

**U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office  
Lake Erie Coordinated Science and Monitoring  
Request for Applications**

**CONTENTS**

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Overview.....  | 1  |
| I. Funding Opportunity Description.....  | 2  |
| I.A. Lake Erie Western Basin Algal Bloom Study.....  | 2  |
| I.B. Central and Eastern Basin Studies of nearshore/offshore nutrient fluxes and interactions..... | 2  |
| I.C. Lake Erie Bioavailable Phosphorus Studies.....  | 3  |
| I.D. Lake Erie Basin tillage and nutrient management study.....                                    | 4  |
| I.E. Lake Erie Basin On-Farm Demonstration Projects.....   | 5  |
| II. Award Information.....   | 7  |
| III. Eligibility and Matching.....   | 9  |
| IV. Application and Submission.....  | 11 |
| V. Application Review, including General Criteria, Review Process, Schedule.....                   | 20 |
| VI. Award Administration.....  | 22 |
| VII. Agency Contacts.....  | 23 |
| VIII. Other Information.....   | 23 |
| Attachment A – Grants.gov Instructions.....  | 24 |

**Overview**

**Federal Agency Name:** Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes National Program Office

**Funding Opportunity Title:** Lake Erie Coordinated Science and Monitoring

**Announcement Type:** Initial Announcement

**Funding Opportunity Number:** EPA-R5-GL2009-1

**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:** 66.469

**Awards:** An estimated \$500,000 is expected to be awarded under this announcement for an estimated 5-10 grants or cooperative agreements ranging from approximately \$30,000 - \$150,000 each.

**Important Dates** (dates after February 2 are expected dates only and may change):

- February 2, 2009 - Submissions must be postmarked or received by EPA or electronically through grants.gov by midnight. CST. See Section IV for additional information.
- March 6, 2009 - Selections.
- April - Awards made.

**Application Information:** Applicants may submit 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 be informed about our funding process.

## **I. Funding Opportunity Description.**

Under this Request for Applications, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) is requesting application packages, as described in Section IV, for projects advancing Lake Erie Priorities described hereafter. Applicants may submit one or more proposals for any or all of the topics below; however, each proposal should be submitted separately. An estimated \$500,000 is expected to be awarded under this announcement for an estimated 5-10 grants or cooperative agreements ranging from approximately \$30,000 - \$150,000 each.

The statutory authority for these awards is (i) §104 of the Clean Water Act and (ii) §118 of the Clean Water Act. §118 calls for the achievement of the goals in the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the principal goal being the restoration and maintenance of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Great Lakes Ecosystem.

Funded activities will advance protection and restoration of the Great Lakes ecosystem in support of (i) Subobjective 4.3.3 (Improve the Health of Great Lakes Ecosystems) of EPA'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.glrc.us/>.

### **IA. Lake Erie Western Basin Algal Bloom Study.**

EPA is requesting submissions of applications for a single award totaling approximately \$100,000. This award will support a study for the purpose of better understanding the conditions preceding, and resulting in, Lake Erie algal bloom development, and may include 24-hour studies of physical, chemical and biological conditions, longer term physical and chemical studies and/or datasonde or buoy placements, or other studies concerning factors necessary for bloom development. The project must at least include the Maumee River and Bay and their impacts on Lake Erie's western basin.

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

- Data on conditions which are necessary for bloom development, including physical and chemical water quality data.
- Information environmental managers can use for mitigation or control of algal blooms.

**Outcomes** may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Improved understanding of conditions preceding, and resulting in, Lake Erie algal bloom development.
- Better decisions by environmental managers in development and implementation of strategies to mitigate or control/eliminate Lake Erie algal blooms.

### **IB. Lake Erie Central and Eastern Basin Studies of nearshore/offshore nutrient fluxes and interactions.**

EPA is requesting submissions of applications for one to three awards, which collectively are expected to total approximately \$150,000. Award(s) would support one or more studies to investigate the movement of nutrients between the nearshore and offshore in the central and

eastern basins and the interaction of nutrients (particularly the soluble and particulate forms of phosphorus) with planktonic and benthic components of the biota (plant, animal and microbial) in these zones. These studies should attempt to coordinate nearshore, small boat, sampling with large vessel, offshore sampling. In addition to nutrient measurements, the project may include analyses of stable isotope ratios, essential fatty acids, and primary productivity.

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

- Data on nutrients in the nearshore and offshore of the central and eastern basins of Lake Erie.
- Information on nutrient fluxes between the nearshore and offshore zones and the role of biota in the altering the fluxes from historical measurements, model outputs, or other estimates.

**Outcomes** may include, but are not limited to:

- Increased understanding of the contribution of phosphorus in the nearshore to *Cladophora* growth in the central and eastern basins of Lake Erie.
- Increased understanding of the amount of phosphorus moving between the nearshore and offshore and how it influences (a) Lake Erie central basin hypoxia and (b) the decreased productivity of the Lake Erie eastern basin.
- Improved future assessments of phosphorus load limits for Lake Erie

### **I.C. Lake Erie Bioavailable Phosphorus Studies.**

EPA is requesting submissions of applications for one or two awards which collectively are expected to total approximately \$100,000. Awards would support a study to investigate the current bioavailability of phosphorus in tributary waters entering Lake Erie, using the extraction methods developed historically, and any new methods viewed as more representative of “bioavailable phosphorus.” The study must include at least one component which is mainly agricultural and one which is not. Each such component must follow the rivers to the lake.

Background. The availability of phosphorus for algal growth was addressed in Lake Erie during the 1970’s (DePinto, J.V., Young, T.C., Martin, S.C. 1981. Algal-Availability of Phosphorus in Suspended Sediments from Lower Great Lakes Tributaries. *J. Great Lakes Res.* 7(3):311-325). Those studies took place at a period when the majority of the total phosphorus entering Lake Erie from its tributaries was in the particulate form, often from eroded soils. The relative importance of soluble and particulate phosphorus in tributary water entering Lake Erie appears to be changing.

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

- Data comparing the historical estimates of bioavailable phosphorus with current bioavailable phosphorus.
- Information on the amount of the total phosphorus entering the lake that is readily available for algal growth.

**Outcomes** may include, but are not limited to:

- Improved understanding of the real changes in the phosphorus that is now entering Lake Erie versus that used in the original models from which phosphorus guidelines for Lake Erie were developed.

**ID. Lake Erie basin tillage and nutrient management study.**

EPA is requesting submissions of applications for one or two awards which collectively are expected to total approximately \$75,000. Awards would support controlled studies in the Lake Erie watershed that would both (i) investigate and quantify the causes and sources of nutrient runoff from agricultural fields (with an emphasis on phosphorous and soluble phosphorous) and (ii) evaluate the effects on crop management and best management practices on mitigating or reducing nutrient runoff in the Lake Erie Watershed, especially the heavy clay soils in the Western Basin of Lake Erie Watershed.

The projects must include one or both of the following components:

- (i) An instrumented field plot study in which natural rainfall runoff from the controlled study area is collected and analyzed for nutrients as the basis for controlled research.
- (ii) Rainulator studies in which field plot runoff from a rainfall simulator is collected and analyzed for nutrients as the basis for controlled research.

The following ideas have been determined to have potential to achieve the outcomes and outputs identified below. This is not an exclusive list; however, applicants are encouraged to include one or more of these ideas in their proposals:

- Influence of various tillage systems on nutrients in the runoff (especially soluble reactive phosphorous concentrations), including 1) continuous no-tillage systems, 2) Rotational No-Tillage systems, 3) Mulch Tillage Systems, and 4) Conventional Moldboard Plow Systems.
- Investigating and measuring the impacts of various forms of nutrient management and nutrient application systems, including the effects of timing, placement of phosphorous fertilizers, and soil phosphorous levels on soluble Phosphorus concentrations in the resulting runoff.
- Identification of the appropriate Best Management Practices that are effective and should be promoted within the watershed to reduce Phosphorus loadings exported from the watershed to Lake Erie.

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

- Data on the nutrient levels in runoff as related to nutrient management (fertilizer management).
- Data on nutrient levels in runoff as related to tillage practices.
- Recommendations on the Best Management Practices that reduce phosphorus loadings exported from farm fields.

**Outcomes** may include but are not limited to:

- A reduction in phosphorus loadings exported from farm fields.

### **I.E. Lake Erie Basin On-Farm Demonstration Projects.**

EPA is requesting submissions of applications for one or two awards which collectively are expected to total approximately \$75,000. Awards would support On-farm Demonstrations with agricultural producers that include one or more of the following components:

- 1) An on-farm demonstration of the use of growing Cover Crops to capture and hold nutrients between cropping seasons. Such a project must:
  - Demonstrate the suitability of various different cover crop species for use on-farms within the basin and identify preferred species that are reliable, economical and recommended to use.
  - Demonstrate and identify various cultural and management techniques that contribute to the success and reliability of seeding cover crops and fit with the common production systems in the watershed.
  - Demonstrate the economics (costs and benefits) of applying these systems.
  - Include an information/education component to facilitate technology transfer to other farms within the watershed.
  
- 2) An on-farm demonstration of the use of nutrient management and application techniques that reduce phosphorous runoff. Such a project must:
  - Demonstrate precision nutrient management systems which integrate geo-referenced soil samples, combine yield monitor maps and variable rate application equipment into a field by field prescriptive precision fertilizer management plan.
  - Demonstrate fertilizer application techniques and systems that minimize soluble Phosphorus runoff, such as (a) Fertilizer injection with fall strip tillage or other types of crop production systems, (b) Elimination of winter fertilizer application, and (c) Other unknown systems that may reduce Phosphorus runoff.
  - Include an information/education component to facilitate technology transfer to other farms within the watershed.
  
- 3) An on-farm demonstration of the use of reduced Phosphorous fertilizer rates and the resulting yield and economic impacts. Such a project must:
  - Include side by side field plots with normal and reduced Phosphorus fertilizer rates in accordance with the Ohio- Indiana-Michigan Tri-State fertility guide.
  - Incorporate soil testing and yield testing as measurements of the effects of the reduced rates.
  - Demonstrate the economics of applying these systems.
  - Include an information/education component to facilitate technology transfer to other farms within the watershed

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

- Documented results of tillage practices, nutrient management, and reduced phosphorus application on the resultant crop yield from demonstration fields.
- Information on the economics of practices demonstrated in on-farm projects.

- Recommendations on best management practices that affect nutrient output in the Lake Erie Basin.

**Outcomes** may include but are not limited to:

- Reduced Phosphorus runoff into Lake Erie.
- Increased understanding and acceptance of advanced farming practices potentially beneficial to farmers and environmental managers.
- Improved information/education for the farming community on the practices beneficial to farmers and Lake Erie.
- Wide-scale adoption in the Lake Erie Basin of best management practices that affect nutrient output.

## **II. Award Information**

The number of agreements EPA will fund as a result of this announcement will be based on the quality of applications received and the availability of funding. Estimates of dollar amounts and numbers of projects as described below are included as planning targets only.

**Amounts, Targets, and Number of Projects.** An estimated \$500,000 is expected to be awarded for an estimated 5-10 awards resulting from this announcement ranging from approximately \$30,000 - \$150,000 each. 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 number of projects may differ for many reasons, including: the EPA budget for this year has not yet been approved and there may be reductions to the GLNPO budget which could reduce funding available for projects pursuant to this announcement; the related operating budget has not been developed; 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.

**Anticipated Start and End Dates.** EPA 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 April 1, 2009 or earlier. See "Pre-award Costs" for information regarding costs incurred prior to awards. Project periods are expected to range from one to two years.

**Awards from additional funding.** EPA reserves the right to make additional awards under this announcement, consistent with Agency policy and guidance, if additional funding becomes available after the original selections are made. Any additional selections for awards will be made no later than 6 months after the original selection decisions.

**Funding Type.** Successful applicants will be issued a grant, cooperative agreement, or interagency agreement. 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 awards cooperative agreements for those projects in which it expects to have substantial interaction with the recipient throughout the performance of the project. EPA will negotiate the precise terms and conditions of "substantial involvement" as part of the award process. Federal involvement may include close monitoring of the recipient's performance; collaboration during the performance of the scope of work; in accordance with 40 CFR 31.36(g), review of proposed procurements; reviewing qualifications of key personnel; and/or review and comment on the content of printed or electronic publications prepared. EPA does not have the authority to select employees or contractors employed by the recipient. The final decision on the content of reports rests with the recipient. Any awards from EPA to federal agencies would be made in the form of an interagency agreement.

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

**Partial Funding.** In appropriate circumstances, EPA reserves the right to partially fund proposals by funding discrete portions or phases of proposed projects. If EPA decides to partially fund a proposal, it will do so in a manner that does not prejudice any applicants or affect the basis upon which the proposal, or portion thereof, was evaluated and selected for award, and therefore maintains the integrity of the competition and selection process.

**Pre-award Costs.** It is possible for applicants to be reimbursed for pre-award costs. Applicants who expect to incur pre-award costs should identify those costs in their proposals. Reimbursement of pre-award costs is considered on a case-by-case basis. EPA is not obligated to reimburse recipients for pre-award costs; recipients incur pre-award costs at their own risk. Applicable regulations for pre-award costs are contained in 40 CFR 30.25 (f). EPA Policy Guidance (GPI-00-02) makes this policy applicable to grantees under both Part 30 (universities and nonprofits) and Part 31 (State, local, and tribal).

### III. Eligibility and Matching

**Applicant Eligibility (CFDA 66.469).** State pollution control agencies, interstate agencies, and other public or non-profit private agencies, institutions, and organizations are eligible; "for-profit" organizations are not. Colleges and universities which are subject to 40 CFR 30 or 31 are eligible. Non-profit organization, as defined by OMB Circular A-122, located at 2 CFR Part 230, means any corporation, trust, association, cooperative, or other organization which: (1) is operated primarily for scientific, educational, service, charitable, or similar purposes in the public interest; (2) is not organized primarily for profit; and (3) uses its net proceeds to maintain, improve, and/or expand its operations. Non-profit organizations described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engage in lobbying activities as defined in Section 3 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 are not eligible to apply. Since other federal agencies are public agencies or institutions, they are generally eligible to compete and would receive an interagency agreement if selected for an award by EPA.

**Eligible Activities.** 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. Applicants' proposals pursuant to this Funding Opportunity must conduct, and promote the coordination and acceleration of, research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, and/or studies relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and/or elimination of pollution. Proposals for other activities will be rejected.

**Ineligible Activities.** Under this announcement, EPA will not fund: "construction grant" projects; basic research; land acquisition; or projects the principal purpose for which is general operating support.

**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.

**Threshold Eligibility Criteria.** These are requirements that if not met by the application due date and time will result in elimination of the application from consideration for funding. Only applications from eligible entities (see above) that meet all of these criteria will be evaluated against the ranking factors in Section V of this announcement. Applicants deemed ineligible for funding consideration as a result of the threshold eligibility review will be notified within 15 calendar days of the ineligibility determination.

1. a. Applications must substantially comply with the application submission instructions and requirements set forth in Section IV of this announcement or else they will be rejected.
- b. Applications must be postmarked or received by the EPA or received through <http://www.grants.gov> as specified in Section IV of this announcement on or before the submission deadline published in that Section. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their application reaches the designated person/office specified in Section IV of the announcement by the submission deadline.
- c. An application postmarked or received through [grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) after the deadline will be considered late and rejected without further consideration unless the applicant can clearly

demonstrate that it was late due to EPA mishandling or because of technical problems solely attributable to the grants.gov website and not the applicant. Applicants should confirm receipt of their applications with Lawrence Brail (312-886-7474 /brail.lawrence@epa.gov) as soon as possible after the submission deadline - failure to do so may result in your proposal not being reviewed.

2. Proposals must be for eligible activities which support (i) Goal 4 (Healthy Communities and Ecosystems), Objective 3 (Ecosystems), Subobjective 3 (Improve the Health of Great Lakes Ecosystems) of EPA'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.glr.us/>.
3. Proposals must address one or more of purposes described in Section I. Proposals for Bioavailable Phosphorus Studies pursuant to Section I.C must include at least one component which is mainly agricultural and one which is not. Proposals for Tillage and Nutrient Management Studies pursuant to Section I.D must include the instrumented field plot study or rainulator study described there.

Note also that pursuant to Section IV, zipped files will not be reviewed.

## **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, applications must meet the submission requirements specified below. A full application package includes:

1. Proposal Narrative, including cover page and work plan prepared as described in Section IV.B. of this announcement.
2. Budget Narrative /Detail – see Section IV.C below
3. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
4. Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)
5. EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54
6. Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B)
7. Certification Regarding Lobbying (EPA Form 6600-06)
8. EPA Form 4700-4 – Preaward Compliance Review Report
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 1 and 2 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 <http://www.grants.gov>.

There is no page limit for the Proposal or Budget Narratives, or other portions of the Application Package; however, the Proposal and Budget Narratives 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 Narrative Format (item 1 above)**

**1. Cover Page:** We request that the cover page consist of no more than one side of 1 page and should include:

- a. Funding Opportunity Title and Number.** Choose among "Lake Erie Western Basin Algal Bloom Study;" "Lake Erie Central and Eastern Basin Studies of nearshore/offshore nutrient fluxes and interactions;" "Lake Erie Bioavailable Phosphorus Studies;" "Lake Erie Basin tillage and nutrient management study," and "Lake Erie Basin On-Farm Demonstration Projects." The announcement number is EPA-R5-GL2009-1.
- b. Name of Project.** Please limit to 60 characters, or EPA reserves the right to change the name for its administrative convenience.

- c. **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.
- d. **Type of Organization.** Choose from: State; Interstate Agency or Commission; Sub-state or special purpose district; County; Municipality; College or University; Tribal Organization; Federally funded research and development center; or Other.
- e. **Proposed funding request.** The dollar amount requested from EPA.
- f. **Leveraging.** Identify leveraged funds and the ratio of leveraged vs. requested funds.
- g. **Brief project description (Abstract).** 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 the 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 in Form of Quality Assurance Project Plan.** Submit this part of the proposal in the form of a Quality Assurance Project Plan. The required elements are described below:

| Elements  | Requirements   |
|---|--|
| <b>PROJECT MANAGEMENT</b>                         |  |
| 1. Title and Approval Sheet [QAPP Element A1]     | Include a signature and date line for your Project Manager, other individuals in your organization who will be making protocol decisions regarding the project, the EPA Project Officer and the EPA-GLNPO Quality Assurance Manager (Louis Blume).   |
| 2. Table of Contents [QAPP Element A2]            | Document control format.   |
| 3. Distribution List [QAPP Element A3]            | Distribution list for the QAPP revisions and final guidance. Include everyone who will receive a copy of the Work Plan / Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). This should include everyone on the Approval Page (item 2), and anyone else who will have direct responsibility for ensuring that the work is conducted in a manner consistent with this work plan/ QAPP. If specific staff members have not been hired yet, you can identify them by the title of their position(s), e.g., field assistant  |
| 4. Project/Task Organization [QAPP Element A4]    | Identify individuals or organizations participating in the project and discuss their roles, responsibilities and organization.   |
| 5. Collaboration and Leveraging [QAPP Element A4] | Describe plans and status of collaboration amongst the public, private, and independent sectors. List the proposed 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. Describe how you will coordinate the use of EPA funding with other Federal and/or non Federal sources of funds to leverage additional resources to carry out the proposed project(s) and/or (ii) that EPA funding will complement activities relevant to the proposed project(s) carried out by the applicant with other sources of funds or resources. Leveraged funding or other resources need not be for eligible and allowable project costs under the EPA assistance agreement unless the Applicant proposes to provide a voluntary cost share or match. If EPA accepts an offer for a voluntary cost share/match/participation, applicants must meet their matching/sharing/participation commitment as a condition of receiving EPA funding. Applicants may use their own funds or other resources for voluntary match/cost share/participation 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 voluntary matches/cost |

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|  | shares/participation. Other Federal grants may not be used as voluntary matches or cost shares without specific statutory authority (e.g HUD's Community Development Block Grants). Any form of proposed leveraging that is evaluated under a section V ranking criteria must be included in the proposal and the proposal must describe how the applicant will obtain the leveraged resources and what role EPA funding will play in the overall project.  |
| 6. Problem Definition/ Background [QAPP Element A6]                  | 1) State the specific problem to be solved or the decision to be made.<br>2) Identify the decision maker and the principal customer for the results.  |
| 7. Project/Task Description [QAPP Element A6]                        | Describe what will be done and how.<br>- Include a statement of the project's relevance to the Great Lakes, particularly to needs and priorities in Subobjective 4.3.3 (Improve the Health of Great Lakes Ecosystems) of EPA's 2006-2011 Strategic Plan <a href="http://www.epa.gov/ocf/plan/plan.htm">http://www.epa.gov/ocf/plan/plan.htm</a> and to the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration <a href="http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/collaboration/strategy.html">http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/collaboration/strategy.html</a> .<br>- Include: 1) Hypothesis test, 2) expected measurements, 3) ARARs or other appropriate standards, 4) assessment tools (technical audits), 5) work schedule and required reports, including the date by which EPA would receive a final report on the project, 6) your plan for measuring progress toward achieving outputs and outcomes of the project, including those identified in Section I of the announcement, 7) discussion of a communication plan for distributing the project results to interested parties. |
| 8. Benefits/Outcomes   | 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 <a href="http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/award/5700.7.pdf">http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/award/5700.7.pdf</a> 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.  |
| 9. Benefits/Outputs  | Specify the estimated quantifiable environmental and economic outputs of the project, including affected pollutants, industry sectors, economic impacts, habitats, and/or species. Include an estimate of the amount of chemicals to be "collected or prevented." Describe the quality of that estimate, including applicable limitations. Pursuant to EPA Order 5700.7 <a href="http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/award/5700.7.pdf">http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/award/5700.7.pdf</a> 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.  |
| 10. Data Quality Objectives for Measurement Data [QAPP Element A7]   | Decision(s), population parameter of interest, action level, summary statistics and acceptable limits on decision errors. Also, scope of the project (domain or geographical locale).   |
| 11. Special Training Requirements/ Certification [QAPP Element A8]   | Identify special training that personnel will need.   |
| 12. Documentation and Record [QAPP Element A9]                       | Itemize the information and records that must be included in a data report package, including report format and requirements for storage, etc.  |
| <b>MEASUREMENT/DATA ACQUISITION</b>                                  |   |
| 13. Sampling Process Designs (Experimental Design) [QAPP Element B1] | Outline the experimental design, including sampling design and rationale, sampling frequencies, matrices, and measurement parameter of interest.  |

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| 14. Sampling Methods Requirements [QAPP Element B2]  | Sample collection method and approach.   |
| 15. Sample Handling and Custody Requirements [QAPP Element B3]                             | Describe the provisions for sample labeling, shipment, chain-of-custody forms, procedures for transferring and maintaining custody of samples.   |
| 16. Analytical Methods Requirements [QAPP Element B4]                                      | Identify analytical method(s) and equipment for the study, including method performance requirements.  |
| 17. Quality Control Requirements [QAPP Element B5]   | Describe routine (real-time) QC procedures that should be associated with each sampling and measurement technique. List required QC checks and corrective action procedures.   |
| 18. Instrument/Equipment Testing Inspection and Maintenance Requirements [QAPP Element B6] | Discuss how inspection and acceptance testing, including the use of QC samples, must be performed to ensure their intended use as specified by the design.   |
| 19. Instrument Calibration and Frequency [QAPP Element B7]                                 | Identify tools, gauges and instruments, and other sampling or measurement devices that need calibration. Describe how the calibration should be done.  |
| 20. Inspection/Acceptance Requirements for Supplies and Consumables [QAPP Element B8]      | Define how and by whom the sampling supplies and other consumables will be accepted for use in the project.  |
| 21. Data Acquisition Requirements (Non-direct Measurements) [QAPP Element B9]              | Define the criteria for the use of non-measurement data such as data that come from databases or literature.   |
| 22. Data Management [QAPP Element B10]   | Outline the data management scheme including the path and storage of the data and the data record-keeping system. Identify all data handling equipment and procedures that will be used to process, compile, and analyze the data.   |
| <b>ASSESSMENT/OVERSIGHT</b>  |  |
| 23. Assessments and Response Actions [QAPP Element C1]                                     | Describe the assessment activities needed for this project, including your plan for measuring progress toward achieving outputs and outcomes of the project, including those identified in Section I of the announcement. Data assessment activities may include DQA, PE, TSA, MSR/ PR/RR. |
| 24. Reports to Management [QAPP Element C2]  | Identify the frequency, content and distribution of reports issued to keep management informed.  |
| <b>DATA VALIDATION AND USABILITY</b>   |  |
| 25. Data Review, Validation, and Verification Requirements [QAPP Element D1]               | State the criteria used to accept or reject the data based on quality.   |
| 26. Validation and Verification Methods [QAPP Element D2]                                  | Describe the process to be used for validating and verifying data, including the chain-of-custody for data throughout the lifetime of the project.   |
| 27. Reconciliation With Data Quality Objectives [QAPP Element D3]                          | Describe how results will be evaluated to determine if DQOs have been satisfied.   |

| APPLICANT INFORMATION                          |   |
|--|---|
| 28. Past Performance – Programmatic Capability | <p>Submit a list of federally funded assistance agreements (assistance agreements include Federal grants and cooperative agreements but not Federal contracts) similar in size, scope and relevance to the proposed project that your organization performed within the last three years (no more than 5, and preferably EPA agreements) and describe (i) whether, and how, you were able to successfully complete and manage those agreements, (ii) your history of meeting the reporting requirements under those agreements including submitting acceptable final technical reports, and (iii) how you documented and/or reported on whether you were making progress towards achieving the expected results (e.g., outputs and outcomes) under those agreements. If you were not making progress, please indicate whether, and how, you documented why not.</p> <p>In evaluating applicants under these factors in Section V, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider 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 you do not have any relevant or available past performance or reporting information, please indicate this in the proposal and you will receive a neutral score for these factors under Section V – failure to indicate this may result in 0 points for these factors.</p> <p>In addition, provide information on your organizational experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the proposed project, and your staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project.</p> |
| 29. Quality Management Plan                    | <p>Indicate whether the Applicant has an approved Quality Management Plan (see <a href="http://www.epa.gov/quality/index.html">http://www.epa.gov/quality/index.html</a>) and where that plan may be found. If an applicant is selected, GLNPO may require the applicant to submit its Quality Management Plan or similar documentation to the Project Officer.</p> <p>If a selected Applicant has proposed a project in which it will coordinate with, or make sub-awards to, multiple entities or organizations to achieve the proposed results, it will be required to describe how the various organizations will work together to achieve those results. This type of overarching quality management documentation could constitute a Quality Management Plan or Quality Program Plan.</p>   |
| 30. Curriculum Vitae                           | Include Curriculum Vitae for Principal Investigator(s).   |

Note to applicants. In addition to the information requested above, provide any other information that relates to the evaluation factors in Section V.

**C. Budget Narrative/Detail. (Item 2 above in Section IV.A).** Specify in a chart with a column that totals to the total project cost how the total of the EPA 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 a 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 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 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. The Applicant should indicate if it is in negotiations with the appropriate federal agency to obtain a new rate.
10. **Total Cost.** Indicate overall figure of all direct and indirect costs.

**Management Fees:** When formulating budgets for proposals/applications, applicants must not include management fees or similar charges in excess of the direct costs and indirect costs at the rate approved by the applicant's cognizant audit agency, or at the rate provided for by the terms of the agreement negotiated with EPA. The term "management fees or similar charges" refers to expenses added to the direct costs in order to accumulate and reserve funds for ongoing business expenses, unforeseen liabilities, or for other similar costs that are not allowable under EPA assistance agreements. Management fees or similar charges may not be used to improve or

expand the project funded under this agreement, except to the extent authorized as a direct cost of carrying out the scope of work

**D. Other Application Forms (items 3- 10 above).** See Item HI4 available from: <http://epa.gov/greatlakes/fund/appforms.html> for additional information about putting together your application package. If there is a conflict between the general information contained there and this Request for Applications, use the information in this Request for Applications.

Note that all applicants are required to provide a Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number when applying for a Federal grant or cooperative agreement. Applicants can receive a DUNS number, at no cost by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS Number request line at 1-866-705-5711, or visiting the D&B website at: <http://www.dnb.com>

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

#### **E.1. Instructions for Paper Submissions.**

Applicants submitting Applications by paper must send the full application package as described in Section IV. A, B, C, and D above to the applicable address listed below. (EPA also requests that the electronic files (disk or e-mail attachment) containing the Proposal and Budget Narrative also be submitted at the same time.) EPA strongly recommends that applicants use overnight delivery service or courier service, as regular mail may be subject to unforeseeable delays. Application Packages submitted by paper must be sent to:

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

#### **E.2. Instructions for Grants.gov Submissions**

See Attachment A to this Announcement for instructions to apply electronically through grants.gov.

**F. Submission Deadline.** Application packages, regardless of the mode of submission, must be postmarked or received by EPA or through grants.gov by midnight, Central Standard Time, February 2, 2009. Applications which are postmarked or received by EPA or through grants.gov after this date and time will not be considered.

**G. 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.

**H. 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 application, and requests for clarification about the announcement. Submit questions using the form available at: [http://epa.gov/greatlakes/fund/2008Erierfa/2008Erierfa\\_cmnt.html](http://epa.gov/greatlakes/fund/2008Erierfa/2008Erierfa_cmnt.html)

**I. Intergovernmental Review.** Intergovernmental Review provisions of 40 CFR Part 29 apply when a grant program has been selected by the State in which an applicant resides. These regulations implement Executive order 12373 "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs" and are intended to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened Federalism by relying on state processes and on a state, area wide, regional and local coordinated review of proposed Federal financial assistance and proposed direct Federal development. Amongst Great Lakes States, only the State of Michigan is both participating in this process and has selected to review Great Lakes program grant applications. Applicants from the State of Michigan and any other State that has made that selection, must comply with the applicable intergovernmental review procedures in 40 CFR part 29, including sending a copy of the SF424 and the proposal narrative to the applicable State Single Point of Contact, at or before submission of their applications pursuant to Sections E and F above. A listing of State Single Point of Contacts and addresses is available at < <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/spoc.html> >.

**J. Questions and Answers Pertaining to Contracts and Subawards:**

**a. Can funding be used for the applicant to make subawards, acquire contract services, or fund partnerships?**

EPA awards funds to one eligible applicant as the recipient even if other eligible applicants are named as partners or co-applicants or members of a coalition or consortium. The recipient is accountable to EPA for the proper expenditure of funds.

Funding may be used to provide subgrants or subawards of financial assistance, which includes using subawards or subgrants to fund partnerships, provided the recipient complies with applicable requirements for subawards or subgrants including those contained in 40 CFR Parts 30 or 31, as appropriate. Applicants must compete contracts for services and products, including consultant contracts, and conduct cost and price analyses, to the extent required by the procurement provisions of the regulations at 40 CFR Parts 30 or 31, as appropriate. The regulations also contain limitations on consultant compensation. Applicants are not required to identify subawardees/subgrantees and/or contractors (including consultants) in their proposal/application. However, if they do, the fact that an applicant selected for award has named a specific subawardee/subgrantee, contractor, or consultant in the proposal/application EPA selects for funding does not relieve the applicant of its obligations to comply with subaward/subgrant and/or competitive procurement requirements as appropriate. Please note

that applicants may not award sole source contracts to consulting, engineering or other firms assisting applicants with the proposal solely based on the firm's role in preparing the proposal/application.

Successful applicants cannot use subgrants or subawards to avoid requirements in EPA grant regulations for competitive procurement by using these instruments to acquire commercial services or products from for-profit organizations to carry out its assistance agreement. The nature of the transaction between the recipient and the subawardee or subgrantee must be consistent with the standards for distinguishing between vendor transactions and subrecipient assistance under Subpart B Section .210 of OMB Circular A-133 , and the definitions of subaward at 40 CFR 30.2(ff) or subgrant at 40 CFR 31.3, as applicable. EPA will not be a party to these transactions. Applicants acquiring commercial goods or services must comply with the competitive procurement standards in 40 CFR Part 30 or 40 CFR Part 31.36 and cannot use a subaward/subgrant as the funding mechanism.

**b. How will an applicant's proposed subawardees/subgrantees and contractors be considered during the evaluation process described in Section V of the announcement?**

Section V of the announcement describes the evaluation criteria and evaluation process that will be used by EPA to make selections under this announcement. During this evaluation, except for those criteria that relate to the applicant's own qualifications, past performance, and reporting history, the review panel will consider, as appropriate and relevant, the qualifications, expertise, and experience of:

(i) an applicant's named subawardees/subgrantees identified in the proposal/application if the applicant demonstrates in the proposal/application that if it receives an award that the subaward/subgrant will be properly awarded consistent with the applicable regulations in 40 CFR Parts 30 or 31. For example, applicants must not use subawards/subgrants to obtain commercial services or products from for profit firms or individual consultants.

(ii) an applicant's named contractor(s), including consultants, identified in the proposal/application if the applicant demonstrates in its proposal/application that the contractor(s) was selected in compliance with the competitive Procurement Standards in 40 CFR Part 30 or 40 CFR 31.36 as appropriate. For example, an applicant must demonstrate that it selected the contractor(s) competitively or that a proper non-competitive sole-source award consistent with the regulations will be made to the contractor(s), that efforts were made to provide small and disadvantaged businesses with opportunities to compete, and that some form of cost or price analysis was conducted. EPA may not accept sole source justifications for contracts for services or products that are otherwise readily available in the commercial marketplace.

EPA will not consider the qualifications, experience, and expertise of named subawardees/subgrantees and/or named contractor(s) during the proposal/application evaluation process unless the applicant complies with these requirements.

## V. Application Review

**Criteria.** Submissions meeting the threshold criteria in Section III will be evaluated based on the Criteria set forth below. Applicants should directly and explicitly address these criteria as part of their submittal. Each proposal will be rated under a points system, with a total of 100 points possible.

- A. Strategic Approach and Scientific/Professional Merit.** Strategic Approach includes the extent and quality of the application's strategic approach to achieving the objectives and expected outcomes and outputs identified in Section I for the proposed project area (e.g. Topic I.A, B, C, D, or E) and the potential for achieving goals specified in the proposal by its specified project end. Scientific/Professional Merit includes the soundness of the technical approach, including design, objectives, and scientific viability of the project. (25 points)
- B. Measuring Progress toward Outcomes and Outputs.** Extent and quality of the evaluative component of the project, including how the applicant's success in achieving the expected project outcomes and outputs, including those identified in Section I, will be tracked and measured. (10 points)
- C. Programmatic Capability.** The applicant's technical ability to successfully complete and manage the proposed project taking into account the applicant's experience with federally funded assistance agreements (assistance agreements include Federal grants and cooperative agreements but not Federal contracts) similar in size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project performed within the last 3 years. Under this criterion, EPA will evaluate the applicant's (i) past performance and history regarding successful completion and management of such agreements, (ii) history of meeting reporting requirements and submission of acceptable final technical reports of such agreements, and (iii) staff expertise and qualifications, including expertise/qualifications/knowledge and resources (or the ability to obtain them) of the Applicant and its staff to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project. (30 points)

NOTE: The three elements of this criterion will be equally weighted. In evaluating applicants under this criterion, the Agency 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 or reporting history must indicate this in the proposal and they will receive a neutral score for these criteria – failure to do so may result in 0 points for these factors.

- D. Environmental Results Past Performance. The extent and quality to which the Applicant adequately documented and/or reported on progress towards achieving the expected outcomes and outputs (e.g., results) under federally funded assistance agreements (including Federal grants and cooperative agreements but not Federal contracts) similar in size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project performed within the last 3 years, and if such progress was not made, whether the documentation and/reports satisfactorily explained why not. (10 points)**

NOTE: In evaluating applicants under this criterion, the Agency 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 or reporting history must indicate this in the proposal and they will receive a neutral score for these criteria – failure to do so may result in 0 points for these factors.

- E. Appropriate Budget.** Reasonableness and appropriateness of the proposed budget for the level of work proposed and with the expected benefits to be achieved. (15 points)
- F. Collaboration/Partnerships and Leveraged Resources.** Degree to which the applicant proposes to work in partnership with appropriate partners (such as government agencies, community groups, businesses, stakeholders, States, Cities, and Counties) and leverage significant resources to implement the proposal. Under this criteria, applicants will also be evaluated based on the extent they demonstrate (i) how they will coordinate the use of EPA funding with other Federal and/or non Federal sources of funds to leverage additional resources to carry out the proposed project(s) and/or (ii) that EPA funding will complement activities relevant to the proposed project(s) carried out by the applicant with other sources of funds or resources. Leveraged funding or other resources need not be for eligible and allowable project costs under the EPA assistance agreement unless the Applicant proposes to provide a voluntary cost share or match. (10 points)

**Review and Selection Process.** EPA staff will evaluate submitted proposals and budgets. Submissions that meet the Threshold eligibility criteria identified in Section III will be evaluated based on each applicant's ability to meet the stated evaluation criteria above. Review panels will rank submissions based on this review and provide recommendations 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 addition to the review panel rankings, program priorities, program budgets, and geographic distribution of projects may also be considered by the director in making final selections and funding decisions. Once final decisions have been made, applicants will be informed and a funding recommendation will be developed and forwarded to the EPA Award Official.

**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](mailto:brail.lawrence@epa.gov) if you do not receive a confirmation or if your project is not posted. GLNPO will contact all Applicants on or around March 6, 2009 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 – Policy on Assessing Capabilities of Non-Profit Applicants for Managing Assistance Awards ( [http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/award/5700\\_8.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/award/5700_8.pdf) ) . In addition, non-profit applicants that qualify for funding may, depending on the size of the award, be required to fill out and submit to the Grants Management Office, an Administrative Capabilities form with the supporting documents contained in Appendix A of EPA Order 5700.8.

**Mandatory Training for non-profits.** EPA requires non-profit applicants and recipients to take a course designed to help them understand assistance agreement regulations, the application process, management of their assistance agreements and the close out process. Completion of this class is mandatory for all non-profit award recipients upon receipt of monetary actions effective October 1, 2007. Certification will be good for 3 years. See <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/>

**Issuance of Awards.** EPA reserves the right to negotiate appropriate changes (that do not affect the integrity of the competition), consistent with EPA Order 5700.5A1 and other applicable policies, in project terms and amounts before making final decisions and awards and reserves the right to reject all applications and make no awards. EPA 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 can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/fund/projreqs.html> and <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/fund/appforms.html> . An acceptable final report must include statements regarding the quality of the data presented therein. 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://www.epa.gov/ogd/competition/resolution.htm> Copies of these procedures may also be requested by contacting [russ.michael@epa.gov](mailto:russ.michael@epa.gov)

## **VII. Agency Contact(s)**

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

Submission Contact: Lawrence Brail (312-886-7474) / [brail.lawrence@epa.gov](mailto:brail.lawrence@epa.gov)

## **VIII. Other Information**

EPA'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 55 and an annual budget of about \$55 million, including contaminated sediment remediation projects pursuant to the Great Lakes Legacy Act.

GLNPO expects to issue one or more additional Requests for Proposals or Applications in December and again early in calendar year 2009. Topics currently being considered for those announcements include Lake Erie, Michigan, and Superior Forums; Invasive Species, and the International Atmospheric Deposition Network.

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>.

**Grants.gov Application Instructions**  
**For Announcement Number EPA-R5-GL2009-1**  
*Applicable Only to Applications Submitted Through Grants.gov*

## General Application Instructions

The electronic submission of your application must be made by an official representative of your institution who is registered with Grants.gov. For more information, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on “Get Registered” 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 Authorized Representative (AOR) and ask that individual to begin the registration process as soon as possible.

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 Registered” on the left side of the page. **\*\*\*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 Authorized Representative (AOR) and ask that individual to begin the registration process as soon as possible.

To begin the application process under this grant announcement, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on the “Apply for Grants” tab on the left side of the page. Then click on “Apply Step 1: Download a Grant Application Package” to download the compatible Adobe viewer and obtain the application package. **To apply through grants.gov you must use Adobe Reader applications and download the compatible Adobe Reader version ( Adobe Reader applications are available to download for free on the Grants.gov website. For more information on Adobe Reader please visit the Help section on grants.gov at**

<http://www.grants.gov/help/help.jsp> or [http://www.grants.gov/about/grants/program\\_status.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/about/grants/program_status.jsp)).

Once you have downloaded the viewer, you may retrieve the application package by entering the Funding Opportunity Number, EPA R5-GL2009-1, or the CFDA number that applies to the announcement (CFDA 66.469), in the appropriate field. You may also be able to access the proposal/application package by clicking on the Application button 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 left side of the page and then go to Search Opportunities and use the Browse by Agency feature to find EPA opportunities).

If you have any questions regarding this matter please email the Grants.gov Contact Center at [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov) or call 1-800-518-4726.

### Grants.gov Submission Deadline

Your organization’s AOR must submit your complete application package as described below, electronically to EPA through Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>) no later than midnight, Central Standard Time, February 2, 2009 as described in Section IV.F. of the Announcement.

To view the full funding announcement, go to the applicable announcement from < <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/fund/gl.f.html> > or go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on “Find Grant

Opportunities” on the left side of the page and then click on “Search Opportunities/Browse by Agency” and select Environmental Protection Agency.

Please submit *all* of the application materials described below.

## **Application Materials**

**The following forms and documents are required under this announcement-See Section IV. A, B, C, and D of the announcement):**

### **1. Proposal Narrative.**

Include cover page and work plan prepared as described in Section IV.B. of the announcement. The document should be readable in PDF, MS Word or Word Perfect WP6/7/8 for Windows and consolidated into a single file and be prepared in accordance with Section IV. A and B of the announcement.

### **2. Budget Narrative /Detail – Detailed Itemized Budget**

Prepare the Detailed Itemized Budget as described in Section IV.C of the announcement.

### **3. Standard Form (SF) 424, Application for Federal Assistance**

Complete the form. There are no attachments.

Please note that the organizational Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number must be included on the SF-424. Organizations may obtain a DUNS number at no cost by calling the toll-free DUNS number request line at 1-866-705-5711.

### **4. Form SF 424A – Budget Information:**

Complete the form. There are no attachments.

The total amount of federal funding requested for the project period should be shown on line 5(e) and on line 6(k) of SF-424A, the amount of indirect costs should be entered on line 6(j). The indirect cost rate (i.e., a percentage), the base (e.g., personnel costs and fringe benefits), and the amount should also be indicated on line 22. If indirect costs are requested, a copy of the Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement must be submitted as part of the application package. (See instructions for document 10 below.)

### **5. EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54**

Complete the form. There are no attachments.

If additional pages are needed, attach these additional pages to the electronic application package by using the “Other Attachments Form” in the “Optional Documents” box. (See Application Preparation and Submission Instructions below for more details.)

### **6 Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B)**

Complete the form. There are no attachments.

### **7. Certification Regarding Lobbying**

Complete the form. There are no attachments.

### **8. EPA Form 4700-4 – Preaward Compliance Review Report**

Complete the form. There are no attachments.

### **9. Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL), if applicable.**

Required if your organization is involved in lobbying activities.

### **10. Indirect Cost Rate Agreement or Proposal, if Applicant will claim indirect costs.**

Use the “Other Attachments Form” in the “Optional Documents” box to attach a copy of your organization’s Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, if applicable. (See Application Preparation and Submission Instructions below

for more details.) You must submit a copy of your organization's Indirect Cost Rate Agreement as part of the application package if your proposed budget includes indirect costs.

## **Application Preparation and Submission Instructions**

For documents 1 and 2, you will need to attach electronic files. Prepare your proposal as described in Section IVA and B of the announcement and save the document to your computer as an MS Word or WordPerfect file. (U.S. EPA prefers to receive documents in MS Word, but documents prepared in WordPerfect will also be accepted.) When you are ready to attach your proposal to the application package, click on "Project Narrative Attachment Form," and open the form. Click "Add Mandatory Project Narrative File," and then attach your proposal (previously saved to your computer) using the browse window that appears. You may then click "View Mandatory Project Narrative File" to view it. Enter a brief descriptive title of your project in the space beside "Mandatory Project Narrative File Filename;" the filename should be no more than 40 characters long. If there other attachments that you would like to submit to accompany your proposal, you may click "Add Optional Project Narrative File" and proceed as before. When you have finished attaching the necessary documents, click "Close Form." When you return to the "Grant Application Package" page, select the "Project Narrative Attachment Form" and click "Move Form to Submission List." The form should now appear in the box that says, "Mandatory Completed Documents for Submission." Follow the same general procedures for attaching document 2 – the Detailed Itemized Budget – using the "Budget Narrative Attachment Form."

Documents 3 through 8 listed under Application Materials above should appear in the "Mandatory Documents" box on the Grants.gov Grant Application Package page. For documents 3 through 8, click on the appropriate form and then click "Open Form" below the box. The fields that must be completed will be highlighted in yellow. Optional fields and completed fields will be displayed in white. If you enter an invalid response or incomplete information in a field, you will receive an error message. When you have finished filling out each form, click "Save." When you return to the electronic Grant Application Package page, click on the form you just completed, and then click on the box that says, "Move Form to Submission List." This action will move the document over to the box that says, "Mandatory Completed Documents for Submission."

Documents 9 and 10 are listed in the "Optional Documents" box, but please note that these so-called "optional" documents must also be submitted as part of the application package, if applicable to your organization. You are only required to submit document 9 – SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities – if your organization is involved in lobbying activities. You are required to submit document 10 – Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement – if you have included any indirect costs in your proposed budget. To attach document 10 use the "Other Attachments Form" in the "Optional Documents" box. After attaching the documents, please remember to highlight the "Other Attachments Form" and click "Move Form to Submission List" in order to move the documents to the box that says, "Optional Completed Documents for Submission."

Once you have finished filling out all of the forms/attachments and they appear in one of the "Completed Documents for Submission" boxes, click the "Save" button that appears at the top of the Web page. It is suggested that you save the document a second time, using a different name, since this will make it easier to submit an amended package later if necessary. Please use the following format when saving your file: "Applicant Name – FY09 Grant Category – 1st Submission" or "Applicant Name – FY 09 Grant Category – Back-up Submission." If it becomes necessary to submit an amended package at a later date, then the name of the 2nd submission should be changed to "Applicant Name – FY09 Grant Category – 2nd Submission."

Once your application package has been completed and saved, send it to your AOR for submission to U.S. EPA through Grants.gov. Please advise your AOR to close all other software programs before attempting to submit the application package through Grants.gov.

In the "Application Filing Name" box, your AOR should enter your organization's name (abbreviate where possible), the fiscal year (e.g., FY09), and the grant category ("Lake Erie Western Basin Algal Bloom Study;" "Lake Erie Central and Eastern Basin Studies of nearshore/offshore nutrient fluxes and interactions;" "Lake Erie

Bioavailable Phosphorus Studies;” “Lake Erie Basin tillage and nutrient management study,” or “Lake Erie Basin On-Farm Demonstration Projects”). The filing name should not exceed 40 characters. From the “Grant Application Package” page, your AOR may submit the application package by clicking the “Submit” button that appears at the top of the page. The AOR will then be asked to verify the agency and funding opportunity number for which the application package is being submitted. If problems are encountered during the submission process, the AOR should reboot his/her computer before trying to submit the application package again. [It may be necessary to turn off the computer (not just restart it) before attempting to submit the package again.] **If the AOR continues to experience submission problems, he/she may contact grants.gov for assistance by phone at 1-800-518-4726 or email at <http://www.grants.gov/help/help.jsp> or contact Lawrence Brail (312-886-7474 /brail.lawrence@epa.gov)**

Applications submitted through grants.gov will be time and date stamped electronically.

If you have not received a confirmation of receipt from EPA (*not from* support@grant.gov) within 15 days of the application deadline, please contact Lawrence Brail at glmpo.funding@epa.gov or (312) 886-7474. Failure to do so may result in your application not being reviewed.