

Topic	Question	Response	Date Posted
General	I have a question regarding the Project Location. The RFA requires we name one specific location with an 8 or 12-digit HUC code. We plan to propose multiple locations. Do you require the specific HUC code for each location? Or, more broadly, should all project sites proposed be of a similar size?	<p>Per the Project Location subsection on page 47 of the RFA, “Specify a single, representative project location within the Great Lakes basin, including 8- or 12-digit hydrologic unit code (HUC) available from the USGS Water Science Center Great Lakes Region Locate Your Watershed tool. Latitude and longitude (specifying decimal degrees) are available from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Coordinate Finder.</p> <p>Please identify only one representative location within the Great Lakes basin, even if the work will be done at multiple locations or by applicants located outside the Great Lakes basin. Please include the reason for the location you identify if that is not self-evident.</p> <p>In addition to the single best representative location, for projects with multiple locations, specify up to five cities, counties, states, zip codes, and congressional districts where work will be performed. If your project includes more than five locations, select the five that best represent the project.”</p>	1/30/2020
Eligibility	We are interested in applying for the Trash Free Waters Grant with a coalition of partners to remove some sunken boats from the Rouge River. They are located within five miles of the mouth of the river but our river drains into the Detroit River then Lake Erie. Would this area still be eligible?	Activities along the waterways connecting the Great Lakes are eligible for funding. Projects along the U.S. portion of the St. Mary’s River, St. Clair River, Lake St. Clair, Detroit River, and the Niagara River are eligible for funding. Activities within tributaries of waterways connecting the Great Lakes are also eligible for funding but extending no more than approximately five river miles upstream from these waterways.	1/30/2020
Eligibility	Can trash removal occur on private property or must all activities occur on public property?	Trash removal can occur on private property.	1/30/2020
Eligibility	Are beach cleaning machines able to be purchased as equipment?	Beach cleaning machines may be an eligible equipment. Applicants should describe the rationale for how the	1/30/2020

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		purchase of equipment contributes to the meeting the goals of the funding category.	
Budget	Are we allowed to use grant funds to purchase thank you gifts for volunteers? Things like t-shirts, water bottles, waterproof pouches, etc.?	These would be ineligible expenses per 2 CFR 200.421 (e)(3).	1/30/2020
General	To whom should the letters of support be addressed?	Letters of support may be addressed to the applicant and attached to the application. It is also acceptable for such letters to be addressed to the Director of the Great Lakes National Program Office, so long as they are attached to the application. Letters that are not attached to the application submittal may not be considered.	1/30/2020
General	Do you know if the new GLRI Great Lakes Trash Free grant program will 1) require a matching contribution or whether 2) a matching contribution of cash or in-kind services is allowed and/or strongly advised for the proposal to be competitive?	Per page 19 of the RFA, there is no required match, and there are no defined scoring criteria providing extra points for match. However, individual reviewers could consider match in their evaluations in evaluating the size and scope of what the project will achieve with the federal investment, as evidence of strong partnerships, or other scoring criteria. Applicants that do choose to propose match should ensure that any match they are proposing is directly related to the project and will occur within the project period. If an applicant chooses to propose match, those costs must be included on the SF-424, SF-424A, and documented in the Budget Narrative. Applicants should carefully read the relevant language covering match in the RFA, including on pages 19, 30, 54, and 60.	1/24/2020
Eligibility	We do trash collection as part of the CSO Nine Minimum Controls. Is that eligible for this program? I think this collection technically required of us, but we are curious whether it could provide some relief for the requirement.	Your project activities may be eligible depending on whether it meets the description of "Eligible Activities " on page 19 and does not include "Ineligible Activities" as described on page 20. Note that "Any activities/projects that are specifically required by a draft or final NPDES permit or by a consent decree" and	1/24/2020

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		"Legal/enforcement activities" are listed as ineligible.	
Eligibility	We also clean and maintain trash racks across the Regional Stormwater System, would that be eligible under this program?	Your project activities may be eligible depending on whether it meets the description of "Eligible Activities" on page 19 and does not include "Ineligible Activities" as described on page 20. Note that "Any activities/projects that are specifically required by a draft or final NPDES permit or by a consent decree" and "Legal/enforcement activities" are listed as ineligible.	1/24/2020
Eligibility	Is purchase of equipment to remove algae that has accumulated on a Great Lakes beach eligible for funding under either of these programs? Also, is removal of urban debris that located on the river bottom in the Detroit River (ex: abandoned cars, shopping carts, etc) eligible for funding? I am not sure if either of these items count as "trash".	The equipment purchased through this grant should be designed to remove trash. "Trash" is used as a general term and is intended to include trash, garbage, litter, debris, and other unwanted material that can be readily removed from the environment. Marine debris is defined as "any persistent solid material that is manufactured or processed and directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, disposed of or abandoned into the marine environment or the Great Lakes" (15 C.F.R. § 909.1).	1/24/2020
Eligibility	We are interested in learning more about the EPA's vision for the types of projects this is hoping to address, as well as whether this grant requires areas covered by watershed management plans (WMP). We have a number of partners who may be interested.	Please refer to section I of the RFA for descriptions of the types of projects EPA is seeking. See section III for eligibility information. The RFA does not require that a project occur in area covered by a watershed management plan.	1/24/2020
Eligibility	I am writing to inquire about the GLRI's Trash Free Waters Program (program page here). In the RFA, it says that the webinar for this program will be held on January 7, 2020 at 1 pm Central/2 pm Eastern, but the program page itself states that the webinar will be held at 12:30 pm Central. What is the correct time for the webinar for this program?	This was a typo on the webpage that was corrected. The webinar will be held at 1PM CST/2PM EST.	1/24/2020

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Eligibility	Is the Upper St. Lawrence River area included in the geographic area of this program?	<p>Projects along the St. Lawrence River are eligible at or upstream from the point at which the St. Lawrence River becomes the international boundary between Canada and the United States per page 20 of the RFA. However, per page 21 of the RFA, projects must occur on the U.S. side of the boundary. Projects must also meet all other eligibility requirements.</p> <p>Projects in and along the U.S. portion of the St. Lawrence River are eligible.</p>	1/24/2020
Eligibility	At the bottom of the RFA, it lists that cleanups more than 5 miles upstream of a Great Lake would be ineligible. While we are just a bit downstream from Lake Ontario, I want to clarify this requirement and ensure our eligibility before beginning our application.	<p>Projects along the St. Lawrence River are eligible at or upstream from the point at which the St. Lawrence River becomes the international boundary between Canada and the United States per page 20 of the RFA. However, per page 21 of the RFA, projects must occur on the U.S. side of the boundary. Projects must also meet all other eligibility requirements.</p> <p>Projects in and along the U.S. portion of the St. Lawrence River are eligible.</p>	1/24/2020
Eligibility	Could you please clarify one point? Does this mean all proposals from Cape Vincent eastward in the Upper St. Lawrence River would be excluded, or does the exclusion only kick in downriver near Saint-Regis where the international border touches the mainland? Based on a review of the GLRI website, there are several other projects throughout the Upper St. Lawrence River region.	<p>Projects along the St. Lawrence River are eligible at or upstream from the point at which the St. Lawrence River becomes the international boundary between Canada and the United States per page 20 of the RFA. However, per page 21 of the RFA, projects must occur on the U.S. side of the boundary. Projects must also meet all other eligibility requirements.</p> <p>Projects in and along the U.S. portion of the St. Lawrence River are eligible.</p>	1/24/2020
Eligibility	I was wondering if carbon emissions qualified under this grant?	The RFA is focused on trash removal. Per page 7 of the RFA, "The Trash-Free Great Lakes Grant Program will support community efforts to remove trash: 1) from land areas immediately adjacent to the Great Lakes and Great Lakes harbors, such as beaches and other public recreational areas, shorelines, and coastal wetlands; 2) in Great Lakes harbors	1/24/2020

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		<p>and rivermouths; and 3) within riparian corridors (stretches of rivers or streams, including the banks) having a direct connection to a Great Lake but extending no more than approximately five river miles upstream of the Lake. These projects will also help reduce future trash in these areas through outreach and education activities associated with the trash removal activities." "Trash" is used as a general term and is intended to include trash, garbage, litter, debris, and other unwanted material that can be readily removed from the environment. Marine debris is defined as "any persistent solid material that is manufactured or processed and directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, disposed of or abandoned into the marine environment or the Great Lakes" (15 C.F.R. § 909.1).</p>	
Eligibility	<p>Also, would design and construction observation-related engineering costs be eligible for the program? Is there a local match that must be met by the entity applying?</p>	<p>Design and construction observation could be eligible activities if they are part of projects that meet the eligibility requirements in Section III of the RFA, beginning on page 16 and any other eligibility requirements in the category descriptions in Section I of the RFA.</p> <p>Per page 19 of the RFA, there is no required match, and there are no defined scoring criteria providing extra points for match. However, individual reviewers could consider match in their evaluations in evaluating the size and scope of what the project will achieve with the federal investment, as evidence of strong partnerships, or other scoring criteria. Applicants that do choose to propose match should ensure that any match they are proposing is directly related to the project and will occur within the project period. If an applicant chooses to propose match, those costs must be included on the SF-424, SF-424A, and documented in the Budget Narrative. Applicants should</p>	1/24/2020

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		carefully read the relevant language covering match in the RFA, including on pages 19, 30, 54, and 60.	
Eligibility	We are wondering if hydrodynamic separators that would treat low flows at stormwater outfalls would qualify for this program. We have recommended these devices to our clients in situations where other traditional stormwater BMPs don't make sense (mainly due to lack of space in an urbanized environment). A couple examples are Vortech units and Nutrient Separating Baffle Boxes from Suntree. Both of these units and others are designed to collect trash, floatables, oil/grease, and heavier sediments before they reach a waterbody. They typically cost from \$60,000 to \$200,000 depending on the contributing watershed, not including design/engineering.	It appears that those trash removal technologies are designed to be installed as part of sewer infrastructure. As stated on page 20, installation of trash removal technology within sewer infrastructure is not eligible for funding for the purpose of this RFA	1/24/2020
Eligibility	Can removal equipment that has proven effective in marine environments be used in a freshwater system even if it has not been tested in freshwater but is capable of being used in freshwater?	Such equipment could be eligible. Applicants should describe in their proposals why they believe equipment that has proven effective in marine environments will be effective in freshwater.	1/24/2020
Eligibility	will this RFA support development of technologies? for example, we are developing genetically modified algae that can metabolize plastic in open waters. Will feasibility and/or development of this technology be responsive to this RFA?	This RFA does not support funding for "research activities, meaning any systematic investigation principally for the purpose of expanding general knowledge or developing a new solution to a problem" per page 20 of the RFA under the Ineligible Activities section.	1/24/2020
Eligibility	Is the Detroit River eligible?	Activities along the waterways connecting the Great Lakes are eligible for funding. Projects along the U.S. portion of the St. Mary's River, St. Clair River, Lake St. Clair, Detroit River, and the Niagara River are eligible for funding.	1/24/2020
Eligibility	Can we partner with private campgrounds as long as they do not receive any money? Such as use their	Yes, these types of partnerships are eligible.	1/24/2020

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	locations as clean up areas place receptacles use volunteers but have our staff outreach to them and organize the activity		
Eligibility	Would hiring a barge to remove lumber debris from beaches that can't be accessed with equipment from land fall under the first section?	Yes, this could be eligible under the Trash Free Communities category. Applicants should describe the rationale for the methodology in their narrative proposal.	1/24/2020
Eligibility	Can an award be used for a current initiative or it is solely for new events?	Funding can be used to further or expand existing efforts.	1/24/2020
Eligibility	What about at a drain outlet into waters of the Great Lakes (Lake St. Clair)?	<p>As stated on page 20, installation of trash removal technology within sewer infrastructure is not eligible for funding for the purpose of this RFA. Activities that are outside of the sewer infrastructure are potentially eligible for funding. See pages 19-21 for more information.</p> <p>The waterways connecting the Great Lakes are eligible for funding. Projects within the U.S. portion of the St. Mary's River, St. Clair River, Lake St. Clair, Detroit River, and the Niagara River are eligible for funding.</p>	1/24/2020
General	If we provide funding to other members of our coalition named in our application, would this be considered a subrecipient or subcontractor relationship? Would a budget for each coalition member need to be specified in application?	<p>Transfers of funding to partners in a coalition could be subawards. Applicants should carefully review the language and linked resources, including EPA's subaward policy, in the RFA sections covering "Coalitions" (page 8 and 19) , "Partnerships, Contractors, and Subawards" (page 18), and "Additional Provisions for Applications Incorporated Into RFA" (page 33).</p> <p>Budgets for subawardees and contractors must be detailed in the budget narrative. Please see pages 56-57 for more information.</p>	1/24/2020
Eligibility	How much of the St. Lawrence River is covered, to the Moses Saunders Dam or down to the international boarder?	Projects along the U.S. portion of the St. Lawrence River are eligible. Project may also take place in tributaries of the St. Lawrence River up to approximately five river miles upstream of the St. Lawrence	1/24/2020

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	So the project has to be only in a waterway that connects directly to the lake, and not tributaries to that waterway?	River. Projects must also meet all other eligibility requirements.	
General	Are these single year projects or can projects be over 2 years?	The suggested project period is 24 months, per page 15 of the RFA.	1/24/2020
Eligibility	Can you please explain and clarify again the definition of a community that is on a river within 5 miles of the lakes and under which category that would apply	<p>Please see page 20 of the revised RFA for more information. In summary, both funding categories can fund activities that take place 1) on the land areas adjacent to the Great Lakes and Great Lakes harbors (including along the U.S. portion of the connecting waterways between the Great Lakes -- the St. Mary's River, St. Clair River, Lake St. Clair, Detroit River, and the Niagara River – as well as along the U.S. portion of the St. Lawrence River), 2) within Great Lakes harbors and rivermouths; and 3) within riparian corridors having a direct connection to a Great Lake but extending no more than approximately five river miles upstream of the Lake .</p> <p>This eligibility criterion applies to both categories.</p>	1/24/2020
Eligibility	If a project takes place in the Detroit River, should it only take place on the U.S. side of the river or should it cover both sides?	Only activities in U.S. waters are eligible, per page 21 of the RFA under Ineligible Activities.	1/24/2020
Eligibility	Are beaver dam and associated debris removal eligible activities?	The focus of this RFA is trash removal. "Trash" is used as a general term and is intended to include trash, garbage, litter, debris, and other unwanted material that can be readily removed from the environment. Marine debris is defined as "any persistent solid material that is manufactured or processed and directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, disposed of or abandoned into the marine environment or the Great Lakes" (15 C.F.R. § 909.1).	1/24/2020
Eligibility	Will funding for the "Trash Removal from Rivermouths and Harbors" be	Such activities could be eligible. Applicants should describe in their proposals why	1/24/2020

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	eligible for projects that would include the purchase and deployment of proven trash removal devices, but that also would support research on those devices if the device has been proven elsewhere across the world but not in the Great Lakes?	they believe equipment that has proven effective in other environments will be effective in the Great Lakes. Assessing the performance of trash removal devices is an eligible activity. Research activities, as described on page 20 of the RFA, are ineligible.	
Eligibility	In reference to either opportunity, if we were to estimate measurements associated to the trash anticipated to be removed, should we plan for hours to developing quality system documentation? For example, we estimate a collection of 10 tons of trash removed would a QAPP be required to document that weight?	For the purpose of these funding opportunities, the total acres improved by on-the-ground and/or in-the-water removal of trash, litter, and debris should be measured (page 9). If an applicant chooses to also quantify additional metrics, further information should be provided in the application so a determination can be made with regards to quality documentation requirements. Applicants who wish to collect additional information about trash removal activities (i.e., pounds of material collected, number of items collected, number of trash bags of material collected) may do so without a QAPP if they clearly specify that the information is considered to be anecdotal and is not intended to be a statistically valid representation of the extent of the trash problem nor is the information intended for use in decision making. This caveat should also appear in subsequent reporting of this information to EPA.	1/24/2020
General	Does a NEPA analysis, FWS consultation, and/or historic consultation have to be completed for all of the project/cleanup sites?	Please refer to the "Environmental and Regulatory Compliance" section on page 41 of the RFA.	1/24/2020
Eligibility	Would a nonprofit tax exempt "friends" group that supports a federal agency be eligible? Specifically, would they be eligible for a grant that would clean up beaches within the jurisdiction of a national lakeshore?	Groups like this could be eligible. Please see "Applicant Eligibility" on page 17 of the RFA. However, projects where a significant portion of the work will occur on federal property are ineligible under "Ineligible Activities" (page 21).	1/24/2020
Eligibility	What about clearing trash from stormwater inlets that empty directly into riparian areas?	Activities outside of sewer infrastructure, such as removing trash from the outside of stormwater grates may be eligible.	1/24/2020

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		Please refer to the Eligible Activities section on page 19 and Ineligible Activities section on page 20 for more information.	
Administrative	Based on the timing of the grant award (issued in May), can the grant be used for an event that is scheduled to occur early in May?	Timing for grant awards are estimates. If funding is not received prior to the event occurring, or if the applicant wishes to charge event planning activities to the grant, this would be considered pre-award costs. Reimbursement of pre-award costs is not guaranteed, even if the project is selected to receive a grant. Any expenditures or commitment of funds prior to the receipt of a grant are solely at the applicant organization's own risk. Pre-award costs are covered on page 59 of the RFA.	1/24/2020
Eligibility	Please confirm - only river miles within 5 miles from the great lake waterbody would be included. Does the Great Lakes term include the Detroit River?	Activities along the the waterways connecting the Great Lakes are eligible for funding. Projects within the U.S. portion of the St. Mary's River, St. Clair River, Lake St. Clair, Detroit River, and the Niagara River are eligible for funding.	1/24/2020
Budget	Can a for-profit partner be part of a coalition if they are providing volunteers or providing t-shirts or other promotional items to volunteers	<p>For-profit entities can be partners within a coalition. However, if the applicant intends to provide grant funds to that entity, the applicant should carefully review the language and linked resources, including EPA's subaward policy, in the RFA sections covering "Coalitions" (page 8 and 19) , "Partnerships, Contractors, and Subawards" (page 18), and "Additional Provisions for Applications Incorporated Into RFA" (page 33).</p> <p>Budgets for subawardees and contractors must be detailed in the budget narrative. Please see pages 56-57 for more information.</p> <p>EPA's policy on selected items of costs states: "EPA funds may not be used to purchase clothing with the exception of "special clothing" for identification of recipient personnel performing emergency response work or other field</p>	1/24/2020

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		<p>work where personnel need jackets, hats, shirts or similar items of clothing for safety or security purposes. Special clothing remains the property of the recipient rather than the employee. AEOs may also approve as participant support costs the use of EPA funds to purchase t-shirts and similar inexpensive items of apparel (e.g. baseball caps) that are necessary to identify participants in community cleanups, recycling events, sampling projects, environmental education programs, environmental justice outreach, and similar statutorily authorized activities described in the EPA approved scope of work.”</p> <p>T-shirts may be allowable with prior approval. Applicants should describe the purpose of providing the T-shirts in the application as they would any other proposed cost. https://www.epa.gov/grants/rain-2018-g01-r</p> <p>T-shirts can be provided by a partner organization or private entity without prior approval if federal funds aren’t used to purchase them.</p>	
Eligibility	Do Great Lakes Communities include other waterbodies that flow into the Great Lakes, such as trash flowing into the Finger Lakes?	Please see page 20. In summary, trash removal activities that occur within riparian corridors having a direct connection to a Great Lakes are eligible but must be no more than five river miles upstream of the Lake.	1/24/2020
Administrative	will a link to the presentation be provided?	Please read through the RFA and this Q&A document for all of our guidance and responses to questions received on the webinar and via email. If a link to a recording is still desired, one may be made available upon request.	1/24/2020
Eligibility	How will EPA determine whether a trash removal device is "unproven or experimental"?	EPA would look to see if the equipment is being used in other locations successfully. Applicants should describe in their project narratives how their proposed equipment	1/24/2020

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		has a demonstrated track record of success.	
Eligibility	Does the funding for harbors need to be for machinery/devices? Can the funds be used to construct a natural or green way of trapping the trash? Similar to a detention basin for stormwater?	In the "Trash Removal from Great Lakes Rivermouths and Harbors" funding opportunity, the words "device" and "machinery" were intended as general terms to include a range of different approaches. Applicants should describe the rationale for the trash removal methodology in their proposed project narrative.	1/24/2020
Administrative	Can you please repeat the D&B and SAM number requirement? That was not clear to me.	Applicants will need to have a valid DUNS number and register with both SAM.gov and Grants.gov. More information can be found beginning on page 22 of the RFA.	1/24/2020
Eligibility	It is stated that a project solely focused on outreach and education is not eligible. Are outreach and education activities that are supplemental to a trash removal project eligible cost?	Outreach and education activities that are part of a project which includes trash removal activities are eligible. Please see "Eligible Activities" (page 19) and "Ineligible Activities" (page 20) sections for more information.	1/24/2020
Criteria	Do you have suggestions for how to estimate the amount of trash to be removed?	Page 48 of the RFA states that descriptions of project design should include "an estimate of the amount (by area, weight, volume, or other appropriate measure) of trash that will be removed". Page 49, under Results, asks applicants to "specify the estimated quantitative and qualitative expected results" and to "describe the anticipated accuracy of estimates". EPA does not have specific suggestions on how to estimate the amount of trash to be removed.	1/24/2020
Administrative	If we have a coalition, with one lead fiduciary, would the other groups be sub awards?	Such arrangements could be subawards. Applicants should carefully review language in the RFA covering coalitions (page 8 and 19), subawards and contracts (page 18), the additional provisions linked on page 33, and the resources linked to in those sections, including EPA's subaward policy.	1/24/2020

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Budget	Will the grant pay for food for volunteers?	Such costs could be eligible. Applicants should itemize any food and refreshments costs and clearly describe the necessity and reasonableness of the costs.	1/24/2020
Administrative	What is target date for funding availability?	Page 1 of the RFA lists May 2020 as the estimated timeframe for EPA to begin making awards.	1/24/2020
Administrative	Where do I go to print this entire RFA?	The RFA can be printed from grants.gov or the RFA website (https://www.epa.gov/great-lakes-funding/glri-trash-free-waters-fy2020-request-applications-rfa)	1/24/2020
Budget	How do you recommend we handle equipment at the end of the grant period? If we buy a piece of equipment, what do we do with it when the grant period is over?	Page 11 of the RFA asks applicants to provide “a description of how purchased equipment will continue to be used to reduce trash impacts after the project period has ended.” More information about equipment and equipment disposition can be found in 2 CFR §200.313.	1/24/2020
Eligibility	Are activities and materials provided by a Friends group for the benefit of a federal jurisdiction uniformly "ineligible activities" under federal grant programs? Is there a CFR citation for this?	Per page 21 of the RFA ,“projects where a significant portion of the work will occur on federal property” are identified as ineligible.	1/24/2020
Eligibility	If education is connected to the trash clean up is that 'eligible'? If it is clearly distinct from 'advocacy'.	Education and outreach are eligible activities, if they are part of a project that includes trash removal. Advocacy and lobbying are not eligible. Please see Eligible Activities (page 19) and Ineligible Activities (page 20) sections for more information.	1/24/2020
Eligibility	Would an oil-water separator or similar be considered, or outside the common definition of "trash"?	It would be considered to the extent that oil-water separators are found in the environment as part of trash collection. However, this RFA is not intended to fund the collection and disposal of oil-water separators from boats or other vehicles. For the purpose of this RFA, “trash” is used as a general term and is intended to include trash, garbage, litter, debris, and other unwanted material that can be readily removed from the environment.	1/24/2020

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General	I don't believe the timeline was mentioned: when does the trash removal activities be completed and when will the grant be given?	The estimated timeline can be found on page 1 of the RFA. EPA expects to begin making awards in May 2020.	1/24/2020
Eligibility	Can funds support dive cleanups?	Such activities may be eligible if they are part of a project that meets all other eligibility requirements. Applicants should describe the rationale for the methodology in their narrative proposal.	1/24/2020
Eligibility	What if we have a Canadian /binational partnership in our Coalition	It is okay to partner with Canadian organizations, however only work occurring within the U.S. is eligible per page 21 of the RFA.	1/24/2020
Criteria	Are applications with cost share/match scored more favorably?	Neither the RFA nor our instructions for reviewers include a provision for favorable scoring for cost share or match. However, individual reviewers could independently consider cost share as part of their review of the applicant to the extent they find it relevant in their consideration of the scoring criteria categories. Any applicants proposing cost share should review the relevant language on page 60 of the RFA.	1/24/2020
Eligibility	The project has to be only in a waterway that connects directly to the lake, and not tributaries to that waterway?	Activities along the waterways connecting the Great Lakes are eligible for funding. Projects along the U.S. portion of the St. Mary's River, St. Clair River, Lake St. Clair, Detroit River, and the Niagara River are eligible for funding. Activities within tributaries of waterways connecting the Great Lakes are also eligible for funding but extending no more than approximately five river miles upstream from these waterways.	1/24/2020
Administrative	Are letters from elected officials in areas of the work proposed going to be accepted?	Applicants may submit letters of support from any entity they deem relevant. However, when scoring your application, reviewers will be looking for letters of support from partners involved in the project demonstrating their commitment to support and participate in the project.	1/24/2020

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General	What should be the desired geographic scope, watershed approach?	Please view the "eligibility" section on page 19 and 21 for eligible activities. Neither the RFA nor our instructions specify a "watershed approach."	1/24/2020
Eligibility	Is there a percentage of outreach and education allowed? Could it be 50% education and 50% clean up materials and coordination?	EPA does not specify a required percentage of outreach and education or cleanup activities. To be eligible, projects must include trash removal. Please see "Eligible Activities" (page 19) and "Ineligible Activities" (page 20) sections for more information.	1/24/2020
Eligibility	What about a tributary that discharges to a river that empties into the lake?	The project area may be in tributaries to a river that connects directly to a Great Lakes, but the project area must be within approximately five river miles from the Great Lake.	1/24/2020
Scoring	Can you tell us how many additional points might be received by applicants who demonstrate an efficient and effective plan to use coalitions to broaden geographic scope of trash removal activities within the Great Lakes Basin?	Neither the RFA nor our instructions for reviewers include a specific number of additional points for the efficient and effective use of coalitions to broaden geographic scope of trash removal activities within the Great Lakes Basin. However, this is an element we have specifically identified as a priority. The potential for higher scoring will be considered under the Project Design criteria for Trash Removal in Great Lakes Communities applicants who demonstrate an efficient and effective plan to use coalitions.	1/24/2020
Budget	Can we pay staff time for developing education material and coordinating clean up events?	Staff time to develop educational material and coordinate events are eligible expenses, provided they are part of a project that includes trash removal and meets all other eligibility requirements.	1/24/2020
General	If you can't review draft applications, how do we get answers where the answer is "it depends on the project?"	EPA cannot review draft applications, or comment on how proposals, or elements of proposals might be scored by reviewers. However, if applicants have specific questions regarding eligibility or other RFA requirements, they should reach out directly to the RFA contacts listed on page 45 of the RFA.	1/24/2020

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Scoring	In the scoring for Programmatic Capabilities and Performance, will applicants without prior EPA experience be able to receive the maximum points as long as they can demonstrate a successful track record on non-EPA federally-funded assistance agreements?	It is possible for applicants without prior EPA grant experience to be able to receive the maximum points to the extent they can successfully address the review criteria described on page 36 of the RFA with experience with federal assistance agreements from other agencies. Reviewers will independently consider and score the information you provide against the criteria in this section.	1/24/2020
Budget	What if we buy \$10,000 in clean up supplies, not equipment?	Materials with a unit purchase price of less than \$5,000 should be budgeted under the supplies category.	1/24/2020
Budget	We do a clean up where volunteers boat people out to do shoreline clean ups. Could we provide gas fund reimbursements for boats?	Fuel expenses for volunteer's boats could be an eligible expense, provided it is part of a project that meets all other eligibility requirements.	1/24/2020
Budget	What about event T-shirts?	<p>EPA's policy on selected items of costs states: "EPA funds may not be used to purchase clothing with the exception of "special clothing" for identification of recipient personnel performing emergency response work or other field work where personnel need jackets, hats, shirts or similar items of clothing for safety or security purposes. Special clothing remains the property of the recipient rather than the employee. EPA may also approve as participant support costs the use of EPA funds to purchase t-shirts and similar inexpensive items of apparel (e.g. baseball caps) that are necessary to identify participants in community cleanups, recycling events, sampling projects, environmental education programs, environmental justice outreach, and similar statutorily authorized activities described in the EPA approved scope of work."</p> <p>T-shirts may be allowable with prior approval. Applicants should describe the purpose of providing the T-shirts in the application as they would any other proposed cost.</p>	1/24/2020

Topic	Question	Response	Date Posted
		https://www.epa.gov/grants/rain-2018-g01-r	
Budget	What if the T-shirts we designed to promote the coalition and promote the event?	<p>EPA’s policy on selected items of costs states: “EPA funds may not be used to purchase clothing with the exception of “special clothing” for identification of recipient personnel performing emergency response work or other field work where personnel need jackets, hats, shirts or similar items of clothing for safety or security purposes. Special clothing remains the property of the recipient rather than the employee. EPA may also approve as participant support costs the use of EPA funds to purchase t-shirts and similar inexpensive items of apparel (e.g. baseball caps) that are necessary to identify participants in community cleanups, recycling events, sampling projects, environmental education programs, environmental justice outreach, and similar statutorily authorized activities described in the EPA approved scope of work.”-shirts may be allowable with prior approval. Applicants should describe the purpose of providing the T-shirts in the application as they would any other proposed cost.</p> <p>https://www.epa.gov/grants/rain-2018-g01-r</p>	1/24/2020
Budget	We have an event April 25th, I assume we would not have funding by then?	<p>EPA estimates we will begin making grant awards in May 2020. Timing for grant awards are estimates. If funding is not received prior to the event occurring, or if the applicant wishes to charge event planning activities to the grant, this would be considered pre-award costs. Reimbursement of pre-award costs is not guaranteed, even if the project is selected to receive a grant. Any expenditures or commitment of funds prior to the receipt of a grant are solely at the applicant</p>	1/24/2020

Topic	Question	Response	Date Posted
		organization's own risk. Pre-award costs are covered on page 59 of the RFA.	
Budget	Can funds be used to buy kayaks or canoes to conduct on water cleanup events?	These activities are eligible, provided they are a part of a project that meets all other eligibility requirements.	1/24/2020
Eligibility	<p>I was hoping you could let me know if the description below would be an eligible project application for the grant.</p> <p>A highly used, urban beach state park on the eastern most point of Lake Erie that experiences large deposits of wave and storm generated debris. This material is collected and stockpiled along the mile-long beach on a weekly basis, but due to the cost probative methods currently available, is only removed annually in order to prepare the beach for swimming operations for the summer months. The debris that washes up consists of large woody material, compostable vegetation and inorganic materials (such as plastic pollution) and exceeds the park's current storage capacity, without compromising the park's natural resources and recreational areas. During 2019, the debris deposited on the beach exceeded 7,000 cy. In our grant application, we would propose the purchasing of a material sorting machine and conveyor system, which would be used to sort the debris deposited on the shoreline into three piles (sand, compostable material, and inorganics). The sand would be returned to the beach, inorganics sorted for recycling purposes and the remaining debris composted for reuse within this and other nearby parks. Funding would be put towards the machine which would allow us to perform the work in house on a more regular basis, and would help prevent the debris from being</p>	<p>The purchase of equipment or supplies may be eligible as part of a project that removes trash. Please see the "Eligible Activities" (page 19) and "Ineligible Activities" (page 20) sections for more information.</p> <p>However, if applicants have specific questions regarding eligibility or other RFA requirements, they should reach out directly to the RFA contacts listed on page 45 of the RFA.</p> <p>Applicants should describe the rationale for purchases in the project and budget narratives.</p>	1/24/2020

Topic	Question	Response	Date Posted
	return to the lake during major storm events.		
General	I was reviewing the Trash Free Waters 2020 RFA and had a question on page 41. Will the trash removal grant involve the use or collection of environmental data? It doesn't appear to, but figured I'd check. The QSD seems a steep curve for this trash removal initiative.	<p>For the purpose of these funding opportunities, the total acres improved by on-the-ground and/or in-the-water removal of trash, litter, and debris should be measured (page 9). If an applicant chooses to also quantify additional metrics, further information should be provided in the application so a determination can be made with regards to quality documentation requirements.</p> <p>Applicants who wish to collect additional information about trash removal activities (i.e., pounds of material collected, number of items collected, number of trash bags of material collected) may do so without a QAPP if they clearly specify that the information is considered to be anecdotal and is not intended to be a statistically valid representation of the extent of the trash problem nor is the information intended for use in decision making. This caveat should also appear in subsequent reporting of this information to EPA.</p>	1/24/2020
Eligibility	<p>How do I measure acreage for the grant? We typically find all of our trash on the shorelines because it collects there. In a typical event we'll pull hundreds of pounds of trash off of the shoreline, but hardly any out of the actual water. So I'm wondering how I should calculate what acreage we clean up. Do you have any insight? I have a couple of proposed ways I would do it.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If we are cleaning up the shoreline around a harbor or river mouth, just calculate the area of that harbor. 2. If we are doing open lakefront, just calculate the area by using the width at which you would spot trash (say 300 	To measure acres for your on-the-ground/shoreline cleanup, we recommend that you estimate the total length as well as how far onto the shoreline you conduct work. Use these two dimension to calculate the total acres on the ground. Similarly, for your on-the-water cleanup, estimate the total length traveled and the width of how far you can see to either side of your boat. Use these two dimensions to calculate the total acres searched in the water.	1/24/2020

Topic	Question	Response	Date Posted
	<p>feet out from shore) multiplied by the amount of shoreline.</p> <p>3. If we are cleaning up the mouth of a river that flows into the great lakes, just calculate the area of that waterway.</p> <p>Does that sound reasonable?</p>		
Scoring	<p>We typically run our events in the Detroit River, but it seems like we would score a lot better if we cleaned up multiple locations in the Great Lakes. For example, instead of running 8 events in Detroit, we would score 8 times as well if we held 8 events in different locations. What are your thoughts on that?</p>	<p>EPA cannot review draft applications or comment on how proposals or elements of proposals might be scored by reviewers. However, if applicants have specific questions regarding eligibility or other RFA requirements, they should reach out directly to the RFA contacts listed on page 45 of the RFA.</p>	1/24/2020
Eligibility , Budget	<p>I have a question about EPA-R5-GL2020-TFH and the purchasing of devices/ machinery... If we were looking to purchase a small vessel for litter removal, would a trailer and truck also be eligible purchases? Assuming, of course, that they are only used for this particular project.</p> <p>And, if so, our plan is to share this device with all the rivers flowing into Lake Erie, so for travel to other locations, would there be a gas allowance, or would we use a mileage reimbursement for fuel purchases?</p> <p>Also, would maintenance plans and state registrations for the vessel, trailer, and truck be eligible expenses?</p>	<p>Purchase of a truck and trailer as well as associated operating costs could be eligible. Applicants should demonstrate the necessity and reasonableness of those costs. Applicants should also demonstrate that they have considered options other than purchasing vehicles, including leasing, rental, or utilizing vehicles already owned by the grantee and partners.</p>	1/24/2020
Eligibility	<p>I was wondering how river mileage was computed in harbor zones for purposes of the RFA. For instance, depending on whether the starting distance is from the west side of the Indiana Harbor, the east side, or the entrance to the canal, you can get substantially different values.</p>	<p>There are several river systems that have a direct connection to a Great Lake and have commercial harbor and associated breakwalls at the river mouth. Project can include trash removal activities within the commercial harbors and breakwalls as well as in riparian corridors up to approximately 5 river miles upstream</p>	1/24/2020

Topic	Question	Response	Date Posted
		<p>from the commercial harbor. A commercial harbor is generally considered that area within which there are shipping facilities and a federal navigation channel(s). See the links below to help determine where there are federal navigation channels.</p> <p>NOAA Nautical Chart Catalog and Chart Viewer https://www.charts.noaa.gov/ChartCatalog/GreatLakes.html</p> <p>USACE Hydrographic Surveys https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/4b8f2ba307684cf597617bf1b6d2f85d</p>	
Application	<p>Will this RFA be an annual funding opportunity? I'd like to apply 2021.</p>	<p>EPA does not currently have plans for future GLRI RFAs to share, including as related to Trash Free Waters. Should future funding opportunities become available, they will be announced via our typical sources, including: https://www.epa.gov/great-lakes-funding/great-lakes-news-email-list GLRI.us https://www.glri.us/funding#grant-ops) EPA's Great Lakes Funding Page https://www.epa.gov/great-lakes-funding</p>	1/24/2020