

May 19, 2006

**USEPA Great Lakes National Program Office
Eighteenmile Creek RAP Priorities / LaMP Public Forum Coordination
FY2006 Request for Applications**

CONTENTS

Overview	1
I. Funding Opportunity Description	2
A. Eighteenmile Creek RAP Priorities	2
B. LaMP Public Forum Coordination (Lakes Erie, Michigan, Superior)	4
II. Award Information	5
III. Eligibility and Matching	7
IV. Application and Submission	8
V. Application Review, including General Criteria, Review Process, Schedule	14
VI. Award Administration	16
VII. Agency Contacts	17
VIII. Other Information	17

Overview

Federal Agency Name: Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes National Program Office and Region 2.

Funding Opportunity Title: Eighteenmile Creek RAP Priorities / LaMP Public Forum Coordination

Announcement Type: Initial Announcement

Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-R5-GL2006-1

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 66.469

Important Dates:

May 19, 2006 - Request for Applications posted on the web and synopsized on Grants.Gov.

June 29, 2006 - Submissions must be received by EPA or electronically through Grants.Gov by 8:00 am CST.

July 7, 2006 - Selections.

October 1, 2006 - Awards made.

Dates other than the June 29 due date are expected dates only and may change.

Application Information: Applicants may submit applications by either of two methods: (i) paper submission or (ii) submission through grants.gov . Information about both methods is described in Section IV. We encourage all applicants to register with us at <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/maillist/index.html> to keep informed about our funding process.

I. Funding Opportunity Description.

Under this FY2006-2007 Request for Applications, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA's) Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) and Region 2 are requesting Great Lakes applications addressing: Eighteenmile Creek Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Priorities and Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP) Public Forum Coordination for Lakes Erie, Michigan, and Superior.

This funding opportunity is issued pursuant to (i) §104 of the Clean Water Act and (ii) §118 of the Clean Water Act calling for the achievement of the goals in the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the principal goal of that Agreement being the restoration and maintenance of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Great Lakes basin.

Projects funded under this solicitation will advance protection and restoration of the Great Lakes ecosystem in support of (i) Goal 4 (Healthy Communities and Ecosystems), Objective 3 (Ecosystems), Subobjective 3 (Improve the Health of Great Lakes Ecosystems) of USEPA's Strategic Plan < <http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/plan/plan.htm> > and (ii) the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy to Protect and Restore the Great Lakes < <http://www.gllrc.us/> >.

Descriptions of each topic and priorities, Expected Outputs/Outcomes (see Section I.B.), and estimated target amounts follow. Estimates of dollar amounts and numbers of projects are included as planning targets only. The actual amounts and numbers may differ substantially as described in Section II - Award Information.

Topics

Applicants' submissions must address one of the two topic areas described below (A or B). In addition, applicants may make submissions for more than one area, but each submission must be a separate application package.

A. RAP Priorities and Coordination/Management for the Eighteenmile Creek RAP. USEPA requests applications which support the coordination/ management of the Eighteenmile Creek RAP and also address Eighteenmile Creek RAP priorities. An estimated amount of up to \$500,000 over 5 years has been targeted for one project. Applications may request the cumulative total amount needed for work that would be done over a 5 year period to advance environmental protection by accelerating the process of delisting and restoring beneficial use impairments including the coordination, oversight, and management of the Eighteenmile Creek RAP.

If a project totaling greater than \$100,000 is selected, funds may be awarded incrementally each year up to \$100,000, depending on EPA funds availability and program needs and priorities; EPA funding each year is not guaranteed. Applicants will be asked to submit an annualized 5-year budget and budget detail narrative for the project, and a detailed workplan covering each of the 5 years.

For the **RAP coordination/management component, the workplan of** each application (see Section IV) should address tasks associated with RAP development and implementation, including:

1. development of periodic RAP status reports that describe and track remediation efforts aimed at eliminating beneficial use impairments identified for Eighteenmile Creek and moving the Area of Concern towards delisting;
2. organization of periodic meetings of the public advisory committees and distribution of meeting minutes to participants and State and Federal agencies;
3. coordination of RAP activities with other Great Lakes programs such as the LaMPs;

4. coordination of RAPs with related organizations such as the International Joint Commission (IJC), the Federal RAP Liaisons, USEPA/GLNPO, and the Great Lakes Commission;
5. participation and co-operation with USEPA (GLNPO and Regional programs) and their agents on gathering, assessing, and summarizing RAP progress;
6. periodic re-evaluation of beneficial use impairments and adjustment of remediation strategies and ecosystem restoration efforts as necessary for the elimination of impairments and Area of Concern (AOC) delisting.

For the **Eighteenmile Creek RAP priority component**, the workplan of each application (see Section IV) should address tasks that will significantly contribute to the delisting of this AOC, or its individual BUIs.

For example:

1. The implementation of restoration or remedial efforts that will lead to the delisting of an existing identified BUI. Projects of this type should also include post-remedial monitoring, as necessary, to satisfy delisting criteria for an individual BUI.
2. Monitoring efforts aimed at evaluating the status of beneficial use impairments (BUIs) which require further assessment. (See <http://www.epa.gov/greatlakes/fund/2005guid/NYStateBUITable.pdf> for a table of BUIs that have been identified by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation as requiring further assessment for Eighteenmile Creek.) These efforts should be sufficient in scope to lead to a definitive change in the use impairment status, for example from "unknown" to either "impaired", "unimpaired", or "attributable to sources outside the AOC".

USEPA has worked extensively with States, Tribes, and other partners in development and implementation of Remedial Action Plans. Information about Remedial Action Plans is available from:

<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/aoc/index.html>

Outcomes of the projects addressing this topic may include, but are not limited to the restoration or protection of beneficial use(s) in an AOC, either on a subwatershed, river reach, or AOC wide basis. The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement calls for Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) to restore and protect 14 beneficial uses in Areas of Concern. An impaired beneficial use means a change in the chemical, physical or biological integrity of the Great Lakes system sufficient to cause any of the following:

- restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption
- tainting of fish and wildlife flavor
- degradation of fish wildlife populations
- fish tumors or other deformities
- bird or animal deformities or reproduction problems
- degradation of benthos
- restrictions on dredging activities
- eutrophication or undesirable algae
- restrictions on drinking water consumption, or taste and odor problems
- beach closings
- degradation of aesthetics
- added costs to agriculture or industry
- degradation of phytoplankton and zooplankton populations
- loss of fish and wildlife habitat

Outputs of the projects may include, but are not limited to:

1. Setting RAP Delisting Criteria and Targets, including: setting delisting targets for identified beneficial use impairments by December 31, 2008 (in support of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy),

- re-evaluation of beneficial use impairments and adjustment of remediation strategies and ecosystem restoration efforts as necessary for the elimination of impairments and AOC delisting, and formal delisting of the AOC which would include the development of delisting documents.
2. Delisting of RAP Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) in support of delisting of 8 or more Areas of Concern by 2010 and all Areas of Concern by 2025, including coordination and implementation of remediation efforts, as identified in the RAP, which address impaired beneficial uses.
 3. Development and/or implementation of post remedial monitoring plans for measuring the achievement of BUI delisting targets and for specific monitoring needs which cannot be supported by existing monitoring programs. This would include collection of monitoring data allowing for an AOC redesignation into Recovery Stage as well as collection of monitoring data allowing for the formal delisting of an AOC.
 4. Formal delisting of an AOC.

B. LaMP Public Forum Coordination (Lakes Erie, Michigan, Superior). USEPA is requesting applications for projects which will further advance Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP) coordination and project implementation. An estimated amount of \$335,000 is targeted for approximately 1-3 projects, including an estimated amount of:

- \$35,000 for a 2-year Lake Erie project.
- \$150,000 for a 2-year Lake Michigan project and projects utilizing LaMP 2006 data.
- \$150,000 for a 2-year Lake Superior project.

The LaMPs, with their 2006 updates, are available at:

<http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/gl2000/lamps/index.html>

Outcomes of projects addressing this topic may include, but are not limited to:

- Documented reduction of releases of LaMP-listed pollutants to the basin.
- Increased stewardship and public participation in Lake/LaMP activities and restoration of beneficial use impairments
- Adoption of sustainable land use practices and protection of habitat and biodiversity

Outputs are expected to include, but are not limited to:

- Tailored projects that engage some segment of the basin population.
- Increased educational outreach using vehicles such as newsletters, web sites, and list serves.
- Facilitation of at least three Lake Erie meetings, invitations, note-taking and follow-up; and reimbursement of U.S. Forum-member travel and lodging (costs of which are estimated not to exceed \$3,000 per meeting).
- Facilitation of at least 4 Lake Michigan meetings, invitations, note-taking and follow-up; and reimbursement of Forum-member travel and lodging.
- Facilitation of at least 4 Lake Superior meetings, invitations, note-taking and follow-up; and reimbursement of U.S. Forum-member travel and lodging.

II. Award Information

The number of grants and/or cooperative agreements EPA will fund as a result of this announcement will be based on the quality of applications received and the availability of funding. A total estimated amount of \$835,000 for 4 expected projects may be awarded under this announcement.

Additional Awards. EPA reserves the right to make additional awards under this announcement (after the original award selections are made) if additional funding becomes available. Any additional selections for awards will be made no later than 6 months after the original selection decisions. The additional selections must be made in accordance with the terms of this announcement and EPA policy.

Amounts, Targets, and Number of Projects. Funding for these projects is not guaranteed and is subject to the availability of funds and the evaluation of applications based on the criteria in this announcement. Estimates of dollar amounts per topic and/or project area and numbers of projects are included as planning targets only. The actual amounts and numbers may differ substantially for many reasons, including the fact that EPA's operating plan has not been finalized and the number and quality of meritorious, technically qualified project submissions is unknown.

EPA reserves the right to reject all applications and make no awards under this announcement or make fewer awards than anticipated. Information about the estimated number and amounts of awards for each topic is included in Section I.

Anticipated Start and End Dates. USEPA anticipates that applicants will submit certifications and other documentation required for a full funding package in order that their projects could, if selected, commence by October 1, 2006. Projects submitted under Section I.A.1. may have project periods of up to five years. Projects submitted under Section I.A.2. may have project periods of up to 2 years.

Contracts and Sub-Awards. Successful applicants must compete contracts for services and products and conduct cost, price and value analyses to the extent required in 40 CFR Parts 30 or 31, as applicable, as well as any regulations covered by state or local procurement requirements. The regulations also contain limitations on consultant compensation. Applicants are not required to identify contractors or consultants in their application. Moreover, the fact that a successful applicant has named a specific contractor or consultant in the application EPA approves does not relieve it of its obligations to comply with competitive procurement requirements as well as any regulations covered by state or local procurement requirements. Sub-grants or sub-awards may be used to fund partnerships with non-profit organizations and governmental entities. Successful applicants cannot use sub-grants or sub-awards to avoid requirements in EPA grant regulations for competitive procurement by using these instruments to acquire commercial services or products to carry out its cooperative agreement. The nature of the transaction between the recipient and the sub-grantee must be consistent with the standards for distinguishing between vendor transactions and sub-recipient assistance under Subpart B Section 210 of OMB Circular A-133, and the definitions of "sub-award" at 40 CFR 30.2 (ff) or "subgrant" at 40 CFR 31.3, as applicable.

Funding Type. A cooperative agreement is an assistance agreement that is used when there is substantial federal involvement with the recipient during the performance of an activity or project. EPA will award cooperative agreements for those projects in which it expects to have substantial interaction with the recipient throughout the performance of the project. For such projects, EPA may review and approve project phases, review and approve proposed subgrants and contracts, collaborate with the recipient on the scope of work and mode of operation of the project, closely monitor the recipient's performance, approve any

proposed changes to work plan and/or budget, approve qualifications of key personnel, and review and comment on reports prepared under the assistance agreement.

Future Funding. Award of funding through this year's competition is not a guarantee of future funding.

Partial Funding. USEPA reserves the right to partially fund submissions by funding discrete activities, portions, or phases of the proposed project. If USEPA decides to partially fund the proposed project, it will do so in a manner that does not prejudice any applicants or affect the basis upon which the proposed project, or portion thereof, was evaluated and selected, and that maintains the integrity of the competition and the selection/evaluation process.

III. Eligibility and Matching

Applicant Eligibility (CFDA 66.469). State pollution control agencies, interstate agencies, and other public or nonprofit private agencies, institutions, and organizations are eligible; "for-profit" organizations are not eligible.

Eligible Activities.

1. Assistance is available pursuant to Clean Water Act §104(b) for activities impacting the Great Lakes Basin and in support of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Proposals for other activities will be rejected.
2. Applicants' submissions must address one of the two topic areas described in Section I or else they will be rejected. Applicants may make submissions for more than one area, but each submission must be a separate application package – submissions containing proposals for both areas will be rejected.

Ineligible Activities. Under this announcement, USEPA will not fund: "construction grant" projects; basic research; land acquisition; or projects the principal purpose for which is general operating support. Education/outreach or conferences are only eligible activities when integrated within a larger project or as specifically requested in the respective funding categories described in Section I.

Match. A match is not required, but cost-leveraging is one of the criteria in Section V which will be considered by reviewers during evaluations.

Noncompliance. Application packages must substantially comply with the submission instructions and requirements set forth in Section IV of this announcement or else they will be rejected. Further, applications must be received by the EPA or through Grants.Gov on or before the closing date published in Section IV of this announcement. Applications received after this date will not be reviewed and will be returned to the applicant.

IV. Application and Submission

A. General:

Applicants may submit their application packages by hard copy or through grants.gov but not both. Regardless of the mode of submission, full application packages must be received by the June 29, 2006 at 8:00 am CST. A full application package includes:

1. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
2. Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)
3. EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54
4. Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B)
5. Lobbying Form
6. EPA Form 4700-4 – Preaward Compliance Review Report
7. Proposal, including cover page and work plan prepared as described in Section IV.B. of this announcement.
8. Budget Narrative /Detail
9. Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL), if applicable
10. Indirect Cost Rate Agreement or Proposal, if Applicant will claim indirect costs.

Note: If submitting a paper application, include a disk or e-mail attachment containing items 7 and 8 above.

Forms are available from the GLNPO website < <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/fund/appforms.html> >, EPA's grant website < <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/forms/forms.htm> >, or from within grants.gov

There is no page limit for Proposals, Budget Narratives, or other portions of the Application Package; however, the Proposal and Budget Narrative must be formatted for 8 ½" x 11" paper using no smaller than 11 point Times New Roman font with 1" margins as one Microsoft Word, WordPerfect or Adobe Acrobat file. If you submit an Adobe Acrobat file, it must be generated by printing the document to the Acrobat Distiller or PDF Writer and NOT scanned in from hardcopy. Do not include more than one Proposal and Budget Narrative in any file.

Please do not zip the file, because we will not be able to open it.

It is recommended that confidential business information not be included in your application.

B. Proposal Format (item 7 above)

1. **Cover Page:** We request that the cover page consist of no more than one side of 1 page and should include:
 - a. **Name of Project.** (Please limit to 60 characters, or EPA reserves the right to change the name for its administrative convenience.)
 - b. **Point of contact/s** (Individual and Organization Name. Business Address; Phone Number; Fax Number; E-mail Address; and, if the organization has one, DUNS number.)
 - c. **Type of Organization.** Choose from: State; Interstate Agency or Commission; Sub-state or special purpose district; County; Municipality; Federal Agency; College or University; Tribal Organization; Federally funded research and development center; or Other.
 - d. **Continuation.** Whether this a continuation of a previously EPA-funded project (if so, please provide the status of the current grant or cooperative agreement)
 - e. **Proposed funding request.** The dollar amount requested from USEPA.
 - f. **Leveraging.** Identify leveraged (or voluntary matching) funds and the ratio of leveraged vs. requested funds)

- g. **Project topic.** Either (i) Eighteenmile Creek RAP Priorities or (ii) LaMP Public Forum Coordination (for Lakes Erie, Michigan, or Superior).
 - h. **Brief project description.** Summarize the project in a manner understandable to the public. Include environmental KEY TERMS that could be used as search terms (e.g., water quality, toxins, mercury, etc.). Do not use acronyms. Should project be selected and a grant awarded, this description may be posted to the EPA web, which has a 595 character limit to this field; EPA reserves the right to make unilateral changes to conform to posting requirements.
2. **Workplan.** Maps, charts or photographs must be included in the document and cannot be submitted as separate attachments. Clearly describe the:
- a. **Proposed Work.** Describe what will be done and how. Proposals for Topic area I.A in section I of the announcement must address the information described in I.A; proposals for Topic area I.B must address the information described in I.B.
 - b. **Project Goals/Outcomes/Benefits.** Specify the quantitative and qualitative outcomes of the project, including what measurements you will use and how you will measure and evaluate the results of your project to prove that you have achieved the outcomes. Pursuant to EPA Order 5700.7 < <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/award/5700.7.pdf> > on environmental results, “outcome” means the result, effect or consequence that will occur from carrying out an environmental program or activity that is related to an environmental or programmatic goal or objective. Outcomes may be environmental, behavioral, health-related or programmatic in nature, but must be quantitative. They may not necessarily be achievable within an assistance agreement funding period.
 - c. **Project Benefits/Outputs:** Specify the estimated quantifiable environmental and economic outputs of the project, including affected pollutants, industry sectors, economic impacts, habitats, and/or species. As applicable for the topic, estimate chemicals to be "collected or prevented;" the number of acres of aquatic, wetland, riverine, and terrestrial Great Lakes habitat to be positively impacted; and proposed progress toward delisting and toward restoration of beneficial use impairments. Pursuant to EPA Order 5700.7 < <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/award/5700.7.pdf> > on environmental results, “output” means an environmental activity, effort, and/or associated work products related to an environmental goal and objective, that will be produced or provided over a period of time or by a specified date. Outputs may be quantitative or qualitative but must be measurable during an assistance agreement funding period.
 - d. **Project Eligibility:** Identify how the project will conduct and promote the coordination and acceleration of, research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of pollution.
 - e. **Great Lakes Ecosystem Implications:** Describe the issue that will be addressed and its relevance to the Great Lakes, particularly to needs and priorities in Subobjective 4.3.3 (Improve the Health of Great Lakes Ecosystems) of USEPA's Strategic Plan and to the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration < <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/collaboration/strategy.html> > .
 - f. **Stakeholder Involvement/Impacts:** List out all of the proposed stakeholder groups that will be involved in this project and what each of the groups’ roles will be in the project staffing, funding, design and implementation. Please also list all the major stakeholders who will be positively impacted by this project and how they will benefit from the project.
 - g. **Measuring Progress:** Describe your plan for measuring progress toward achieving outputs and outcomes of the project, including those identified in Section I of the announcement.
 - h. **Project Tasks/Schedule:** Outline the steps to be taken and the significant milestones to be achieved to complete the project as well as the estimated schedule of these achievements with dates. Include the date by which EPA would receive a final report on the project. This section

should also include a discussion of a communication plan for distributing the project results to interested parties.

- i. **Environmental Results Past Performance:** Submit a list of federally funded assistance agreements performed within the last three years (no more than 5) that your organization performed within the last three years and for which the proposed principal investigator (PI) was involved as a manager or principal investigator. Describe how the proposed PI documented and/or reported on their progress towards achieving the expected results (e.g., outputs and outcomes) under those agreements. If progress was not being made, please indicate the proposed PI reported and/or documented on that lack of progress and whether the reasons for not making progress were adequately documented. In evaluating applicants under this factor, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider other relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current and prior Federal agency grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). If there is no relevant or available past performance reporting history, please indicate this in the proposal, and a neutral score will be given for this factor under Section V.
- j. **Programmatic Capability:** Submit a list of federally funded projects similar in size, scope and relevance to the proposed project that the applicant performed within the last three years and describe (i) how the applicant was technically able to successfully carry out the proposed projects and (ii) the applicant's history of meeting the reporting requirements and submitting acceptable final technical reports and closeout documentation under these agreements. In evaluating applicants under this factor, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider other relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current and prior Federal agency grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). If there is no relevant or available past performance and/or reporting history, please indicate this in the proposal, and a neutral score will be given for these factors under Section V.

In addition, provide information on (i) your organizational experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the proposed project, (ii) your staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project, and (iii) for projects involving use or collection of environmental data, whether the applicant complies with current American National Standard Specifications and Guidelines for Quality Systems for Environmental Data Collection and Environmental Technology Programs, ANSI/ASQC E4-1994.

- k. **Collaboration/Partnerships and Leveraged Resources.** Describe plans and status of collaboration amongst the public, private, and independent sectors. If the applicant or others are expected to contribute to the Project, then list the Name(s) of Providers, Amounts Provided, and Commitments made by each. Applicants may use their own funds or other resources for a voluntary match or cost share if the standards at 40 CFR 30.23 or 40 CFR 31.24, as applicable, are met. Only eligible and allowable costs may be used for matches or cost shares. Other Federal grants may not be used as matches or cost shares without specific statutory authority (e.g. HUD's Community Development Block Grants). Describe how the applicant will obtain the leveraged resources and what role the requested funding will play in the overall project.

In addition, provide any other information, to the extent not otherwise addressed above, that relates to the evaluation factors in Section V.

C. Budget Narrative/Detail. (Item 8 above).

Specify in a chart with a column that totals to the total project cost, how the total of the USEPA funds and any Applicant matching funds will be used for the following “budget object classes”. For example, the total budget for the personnel object class category should be supported with a list of job titles and chargeable salaries; the budget for equipment should be supported with a detailed list of proposed purchases and the estimated cost of each item; and, similar justifications should be provided for the other object class categories that comprise the total budget.

1. **Personnel/Salaries.** Identify each type of staff position by job title and the number of employees in each type of staff position. Enter the annual salary for each type of staff position, percentage of time assigned to the project, and total cost for the budget period. Do not include costs of consultants or personnel costs of subgrantees or subcontractors.
2. **Fringe Benefits.** Enter the total cost of fringe benefits unless treated as part of an approved indirect cost rate. Provide break-down of amounts and percentages that comprised fringe benefit costs, such as health insurance, F.I.C.A., retirement insurance, etc.
3. **Travel.** Identify the number and purpose of trips for program activities; e.g., inspection, monitoring, enforcement, etc., and administrative activities; e.g., attendance at specific conferences, meetings, training, etc. Specify the cost for each activity and the basis for determining the cost. For example, list the number of trips and average cost per trip based on last year’s data or specify the location, duration and estimated cost of attending an annual conference, based on air fare and applicant per diem rates. Enter the total cost for travel.
4. **Equipment.** Identify each item of equipment to be purchased which has an estimated acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit and a useful life of more than one year. An applicant may use its own definition of equipment provided that such definition would at least include all equipment defined above. Enter individual, as well as total, cost for equipment.
5. **Supplies.** List all tangible personal property other than “equipment” as defined above. The budget detail should be as descriptive as possible. Categories of supplies to be procured, e.g., laboratory supplies or office supplies, are acceptable, are acceptable if items cannot be reasonably separated. Enter individual, as well as total, cost of supplies.
6. **Contract costs.** Identify each proposed contract and specify its purpose, nature, period of performance and estimated cost. Do not include procurement contracts which are reflected in other object class categories such as equipment, supplies, etc. If funds allocated to this object class category include proposed expenditures not usually categorized as services to be procured at the market place, explanatory footnotes must be included. Enter total cost for contracts.
7. **Other Costs.** List each item of cost in sufficient detail for U.S. EPA to determine its reasonableness and allowability. Such costs, where applicable, may include, but are not limited to, insurance, space rental, equipment rental, printing, publication, computer use, training fees, utilities, telephone, and any cost an applicant customarily identifies as other cost. Enter individual, as well as total, cost for other.
8. **Total Direct Charges.**
9. **Indirect Charges.** Enter the total amount of indirect costs. (If indirect charges are budgeted, you will indicate the approved rate and its base on line 22 of section F when you submit your SF 424A. At that time, the organization must also provide documentation of a federally approved indirect cost rate (percentage) reflective of proposed project/grant period. Applicant should indicate if organization is in negotiations with appropriate federal agency to obtain a new rate.
10. **Total Cost.** Indicate overall figure of all direct and indirect costs.

D. Submission. Applicants have the option of applying (i) with a paper submission accompanied by a disk or e-mail attachment (see Section IV.D.1. below) or (ii) online using the Grants.Gov website with an electronic signature (see Section IV.D.2. below). Please use only one method.

D.1. Instructions for Paper Submissions.

- a. Applicants submitting Applications by paper must send the full application package described in Section IV. A. to the applicable address listed below in order that the package be **RECEIVED** by the due date. EPA strongly recommends that applicants use overnight delivery service or courier service, as regular mail may be subject to unforeseeable delays. Applications received after the due date will not be evaluated or considered for funding.
- b. Electronic files (disk or e-mail attachment) of the Proposal and Budget Narrative must also be received by the due date.
- c. Application Packages for topic I.A. (RAP Priorities and Coordination/Management for the Eighteenmile Creek RAP) must be sent to:

USEPA – REGION 2
290 Broadway, 24th Floor
New York, NY 10007-1866
Attention: Marie O’Shea (212-637-3802 /oshea.marie@epa.gov)

Application Packages for topic I.B. (LaMP Public Forum Coordination) must be sent to:

USEPA - GLNPO (G-17J)
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590
Attention: Lawrence Brail (312-886-7474 /brail.lawrence@epa.gov)

D.2. Instructions for Submissions Using Grants.gov

You should have no trouble filling out and submitting the application, provided you have your electronic signature. However, if your organization is not already registered to use grants.gov, there are several additional steps that may be required, including:

- a. Obtain a Certified DUNS Number.
- b. Central Contractor Registry and Credential Provider Registration.
- c. Grants.Gov Electronic Signature Authorization.

If you wish to apply electronically via Grants.gov, the electronic submission of your application must be made by an official representative of your institution who is registered with Grants.gov and authorized to sign applications for Federal assistance. For more information, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on “Get Started,” and then click on “For AORs” (Authorized Organization Representative) on the left side of the page. **Note that the registration process may take a week or longer to complete.** If your organization is not currently registered with Grants.gov, please encourage your office to designate an AOR and ask that individual to begin the registration process as soon as possible.

To begin the application process for this grant program, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on the “Apply for Grants” tab at the top of the page. Then click on “Apply Step 1: Download a Grant Application Package and Application Instructions” to download the PureEdge viewer and obtain the application package and instructions for applying under this announcement using grants.gov (https://apply.grants.gov/forms_apps_idx.html). You may retrieve the application package and instructions

by entering the Funding Opportunity Number (EPA-R5-GL2006-1), or the CFDA number, in the space provided. Then complete and submit the application package as indicated. You may also be able to access the application package by clicking on the button “How To Apply” at the top right of the synopsis page for this announcement on <http://www.grants.gov> (to find the synopsis page go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on the “Find Grant Opportunities” button on the top of the page and then to go EPA opportunities).

Applicants submitting Applications using Grants.gov must send the full application package described in Section IV. A. using grants.gov in order that the package be **RECEIVED** by the due date and time. Application materials submitted through grants.gov will be time/date stamped electronically. Applications received after the due date and time will not be evaluated or considered for funding.

Please be sure to view the additional instructions for applying electronically under this announcement through use of grants.gov that are available for download on Grants.gov and are also available at <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/fund/2006-1rfa02.html>

If you have any technical difficulties while applying electronically, please refer to <http://www.grants.gov/CustomerSupport> or contact brail.lawrence@epa.gov

E. Submission Deadline. Application packages, regardless of the mode of submission, must be received by EPA or through grants.gov by 8:00 AM Central time, June 29, 2006.

F. Confidentiality. In accordance with 40 CFR 2.203, applicants may claim all or a portion of their project submission as confidential business information. EPA will evaluate confidentiality claims in accordance with 40 CFR Part 2. Applicants must clearly mark submissions or portions thereof they claim as confidential. If no claim of confidentiality is made, EPA is not required to make the inquiry to the applicant otherwise required by 40 CFR 2.204(c)(2) prior to disclosure. Note that under Public Law No. 105-277, data produced under an award is subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

G. Communications with Applicants. In accordance with EPA's Assistance Agreement Competition Policy (EPA Order 5700.5A1), EPA staff will not meet with individual applicants to discuss draft proposals, provide informal comments on draft proposals, or provide advice to applicants on how to respond to ranking criteria. Applicants are responsible for the contents of their applications. However, EPA will respond to questions in writing from individual applicants regarding threshold eligibility criteria, administrative issues related to the submission of the proposal, and requests for clarification about the announcement.

V. Application Review

Criteria. Submissions will be evaluated based on the Criteria and the weighting specified below. Please make sure your submission addresses each criterion.

A. Relevance/Outcomes/Outputs: Extent to which the submission demonstrates the potential, whether direct or indirect, to achieve proposed outcomes and outputs identified in Section I.A or B, as applicable. (20%)

B. Scientific/Professional Merit: Soundness of technical approach, including design, objectives, and scientific viability of the project. (10%)

C. Environmental Results Past Performance: Extent and quality to which the applicant adequately documented and/or reported on its progress towards achieving the expected results (e.g., outcomes and outputs) under federally funded agency assistance agreements performed within the last three years, and if such progress was not being made whether the proposed PI adequately documented and/or reported why not. (In evaluating applicants under this factor, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources including agency files and prior/current grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information supplied by the applicant). Applicants with no relevant or available past performance reporting history for the proposed PI will receive a neutral score for this factor.) (5%)

D. Programmatic Capability: The technical capability of the applicant to successfully carry out the proposed project taking into account the applicant's (1) past performance in successfully completing and managing federally funded projects similar in size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project performed within the last three years, (2) history of meeting reporting requirements on federally funded assistance agreements similar in size, scope, and relevance to the proposed projects performed within the last three years and submitting acceptable final technical reports and applicable closeout documentation under these agreements, (3) organizational experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the project, and (4) staff expertise/ qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources of the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the project. For projects involving use or collection of environmental data, the applicant's timely compliance with current American National Standard Specifications and Guidelines for Quality Systems for Environmental Data Collection and Environmental Technology Programs, ANSI/ASQC E4-1994 will be considered. In evaluating applicants under this factor, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider other relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current and prior Federal agency grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). Applicants with no available or relevant past performance or reporting history (items 1 and 2 above) will receive a neutral score for those factors. (10%)

D. Collaboration/Partnerships and Leveraged Resources. Degree to which the applicant proposes to work in partnership with appropriate partners and leverage significant resources to implement the proposal. Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with other entities, particularly government agencies, community groups, businesses, or stakeholders for Lakewide Management and Remedial Action Plans. (10%)

E. Geographic Scope: Appropriateness of the project scope and its location with respect to projects identified in the respective LaMP or RAP as needed to remove Beneficial Use Impairments. (10%)

F. Education/Outreach: Effectiveness of education/outreach and plans to disseminate project results. (10%)

G. Measuring Progress: Effectiveness and sufficiency of the applicant's plan for tracking and measuring its progress toward achieving environmental outputs and outcomes. (5%)

H. Appropriate Timeline and Budget: Reasonableness and appropriateness of the proposed timeline and budget for the level of work proposed and with the expected benefits to be achieved. (10%)

I. Funding Agency Mission: Extent to which project is aligned with the mission of EPA's Great Lakes program, as opposed to alignment with the mission of other funding sources from which the project's funding could reasonably be expected. (10%)

Review and Selection Process. Staff from GLNPO and other EPA programs, which may include Headquarters and EPA Regions 2, 3, and 5, will evaluate submitted proposals and budgets. Submissions that meet all of the eligibility factors identified in Section III will be evaluated based on each applicant's ability to meet the stated evaluation criteria above. The review panels will rank submissions based on this review. Rankings for submissions under Topic 1.A will be provided to management in EPA Region 2, and rankings for submissions under Topic 1.B will be provided to management in GLNPO.

Final funding decisions for projects to be funded by EPA will be made by the director of the Great Lakes National Program Office in consultation with the Region 2 Water Division Director. In addition to the review panel rankings, programmatic priorities, program budgets, and geographic distribution of projects may also be considered by these officials in making final funding decisions.

Conflict of Interest: Reviewers will be required to sign a disclosure of conflict of interest form and will be removed from review of applications where an actual or potential conflict of interest (that cannot be mitigated) exists.

If you register at <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/maillist/index.html> we will send you any updates to GLNPO funding information.

VI. Award Administration

Notification: We will confirm submission receipt within one week of the due date for all submissions. Shortly after the deadline, we will post project information (including Title and GLNPO identification number) at: <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/glf.html> . ALL APPLICANTS SHOULD CHECK THIS POSTING TO VERIFY THAT THEIR SUBMISSIONS HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN GLNPO'S DATABASE. Contact brail.lawrence@epa.gov if you do not receive a confirmation or if your project is not posted. GLNPO will contact all Applicants to tell them whether or not they have been selected.

Pre-award Review for Administrative Capability. Non-profit applicants that are recommended for funding will be subject to pre-award administrative capability reviews consistent with paragraphs 8.b, 8.c, and 9.d of EPA Order 5700.8 < http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/award/5700_8.pdf > and may be required to fill out and document an "Administrative Capability" form.

Issuance of Awards. USEPA reserves the right to negotiate appropriate changes (that do not affect the integrity of the competition) in project terms and amounts before making final decisions and awards and reserves the right to reject all Projects or applications and make no awards. USEPA has 60 days to issue an award following receipt of the complete, fundable Application Package and selection of an Applicant. Final funding decisions are based upon the complete Application Packages.

Administrative and Reporting Requirements. The successful applicant will be required to adhere to the Federal grants requirements, particularly those found in applicable OMB circulars on Cost Principles (A-21, A-87, or A-122), Administrative Requirements (A-102 or 110), and Audit Requirements (A-133) available from < <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/> >. This includes government-wide requirements pertaining to accounting standards, lobbying, minority or woman business enterprise, publication, meetings, construction, and disposition of property. EPA regulations governing assistance programs and recipients are codified in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Those requirements, GLNPO-specific requirements currently in effect, and the application materials that will be needed by applicants ultimately selected in this process can be found at < <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/fund/projreqs.html> > and < <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/fund/appforms.html> >. Applicants should also consider the Federal requirement that projects involving data use or collection require an approved Quality Assurance Project Plan prior to commencing environmental data collection. The applicant may need additional funds and time to develop the Quality Assurance Project Plan. The successful Federal applicant will be required to comply with the OMB Circular and appropriate sections of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations determined applicable by GLNPO. This determination will be embodied in the terms and conditions of an interagency agreement.

Dispute Resolution Process. Assistance agreement competition-related disputes involving any applicant, including Federal applicants, will be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution procedures published in 70 FR (Federal Register) 3629, 3630 (January 26, 2005) which can be found at <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/05-1371.htm> Copies of these procedures may also be requested by contacting russ.michael@epa.gov

VII. Agency Contact(s)

Eighteenmile Creek Contact: Marie O'Shea (212-637-3802 / oshea.marie@epa.gov)

Lake Erie Contact: Daniel O'Riordan (312-886-7981 / oriordan.daniel@epa.gov).

Lake Michigan Contact: Judy Beck (312-353-3849 / beck.judy@epa.gov).

Lake Superior Contact: Elizabeth LaPlante (312-353-2694 / laplante.elizabeth@epa.gov).

General Contact: Michael Russ (312-886-4013) / russ.michael@epa.gov

Technical Difficulties: Lawrence Brail (312-886-7474) / Tony Kizlauskas (312- 353-8773 / kizlauskas.anthony) or Pranas Pranckevicius (312-353-3437 / pranckevicius.pranas@epa.gov)

VIII. Other Information

USEPA's Great Lakes National Program Office brings together Federal, state, tribal, local, and industry partners in an integrated, ecosystem approach to protect, maintain, and restore the chemical, biological, and physical integrity of the Great Lakes. The program coordinates international commitments under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement; monitors Lake ecosystem indicators; manages and provides public access to Great Lakes data; helps communities address contaminated sediments in their harbors; supports local protection and restoration of important habitats; promotes pollution prevention through activities and projects such as the Canada-U.S. Binational Toxics Strategy (GLBTS); explores emerging or strategic Great Lakes issues; and provides assistance for development and implementation of Lakewide Management Plans (LaMPs) and of community-based Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) for Areas of Concern. GLNPO, located in Chicago, Illinois, has a staff of about 52 and an annual budget of about \$21 million. From FY1993 - FY2005, GLNPO funded some 995 projects totaling \$102.9 million. Under the Great Lakes Legacy Act, GLNPO also funds projects to remediate Great Lakes contaminated sediments. GLNPO's Legacy budget for FY2006 was about \$29 million.

Later this year, USEPA expects to request proposals for other Great Lakes topics, including:

- Disappearing Diporeia, Pollution Prevention, and LaMP and RAP priorities.
- A request for proposals addressing habitat protection and restoration will be issued pursuant to an offering done in conjunction with other Federal agencies through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.
- The USEPA Great Lakes Legacy Act program is expected to issue a request for contaminated sediments projects later this year.

GLNPO will send an e-mail announcement of these and any of its funding opportunities to all who register at <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/maillist/index.html>