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Great Lakes Restoration Community Grant Program

2025 Grants - (GLRCGP 25)

Request for Applications (RFA)

Release Date: November 3rd, 2025

Letters of Intent (LOIs) are Due: Friday, January 16th by 5pm Central

LOIs will be accepted by on-line submission only. Apply using the GLRCGP RFA Page: [Great Lakes Restoration Community Grant Program](#). For all inquiries related to this RFA, contact: Jesús Sanchez, Restore America's Estuaries, or schedule a meeting <https://calendly.com/jsanchez-estuaries/45min><https://calendly.com/jsanchez-estuaries/45min>

Virtual Information Sessions will be held on the following dates in 2025 (all times are EST).

- **Wednesday, November 12th – 10:00 AM EST**
- **Thursday, November 20th – 1:00 PM EST**

To participate, see the GLRCGP25 RFA Page: [Great Lakes Restoration Community Grant Program ~ Restore America's Estuaries](#)

Contents of this Request for Application (RFA):

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1. Program Information:

About the Great Lakes Restoration Community Grant Program (GLRCGP)

Restore America's Estuaries is proud to lead a basin-wide Great Lakes Restoration Community Grant Program (GLRCGP). Our program is one of five Great Lakes Restoration Community Projects Grant Programs funded by U.S. EPA through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). The program's primary goal is to fund restoration projects in Great Lakes communities with environmental concerns in support of GLRI objectives and offer technical assistance and minimize administrative challenges associated with applying for and managing federal grant funds.

Our mission for the program is to promote community-centered environmental solutions throughout the Great Lakes Basin by providing support and facilitating the implementation of impactful projects. Many community-based organizations in this region may lack sufficient resources to apply, obtain, and oversee the implementation of federally funded grant projects. Through building capacity and technical assistance, GLRCGP will support access to federal funding for these organizations and communities.

Cities, states, Tribes and nonprofit organizations representing Great Lakes communities can apply directly to the Great Lakes Restoration Community Grant Program. Furthering the efforts of GLRI, these grants will fund a range of environmental protection and restoration projects directly impacting communities in the Great Lakes Basin. This investment will encourage significant environmental, economic, health, and recreational benefits for Great Lakes communities.

The Great Lakes Restoration Community Grant Program (GLRCGP) aligns with the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and supports the goals of GLRI Action Plan IV by addressing the following focus areas:

- Invasive Species
- Nonpoint Source Pollution
- Habitat and Species

Other funding considerations include:

- Project sustainability after completion

- Alignment with other strategic plans (e.g., [Areas of Concern](#), [Lakewide Action Management Plans](#), [Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement](#)). Note that certain activities, such as Areas of Concern (AOC) actions—including Management Actions or Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) Removal Actions—are **not eligible** for funding under the GLRCGP programs.
- Technical merit and project feasibility
- Eligible projects and activities will be community-driven, addressing the challenges and risks faced by Great Lakes communities affected by environmental issues.

About Restore America's Estuaries (RAE)

Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) is a national organization, dedicated to the protection and restoration of bays and estuaries as essential resources for our nation. RAE manages and administers the Great Lakes Restoration Community Grant Program to provide financial assistance, capacity building opportunities and training, and hosts an Annual Learning Exchange.

Geographic Focus

For the Great Lakes Restoration Community Grant Program (GLRCGP), the geographic region is defined as the U.S. portion of the Great Lakes Basin, encompassing areas within the Great Lakes watersheds boundaries.

Interactive maps of the eligible project area can be accessed at:

- [Great Lakes Facts and Figures | US EPA](#)
- [ArcGIS Great Lakes Watershed Boundary Map](#)

These maps provide detailed views of the U.S. watershed boundary and associated regions. Only organizations based in the United States are eligible to apply.

2. **How to Apply:**

RAE will select grantees through a two-step application process: an open Letter of Intent (LOI), followed by an invitation to submit Full Proposals. Both steps are competitive; RAE's request for a full proposal does not guarantee funding of that proposal.

Any eligible organization may submit an LOI or multiple LOIs. In consultation with an independent advisory committee and EPA, RAE will select LOIs for further consideration as Full Proposals. In some cases, RAE may suggest changes to the scope of work or budget in the LOI, to be included in the Full Proposal.

Full Proposals will be accepted by invitation only, following RAE evaluation of LOIs.

Similar to the process for LOI proposals, RAE will select Full Proposals for funding in consultation with an independent review committee and EPA. RAE may elect to partially fund proposals or may request other project modifications prior to finalizing awards.

LOI requirements are provided in **Appendix 1**, while **Appendix 2** describes requirements of Full Proposals. **Appendix 3** outlines the process by which RAE will evaluate and select LOIs and Full Proposals. Additional resources can be found on the **GLRCGP25 RFA Page**.

To be considered for funding, LOI and Full Proposal applications must meet the requirements outlined in this RFA and appendices, including federal grant requirements incorporated by reference.

Letters of Intent and Full Proposals must be submitted through the online portal (Euna Grants) accessed via the **GLRCGP25 RFA Page**. If you cannot access the online portal, please contact Jesús Sanchez, jsanchez@estuaries.org

In addition to the guidance provided in this document and on the **GLRCGP RFA** web page, virtual information sessions will be held on the dates noted below, with recordings available on the webpage. Attending informational sessions is highly encouraged as they will cover eligibility guidelines, program priorities, and review the application process. Additionally, prospective applicants may request individualized assistance from RAE by contacting Jesús Sanchez, jsanchez@estuaries.org. Schedule one to one appointments at: <https://calendly.com/jsanchez-estuaries/45min>

3. **Schedule (all times Eastern Standard Time):**

November 3, 2025 (Mon):	Letters of Intent (LOIs) released/announced
Wednesday, November 12th 10:00 am EST Thursday, November 20th 01:00 pm EST	Informational Webinars November 12 th Session Registration: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8Szminlhdc64s5g November 20 th Registration: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8C-usbYLKkw
January 16, 2026 (Fri):	LOIs due
February 23, 2026:	LOI decision notification emails sent; invitations to submit full proposals; Office hours for accepted applicants
April 17, 2026 (Fri):	Full proposals due
May 18, 2026 (Mon):	Full proposal notification emails sent

May – August 2026:	Rolling virtual announcements with projects after grant agreements; Feedback provided upon request; Office hours for accepted applicants
August 26, 2026 (Wed):	Subaward start dates

4. **Awards:**

Source of Funds

As part of the [Great Lakes Restoration Initiative \(GLRI\)](#), the Great Lakes Restoration Community Grant Program (GLRCGP) is part of the largest investment in two decades. All grants under the basin-wide GLRCGP will be awarded, overseen, and administered by RAE, which is responsible for sub-awardee selection, funding, and oversight.

Anticipated Awards

In 2026, RAE will award between \$2,000,000 and \$4,000,000 in federal funds through **Great Lakes Restoration Community Grant Program**. Typical awards will range between \$50,000 to \$750,000.

Funding Priorities

Projects are required to contribute to at least one of the following [GLRI Measures of progress](#)

- Acres controlled for invasive species to benefit habitats, native species and communities.
- Estimated pounds of phosphorus reductions from agricultural conservation practice implementation.
- Estimated gallons (in millions) of stormwater runoff reduced.
- Miles of Great Lakes streams and shoreline restored or protected.
- Acres of riparian buffers, wetlands and floodplains restored or reconnected.
- Acres of coastal wetland, nearshore and other habitats protected or enhanced.
- Miles of connectivity established for aquatic species.

Eligible projects may also include the following activities; however, projects focused solely on these elements **will not** be considered:

- Number of youth impacted through education and stewardship projects.
- Number of people trained through workforce development programs.

Examples of projects based on GLRI themes and implementation actions can be found here: **GLRCGP Project Case Studies – [Projects | Great Lakes Restoration Initiative](#)**

Period of Performance

The expected award date of **GLRCGP** subawards is **August 26, 2026**. Work must be completed by December 30, 2028. Projects must begin incurring costs against the grant within the first three months (first reporting period) following award.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible Applicants include non-profit organizations, Tribes, state, county, local governments, and their subdivisions, and academic institutions.

Federal agencies are not eligible recipients of funding but may be included as partners in proposals submitted by eligible recipients.

Proposals must target communities experiencing or affected by environmental and human health risks or harm. As such, all subaward projects should be community-driven or community-led.

Public-private partnerships are encouraged, consistent with competitive federal procurement requirements noted in **Appendix 4**.

Multiple Applications & Projects

Organizations may submit multiple LOIs or applications either as a lead organization, or as a partner on another organization's application. Multiple applications must be submitted separately, and each will be evaluated independently of other proposals.

Land Control, Permissions & Private Property

Most **GLRCGP**-funded projects take place on public land or waters; however, **GLRCGP** may fund work on private land or buildings where there is a clear public purpose in support of the priorities, and where the applicant can provide an assurance of lasting impact – for example, through a long-term operation and maintenance agreement, conservation easement, deed restriction, or other agreement with the landowner.

Applicants that are not the sole property owner must, prior to the award, demonstrate permission from the landowner(s) for any access, alteration and use necessary to complete the project. This may take the form of partnership commitments, letter(s) of permission, etc. Environmental permits do not need to be approved prior to award, but the applicant must demonstrate a clear understanding of permitting requirements and schedules in the application.

As with projects on publicly owned property, project sites on private land must include permanent signage acknowledging **GLRI/EPA/RAE** funding. Projects should not occur on federally owned property.

Achievement of EPA GLRCGP Project Metrics

Upon completion of a **GLRCGP-funded** project, applicants will be required to summarize results using the **GLRCGP** metric framework on the **GLRCGP25 RFA Page: [Great Lakes](#)**

[Restoration Community Grant Program ~ Restore America's Estuaries.](#) Projects will use metrics established by the [GLRI](#), under its Action Plan Summary. Projects need only to report on the subset of metrics directly relevant to the funded work. As needed, RAE will assist grant recipients in assessing the results of the work, for including in the final report. its Action Plan Summary. Projects need only to report on the subset of metrics directly relevant to the funded work. As needed, RAE will assist grant recipients in assessing the results of the work, for including in the final report.

5. **Use of Funds:**

GLRCGP funding may be used for typical project costs, including salary, fringe, contractual support, equipment, supplies, travel, and indirect costs. All grant payments will be made on a reimbursement basis except as described in Section 7. Working Capital Advance of this RFA. Section 6 describes ineligible uses of funds.

Indirect Costs

For organizations without a federal negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA), indirect costs may be reimbursed at a rate up to 10% of the modified total direct costs. For organizations with a current NICRA approved by any federal agency, indirect costs may be reimbursed according to the NICRA formula. **Appendix 5** explains calculation of indirect costs for **GLRCGP**.

Tools & Equipment

Under this program, RAE will consider funding tools and equipment such as hardware, software, monitoring technology, durable equipment, and heavy equipment, where such investments support the implementation of GLRCGP goals and objectives. Equipment is defined as durable goods with a unit cost of more than \$5,000.

Conferences and Travel

Applicants are encouraged to budget for travel to share lessons and results of projects with regional and national practitioners aligned with **GLRCGP-funded** projects. Subawardees should plan to attend GLRCGP's Annual Learning Exchange, held within the region. Travel expenses to share knowledge at other meetings may also be allowable. All travel-related costs should be included in proposal budgets, including airfare, lodging, registration fees, ground transportation, and any other associated travel expenses

6. **Ineligible Uses of Funding:**

GLRCGP may not be used for certain purposes under this solicitation. However, **GLRCGP** can fund eligible components of a larger project that may include ineligible components funded by other means.

The following uses of funding are ineligible for **GLRCGP25**:

- **Research and Monitoring:** GLRCGP25 will not fund proposals whose primary purpose is research, monitoring, or planning; however, these activities may be supported as components of a larger project when their purpose is to assess or demonstrate the outcomes and impacts of the grant-funded work. Applicants should clearly describe the role of such activities as well as how it informs the achievement of GLRI metrics and project goals.
- **Actions Legally Required:** GLRCGP25 will not fund actions required to settle a formal enforcement action or included in a court order; nor will it fund actions required as mitigation measures under a state, local, or federal permit for a specific project.
- **Routine Maintenance:** GLRCGP25 will not fund work involving only routine activities to maintain stormwater infrastructure, other facilities, land, or waterbodies.
- **Conventional “gray infrastructure” projects:** GLRCGP25 will not fund conventional infrastructure projects using well-established technologies or methods (e.g., installation of sewer lines).
- **Private Construction:** GLRCGP25 will not fund new construction or retrofitting of buildings or facilities serving primarily private purposes, including residential, commercial, and institutional properties.
- **Land Purchase:** Purchase of land or real estate will not be funded.
- **Lobbying:** GLRCGP25 will not fund proposals that involve any attempts to influence the outcomes of any Federal, state, or local election, referendum, initiative, or similar procedure, through in-kind or cash contributions, endorsements, publicity, or similar activity.
- **Applications Focused Solely on Improving Access and Recreational Activities:** Proposals that only seek to enhance public access or recreational opportunities without a broader environmental benefit will not be funded.
- **Applications Focused Solely on Workforce Development Activities:** Standalone workforce development initiatives without a direct connection to GLRI measures mentioned in Section 4. Funding Priorities will not be eligible for funding.
- **Applications Focused Solely on Environmental Education.** Standalone education programs will not be eligible for funding.
- **Activities Occurring Outside the Historic Great Lakes Basin:** Eligible activities must take place within the U.S. portion of the Great Lakes Basin, which includes areas that currently drain into the Great Lakes system as well as historically connected watersheds. Activities occurring outside this defined geographic region will not be funded.
- **Activities to Evaluate or Achieve Management Actions in Great Lakes Areas of Concern:** Proposals that are solely focused on evaluating or achieving management actions within designated Great Lakes Areas of Concern will not be funded.

7. Working Capital Advance:

An obstacle to participation in many federal programs is the inability of the applicant to finance the first phase of activities. To reduce this obstacle, Restore America’s Estuaries has worked with EPA to provide Working Capital Advances. In the LOI and Full Proposal, applicants have the option to request a Working Capital Advance. Working Capital Advance can

cover initial expenses, enabling the applicant to complete the initial project activities and objectives effectively without an undue strain on the applicant's cash. The Working Capital Advance will also enable the applicant to be in an improved financial position to handle a cost-reimbursement payment method for the remainder of disbursements. The Working Capital Advance will only cover the first two months upon starting the project.

Applicants for a working capital advance must provide detailed documentation of expenditure at the end of the two months. If funds from the two-month budget are not spent, the subrecipient will inform RAE why the funds were not spent, and RAE will determine if the funds need to be returned or spent on another part of the project.

Reimbursable costs are costs in the approved subgrant agreement budget and follow the cost principles of the 2 CFR Part 200, Uniform Guidance. Disbursements are subject to funding availability and obligations under the agreement between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and RAE.

Request for Working Capital Advance will have no impact on the scoring of the application.

8. **Additional Resources:**

The **GLRCGP25 RFA Page:** [Great Lakes Restoration Community Grant Program ~ Restore America's Estuaries](#) is the primary on-line resource and portal for prospective **GLRCGP25** applicants.

Other resources that may be helpful in developing **GLRCGP25** applications are:

- [Great Lakes Restoration Initiative](#)
- [Projects | Great Lakes Restoration Initiative](#)

For questions about this RFA, contact Jesús Sanchez, Restore America's Estuaries, jsanchez@estuaries.org.

For additional assistance, schedule one to one appointment at: <https://calendly.com/jsanchez-estuaries/45min>

Thanks for your interest in the Great Lakes Restoration Community Grant Program.

We look forward to receiving your Letter of Intent!

End RFA; Begin Appendices

Appendix 1: Letters of Intent

Letters of Intent (LOIs) allow RAE to provide preliminary review of project ideas, in order to determine whether a full proposal will be requested and to provide comments to applicants.

The LOI must be submitted via the online portal found on the GLRCGP25 RFA Page: [GLRGP 2025 Request for Applications ~ Restore America's Estuaries](#). LOIs will be accepted beginning with a deadline for submittal by 5:00 p.m. EST on January 16th, 2026.

The following provides a guide to the content of the LOI that must be submitted via the online portal.

Section 1: Applicant Information

- Name of Applicant Organization (organization requesting GLRCGP funding)
- Role of Applicant Organization (may be project leader or fiscal agent)
- Project Leader: Name, organization, email, phone
- Application Point of Contact: Name, organization, email, phone

Section 2: Organizational Fiscal Information

- Employer Identification Number (EIN)
- Federal System Award Management (SAM) registration status and current expiration date. A SAM account can be created at no cost at sam.gov. For information about how to create a SAM, see our video on XYZ
- Applicant organization Unique Entity ID (UEI). The UEI will be automatically generated by your SAM account
- Note: EIN SAM information and UEI are not required for submitting the LOI but are required for the Full Proposal. Applicants can note that these items are “pending” when submitting the LOI. As it may take several weeks to complete these registrations, be sure to allow sufficient time to obtain them prior to the Full Proposal deadline
- Organizational Budget – The total dollar amount of the organization’s annual budget for the most recently completed fiscal year.

Section 3: Project Overview

- Name of Project (limit 150-word count)
- Brief Description of Project (limit 200-word count)
- Project Phase (select all that apply)
 - Pre-Implementation: Includes activities such as planning, design, data gathering, permitting, and modeling that are directly relevant to, and provide results that inform, the achievement of GLRI metrics, where applicants can describe a realistic pathway to implementation
 - Implementation: Activities that alter the physical and social environment: construction, installation, capacity-building, etc.
 - Other: If other, describe. (limit 30-word count)
- Attach a Map of the General Location (New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Great Lakes Watersheds)

- A map or maps of the proposed project area is required for all proposals except those which are region-wide in scope. Attach a single PDF file, standard letter size, 3 pages max., 10 MB max.
- You may supplement the map with a brief written description of project location, such as by a table of cities or counties and zip codes.
-
- List of Partner Organizations with brief descriptions of roles; note that formal letters of support are not required but will be required for final applications. ☐

Section 4: Cost Information

- Amount of Request
- Indicate need for Working Capital Advance.
- **Budget Note: Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs):** Funded projects that collect or utilize environmental data, water-quality models, or similar tools and information for decision-making, including most construction projects, are required to develop a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). If your project requires a QAPP, be sure to include costs for developing the QAPP in your budget. More information on QAPPs is provided in **Appendix 4** or contact RAE for assistance.
- There is no matching funds requirement

Section 5: Project Description

The online form provides space to clearly address the following questions. Each response is subject to a 250-word limit.

- **Problem:** Describe the problem or threat to the Great Lakes watershed ecosystem the project plans to address.
- **Impact:** Clearly explain how the proposed work will address the problem identified. What is the ultimate impact of the work, and how will it be sustained? Use both quantitative and qualitative measures as appropriate.
- **Alignment with the GLRI:** How does the proposal align within the themes and goals of the [Great Lakes Restoration Initiative](#). Which GLRI Measures of progress (listed on page 5; 4. Awards; Funding Priorities) does the project align with? (Refer to additional resources and examples in the **GLRCGP25 RFA Page: GLRGP 2025 Request for Applications ~ Restore America's Estuaries**)
- **Stakeholders:** Who will benefit from this project? Describe the communities, individuals or organizations that will benefit directly or indirectly. Will the project serve Great Lakes communities or groups? Demonstrate how this project will be community-led.
- **Work Plan:** Clearly describe the scope of work for your proposal. List the principal tasks, associated deliverables, and the period of performance for each. The work plan should also include a statement of project readiness describing the status of any planned or completed design, hiring, procurement, and permitting actions.
- **Engagement Approach:** Describe your approach to engage communities and stakeholders for the project, including principal tasks, products, and schedule. Describe your intended audiences, and how you will communicate with each. Audiences may be community, professional, regional, elected officials, etc.; most projects will benefit by targeting multiple audiences. Engagement activities should be clearly stated in both the Work Plan and the Budget.

- **Area of Work and Direct Impact:** Describe the area(s) directly affected by the work once completed. Include information such as natural features (e.g., watershed, habitat type, or ecosystem characteristics), relevant community information, and any other details that help contextualize the project's setting and relevance.
- **Project Team:** Describe the core project team and the role of each individual. All project team members should be accounted for in the project budget.
- **Real Estate Control and Permissions:** Applicants must state whether any kind of real estate permission or authorization will be needed to complete any stage of the project for which funding is requested. If so, documentation of permission will be required with the Full Proposal.

Section 6: Required Uploads

- **Map:** A map or maps of the proposed project area is required for all proposals except those which are region-wide in scope. Attach a single PDF file, standard letter size.
- **Proposal Budget:** A budget table is provided in the application and is required for all proposals.
-

Section 7: Certification

- Signature of responsible individual (name, job title, organization).

How to Submit a Letter of Intent

Go to the **GLRCGP25 RFA Page:** [GLRGP 2025 Request for Applications ~ Restore America's Estuaries](#) and follow the links to the online application. Applications must be submitted via this portal.

When you submit your application, you will receive a reply acknowledging receipt of the submittal. Save or print the reply for your records.

If you do not receive confirmation of receipt by the end of the first business day following the deadline, you must contact Jesús Sanchez, jsanchez@estuaries.org, as soon as possible to ensure acceptance of your application.

All applications must meet the deadlines listed above and must be completed at the time of submittal. In the event of documented transmittal problems, corrupted files, or other technology problems, RAE, at its discretion, will make every effort to accept applications that were submitted correctly but not received due to problems outside the control of the applicant. However, to minimize the chance that a proposal cannot be accepted, we encourage applicants to submit proposals with sufficient time to rectify these kinds of problems prior to deadlines.

LOIs that omit required elements, or which do not adhere to specified page limits will not be accepted or evaluated. RAE reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal on the basis of its sole determination that the proposal meets, or does not meet, program goals, objectives,

and requirements. RAE may request additional information from applicants prior to inviting Full Proposals.

End Appendix 1

Appendix 2: Full Proposals

As described in the RFA, Restore America's Estuaries will review all applicants' LOIs and select those which will be further considered for funding. These applicants will be invited to submit a Full Proposal. Full Proposals will be accepted by invitation only and must be submitted via an online portal that will be provided to selected applicants.

The Full Proposal follows a format similar to the Letter of Intent (LOI) but allows for a more comprehensive presentation of the project. It provides an opportunity to expand on the project description, answer key questions in greater detail, and present the final budget.

Additionally, the Full Proposal should include a timeline and milestones, outlining key phases of the project, deliverables, and expected completion dates. This timeline should clearly define major tasks, deadlines, and progress checkpoints to ensure accountability and successful project execution.

The Full Proposal application requires applicants to complete a brief project impact model and to identify expected project results based on established GLRCGP performance metrics as indicated in the [Great Lakes Restoration Initiative](#). More information on each of these can be found on the **GLRCGP25 RFA Page: [GLRGP 2025 Request for Applications ~ Restore America's Estuaries](#)**

RAE may request that the applicant make changes to the proposal as described in the LOI in order to submit a Full Proposal. In other cases, the proposal may evolve as more information becomes available. The scope and budget of a Full Proposal need not be identical to that described in the LOI but should be substantially similar.

RAE will provide complete information for submitting a Full Proposal to selected applicants.

End Appendix 2

Appendix 3: Decisions

LOIs and Full Proposals will be reviewed by the GLRCGP Application Review Committee, an independent advisory committee of individuals with expertise in environmental management, ecological restoration, and community development. RAE will consult with the Application

Review Committee and EPA prior to selecting LOIs for further consideration, or Full Proposals for funding. Following initial decisions, RAE may request additional information from applicants, or request changes to project scope and budget, prior to approving the next step.

Following the review of LOIs, RAE will invite Full Proposals from applicants whose proposals have been selected for further consideration and will notify applicants whose LOIs have not been selected. Feedback on LOIs will be provided to both applicants, those accepted and not accepted.

Following the review of Full Proposals, RAE will notify applicants whether they have been selected for a full award, partial award or not selected. Awards are not final until grant agreements have been executed.

GLRCGP Review Framework

LOIs and Full Proposals will be reviewed utilizing six major criteria: (Refer to scoring and evaluation documents in the additional resources section of the **GLRCGP25 RFA Page: [GLRGP 2025 Request for Applications ~ Restore America's Estuaries](#)**)

1. **Community Impact:** The project's potential to generate significant positive impacts on watershed ecosystems and community well-being. Emphasis should be placed on addressing community-identified needs, particularly within Great Lakes communities impacted by environmental harm and degradation, prioritizing those facing the greatest risks and challenges. Projects should demonstrate potential for long-term benefits through direct improvements or indirect contributions like planning and capacity building, enhancing ecosystem health, water quality, and resilience to environmental and other stressors.
2. **Alignment with Program Goals and Priorities:** Proposals are evaluated based on their alignment with GLRI Action Plan, contributing to priorities such as wildlife conservation, pollution reduction, and habitat restoration. Projects should clearly demonstrate how they address one or more GLRI measures of progress, strengthening community and advance environmental solutions. Capacity-building initiatives that support comprehensive watershed plans or collaborative approaches to ecosystem restoration are strongly encouraged to enhance long-term impact.
3. **Feasibility:** Feasibility assesses the applicant's technical and administrative capacity to successfully implement the project, with a focus on readiness, risk mitigation, and sound planning. Proposals must present a detailed implementation plan with clear timelines reflecting realistic expectations and minimizing potential delays. Preference is given to projects that are "ready to go," demonstrating a well-defined pathway to execution with strategies to overcome potential challenges and ensure sustainable outcomes.
4. **Creativity:** Proposals should focus on using proven and effective methods and technologies for technical implementation, while demonstrating creativity and innovation in overcoming resource constraints, engaging communities and partners, and designing transferable

approaches that can be replicated by others. Projects that strengthen collaboration and build capacity to operationalize effective practices are encouraged to maximize community and environmental benefits.

5. **Budget:** Cost-effectiveness and fiscal responsibility of the proposal in relation to anticipated outcomes. Proposals must include a detailed, well-justified budget that outlines realistic costs and demonstrates sound financial planning. Applicants should show clear alignment between project goals and resource allocation, ensuring that funding is maximized for impact. The applicant's past fiscal performance and capacity to manage grant funds will also be considered to ensure the feasibility and sustainability of the proposed work.

All applicants will receive feedback on their LOI or Full Proposal application upon request. While RAE works closely with the advisory committee and EPA in evaluating applications, final selection and funding decisions will be made at the sole discretion of RAE.

End Appendix 3

Appendix 4: Requirements of Funded Projects

This information is relevant to applicants once their final application has been accepted.

Reporting Requirements

Grantees must submit quarterly progress reports as well as a final report. Report requirements include cost tracking, programmatic reporting, and tracking of performance metrics. RAE will provide grantees with the format of interim and final reports upon award. Information in grantee reports will be used by RAE and EPA in public communication materials and performance reports.

Procurement Requirements

The source of **GLRCGP** is federal funding. Therefore, funded projects must adhere to federal requirements regarding contracting, sub-awards, and purchases. These include multiple bids for procurements above \$10,000 (2 C.F.R. 200), good-faith efforts to employ Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (40 C.F.R. 33.301), and Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements for construction activities (2 C.F.R. 200).

For more information on budget categories and procurement requirements associated with this funding, applicants should refer to:

Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreements online at:

<https://www.epa.gov/grants/best-practice-guide-procuring-services-supplies-and-equipment-under-epa-assistance-agreements>

Award Announcements

Grants will be announced at one or two public events (in-person or virtual) in Fall, 2026. Grantees are expected to participate in at least one of these events.

Collaboration

Grantees will be required to participate in an Annual Learning Exchange meeting during the period of the award, to be held within the region or online. Travel funds for these meetings may be included in proposal budgets. Grantees may be asked to participate in other regional GLRCGP events aimed at sharing progress and results with organizations throughout the region, including GLRCGP conferences and workshops.

Sharing of Data & Results

Grantees are required to make project data (including monitoring and modeling data), results, and other project information publicly available and readily shareable within one year of project completion. Should this present a problem with proprietary or personal information, contact RAE to discuss it in advance of application. Additionally, applicants are expected to share project information and results at the collaboration and technology transfer meetings described above.

Audits

Applicants with independent audits or audited financial statements must make them available to RAE within one month of receipt. RAE conducts periodic on-site audits of financial records and programmatic progress of all grantees.

Reimbursement

Reimbursement requests shall be submitted at least quarterly and at most monthly. As noted elsewhere, applicants must begin incurring costs against the grant within the first reporting period following the award.

Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs)

Many projects funded by **GLRCGP** will require a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) approved by EPA prior to starting activities in relation to the QAPP. This includes all projects that collect or utilize environmental data (including use of secondary data), water-quality models, or similar tools and information for decision-making. This also includes most construction projects.

RAE will recommend a preferred provider of QAPPs to grantees that don't have a provider. Draft QAPPs must be submitted 60 days prior to beginning work that triggers a need for a QAPP such as data collection, data use or to provide sufficient time for review. Grant recipients are responsible for development of an approved QAPP and must identify within the proposal the means by which they plan to complete the QAPP (for example, through contractual support or in-house). QAPPs, if required, must be approved within one year of grant award, and again, must be approved before any relevant work begins. RAE will assist grantees in coordinating QAPP submittals to EPA.

Requirements for QAPPs can be found at:

<https://www.epa.gov/great-lakes-funding/glnpos-quality-assurance-resources-site-grantees-supporting-great-lakes>

Applicants unfamiliar with the QAPP development and approval process may contact RAE for assistance in QAPP planning prior to proposal submittal.

Other Federal Cost Requirements

Costs under this grant must be reasonable, allowable, allocable, and necessary to the supported project in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E and must adhere to the general procurement standards set forth in 2 CFR 200.318 and “Consultant Fee Cap” set forth in 2 CFR 1500.9.

End Appendix 4

Appendix 5: GLRCGP25 Application Budget Example

The next page is an example of a budget. Refer to the instructions in this RFA to complete the budget application table provided in the application system. Contact RAE if needed for additional assistance.

GLRCGP EXAMPLE Budget Table (for illustration purposes only)

Federal Cost Category and Item	GLRCGP Request	Eligible for Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC)	Total Cost
a. Personnel (Staff of Grantee Organization Only)			
Staff Member Name or Title, # of Hours, Rate per Hour			
Habitat Coordinator, 500 hours @ \$40.50	\$20,250.00	\$20,250.00	\$20,250.00
Total Personnel	\$20,250.00	\$20,250.00	\$20,250.00
b. Fringe Benefits (Percentage for each staff listed in Personnel x total requested)			
Habitat Coordinator Fringe at 20%	\$4,050.00	\$4,050.00	\$4,050.00
Total Fringe	\$4,050.00	\$4,050.00	\$4,050.00
c. Travel (Event, number of trips, miles x rate, flight, hotel, conference registration, per diem)			
Habitat Coordinator + one staff travel to RAE Summit (see budget narrative for details)	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Total Travel	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
d. Equipment			
		NA	\$0.00
***Total Equipment	\$0.00	NA	\$0.00
e. Supplies (List each supply on its own line, quantity, cost per item)			
100 Water Quality Testing Kits at \$60 each	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00

Table Continued Next Page
GLRCGP25 Budget Table Template Continued

Total Supplies	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
f. Contractual (List each contract on its own line)			
QAPP Contractor, 30 hours at \$80 per hour	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00
Contractor to create community engagement website, 50 hours at \$30/hour	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Total Contractual	\$3,900.00	\$3,900.00	\$3,900.00
g. Note: No "Construction" Category			
h. Other (subawards, printing, rentals, participation stipends)			
Printed engagement materials, based on local print shop	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Signage, 2 signs at \$100	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Total Other	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
i. Total Direct	\$37,200.00	\$37,200.00	\$37,200.00
j. Indirect Rate (List 10% or NICRA)	10% (no NICRA)		
Total Indirect Cost (MTDC x 10% or NICRA)	\$3,720.00		
k. Total Cost (Direct + Indirect)	\$40,920.00		\$40,920.00

*** Items fully or partially excluded from MTDC calculation – See Appendix 5

Add Budget Notes to the Excel spreadsheet as needed here.

End Appendices

Thanks for your interest in GLRCGP2

