



Finance and Grants Committee
2024-2025 Final Committee Report
August 11, 2025

Chair: Sean Landon, Ohio

Committee Charter
NASBLA's Recreational Boating Safety Finance & Grants Committee focuses on best practice and resources for state RBS grants management and financial interactions with the U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety Division.

The 2024-2025 Finance and Grants Committee is assigned a total of five (5) charges for the 2024-2025 committee year. Sean Landon, OH serves as the committee Chair. The Vice-Chair position is vacant, and Wanda Roberts, GA is the NASBLA Executive Board liaison. Rick Barrera is the NASBLA Staff Contact.

FG 2025-1: Grant Cycle Process

Charge Leader: Al Johnson, VT

Needs Statement: For the purpose of reducing administrative time spent on the grant application and management process, produce best practice documents available for all states to use and reference when submitting grant applications, reports and required information to the USCG RBS State Program Grant Program. Work with the USCG to ensure all requirements are met. Assist in developing training opportunities around the grant application process. Work with the USCG to establish in-person opportunities for states to meet with USCG grant managers to review RBS grant narratives and applications (i.e., grant narrative, budget tool, equipment list, quarterly reports, PRPI, PRPII, registered vessel reporting).

Deliverable(s): Al Johnson, VT has developed a "Grant Cycle Crosswalk" to assist state/territories in their RBS Grant reporting that include due dates, checklists, contacts and timelines, etc. Al Johnson will be doing a breakout session on this at the Des Moines NASBLA Conference in September 2025.

Next Cycle Recommendation: Carryover. The committee will continue to work on fine-tuning the calendar, the Grant Cycle Crosswalk and a possible newsletter for state members, and continue in collaboration with the Coast Guard.

FG 2025-2: Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund

Charge Leader: None Assigned

Needs Statement: Develop resources and marketing materials (i.e., Dashboards) to aid the States in promoting their RBS programs and the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund. Assist the states in understanding where the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund money comes from, where it goes and how it is working for the States. Provide resources that educate the states.

Deliverable(s): Olivia Drown, AK, is working to convert a program into a usable rack card. At the present time she has run into some issues and will continue to work on it.

Next Cycle Recommendation: Carry Over. Continue the work that Olivia Drown is doing on the rack card.

FG 2025-3: Training:

Charge Leader: None Assigned

Needs Statement: Develop and facilitate virtual, in person, and on demand training for BLAs and financial and grant management staff on the RBS grant application process and how to maximize their federal and state dollars. Develop and launch an annual training survey to determine additional training needs.

Deliverable(s): Due to the USCG RBS Grant Applications being sent out late, no USCG training was offered this. The committee feels the Coast Guard needs to offer specialized in-person grant training or at least virtual grant training. With the number of new BLA's, the committee feels RBS training is warranted and needed. The committee's recommendation was sent in July 2025 to the Executive Board to contact the Coast Guard to express the need for the Coast Guard to provide specialized training either in person or virtually.

Next Cycle Recommendation: Carryover.

FG 2025-4: State Guide

Charge Leader: None Assigned

Needs Statement: Work with the states and USCG to continually review the State Guide for suggested improvements as needed. Determine and develop resources to be made available to state personnel for the understanding and implementation of the State Guide.

Deliverable(s): Coast Guard started the review process after the March in person meeting in Lexington, KY. There seemed to be confusion about how to proceed, so Joe McCollough, AK, Executive Board Chair put an Ad-Hoc Committee together. Their first conference call was June 27, 2025. Committee members consisted of F & G state members, Al Johnson, VT, Brian Bailey, IN, Sean Landon, OH, Jedidiah Steavens, CA, Olivia Drown, AK, Kirstie Ware, OK, Bonnie Toscano, TX along with Drew Brooks, AL, Danny Rodriguez, AZ, Phoebe Wallace, ID, Seth Wagner, USCG, Walt Taylor,

USCG, Wanda Robets, GA, Tom Guess, NASBLA CEO, Taylor Kirsch, NASBLA Chief Operating Officer and Rick Barrera, NASBLA F & G Staff Contact.

Next Cycle Recommendation: Continue this charge. The committee feels an ongoing responsibility to monitor the State Guide. On behalf of the states, they will suggest updates and identify training needs.

FG 2025-5: Develop a Mitigation of Compliance Issue for State/Territories to Contest a USCG Compliance Issue

Charge Leader: None Assigned

Needs Statement: There is already in place for states/territories to appeal to a USCG compliance issue regarding the RBS Grant. This Mitigation appeal process would consist of non-RBS Grant issues that states may encounter.

Deliverables(s): Committee developed a three-step appeal process and the NASBLA Executive Board approved it in July 2025. Next step is to contact the USCG, work out the details with them and notify states how the process will work.

Next Cycle Recommendation: Carry it over. Once finalized with the USCG, implementation and education to the states/territories will be needed.