

Nonprofit Organization Grants:

Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety
Recreational Boating Safety

Federal Grant Title:	National Non-Profit Organization Grant Program
Federal Agency:	United States Coast Guard
Funding Opportunity Number:	DHS-USCG-2022-001
Type of Funding:	Cooperative Agreement
CFDA Numbers:	97.012
CFDA Descriptions:	Boating Safety Financial Assistance

Grantee: JSI Research and Training Institute
Grant Number: 70Z02322MO0005072
Grant Title: 2022 National Life Jacket Wear Rate Study
Period of Performance: 3 year grant

Award Amount: \$240,000.00

Summary:

JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI) in Boston is submitting a proposal to conduct the 2022 National Life Jacket Wear Rate Study in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGAUX). JSI will use the same methodology as prior studies and continue to collect data at 124 water sites spanning 30 states (31 areas—2 areas in CA) to ensure valid comparisons to prior years' data. This year's proposal will continue the partnership with the USCGAUX; the USCGAUX will collect data in 20 states/areas and JSI will collect in 11 areas, the same as what was proposed and executed in 2019 and 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic prevented Life Jacket Wear Rate observations; therefore, data was not collected in 2020.

In this project proposal, JSI proposes a pilot test of additional fall data collection beginning with 5 states (TBD) observed by JSI in 2022. USCGAUX observations will begin the following year for a total of 10 states, 5 observed by the USCGAUX and 5 by JSI. In fall 2024 the USCGAUX will observe in 10 states and JSI 5 for a total of 15 states.

The National Life Jacket Wear Rate Study provides timely information on the progress that national, state and local programs are making to improve life jacket wear rates. As testament to its practical value, several states and local boating experts have requested data corresponding to their region, so they can better target their prevention efforts.

The most effective approach is to field this study on a yearly basis, since recruitment and training of volunteer USCGAUX observers requires considerable resources. By continuing annually, it increases the chance that a significant portion of experienced observers will participate each

year, reducing efforts to find replacements. Returning observers will submit higher quality data and will serve as a valuable resource for recruitment and training of new participants.

During past efforts, JSI developed a shorter e-Learning “refresher” course that is available to observers returning for a third year in addition to updating the e-Learning intended for new and second year observers. Over 200 individuals to date have been trained and certified to collect data through this course. Hosting the courses on-line enables trainees to view and interact with the training materials any time they wish within the months leading up to the observation period; it also allows JSI to support individual states/organizations that wish to expand local observation efforts. Final certification to collect data is provided by JSI, in concert with USCGAUX National Life Jacket Wear Rate Study leadership, after successful submission of a final exam. JSI upgrades the content, photographs and usability of the courses annually, taking into account trainee feedback at the conclusion of each study period.