



# Amplify benefits to the Commonwealth and the Chesapeake Bay from Virginia Sea Grant's Workforce & Professional Development Programs

**Troy Hartley**

*Director, Virginia Sea Grant*

VIRGINIA SEA GRANT PARTNER UNIVERSITIES





## Investing in People, Investing in the Commonwealth

- ▶ Funding **Education, Outreach, Research,** and **Technology Development** to solve problems in Virginia's coastal and marine communities.
- ▶ Investing in **People**, their **Capacity**, and giving them a life-long **Competitive Advantage** to solve challenging problems.
- ▶ Keeping **Students in Virginia**, with a **64%** retention rate.

### Commonwealth Fellowship Program

“We're trying to encourage folks who are just getting out of graduate school in resource management programs to identify state management jobs as potential career tracks. We need newer, younger folks to get into this field.”

Tony Watkinson  
*Habitat Management Division Chief, VMRC*

# Virginia Sea Grant Fellowships

VASG Graduate Fellowship • Commonwealth Fellowship  
Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship • NMFS - Sea Grant Fellowship

► **Fellows**, paired with **Real-World Mentors**, tackling Virginia's challenges.

► Advanced **Professional Development Training**,  
**Mentoring**, and **Alumni Coaching**.

► **30 - 35** new **Undergraduate, Graduate,**  
**and Post-Graduate** students added to  
the cohort every year.



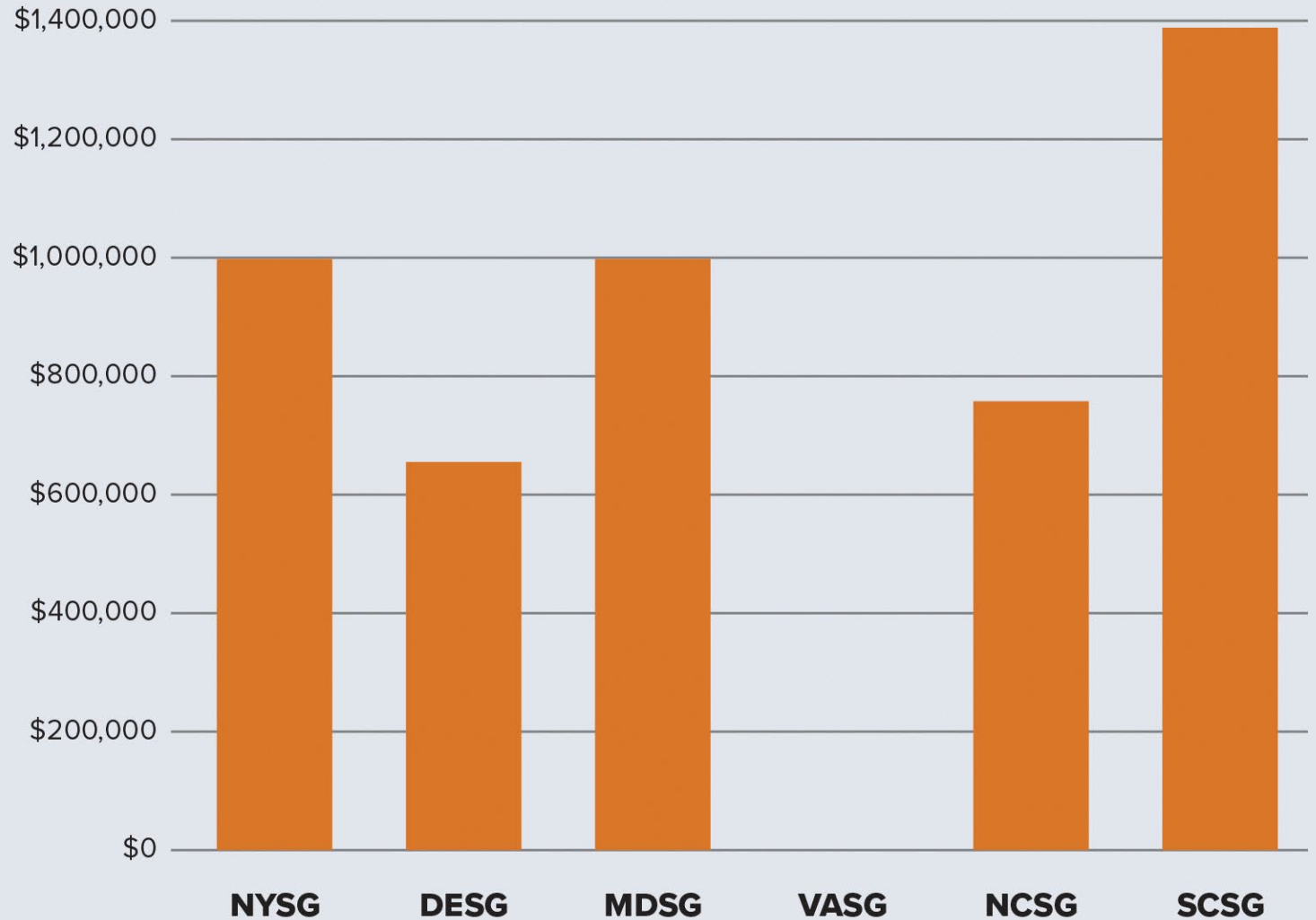
# FY 2026 Request: \$584,095 GF

The requested funds will:




- ▶ Support Virginia Sea Grant's Workforce Development and Professional Development programming.
- ▶ Expand fellowship offerings, including 5 post-graduate Commonwealth Fellows at state agencies to support Chesapeake Bay programming.
- ▶ Increase VASG's ability to compete with other states under NOAA's new funding model and secure more federal funding.
- ▶ Enhance the Commonwealth's economic competitiveness with neighboring states.
- ▶ Increase VASG's annual economic impact on the Commonwealth by at least \$4.8M, 32 businesses, and 205 jobs, based upon NOAA economic impact assessment methods. ROI will expand even more with any new competitively-secured federal resources.

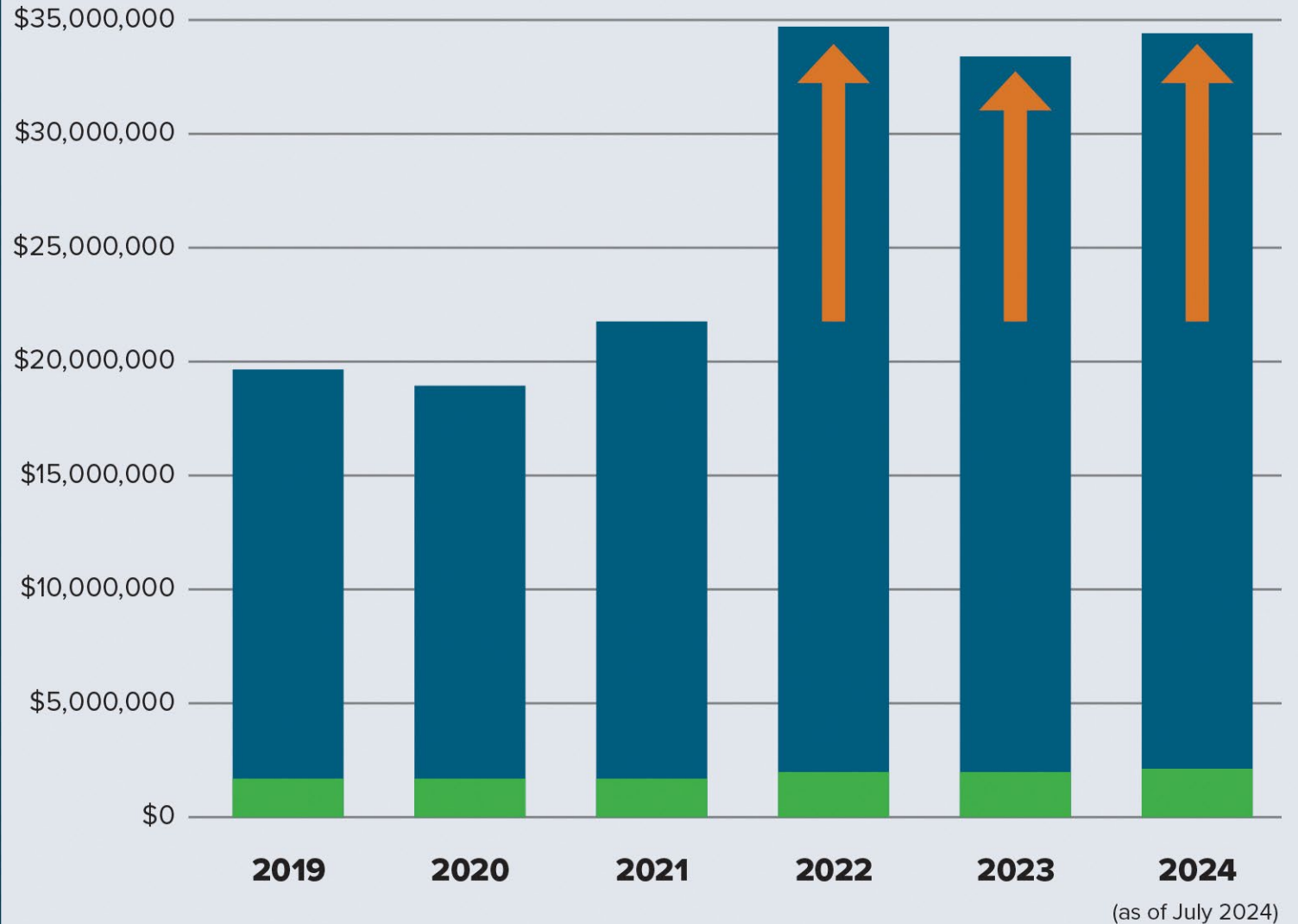
## State General Fund Investments in Neighboring Sea Grant Programs

- ▶ VASG currently receives NO direct state investment into our Sea Grant program.
- ▶ State dollars are critical for having the required non-federal “match” to pursue competitive federal funding.



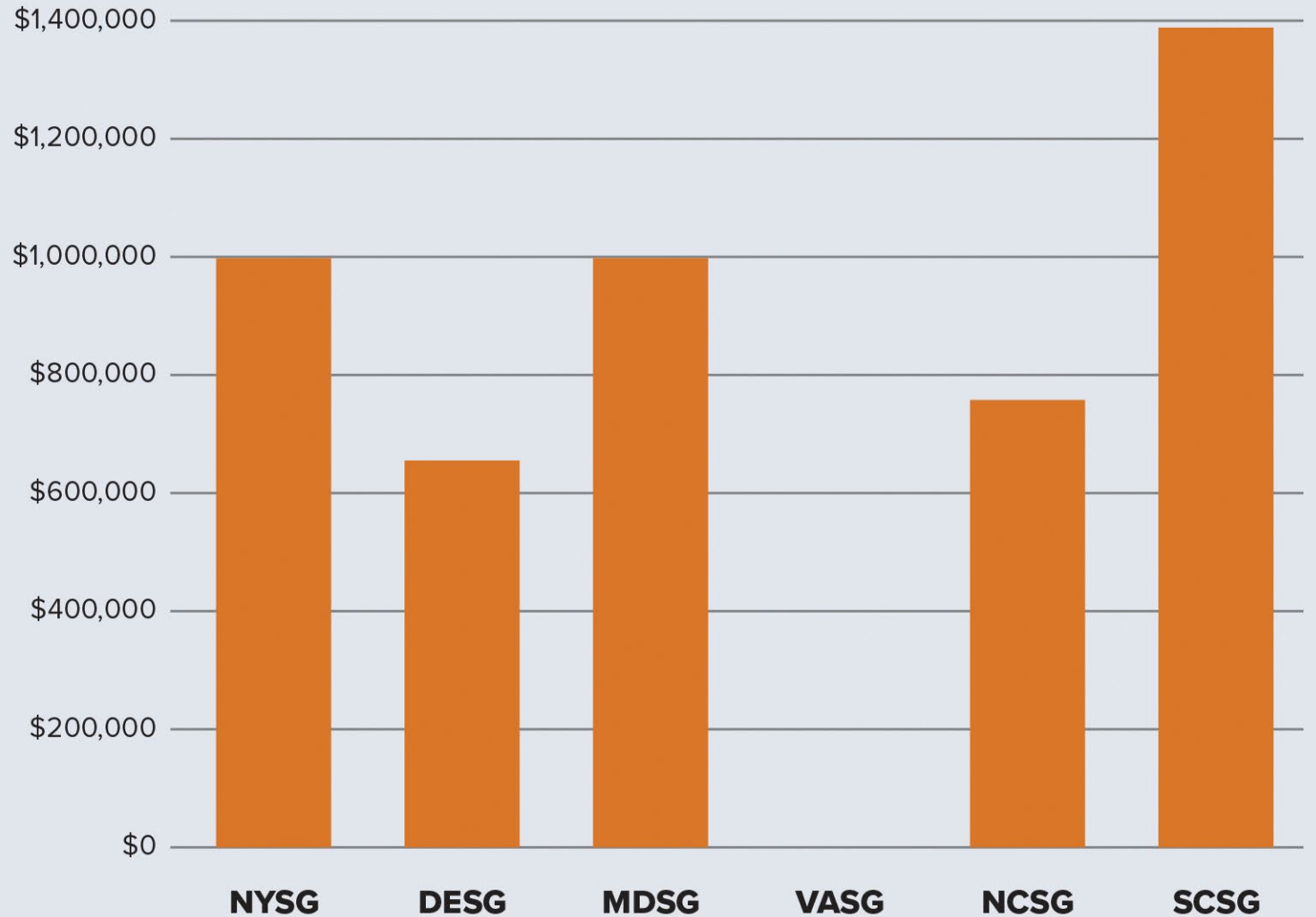
## Changing NOAA Funding Model: More SG Funding Offered Competitively

-  Competitive funding available only through SG programs.
-  Virginia Sea Grant Base Funding from NOAA.
-  67% more in available competitive funds between 2022 and today, compared to the prior three years.



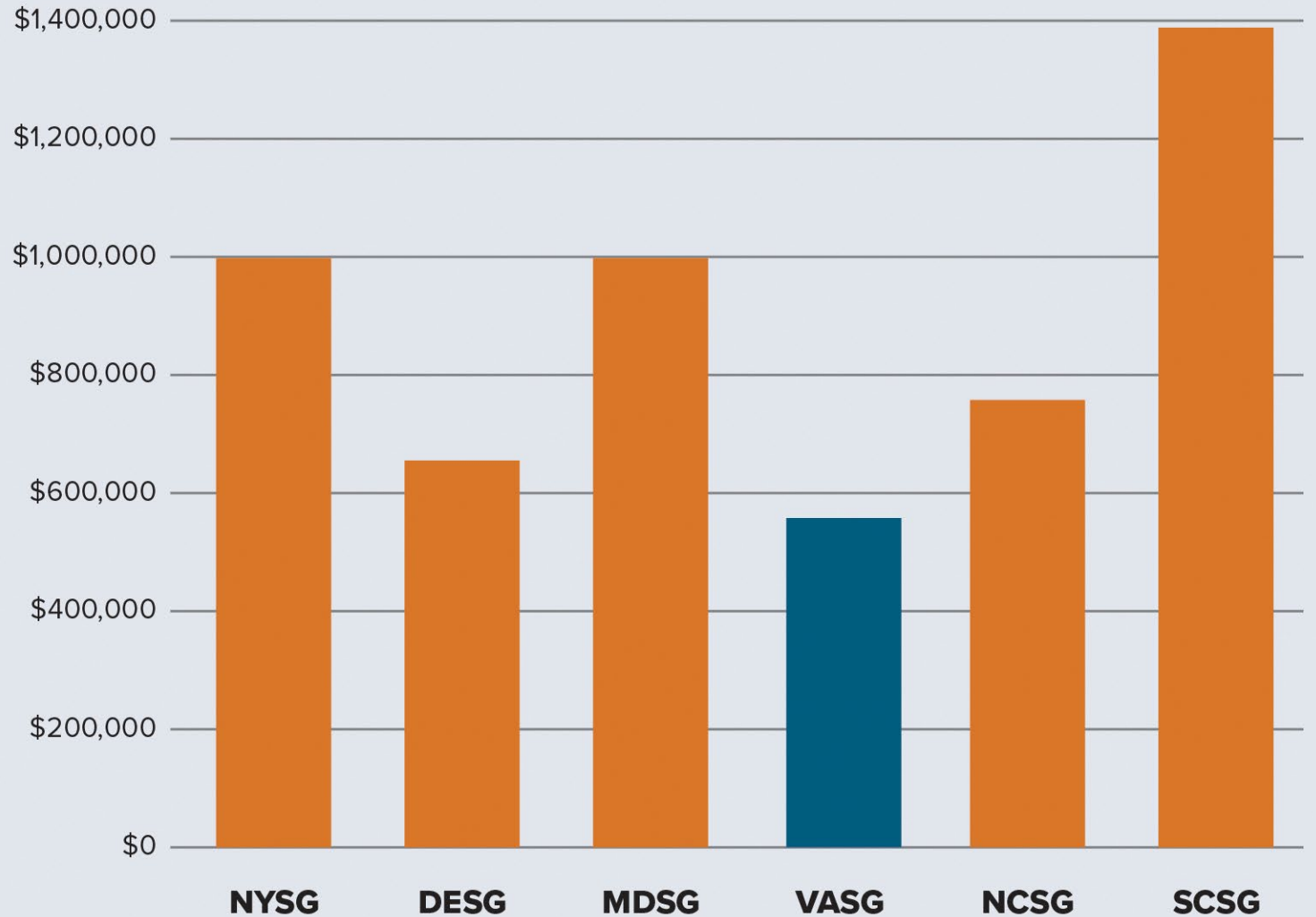
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# Sea Grant

VIRGINIA

# Thank You!

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