

2009 Call For Proposals

New York Great Lakes Protection Fund Small Grants Program

Offered by:

Great Lakes Research Consortium, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the
New York Great Lakes Basin Advisory Council

General Information

Program Goals: This small grants program provides seed funding for new, cooperative approaches to projects with potential to improve the understanding and/or management of New York's Great Lakes basin. The program supports collaborative projects and grant awards can be used for preliminary research, project planning, as seed money for pilot projects that will lead to larger projects, or to support small-scale projects consistent with the objectives below. We particularly encourage projects supporting students working with local government and community organizations.

Money available: The maximum amount for each grant is \$10,000. Funding for this program comes from the New York Great Lakes Protection Fund. These are New York State-appropriated funds subject to all applicable rules and regulations. No indirect costs are allowed. We expect to fund 3-5 projects through this solicitation. Award decisions and funds are anticipated to be available by early December 2009 with projects to start no earlier than January 1, 2010.

Proposal Submission: *Electronic versions of the proposals should be received no later than August 14, 2009. Please also submit an original signed copy of the proposal to:* Great Lakes Research Consortium, SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry, 253 Baker Lab, Syracuse, NY 13210. Please send electronic files to Khris Dodson at glrc@esf.edu.

Funding Criteria: The intent of the NYS Great Lakes Protection fund is to promote projects that contribute to protecting and restoring the health of the Great Lakes ecosystem. *Projects funded by this small grant program must meet one or more of the priority categories listed below, and must satisfy the following criteria:*

- Appropriate Project must be consistent with the goals and purposes of the NYGLPF as described in this request for proposals.
- Collaborative Project must foster communication and cooperative action between New York's colleges and universities, state and local government, business and industry, and environmental or conservation organizations. Collaborative projects and those providing support for internships are strongly encouraged.
- Effective Proposals must demonstrate how the project will lead to measurable progress in achieving the goals and priorities of the NYGLPF.
- Productive The project must have defined outcomes. Those projects which clearly demonstrate the potential to grow into larger projects consistent with the NYGLPF goals and purposes are highly encouraged.
- Relevant Projects should describe their relevance to significant New York State Great Lakes Programs or focus on critical issues such as water level management & coastal restoration, Great Lakes compact science, "greening" water infrastructure, emerging chemicals of concern. Significant New York State Great Lakes Programs include Lake Erie or Lake Ontario Lakewide Management Plan, Remedial Action Plans for Buffalo River, Niagara River, Eighteen Mile Creek, Rochester Embayment, Oswego River or the St. Lawrence River at Massena, Great Lakes fish community objectives, or others.

Cooperative efforts with other funding programs are encouraged. Projects should not replace or duplicate existing programs. (Please visit the GLRC website at www.esf.edu/glrc/ (click on Grants Programs) for a description of the projects that have been awarded in the past.

Purpose of the New York Great Lakes Protection Fund

Eligible research projects must fall in one of the five research categories listed below:

- A. Research on the economic, environmental and human health effects of contamination in the Great Lakes;
- B. Collection and analysis of data on the Great Lakes;
- C. Development of new or improved environmental clean-up technologies applicable to the Great Lakes;
- D. Research to assess the effectiveness of pollution control policies affecting the Great Lakes; and
- E. Assessment of the health of the Great Lakes fish, wildlife, waterfowl, and other organisms

Category A:

Research on the economic, environmental and health effects of contamination in the Great Lakes

Priority Topic(s)	Objective(s):
Health Effects of Exposure to Contaminants	To improve understanding of the mechanisms and human, public and ecological consequences of subtle biological effects of exposure to contaminants in the Great Lakes. OR
	To identify groups likely to be exposed to contaminants in the environment through geographic proximity or fish consumption and improve understanding of the effects on particularly vulnerable groups of exposure to persistent toxic substances. OR
	To advance the knowledge of the effects on human and ecological health of exposure to newly measured bioaccumulative and potentially toxic compounds in the environment.
OR	
Use Impairment (Problem) Identification and Analysis	To improve the understanding of lake-wide or Area of Concern use impairments that exist due to Great Lakes contamination.

Category B:

The Collection and Analysis of Data on the Great Lakes

Priority Topic(s)	Objective(s):
Data needed to support New York's participation in regional water management.	To improve understanding of existing and changing water budgets in New York's portion of the Great Lakes, including groundwater and surface water use, availability and flows or changing precipitation patterns. OR
	To improve understanding of the environmental effects in New York of alternative water level scenarios. OR
	To develop methods to report and display data in ways that improve water management decision-making and public participation. OR
	To examine the implementation of the principles of the Great Lakes Charter, and their effect on lake levels, flows and withdrawals.
OR	
Data on pollutant loadings and trends lake-wide and in New York's Areas of Concern	To quantify pollutant loadings for use in lake-wide and AOC modeling and monitoring.
OR	
Public Attitudes and Knowledge of Great Lakes Issues	To gather and interpret information on public attitudes and knowledge on Great Lakes issues to be used in the development of school and adult educational efforts. OR
	To develop tools which promote information access and assessment pertaining to economic, social and environmental policy decision-making.

Category C:

Development of new or improved environmental clean-up technologies applicable to the Great Lakes

Priority Topic(s)	Objective(s):
Lakewide or Area of Concern Use Impairment (Problem) Remediation.	To develop and advance the effectiveness of new or improved remediation technology, systems or methods; OR
	To develop data interpretation tools for assessing the ecological and/or economic costs and benefits of remediation.

Category D:

Research to assess the effectiveness of pollution control policies affecting the Great Lakes

Priority Topic(s)	Objective(s):
Management of Stormwater Runoff, On-site Septic Systems, and Sanitary Sewer Overflows	To determine the effectiveness of current policies and/or programs to control pollution from urban and agricultural stormwater runoff, on-site septic systems, and sanitary sewer overflows. OR
	To compare the effectiveness of alternative approaches to controlling pollution from storm-water runoff, on-site septic systems, and sanitary sewer overflows. OR
	To assess the potential effectiveness of new or more effective management structures or financing mechanisms for implementing pollution control policies.
OR	
Public Awareness	To assess effectiveness of public communication and community outreach concerning water pollution controls, conservation and management and recommend improvements based on up-to-date research into environmental communication and public participation.

Category E:

Assessment of the health of the Great Lakes fish, wildlife, waterfowl and other organisms

Priority Topic(s)	Objective(s):
Impacts of likely changes in the Great Lakes environment	To determine current and predict likely impacts of future changes in nutrient levels on Lake Erie and Lake Ontario aquatic life and ecology. OR
	To determine current and predict likely future impacts of invasive species and/or to develop effective management strategies to deal with these impacts. OR
	To determine current and predict likely future impacts of changes in water levels and fluctuations and/or to develop effective management strategies to deal with these impacts. OR
	To determine current and predict likely future impacts from regional climate as affected by global change
OR	
Aquatic Habitats	To improve our understanding of the threats to and/or quality of critical habitats including open lake, rock shoals, nearshore, embayments, wetlands, and tributaries of the Great Lakes.
OR	
Aquatic Populations	To improve our understanding of the population trends and threats to key aquatic populations and their health.

Proposal Review: The Consortium will establish a review panel to evaluate proposals based on technical merit. Based on this technical review, the projects are ranked and this ranking and peer review comments are provided to the Great Lakes Basin Advisory Council. Members of the Council then evaluate how well each proposal furthers the goals, objectives and criteria of the Great Lakes Protection Fund. Based on their review and the technical ranking provided by the Consortium, the Council recommends a list of projects for funding to the Department of Environmental Conservation for final approval.

Proposal Format:

A. Cover Sheet:

1. Project Title
2. Principal Investigator Name, Affiliation, Address, City, State, Zip, Phone, and Email
3. Collaborator(s) Name, Affiliation, Address, City, State, Zip, Phone, and Email
4. Amount Requested
5. Priority Category(s)

B. Proposal:

The text of the proposal should be no more than 4 pages, excluding references and supporting materials.

1. Abstract: Briefly summarize the project's focus and goal, scope of work, nature of collaboration, and significance to the priorities of the New York Great Lakes Protection Fund.
2. Statement of the project's focus: State the issues that are to be addressed by the project and in a clear and concise manner how the project relates to the objectives and priorities identified in the Priorities section of this RFP.
3. Scope of Work: Describe the purpose and scope of work to be accomplished. Include the following:

purpose of the project and specific objectives to be achieved; public benefits and implications for policy development; end-products of the project and how these products will be used to further develop the project and goals of the NYGLPF.

4. Timeframe: Provide a time-frame for completion of objectives and major milestones of the work.
5. Personnel and Collaboration: Describe the nature and degree of collaboration between those involved. Describe the personnel to be assigned to this project. Include resumes of lead personnel. If an intern is involved in the project, list their major advisor or agency and describe how the intern will be recruited.

C. Budget: The budget must include the following items: A separate budget justification is highly recommended.

1. NYGLPF funds requested.
2. Matching funds. Matching funds are not required for this program however they are strongly encouraged. If matching funds are used, show them in the budget. Only non-state funds are eligible to be used as a match.
3. Person-months. Person-months must be broken into NYGLPF-funded and contributed shares.
4. Fringe benefits. Appropriate Fringe benefits must be budgeted for all personnel paid through NYGLPF projects. Personnel pay through state payroll must budget 45.96% for all non-student research personnel. No fringe benefits are charged for students.
5. Permanent equipment. This is defined as items having a life of two or more years and/or a cost of \$500 or more. For items fitting this description, you must attach *a written justification*.
6. Indirect costs. **Indirect costs are not eligible to be included in the NYGLPF portion of the budget.**

D. Notification and Reporting requirements:

Successful projects will receive written notification and a separate list of reporting requirements. These requirements include both interim and end of project reports.



Great Lakes Research Consortium

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