signed by the parent organization that the applicant organization is a local nonprofit affiliate.