

Questions and Answers about Nonpoint Source Runoff & Nutrient Reduction Projects

FY 2021 Request for Application (RFA)

8/19/2021

Questions from June 28<sup>th</sup> Webinar

Question	Response	Response Posted
<p>Do SOGL grants or other grants that have partial federal funding through NFWF for example qualify for the section below? In other words, should they be reported as part of this section?</p> <p>b. Past Performance</p> <p>1. Submit a list of no more than five federally funded assistance agreements (including but not limited to previous GLRI awards from EPA or other federal sources) similar in size and scope to the proposed project that your organization performed within the last three years ...</p>	<p>SOGL grants are not considered federally funded grants. The grants that we are referencing in the Past Performance section are grants that were issued directly from a federal agency.</p>	<p>8/19/2021</p>

Question	Response	Response Posted
<p>I have a question regarding the “Work Plan,” as outlined on page 24 of the RFA. Is there a recommended or preferred format for this section? I have translated “work plans” on previous solicitations to include a table that details the activities, strategy, deliverables, etc. However, I didn’t want to interpret this incorrectly and present the reviewers with an undesired format. I should note that there would be narrative to accompany the table format.</p>	<p>The workplan is part of the narrative proposal. For what to include in the workplan please see the instructions on pages 24-29 of the RFA. You may summarize the requested information in tables, in addition to the narrative, so long as the Workplan is organized in the order and with the 5 headings as shown, starting with i. Project Design, ending with v. Programmatic Capability and Past Performance.</p> <p>Details and associated point values for each section of the workplan are described in RFA Section V (Application Review) starting on page 30.</p>	<p>8/19/2021</p>

Question	Response	Response Posted
<p>We are requesting letters of support for our grant application and we are wondering who the appropriate contact is at EPA or GLRI and the address? These of course will be submitted along with the full grant application through Grants.gov.</p>	<p>I believe you can just have the letter addressed to you as the applicant. If you prefer addressing them to EPA, I would suggest using Jennifer's contact information. Be sure to upload them to grants.gov. No need to mail a hardcopy.</p> <p>Jennifer Conner-Haynes, Lead Project Officer  Project Assistance &amp; Oversight Section  Financial Assistance, Oversight &amp; Management Branch  Great Lakes National Program Office – G-9J  EPA Region 5  77 W. Jackson Blvd.  Chicago, IL 60604</p>	<p>8/19/2021</p>

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<p>In the RFA (pp. 28-29) under Past Performance, it says to 1) Submit a list of no more than five federally funded assistance agreements (including but not limited to previous GLRI awards from EPA or other federal sources) similar in size and scope to the proposed project that your organization performed within the last three years.</p> <p>Then it says 2) If you have previously received a GLRI award or awards, you should list the award(s) and provide the information described above.</p> <p>Do we list all GLRI awards even if it comes to more than five?</p>	<p>If you have received GLRI awards, please identify no more than five awards. Some applicants have listed more than five but it's not a requirement.</p>	<p>8/19/2021</p>

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I am unable to locate what content needs to be included in the resumes.	We did not provide any guidance on what should be included in the resume. When conducting past performance, we are looking to determine if there are staff appropriate to handle the work identified in the proposal/workplan narrative. Your resume should provide information on your skills and training, work experience, and education, and, most importantly, the accomplishments you have made with past employers/past related projects.	8/19/2021

Question	Response	Response Posted
<p>1. Can we propose a series of linear public properties that can be reclaimed with Riparian habitats, ideally trees and shrubs using restoration-conservation techniques but considering these areas are very degraded and have invasive species they will require extensive conservation actions and management?</p> <p>2. Would the linearity and fragmentation (separated from each other but all leading to river shoreline) be amenable to USEPA or are you looking for large acres and more natural landholdings? is linear feet/mile also a consideration in evaluating grant proposals?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes, however note that the project will be evaluated based on the nutrient and/or stormwater runoff reduction benefits as the primary goal. Long term maintenance is also considered in our evaluation of the project design.</li> <li>2. The riparian area being restored can be segmented; we will evaluate the impact of the entire riparian area based on the total stream length in miles.</li> </ol>	<p>8/19/2021</p>

Question	Response	Response Posted
<p>If we engage teachers and students from these high schools, can we direct subawards to cover for their time and participation in the field if they help us with planting, reclamation, and installation of floating/shoreline components?</p>	<p>Yes, grant funds can be used in this manner to support project partners involvement.</p>	<p>8/19/2021</p>

Question	Response	Response Posted
<p>1. On page 18 of the RFA, you indicate that water quality monitoring activities are ineligible for funding under the GLRI RFA, how can we monitor and record the impact of our activities? or should we include them as intrinsic in the process of design, installation, and maintenance?</p> <p>2. Should we consider these actions as match to the USEPA if funded by non-federal sources such as local foundations or industries?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We ask applicants to estimate the stormwater and/or nutrient runoff reduction benefits based on the design of the project, using models such as the EPA Stormwater Calculator and the Spreadsheet Tool for Estimating Pollutant Loads (STEPL).</li> <li>2. Because these activities are not eligible for funding, they would not be allowed to be counted as match to the project. The activities can be described as occurring complementary to the project and beyond the scope of the grant, if you choose to describe the larger project effort for context.</li> </ol>	<p>8/19/2021</p>



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<p>We are seeking clarification on the Sub-awardees and/or Contractors Section of the RFP. The RFP references the attached Solicitation Clauses document which subsequently references additional federal statues and EPA contracting guidance documents. After reviewing this documentation, we are still uncertain how our contractors could be identified in the proposal and subsequently receive funds from the grant if awarded.</p> <p>We have several as-needed professional services contractors that provide planning and engineering design services. They were selected through a competitive process and serve as an extension of our staff on a multi-year contract. Are we able to write those contractors into the grant as a justifiable sole-source contractor since they previously were selected during a competitive process? Or would engineering design services associated with this project have to go through a competitive bid process?</p>	<p>I pulled out the language, below, from the Interim Best Practice Guide for Procuring Services, Supplies, and Equipment Under EPA Assistance Agreements  <a href="https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2017-08/documents/revise_final_interim_purchasing_guidance.pdf">https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2017-08/documents/revise_final_interim_purchasing_guidance.pdf</a></p> <p>3. Long -term contracts.</p> <p>a. Recipients may enter into competitively-awarded long-term (generally not to exceed five years) contracts for professional services or equipment leases that include options for periodic renewals. If the long term contract precedes the EPA assistance agreement, recipients may use that contract if it was procured competitively consistent with Federal financial assistance regulations (including DBE considerations) in effect at the time. The use of such contracts in EPA assistance agreements does not constitute sole source procurement since the original contract was competed.</p> <p>b. Long-term contracts that were awarded without competition may not meet EPA’s minimum requirements for compliance with the UGG Procurement Standards. Additionally, out of scope modifications to contracts in amounts that exceed the Simplified Acquisition Threshold are subject to EPA approval as provided at 2 CFR 200.324(b)(5).</p> <p>Note that the term “sole-source contractor” is used when there was not a competitive process to select a contractor.</p>	<p>8/19/2021</p>

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<p>I'm looking at a project that would require a construction general permit. The project would include some park redevelopment, including new athletic fields and parking areas. The project also includes a network of rain gardens/constructed wetlands to capture stormwater runoff and potentially intercept existing tile drainage from underneath the fields. Would the green infrastructure portion (the rain gardens, etc) be eligible for funding under the GLRI grant? Would any post-construction BMPs required by the NPDES permit need to be kept separate from the GI network or would the network still be eligible for funding if it combined post-construction BMPs required by the permit and green infrastructure practices that go beyond the permit requirements (such as intercepting the tile drainage, for example)?</p>	<p>The general guideline is that GLRI supports projects that are above and beyond work that would be happening under regulatory programs. The purpose is to accelerate environmental improvements beyond what would be able to be achieved with traditional regulatory programs.</p> <p>So, if a project is required under a permit, GLRI can not fund that project. If a permit specifies that ½ an acre needs stormwater infiltration and there is opportunity to provide 1 full acre of stormwater infiltration, GLRI could be used for the additional ½ acre of work. Working off of your example below, if the green infrastructure project is not part of the NPDES permit, and is in a shoreline community, it would be eligible for the GLRI RFA.</p>	<p>8/19/2021</p>

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<p>Our question is: would it be wise for us to structure our project around having farmers involved from two different watersheds, or would you prefer that we just focus on one location?</p>	<p>You could submit a single project working in both watersheds, or two separate projects one in each watershed. We have no preference. A few things to keep in mind as you consider whether to work in one watershed vs multiple watersheds.</p> <p>Environmental impact – would the anticipated runoff/nutrient reduction results be increased, or diluted (spread over a broad area)?</p> <p>Capacity – are the resources to implement the project available and capable of working in both watersheds? Does expanding the project area enhance collaboration among partners?</p> <p>Is there an opportunity to learn? Will knowledge be transferred between the two watersheds?</p> <p>I can't comment on how viable the project would be, but hope this helps you determine how best to set up your project to make it most competitive.</p>	<p>7/30/2021</p>
<p>With awards announcing in the fall, when is it likely that an awardee would have a grant agreement, and would be able to begin a project?</p>	<p>We are expecting to make awards in November, so that is the soonest projects could start.</p>	<p>7/30/2021</p>
<p>Can a university charge overhead? If so, do you limit the amount of overhead a university can charge (e.g., by percentage)?</p>	<p>Universities may charge indirect costs up to the amount allowed in their negotiated indirect cost rate. In accordance with 2 CFR Part 200.414 (f) Any non-Federal entity that does not have a current negotiated (including provisional) rate, except for those non-Federal entities described in appendix VII to this part, paragraph D.1.b, may elect to charge a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC) which may be used indefinitely. No documentation is required to justify the 10% de minimis indirect</p>	<p>7/30/2021</p>

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	cost rate. As described in § 200.403, costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs but may not be double charged or inconsistently charged as both. If chosen, this methodology once elected must be used consistently for all Federal awards until such time as a non-Federal entity chooses to negotiate for a rate, which the non-Federal entity may apply to do at any time.	
Can a researcher at a federal agency receive money from the university via a research joint venture agreement or other instrument?	Federal agencies are not eligible grant applicants for this opportunity. Likewise, in most cases a federal agency cannot be the recipient of grant funds through a subaward. In rare circumstances, federal agencies have specific authority to receive funds via contractual or subaward arrangements with non-federal entities. The grant applicant should provide a citation to the specific authority if they wish to provide grant funds to a federal agency. In accordance with the Federal Grants and Cooperative Agreement Act (FGCAA, the purpose of the project must not be to acquire goods or services for the direct use and benefit of the Federal Government. The applicant must describe specific project activities and how they will further the recipient's own efforts to protect the environment. The applicant must demonstrate that the principle purpose of the work must be to benefit the non-federal applicant's environmental objectives and that any benefits to the Federal Government are ancillary.	7/30/2021
How close to the lake does a structure have to be? Can we submit a project for any location in Detroit because the city is on the river? Or, does it need to be within certain feet of the water?	The project can be anywhere within the city of Detroit.	7/30/2021
I would like to start an application but my APPLY button is not	You must be registered and you will need certain roles to submit an application via <a href="https://grants.gov">grants.gov</a> . Please ensure that your organization has	7/30/2021

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highlighted. I believe I am all registered.	established the roles for creating a workspace and submitting the application thru <a href="https://www.grants.gov">grants.gov</a> . On the <a href="https://www.grants.gov">grants.gov</a> website, there are a few videos that will help you navigate thru that process. See below. <a href="https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/workspace-overview.html">https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/workspace-overview.html</a> . If you are still having trouble, you can reach out to <a href="https://www.grants.gov">grants.gov</a> at 1-800-518-4726.	
(EPA-R5-GL2021-GIS) For the 100,000 gallons of stormwater diverted is there a timeline for this to be accomplished?	The 100,000 gallons is on an annual basis. The entire project must reduce at least 100,000 gallons annually once implemented.	7/30/2021
(EPA-R5-GL2021-GIS) We are looking at a site to remove impervious pavement completely, and I'm having trouble calculating this in terms of gallons of runoff mitigated.	EPA's National Stormwater Calculator can help with these calculations; it calculates the difference of pre (with the impervious surface) and post (after removal).	7/30/2021
(EPA-R5-GL2021-GIS) The minimum infiltration is 100,000 gallons of stormwater, is this on an annual basis? We are looking at a project involving tree planting, so I'm wondering if the 100,000 gallons is at the time of planting, at maturity, over X number of years, etc.	We are looking for projects yielding an annual infiltration of 100,000 gallons of stormwater runoff. The measurement is the value of the trees when planted, and we recommend using iTree to be able to calculate the stormwater gallons.	7/30/2021
My question is how far along in the design phase does a potential project need to be for this grant? Does the project need to be completely engineered and designed to make an application?	The project does not have to be ready to construct in order to apply. Many infiltration projects do include preconstruction preparation and design. Evaluators will assess how much of the project budget is devoted to the efforts prior to implementation of the project. Note that being "shovel ready" does give the potential for higher score.	7/30/2021

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Also, do awardees need to put the construction portion of the project out for RFP?	Any contracts for services or products funded with EPA financial assistance must be awarded under the competitive procurement procedures of 2 CFR 200.319, as applicable. A competitively bid contract could cover construction, design, or both. Please review EPA’s guidance on procuring services: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/grants/best-practiceguide-procuring-services-supplies-and-equipment-under-epaassistance-agreements">https://www.epa.gov/grants/best-practiceguide-procuring-services-supplies-and-equipment-under-epaassistance-agreements</a>	
May I submit an application to multiple FONs? (RRP and GIS)	Applicants may apply under more than one FON, however each individual project for which an applicant seeks funding must be covered by a separate application under the appropriate FON. A single application cannot address more than one funding opportunity. If applying to multiple FONs, be sure to carefully read the qualifying criteria for each one because they are different.	7/30/2021
(For GIS) by having collaboration with multiple {shoreline} communities does it make it more or less viable for funding?	Under the RFA Section V. APPLICATION REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS, Collaboration and Engagement is one of the elements that we look at when evaluating a proposal. Strong collaborations and partnerships among multiple entities are eligible. We cannot comment on how well any aspect of an application will score.	7/30/2021
Are there procurement limitations that would prevent a contractor from bidding on multiple phases of the project, including design and construction?	No. Any contracts for services or products funded with EPA financial assistance must be awarded under the competitive procurement procedures of 2 CFR 200.319, as applicable. A competitively bid contract could cover construction, design, or both. Please review EPA’s guidance on procuring services: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/grants/best-practice-guide-procuring-services-supplies-and-equipment-under-epa-assistance-agreements">https://www.epa.gov/grants/best-practice-guide-procuring-services-supplies-and-equipment-under-epa-assistance-agreements</a>	7/30/2021
We have a question about whether our project meets this requirement: “If the project involves privately	This provision is intended to support project sustainability. For projects involving easements on privately owned property, EPA will consider various factors related to the perpetuity of the	7/30/2021

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<p>owned property, the land must be held in perpetuity by a Qualified Easement Holder such as a land conservancy organization, local government and/or local soil and water conservation districts.”</p>	<p>easement, including the likely longevity of the easement and the nature of the Qualified Easement Holder. Applicants may contact EPA to discuss how this might apply to their project.</p> <p>“Qualified Easement Holder” means a holder that is: a state agency or municipality; or an organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as an organization described by Section 501(c)(3) of that code and that is organized for the purpose of preserving agriculture, open space, or natural resources and has the ability to hold the easement in perpetuity. Nonprofit organizations must be accredited by the Land Trust Alliance to serve as a Qualified Easement Holder.</p>	
<p>I wanted to get some clarification on EPA's regulations / restrictions on the use of biochar in EPA-funded projects. One of the commercial biochar suppliers I have spoken with made a point of letting me know that their biochar has formal EPA approval for use in remediation projects. Would such approval be required for the biochar used in my proposed project, should it be funded?</p>	<p>For this RFA, we do not require you to use only EPA-approved products. If we had a concern about the material, we would work that out before awarding the grant, but we wouldn't reject the proposal out right based on the type of biochar you propose to use.</p>	7/30/2021
<p>Are in stream activities, such as daylighting, bank stabilization, grade control structures, culvert replacement eligible activities if</p>	<p>The in-stream restoration activities you are describing would be eligible, provided they are part of a project that achieves the required outputs and outcomes stated in section I of the RFA and meets all of the threshold eligibility criteria in section III. Your</p>	7/30/2021

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<p>implemented in concert with riparian restoration, such as, invasive species control, wetland restoration, native tree and herbaceous plantings, and minor floodplain excavation?</p> <p>In addition, this project is on township owned land. However, at the downstream end of the project it connects with National Park Service Property. Is it permitted under this RFA to perform work on federal lands to connect the restored streams to the intact streams?</p>	<p>project narrative should clearly describe how your project will meet the stated requirements through the proposed activity.</p> <p>Projects conducting work on federal lands could be eligible, provided the applicant can demonstrate that their project is in accordance with the Federal Grants and Cooperative Agreement Act (FGCAA). In accordance with FGCAA, the purpose of the project must not be to acquire goods or services for the direct use and benefit of the Federal Government. The applicant must describe specific project activities and how they will further the recipient's own efforts to protect the environment. The applicant must demonstrate that the principle purpose of the work must be to benefit the non-federal applicant's environmental objectives and that any benefits to the Federal Government are ancillary.</p>	
<p>If you are in the Great Lakes counties, but your water drains into another watershed (e.g. Illinois River), are we eligible?</p>	<p>No because the runoff reduction or nutrient reduction will not benefit the Great Lakes. <b>However, we will also consider projects in the historic Great Lakes basin, which includes the Chicago River watershed, to the extent they demonstrate they protect or improve Great Lakes water quality.</b></p>	7/8/2021
<p>How do you define shoreline communities? Do they have to be right on the lake?</p>	<p>Yes, they must be adjacent to the lake.</p>	7/8/2021
<p>Will you be emailing us these slides?</p>	<p>The slides will be posted to the RFA webpage: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/great-lakes-funding/fy-2021-rfa-glri-nonpoint-source-runoff-nutrient-reduction-projects">https://www.epa.gov/great-lakes-funding/fy-2021-rfa-glri-nonpoint-source-runoff-nutrient-reduction-projects</a>.</p>	7/8/2021
<p>Is there a minimum grant amount?</p>	<p>There is not a minimum funding amount. Note, the GIS FON has a minimum of 100,000 gallons stormwater reduction.</p>	7/8/2021



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In the RFP you identify a handful of GLRI Priority watersheds for phosphorus reduction: the Maumee River, Ohio, the Fox River, WI, the Saginaw River, MI, or the Genesee River, NY. Would a proposal focusing on Michigan's River Raisin watershed, which is also a tributary of Lake Erie, be as competitive as the aforementioned priority areas?	Yes, projects in other watersheds demonstrating a clear connection to protection of the Great Lakes themselves or reduced risk of Harmful Algal Blooms can be considered for higher score.	7/8/2021
Do projects have to be directly on a Great Lakes shoreline or tributary? Can they be on a tributary to a tributary?	Projects in all FONs must be located in the Great Lakes drainage basin. Projects in the GIS Funding Opportunity may be located anywhere within a community/municipality that is adjacent to a Great Lake or connecting channel.	7/8/2021
Same question for I.C. If the community is a shoreline community, but the project is on a tributary to a tributary, is that eligible? Or must the project be on the shoreline itself?	Projects in all FONs must be located in the Great Lakes drainage basin. Projects in the GIS Funding Opportunity may be located anywhere within a community/municipality that is adjacent to a Great Lake or connecting channel.	7/8/2021
Will projects that pair structural practices with upland cropping practices be fully eligible (e.g. upland practice increases longevity of structural practice)?	Cropping practices are not eligible for funding under this opportunity. Riparian restoration or stabilization activities will be considered in the broader context of a watershed plan.	7/8/2021
Do projects need to be competitively bid for the construction? Can they be design build, even if the team has already been selected/awarded?	Any contracts for services or products funded with EPA financial assistance must be awarded under the competitive procurement procedures of 2 CFR 200.319, as applicable. A competitively bid contract could	7/8/2021

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	cover construction, design, or both. Please review EPA’s guidance on procuring services: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/grants/best-practice-guide-procuring-services-supplies-and-equipment-under-epa-assistance-agreements">https://www.epa.gov/grants/best-practice-guide-procuring-services-supplies-and-equipment-under-epa-assistance-agreements</a>	
For the stormwater category, can funding be used to develop a GSI plan for a school district in a coastal community and then engineer and implement a few projects provided we reach the treatment goal? By GSI plan, we mean a comprehensive evaluation of school property to determine suitability and feasibility of GSI practices, prioritizing where to implement them, determining cost, and a timeline to implement GSI practices throughout the district.	Funding may be used for feasibility and suitability evaluations, however projects that are shovel ready will be more competitive for funding.	7/8/2021
Do implementation projects need to be "shovel ready?"	Being "shovel ready" is not a requirement but projects that are shovel ready will be more competitive for funding.	7/8/2021
Is the Green Infrastructure location requirement of "adjacent to a Great Lake" different from "within the Great Lakes drainage basin?"	Yes, it is more specifically targeted to “shoreline communities” meaning any community or municipality that is directly adjacent to the Lake or a connecting channel.	7/8/2021
How many applications are you expecting in each category? Will certain categories be more competitive than others, based on this year's expected number of applications or past year trends?	We do not know how many applications will be received, but we expect many highly competitive applications.	7/8/2021

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Is the expense of a land purchase eligible for funding?	Yes, if it will be held in perpetuity.	7/8/2021
I wonder if the work directly implemented in the agriculture field that ultimately reduces phosphorous reduction in runoff/stream can be considered a 'non-point source'.	Nearly all conservation practices implemented in agricultural settings are intended to address nonpoint sources of pollution, but this specific funding opportunity (ALP) is not intended to support in field practices. We are seeking projects that would target known areas of high legacy P levels and use engineered or natural hydrologic structures, such as wetlands, floodplains and two stage ditches to keep it on the landscape.	7/8/2021
Can you please provide the link regarding the basins to figure out if you can apply?	<a href="https://www.epa.gov/greatlakes/facts-and-figures-about-great-lakes">https://www.epa.gov/greatlakes/facts-and-figures-about-great-lakes</a> Note: we will also consider projects in the historic Great Lakes basin, which includes the Chicago River watershed, to the extent they demonstrate they protect or improve Great Lakes water quality.	7/8/2021
Are stormwater projects in the city of Detroit applicable?	Yes.	7/8/2021
Would removal of a dam, in partnership with riparian restoration, be an eligible project?	Dam removal could be eligible as part of the overall restoration project to reduce runoff, provided it is part of a project that achieves the required outputs and outcomes stated in section I of the RFA and meets all of the threshold eligibility criteria in section III. Your project narrative should clearly describe how your project will meet the stated requirements through the proposed activity.	7/8/2021
Can you describe legacy phosphorus in more detail and what projects have been funded in the past?	Legacy phosphorus is a chronic source of water pollution in agricultural soils that is released during storm events or through gradual leaching. It typically builds up on farm fields that have received past applications of fertilizer (manure or commercial fertilizer) that was greater than uptake from the growing crops. This is EPA's first grant funding opportunity under the GLRI specifically for legacy phosphorus projects.	7/8/2021

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<p>Would a creek side community along a tributary of a Great Lakes connecting channel qualify as a 'shoreline community' for the 'Green Infrastructure in Shoreline Communities' category? Approximately 2 miles away from the Niagara River Strait along the banks of a tributary.</p>	<p>Projects in all FONs must be located in the Great Lakes drainage basin. Projects in the GIS Funding Opportunity may be located anywhere within a community/municipality that is adjacent to a Great Lake or connecting channel.</p>	<p>7/8/2021</p>
<p>If proposing a constructed wetland, can a storm pipe be diverted for treatment or would this be ineligible because it isn't technically a non-point pollution source?</p>	<p>Yes, such a diversion would be eligible because it is directing runoff to a constructed wetland and reducing runoff to the Great Lakes.</p>	<p>7/8/2021</p>
<p>It was said that we need a grants.gov, sam.gov, and what is the # required?</p>	<p>DUNS number.</p>	<p>7/8/2021</p>
<p>Another question on how to define shoreline community - at what level? If we are doing a project with a Detroit neighborhood, does that neighborhood need to be on a connecting channel?</p>	<p>Projects in the GIS Funding Opportunity may be located anywhere within a community/municipality that is adjacent to a Great Lake or connecting channel. So, a project anywhere in Detroit would be eligible.</p>	<p>7/8/2021</p>
<p>Does an application score higher if applicants make a cost share contributions?</p>	<p>Cost share is not required or specifically evaluated, however it can be used to demonstrate the engagement and commitment of project partners.</p>	<p>7/8/2021</p>
<p>Is this grant an annually opportunity?</p>	<p>We typically offer it every other year, and it is a little different each time.</p>	<p>7/8/2021</p>
<p>When are grant awards announced?</p>	<p>We anticipate making selections in November 2021.</p>	<p>7/8/2021</p>
<p>The River Raisin isn't listed as a priority watershed under the funding opportunity. Can you explain why?</p>	<p>The four watersheds listed are the priority watersheds for phosphorus reduction under the GLRI Focus Area 3 program. Yes, projects in other watersheds demonstrating a clear connection to</p>	<p>7/8/2021</p>

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It is a priority under the GLWQA. Can proposal submitted under this RFA get potential special consideration/points in the review process?	protection of the Great Lakes themselves or reduced risk of Harmful Algal Blooms will also be considered for higher score.	
Would you consider the installation of toe wood in the stream as part of riparian restoration if it's part of a two-stage ditch install?	Yes, in stream work is eligible. Applicants should demonstrate how the design addresses runoff reduction as the primary goal (as opposed to other benefits, such as habitat).	7/8/2021
Further clarification request regarding community adjacent to a Lake vs Great Lakes drainage basin. Would any eligible project in an adjacent community qualify or does the project also have to be within the drainage basin?	Projects in all FONs must be located in the Great Lakes drainage basin. Projects in the GIS Funding Opportunity may be located anywhere within a community/municipality that is adjacent to a Great Lake or connecting channel.	7/8/2021
Are projects that have a voluntary cost-share prioritized or more competitive compared to those without a cost-share?	Voluntary cost share can help with demonstrating readiness, engagement and support of partners, etc. But is not required.	7/8/2021
Can you clarify the "shoreline community designation." e.g. our city is on shore of Lake Michigan, would a neighborhood with in 1 or two miles qualify	Yes a neighborhood within the city qualifies. Projects in the GIS Funding Opportunity may be located anywhere within a community/municipality that is adjacent to a Great Lake or connecting channel.	7/8/2021
Given the modification released on Friday, are nutrient or sediment credit generating projects eligible? Thanks.	No, projects that will generate credits to be used in a water quality trade are not eligible because the activities would ultimately be used to meet compliance with an NPDES permit.	7/8/2021

Question	Response	Response Posted
Per question above, what water quality trading schemes have been approved or accepted by EPA so that stormwater or nutrient reduction can be credited and eligible?	EPA’s NPDES webpage on water quality trading includes information on trading nationally: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/npdes/water-quality-trading">https://www.epa.gov/npdes/water-quality-trading</a>	7/8/2021
I am signed up to grants.gov as an individual. How do I change my account to my organization’s representative so I can apply to the grant	You will need contact grants.gov.	7/8/2021
Do you have a recording of the applicant webinar that happened on June 28, 2021?	Here is the link to the webinar recording. <a href="https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/7289468938528446467">https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/7289468938528446467</a>	
The City of Cleveland is adjacent to Lake Erie, so therefore the entire city limits would be eligible for the GI Funding Opportunity?  Can you better define what it means to be “adjacent to a connecting channel”? For example, is the Cuyahoga River considered a connecting Channel? Would smaller tributaries that discharge directly into Lake Erie be considered connecting channels?	You are correct, since the City of Cleveland is adjacent to Lake Erie, any project within the entire city limits would be eligible for the GI Funding Opportunity.  A tributary is not a connecting channel. Rather a connecting channel is a river system that connects two Great Lakes. These Great Lakes connecting river systems are identified in the Great Lakes Water Quality Act: St. Marys River, Lake St. Clair, St. Clair-Detroit River System, Niagara River, and St. Lawrence River (at or upstream from the point at which the St. Lawrence River becomes the international boundary between Canada and the United States).	7/8/2021
With regard to the GI for Shoreline Communities option, is there a map	Under this RFA, projects in all of our funding opportunity categories must be located in the Great Lakes drainage basin. Projects in the Green Infrastructure Funding Opportunity are	7/8/2021

Question	Response	Response Posted
<p>and/or definition of the areas that qualify as “shoreline communities”?</p> <p>Also, is it anticipated this funding option (I.C.) will be made available in future grant cycles? We have an idea, but we certainly would not be ready to apply by the Aug 20 deadline for this cycle.</p>	<p>further limited to locations anywhere within a community/municipality that is adjacent to a Great Lake or connecting channel.</p> <p>We anticipate having competitive grant offerings every few years (our last one was in 2019), but that is dependent on available funding. The general offering will be to reduce nutrient loads and untreated stormwater runoff (per the Great Lakes Action Plan III, Focus Area 3), but the focus of the funding categories may shift with each RFA.</p>	
<p>We are having some confusion about whether a certain level of research work is acceptable or not. The project that we are undertaking is primarily implementation/restoration. However, engagement of the student at some level might be needed. Is research completely unacceptable? Please advise us.</p>	<p>On June 24 we issued a modification to the RFA that clarifies the ineligible activities on page 18. There we define research activities as “any systematic investigation principally for the purpose of expanding general knowledge or developing a new solution to a problem.” I hope this helps you determine whether your engagement of students is suitable to include in the project or not.</p>	7/8/2021
<p>Will the RFA consider projects where nutrient loading is via direct percolation to groundwater that then exits to the Great Lakes via stream seeps and bluff seeps? Aka indirect runoff, if you will!</p>	<p>Yes, a project that addresses a nonpoint source of pollution via groundwater is eligible.</p>	7/8/2021
<p>I have two questions about geographic eligibility.</p> <p>1. The Zoo is on Salt Creek, a tributary of the Des Plaines River,</p>	<p>The project must benefit the Great Lakes therefore if the project drains to the Illinois/Mississippi River basin, it is not eligible for funding under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.</p>	7/8/2021

Question	Response	Response Posted
<p>which goes into the Illinois River which goes into the Mississippi. Even though our property doesn't drain into Lake Michigan, are we eligible for the Riparian projects?</p> <p>2. How do you define "shoreline communities?" Again, Brookfield is not on the shores of the lake but we are part of the greater Chicago metro area. Is shoreline limited only to communities right on the lake?</p>	<p>Brookfield being part of Chicago would be considered a shoreline community, but again the project must benefit (and the runoff drain to) the Great Lakes to eligible for GLRI funding.</p>	
<p>Are design and permit costs eligible for these grants? Or can these grants only be pursued if our project is in the construction phase?</p>	<p>Design and permitting costs are eligible, provided they are part of a project that meets the eligibility criteria described in Section I and Section III of the RFA.</p>	<p>6/24/2021</p>
<p>If I do not submit Other Attachments (including resumes and/or CVs for key staff) will my grants.gov application be rejected?</p>	<p>Other Attachment (including resumes and/or CVs for key staff) is mandatory for this RFA. If you do not submit the Other Attachment, your application will be rejected by Grants.gov.</p>	<p>6/24/2021</p>
<p>Can USGS be a part of the proposal?</p>	<p>USGS could be an eligible partner. The applicant will be responsible for listing the applicable statutory authority and how your project fits within that authority.</p>	<p>6/24/2021</p>
<p>It appears from the RFA that there is no allotment for a 10% de minimis</p>	<p>In accordance with 2 CFR Part 200.414 (f) Any non-Federal entity that does not have a current negotiated (including provisional) rate,</p>	<p>6/24/2021</p>



Question	Response	Response Posted
<p>indirect cost rate for an applicant without a pre-existing NICRA. Is that correct, or is there a way to charge indirect costs to the funding opportunity at a de minimis rate?</p>	<p>except for those non-Federal entities described in appendix VII to this part, paragraph D.1.b, may elect to charge a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC) which may be used indefinitely. No documentation is required to justify the 10% de minimis indirect cost rate. As described in § 200.403, costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs but may not be double charged or inconsistently charged as both. If chosen, this methodology once elected must be used consistently for all Federal awards until such time as a non-Federal entity chooses to negotiate for a rate, which the non-Federal entity may apply to do at any time.</p>	
<p>Is it true to assume that applicable area is all Great Lakes shoreline or are there limits?</p>	<p>We ask that all applicants carefully read the RFA’s eligibility information. Each category has it’s own eligibility criteria, and there are criteria listed for the RFA overall. That information can be found in Sections I and III of the RFA. Generally, the RFA is open to projects across the Great Lakes basin.</p>	6/24/2021
<p>I lead University of Illinois Extension's role in the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy and would like to send the announcement to our stakeholder partners. Are the grants only open to land draining to the Great Lakes? Or statewide in Great Lakes states?</p>	<p>All projects funded under GLRI must occur in the Great Lakes basin. <b>However, we will also consider projects in the historic Great Lakes basin, which includes the Chicago River watershed, to the extent they demonstrate they protect or improve Great Lakes water quality.</b></p>	6/24/2021 Rev 7/8/2021

Question	Response	Response Posted
Is past performance the performance of your organization (such as a university) or of the specific PI?	Past performance refers to the performance of the applicant organization, not a specific individual. However, a component of this section evaluates the knowledge, experience, and expertise of staff that will be involved in the project. See Section V. of the RFA for more specific details.	6/24/2021
Can letters of support be emailed directly to EPA?	<p>Only materials submitted as part of the grant application submitted on Grants.gov will be considered.</p> <p>If supporters wish to send letters directly to EPA, they may email <a href="mailto:GLRI-RFA@epa.gov">GLRI-RFA@epa.gov</a>. However, for them to be considered with the application, the applicant organization should be copied on those email messages with enough time for them to include the copies as part of their grant application package in Grants.gov.</p>	6/24/2021
Can one organization receive multiple awards?	Section VI Paragraph B of the RFA: If an applicant submits applications for multiple tasks/activities under this competition, and is selected for multiple tasks/activities, EPA may award a single assistance agreement that combines separate applications for different tasks/activities.	6/24/2021
Can EPA suggest potential agencies or organizations that might like to partner with other entities?	To ensure fair and open competition, EPA is unable to provide suggestions on potential partners. However, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative website ( <a href="https://www.glri.us/">https://www.glri.us/</a> ) contains a list of all projects funded under the GLRI. You might find it helpful to browse or search the project list for organizations that have implemented projects similar to yours.	6/24/2021
The "Anticipated Start and End Dates" section on page 14 doesn't actually indicate a specific start date. What would you suggest using as a start date?	Page 2 of the RFA says EPA expects to make grant awards in November 2021. November 1, 2021 could be good timing to plan to begin projects. These dates are tentative, and awards could happen earlier or later.	6/24/2021

Question	Response	Response Posted
	If you are selected as a finalist and your proposed start date on your application is earlier than November 1, 2021, the assigned Project Officer may need to negotiate a new start date.	
Will it be possible to obtain a list of interested bidders for this RFA?	EPA does not post a list of interested applicants. Applicants chosen for awards will be posted once they are selected here:  <a href="https://www.epa.gov/great-lakes-funding/fy-2021-rfa-glri-nonpoint-source-runoff-nutrient-reduction-projects">https://www.epa.gov/great-lakes-funding/fy-2021-rfa-glri-nonpoint-source-runoff-nutrient-reduction-projects</a>	6/24/2021
Can applicants apply directly to EPA?	Applicants, except as noted on pg. 21 of the RFA, must apply electronically through Grants.gov under this funding opportunity based on the Grants.gov instructions in this announcement.  If a successful transfer of the application cannot be accomplished even with assistance from Grants.gov due to electronic submission system issues or unforeseen exigent circumstances, and you have already attempted to resolve the issue by contacting Grants.gov, send an email message to <a href="mailto:GLRI-RFA@epa.gov">GLRI-RFA@epa.gov</a> prior to the application deadline.	6/24/2021
Can a copy of the PowerPoint from the webinar be obtained?	If you would like a copy, please email <a href="mailto:GLRI-RFA@epa.gov">GLRI-RFA@epa.gov</a> listed in Section VII. Agency Contacts.	6/24/2021
In reviewing the latest GLRI grant opportunity for green infrastructure, I am interested in knowing if building deconstruction and subsequent restoration of the impervious surfaces is an eligible project. We are planning to remove three buildings and accessory	I cannot comment on whether a specific project is eligible or not, so I recommend the you refer to the information about eligibility (Section III) in the RFA. Many infiltration projects do include preconstruction preparation and design. Evaluators will assess how much of the project budget is devoted to the efforts prior to implementation of the project. In parking lot projects, removal of the non-pervious asphalt is considered part of the project implementation because infiltration can only happen after that	6/24/2021

Question	Response	Response Posted
<p>parking areas. In total, an estimated one acre of impervious surfaces will be removed and restored to natural habitat. The building is located less than ½ mile from Lake Michigan and runoff flows directly downstream. I know this doesn't completely fit with the green infrastructure definition, but it provides a permanent reduction to runoff and storm water flow to the Lake. Our proposal would request funding for the deconstruction, regrading and re-vegetation of the site.</p> <p>Is this a project that would be eligible for this funding opportunity?</p>	<p>activity. We have also seen projects that include outside funding for project activities that are beyond the scope of GLRI, with those activities included as background information when describing the proposed grant project.</p> <p>I encourage you to attend the RFA webinar on June 28, 2021 11:30am -12:30pm Central.</p>	
<p>We have been reviewing the U.S. EPA's recently issued Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Request for Applications and we are exploring several potential applications with our members and partners. Would you or another U.S. EPA representative be willing to have a virtual meeting to discuss these potential application ideas with us, possibly on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, or 9<sup>th</sup>? If so, I would be glad to work with you to determine availability.</p>	<p>Thank you for your email. When assistance agreements are awarded competitively, it is EPA policy that the competitive process be fair and open and that no applicant receive an unfair competitive advantage. Therefore, EPA is unable to discuss potential application ideas and likelihood of success. We can answer questions about eligibility, but we cannot discuss whether a project would be a good fit for a particular funding opportunity or answer questions about how a project might score. We are requesting that all applicants review the RFA in its entirety for eligibility information, application content, review criteria and then apply to the appropriate Funding Opportunity Number(s).</p>	6/24/2021

Question	Response	Response Posted
<p>Is it too much of a stretch to apply for funding if we focus on the Chicago River? Wanted to ask in advance. If not, are there other grants fit for river projects that focus on the same goals of <b>Green infrastructure in shoreline communities and Riparian restoration to reduce runoff?</b></p>	<p>All projects funded under Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) must occur in the Great Lakes basin. <b>However, we will also consider projects in the historic Great Lakes basin, which includes the Chicago River watershed, to the extent they demonstrate they protect or improve Great Lakes water quality.</b></p>	<p>6/24/2021  Rev 7/8/2021</p>
<p>Can EPA suggest potential agencies or organizations that might like to partner with other entities?</p>	<p>To ensure fair and open competition, EPA is unable to provide suggestions on potential partners. However, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative website (<a href="https://www.glri.us/">https://www.glri.us/</a>) contains a list of all projects funded under the GLRI. You might find it helpful to browse or search the project list for organizations that have implemented projects similar to yours.</p>	<p>6/24/2021</p>