Great Lakes Environmental Justice Grant Programs (GLEJGPs)

Under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) will provide funding for programs (“GLEJGPs”) that are focused on supporting environmental restoration projects in underserved communities within the Great Lakes region. The GLEJGPs will advance the EPA’s Environmental Justice (EJ) initiatives through the restoration and protection of the Great Lakes ecosystem.

This program intends to alleviate the disproportionate burden of applying for federal funding that historically underserved communities face. To recognize and combat these inequities, the GLRI is seeking organizations (“principal recipients”) with the capacity to issue and oversee subawards for these communities (“subrecipients”) so that they do not have to navigate the federal funding process themselves. Subrecipients will then engage in project activities that support the GLRI Action Plan.

Applications may be either basin-wide or focused on a particular region. Basin-wide applications may request $10-20 million, and funding will be provided to one GLEJGP. Region-focused applications may request $2-10 million, and funding will be provided to five GLEJGPs.

Applications are due August 11, 2023, 11:59 EST. See RFA website for more details and upcoming webinars.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants include qualified non-federal government entities, such as state agencies, agencies or instrumentalities of local governments, interstate agencies, federally recognized tribes and tribal organizations, higher education institutions, and non-profit organizations.

Applicants do not need to be located in the Great Lakes basin to be eligible, but any activities carried out with GLEJGP funding must take place in and around the communities that are.
Funding Allocations
The GLEJGP follows the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI); $30 million in funding has been allocated for FY2023 to support historically underserved Great Lakes communities.

Eligible Grant Activities
Awarded funding may be used to either protect, enhance, and/or restore the Great Lakes or protect the Great Lakes ecosystem health. Moreover, activities may be relevant to those which are mentioned in the GLRI Action Plan III, including habitat restoration, invasive species management, non-point source runoff reduction, etc.

Ineligible activities include the following: applications focused solely on monitoring and scientific research, applications focused solely on improving access and recreational activities, applications focused solely on workforce development activities, and applicant activities and subaward activities not within the historic Great Lakes basin.

We’re Here to Help!
The Environmental Resilience Institute closely follows funding opportunities for Indiana communities. Local governments and their partners can contact us with questions about grant funding or for information about creating a climate action plan.

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