

2021 Request for Applications for Nonpoint Source Runoff and Nutrient Reduction Projects

June 28th, 2021

*Bart Mosier, Danielle Green, Santina
Wortman*





Agenda

- Introduction – Bart Mosier
 - Webinar logistics – Eda Lam
- Review funding opportunities – Santina & Danielle
- Application instructions – Bart
- Questions - Bart, Danielle, Santina



Funding Opportunities

- What types of projects EPA is looking for
- Eligible and ineligible activities
- How to score well during competition



Context

- This RFA is being offered to support the achievement of GLRI Focus Area 3 objectives
- Nutrient reduction to prevent harmful algal blooms is a priority, as well as runoff retention and infiltration
- Past RFAs:
- <https://www.epa.gov/great-lakes-funding/great-lakes-restoration-initiative-2019-request-applications>



GLRI ACTION PLAN III



FOCUS AREA 3

NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION IMPACTS ON NEARSHORE HEALTH

Objective

3.1. Reduce nutrient loads from agricultural watersheds.

Commitments

- Implement systems of conservation practices on farms and in streams to reduce and treat nutrient runoff.
- Increase adoption of enhanced nutrient management practices to reduce risk of nutrient losses from farmland.

Objective

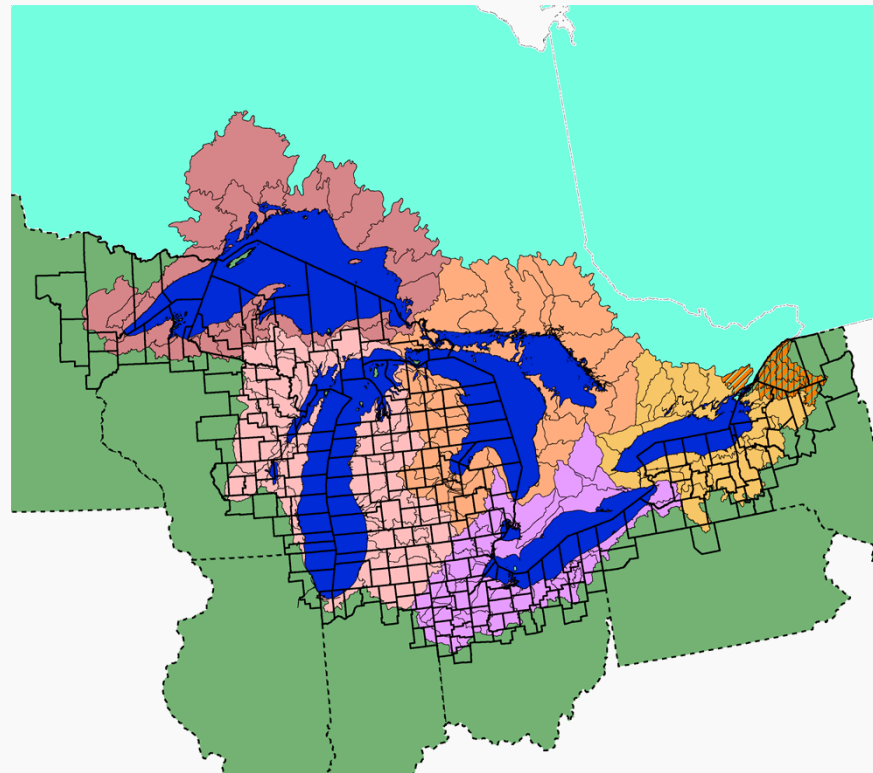
3.2. Reduce untreated stormwater runoff.

Commitments

- Accelerate implementation of green infrastructure practices to infiltrate stormwater runoff.
- Implement watershed management projects in urban and rural communities to reduce runoff and erosion.



Projects must be in the Great Lakes drainage basin





All FONs are for *Nonpoint Source Implementation Projects*

Not eligible:

- Any activities specifically required by a NPDES permit or by a consent decree.
- Research and/or monitoring activities.

See “Ineligible Activities” page 18



FY2021 Funding Opportunities

Funding Opportunity Title	FON	Description
I.A. Riparian Restoration to Reduce Runoff	EPA-R5-GL2021-RRR	Approximately \$3,000,000 available for 5 to 10 projects
I.B. Addressing Legacy Phosphorus in Agricultural Settings	EPA-R5-GL2021-ALP	Approximately \$3,000,000 available for 5 to 10 projects
I.C. Green Infrastructure in Shoreline Communities	EPA-R5-GL2021-GIS	Approximately \$3,000,000 available for 5 to 10 projects



Riparian Restoration to Reduce Runoff (EPA-R5-GL2021-RRR)

- Implementation of streamside conservation practices that promote infiltration, provide stream bank stability, and increase the capacity of the watershed to assimilate nutrients.
- Eligible activities may include vegetated buffers, constructed wetlands, saturated buffers, and two-stage ditches.



Potential for higher score

- Projects demonstrating a clear connection to protection of the Great Lakes themselves or reduced risk of Harmful Algal Blooms, including but not limited to projects located in one of the following GLRI Priority watersheds for phosphorus reduction: the Maumee River, Ohio, the Fox River, WI, the Saginaw River, MI, or the Genesee River, NY.



Addressing Legacy Phosphorus in Agricultural Settings (EPA-R5-GL2021-ALP)

- Projects must be designed to intercept and filter agricultural runoff with high legacy phosphorus levels.
- Use of Phosphorus Removal Structures is encouraged.
 - Work with NRCS/ARS on design. Contact Chad Penn: chad.penn@usda.gov
 - Use P-TRAP: <https://www.ars.usda.gov/midwest-area/westlafayette-in/national-soil-erosion-research/docs/phosphorus-removal-structures/>



Potential for higher score

- HABs/GLRI Priority watersheds (see slide 10)
- Past collaboration with farmers to identify hotspots, willing landowners, and/or evaluate suitable sites.



Ineligible Activities for RRR or ALP

- Erosion control measures within farm fields such as grassed waterways or water and sediment control basins.
- Purchase of temporary (as opposed to permanent) easements.
- Wetland or floodplain creation specified as a required mitigation measure under a state, local, or federal permit for a specific project.

See “Ineligible Activities” page 8



Green Infrastructure in Shoreline Communities (EPA-R5-GL2021-GIS)

- Solicits green infrastructure projects that will capture and infiltrate stormwater runoff to improve water quality in the Great Lakes.
- Must capture at least 100,000 gallons annually
- Community must be adjacent to a Great Lake or connecting channel.
- Projects in underserved communities encouraged



Potential for higher score

- Projects that protect public health by improving water quality at recreational beaches.



Ineligible Activities for GIS

- Purchase or distribution of rain barrels.

See “Ineligible Activities” page 13



For F.O.N. I.C. there is an additional scoring criterion pertaining to environmental justice and underserved communities

6. Environmental Justice and Underserved Communities (10 points)

Applications will be evaluated based on the extent to which they demonstrate how the project will address the disproportionate and adverse impacts, ... as well as the accompanying economic challenges of such impacts, ...that have affected and/or currently affect underserved communities ...

As part of this evaluation, applications will be evaluated based on: how the project benefits the underserved communities ... and; the extent to which the project addresses engagement with these communities, ... to ensure their meaningful participation with respect to the design, project planning, and performance of the project.

See pages 27 and 32



Clear workplan = competitive application

- Project Design
 - Technical Approach
 - Project Readiness and Support
 - Long-term Maintenance and Operation
- Results
- Collaboration and Engagement
 - Partnerships
 - Stakeholder Engagement*
 - *GIS: up to 10 additional points available for Environmental Justice and Underserved Communities*
 - Outreach
- Budget
- Programmatic Capability and Past Performance

See “Workplan” page 24, “Application Review” page 30



Project Design

Include:

- Connection and benefit to **Great Lakes**
- Explain how the project will address the cause of the water quality problem
- Provide broader context/rationale for the project – how does it connect to a watershed plan or other strategy?
- Long term maintenance
- Resilience to climate change



Results

Include:

- Outputs and outcomes
- Anticipated amounts that will be achieved.
- Tool/method used to derive estimate (STEPL, Stormwater Calculator, etc.)
- Link to one or more Action Plan III metrics
 - RRR: stream miles
 - ALP: phosphorus pounds
 - GIS: stormwater gallons
- Timetable or schedule for accomplishments



CONTACTS

- **For technical questions on Riparian Restoration or Legacy Phosphorus:**
[Santina Wortman](#) (wortman.santina@epa.gov)
312-353-8319
- **For technical questions on Green Infrastructure:**
[Danielle Green](#) (green.danielle@epa.gov)
312-886-7594



Nonpoint Source Runoff and Nutrient Reduction Projects

RFA Submission Instructions





Application Deadline

Applications must be submitted via
Grants.gov by August 20th, 2021 11:59 p.m.
Eastern Time .



Funding Opportunity Numbers

- Apply under the appropriate Funding Opportunity Number.
 - EPA-R5-GL2021-RRR
 - EPA-R5-GL2021-ALP
 - EPA-R5-GL2021-GIS
- 66.469 is the Assistance listing.
- Note the maximum funding per project is \$600,000. Applications above this amount will be rejected.



Mandatory Documents

1. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
2. Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)
3. EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54
4. EPA Form 4700-4 – Pre award Compliance Review Report
5. Narrative Proposal (Project Narrative Attachment Form)- prepared as described in Section IV of the announcement
6. Other Attachment: Resumes and/ or CVs for key staff (should be defined in Programmatic Capability with justification, see section IV.C.2)

Note: If you attempt to submit an application without the Other Attachment Form, your grants.gov application submission will be rejected.



A note on Subawards and Contracts

If you name subawardees/subgrantees and/or contractor(s) (including individual consultants) in your application as partners to assist you with the proposed project, pay careful attention to the information in Section III regarding "Coalitions" and to the "Contracts and Subawards" provisions found in the EPA solicitation clauses.



A note on Match or Cost-share

- There is no cost-sharing or matching requirement as a condition of eligibility under this RFA.
- Applicants who propose to use a voluntary cost share must include the costs or contributions for the voluntary cost share in the project budget on the SF424.

See “*Voluntary cost-share*” page 16



Application Submission

See Section IV Pages 18-30.

- Your Authorized Official needs to submit the application **before** the deadline.
- Register for Grants.gov
- Unique Entity Identifier (formerly DUNS number).
- Registration the System for Award Management (SAM).
- Registration for all accounts is free.



If you run into submission issues:

Please call Grants.gov for assistance at 1-800-518-4726.

Grants.gov, SAM.gov are not run by EPA, so we are unable to assist if you have issues with these systems. Keep track of any case number you receive.



If you run into a weather or transmission-related emergency:

Send an email message to GLRI-RFA@epa.gov **prior to the application deadline**. The email message must document the problem.

- Include case number as well as the entire application in PDF format.
- See page 21 for full information.



Resources

- **For administrative, eligibility and other general RFA questions:**
[Jennifer Conner](mailto:glri-rfa@epa.gov) (glri-rfa@epa.gov)
312-886-0201
- **See Helpful Tips** document on RFA webpage for training resources
- Answers to questions posed through August 18, 2021 will be posted on the RFA webpage.

<https://www.epa.gov/great-lakes-funding/fy-2021-rfa-glri-nonpoint-source-runoff-nutrient-reduction-projects>



Q & As