



RESTORE
AMERICA'S
ESTUARIES



Great Lakes Restoration Community Grant Program

Informational Webinar

Agenda

- Introduction to Program Partners
- Overview of the Great Lakes Restoration Community Grant Program (GLRCGP)
- Eligibility
- Use of Funds
- Application Process & Deadlines
- Resources
- Q&A



List of Acronyms

GLRCGP - Great Lakes Restoration Community Grant Program

EPA - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

RAE - Restore America's Estuaries

GLRI - Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

AOC - Areas of Concern

RFA - Request for Applications

LOI – Letter of Intent

- **Great Lakes Restoration Community Grant Program (GLRCGP)** is a partnership among:
 - Restore America's Estuaries
 - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 - Junction Coalition
- **Purpose:** To provide technical and financial assistance that fosters healthy Great Lakes communities by addressing environmental concerns and improving the quality, sustainability, and accessibility of the Great Lakes region.



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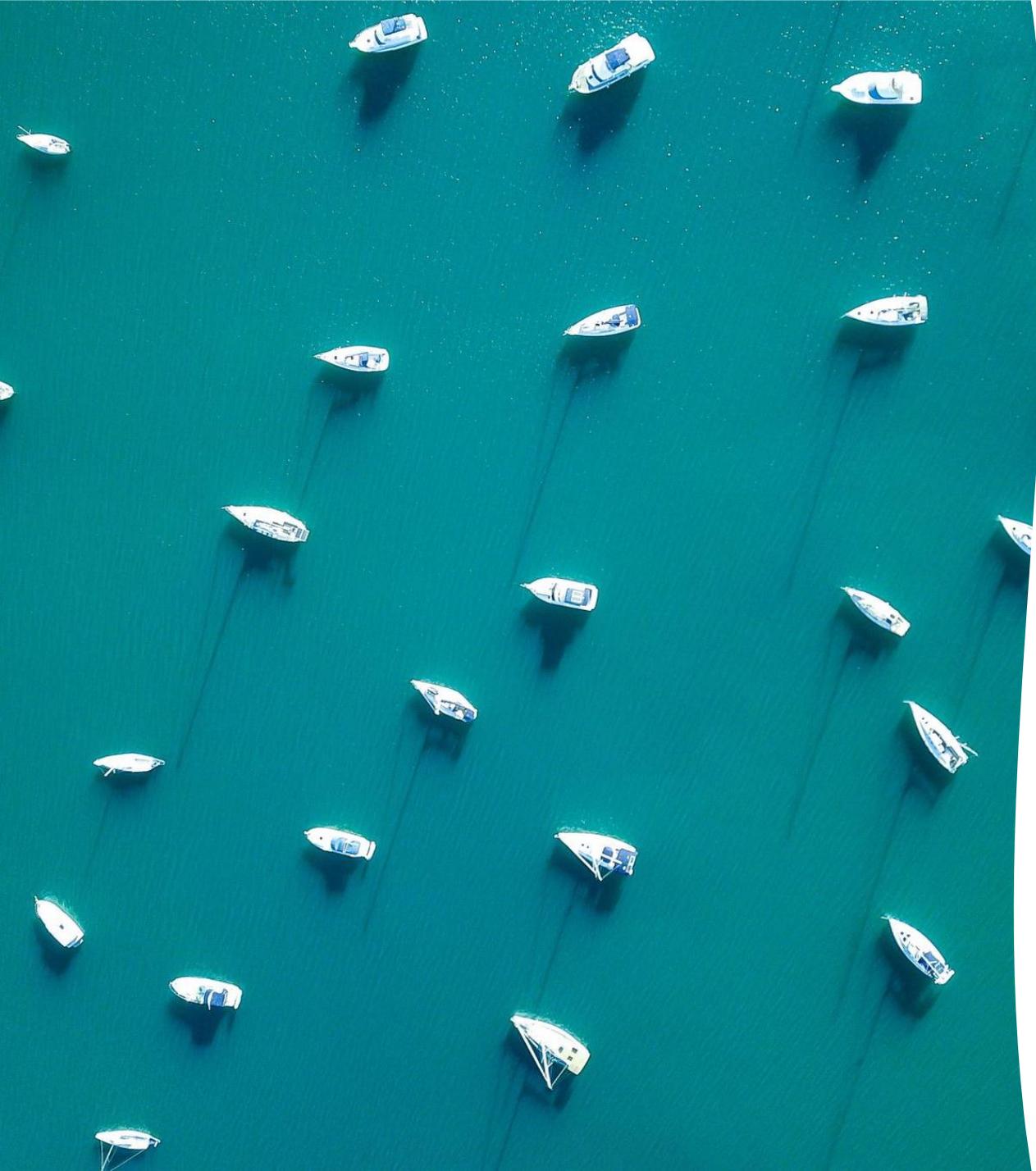
Jesús Sánchez
Program Director



Lisette Perez
Program Associate



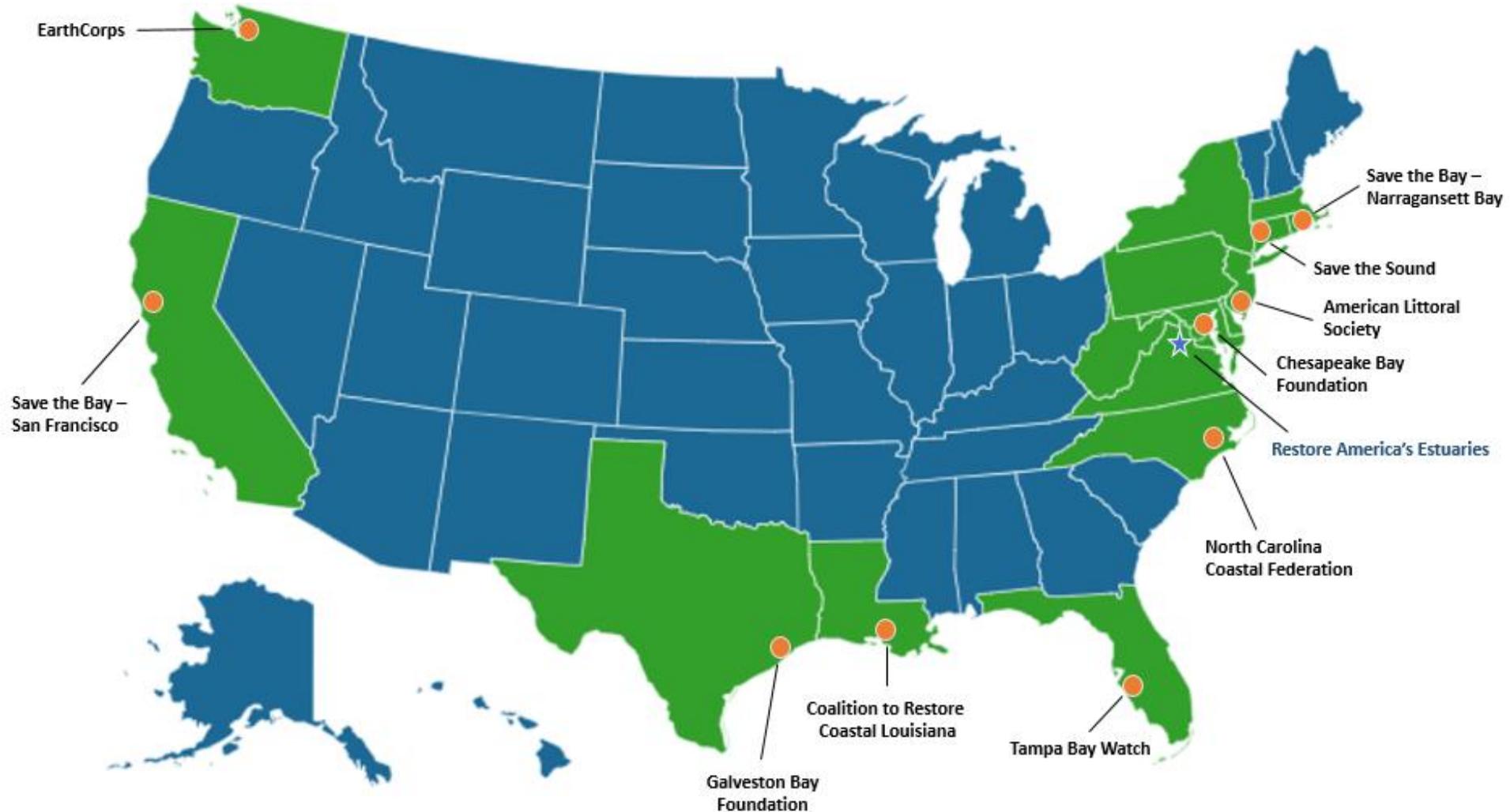
Justus Davis
Grants Administrator



Restore America's Estuaries

- Protecting & Restoring Estuaries Nationwide
- Collaborating with Partners to Preserve Coastal Habitats
- Advancing Solutions: Blue Carbon, Estuary Economics, and Nature-Based Solutions
- Focus Areas include: Habitat Restoration, Water Quality, and Community Engagement

Restore America's Estuaries is dedicated to the protection and restoration of bays and estuaries as essential resources for our nation



Affiliate Members

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay | Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership | Audubon Society | Billion Oyster Project | Black in Marine Science | Bonefish & Tarpon Trust | Buzzards Bay Coalition | Choctawatchee Basin Alliance | Clean Foundation | Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation | Ducks Unlimited | Ecosphere Restoration Institute | Environmental Defense Fund | Gulf of Mexico Alliance | Land Trust Alliance | The Nature Conservancy | National Wildlife Federation | Ocean Conservancy | Pontchartrain Conservancy | Restore the Mississippi River Delta | Women's Aquatic Network



THE JUNCTION COALITION
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS
JC 2016



Alicia Smith
Director

Donald Wiggins Jr.
Environmental Specialist Program
Manager



Great Lakes



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Since 2010, the multi-agency Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) has funded 16 federal organizations to strategically address the greatest threats to the Great Lakes ecosystem.

The Great Lakes provides 84% of North America's surface fresh water and about 21% of the world's supply of surface fresh water.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)

- Focus Area 1: Toxic Substances & Areas of Concern
 - AOCs, fish consumption education, contaminant monitoring
- Focus Area 2: Invasive Species
 - Invasive species control, early detection, rapid-response, and prevention
- Focus Area 3: Nonpoint Source Pollution
 - Agricultural nutrients, stormwater runoff, riparian buffers and wetlands
- Focus Area 4: Habitat & Species
 - Habitat restoration and aquatic connectivity
- Focus Area 5: Foundations for Future Restoration Actions
 - Experience-based education and lake-wide monitoring and planning



Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Action Plan IV
Fiscal Years 2025-2029

Great Lakes Restoration Community Grant Program (GLRCGP)

Program 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.

Great Lakes Restoration Community Grant Program (GLRCGP)

Program Overview

- Available funding \$2.0 to \$4.0M
- Awards will range from about \$50,000 to \$750,000
- Project length about 2-3 years
- The funding will go toward meaningful community-driven projects
- Focused on GLRI Action Plan IV Priorities



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Applicant Eligibility

- Eligible Applicants include non-profit organizations, Tribes, state, county, local governments, municipalities and their subdivisions, and academic institutions.
- All subaward projects should be community-driven or community-led.
- Federal agencies are not eligible recipients of funding but may be included as partners in proposals submitted by eligible recipients.



Geographic Eligibility

This project focuses on the United States portion of the Great Lakes watershed, spanning parts of IL, IN, MI, MN, NY, OH, PA, and WI.

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

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

Use of Funds

- Project Costs
- Salary
- Fringe
- Contractual Support
- Tools & Equipment
- Supplies
- Conferences & Travel
- Indirect Costs

*All grant payments will be made on a reimbursement basis. Reimbursement requests shall be submitted at least quarterly and at most monthly.

*Working Capital Advance – Subawardees in need of funds to start projects can request for a Working Capital Advance, which will advance funds for the first two months. Thereafter, funds will be reimbursement based.



Ineligible Uses of Funding

GLRCGP25 funds may *not* be used for the following purposes:

- **Research & Monitoring**
 - Projects primarily focused on research, monitoring, or planning.
 - *Exception:* These may be included as small components of a larger implementation project.
- **Actions Legally Required**
 - Activities required by enforcement actions, court orders, or as permit mitigation measures.
- **Routine Maintenance**
 - Regular upkeep of infrastructure, facilities, or land/water systems (e.g., stormwater systems).
- **Conventional “Gray Infrastructure”**
 - Traditional projects like installation of sewer lines or standard concrete systems.
- **Private Construction**
 - New construction or retrofitting of private, residential, commercial, or institutional buildings.

Ineligible Uses of Funding con't...

GLRCGP25 funds may *not* be used for the following purposes:

- **Land Purchase**
 - Purchase of land or real estate is not allowable.
- **Lobbying Activities**
 - Any effort to influence elections, referendums, or political outcomes.
- **Projects Focused Solely On:**
 - **Access/Recreation:** Enhancing public access or recreation without environmental benefit.
 - **Workforce Development:** Standalone job training unrelated to GLRI measures.
 - **Environmental Education:** Standalone education programs without measurable environmental results.
- **Activities Outside the U.S. Great Lakes Basin**
 - Projects must occur within the historic and current U.S. Great Lakes watershed boundaries.
- **Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOC) Management Actions**
 - Projects solely aimed at evaluating or achieving AOC management actions are ineligible.

Budget

- No match requirements
- Excel Budget Template can be downloaded under GLRCGP 25 RFA Page

Federal Cost Category and Item	GLRCGP25 Request	Eligible for Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC)	Total Cost
a. Personnel (Staff of Grantee Organization Only)			
Staff Member Name or Title, # of Hrs, Rate per Hr			
Habitat Coordinator , 500 hrs @ \$40.50	\$20,250.00	\$20,250.00	\$20,250.00
		\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$0.00	\$0.00
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
		\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$0.00	\$0.00
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
		\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Travel	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
d. Equipment			

Application Process

1

Step 1: Submit Letter of Intent

- Due: January 16th, 5:00pm CST, 6:00pm EST

2

Invitation to Submit Full Proposal

- Week of February 23, 2026

3

Step 2: Submit Full Proposal

- Due: April 17, 2026, 5:00pm CST, 6:00pm EST

Letter of Intent

Section 1: Applicant Information	Name/Role of Organization Project Leader: Contact Info Certification & Signature of responsible individual
Section 2: Organizational Fiscal Information	Employer Identification Number (EIN) Federal System Award Management / Unique Entity ID Organizational Budget & Estimated Overall Project Cost
Section 3: Project Overview	Name of Project, Brief Description, Phase General Location, Attach Map, Supplemental Map Description (optional)
Section 4: Project Details*	Project Partners, Problem & Impact Statement, Alignment with GLRI, Stakeholders, Workplan, Tasks & Deliverables, Project Readiness, Engagement, Area of Work & Direct Impact, Project Team, Real Estate Permissions
Section 5: Working Capital Advance	Need for Working Capital Advance
Section 6: Budget	Proposal Budget

To Submit Your Letter of Intent, go to: [GLRGP 2025 Request for Applications ~ Restore America's Estuaries](#)



Learn

Our Impact

Make a Difference

Grants

About

Letters of Intent due: January 16th, 2026, by 6:00 pm EST.

Download GLRCGP 2025 RFA [HERE](#)

GLRCGP 2025 APPLICATION [HERE](#)





GLRCGP Timeline



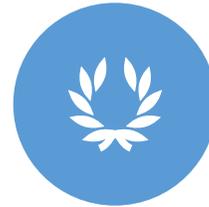
REQUEST FOR
APPLICATIONS (RFA)
RELEASE – NOVEMBER 3RD,
2025



SUBMIT LETTER OF INTENT
– JANUARY 16TH, 2026



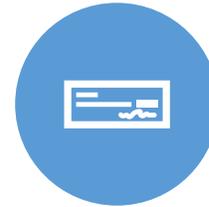
INVITATION TO SUBMIT
FULL PROPOSAL -
FEBRUARY 23RD, 2026



FULL PROPOSAL DEADLINE
SUBMISSION - APRIL 17TH,
2026



NOTICE OF AWARDS - MAY
18TH, 2026



PROJECT START DATE –
AUGUST 2026

Technical Support Webinars

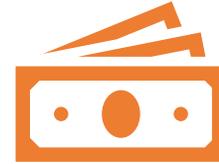
Sign up for upcoming webinars on the webpage as they become available!



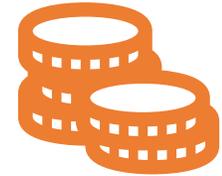
SAM.gov and UEI: How to Register and Meet GLRCGP RFA Requirements



Grant Writing: How to Write a Strong Narrative



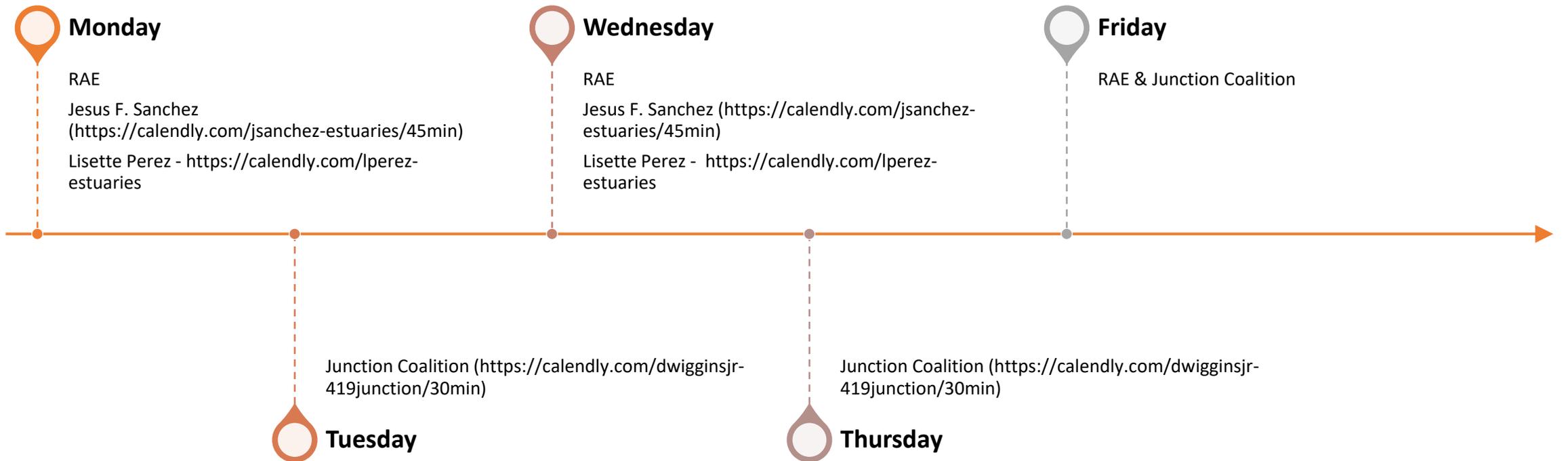
Budgeting: How to Develop Your GLRCGP RFA Budget



Budgeting Q&A

Schedule 30-minute technical support calls: <https://calendly.com/jsanchez-estuaries/45min>

Schedule a Meeting



Questions?

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Newsletter & Updates:

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