

**Aquatic Center Grant Program  
Division of Boating and Waterways**

**August 7, 2025**

***Summary:***

The Aquatic Center Grants program provides grants to organizations that offer on-the-water boating safety courses to the public that teach practical boat handling skills, boating laws, rules of the road, equipment requirements, and other boating safety information.

Funding can be utilized to purchase boating equipment, provide student scholarships for courses, staff training, and for event costs associated with National Safe Boating Week.

***Application Deadline:*** Estimated to be October 23, 2025 for funding from the 2025-26 federal appropriation.

***Application Procedure:*** Applicants are required to submit a complete application via DBW's online grant application system. Applications are evaluated competitively in accordance with the federal funding criteria. Only the most competitive application requests are funded.

***2024-25 Program Accomplishments***

- A total of \$1,465,000 was awarded to 39 grantees.
- DBW grantees taught approximately 72,000 people on-the-water boating safety education.
- Fall 2024: aquatic center staff attended DBW's two in-person Aquatic Center Directors Meetings.
- Seventeen 2025 DBW-funded boating safety events were held and two others are scheduled for Fall.
- The Aquatic Center Grant Program webpage was updated to make it more user-friendly and to include assistance for new applicants in understanding program priorities, requirements, and the application process.

***Typical Grant Amount:*** The average award during the last funding cycle was \$37,500. Up to \$42,000 is available for organizations serving less than 1,200 students annually. Up to \$62,000 is available to organizations serving at least 1,200 students annually.

***Funding Source:*** Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund administered by the United States Coast Guard.

***Eligible Grant Recipients:*** Colleges or universities, local public agencies, or 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations.

***Restrictions:*** Funding cannot be used for permanent structures. Courses must have on-the-water instruction, be open to the general public occur in California, and limit competitive activities when using grant-funded equipment.