

Questions and Answers about Trash-Free Waters RFA – updated 2/13/2020

Topic	Question	Response	Date Posted
General	<p>EPA FORM 4700-4 asks “Is the applicant currently receiving EPA Assistance?”</p> <p>Yes, we are, but when you hover over the Yes box, it says to choose Yes for specific reasons, but we do not fit within those specific reasons. Should I still choose Yes?</p>	<p>If the applicant received any federal assistance that they should mark yes and if they received none, mark no.</p>	2/13/2020
Eligibility/ Budget	<p>We are interested in funding machinery that would pick up trash from beaches and a structure in which we would store the machinery. Are costs for the structure eligible? Alternatively, are part of the costs eligible, such just a build-it-yourself storage shed kit or just the labor to build it?</p>	<p>The purchase of the equipment or supplies you’ve described may be eligible as part of a project that removes trash. Applicants should explain how the purchase contributes to meeting the goals of the funding category in the project and budget narratives.</p>	2/13/2020
Budget	<p>Regarding the SF424A Section D. Line 13 is "...by quarter during the first year."</p> <p>Is this one of those exceptions noted above and the entire budget should be broken down by year?</p> <p>If not, then does Section D. Line 13 require a first year breakdown by quarter? If yes Section D. requires the breakdown -- Does the first quarter begin May 1?</p> <p>And then Section E. Line 16 would be the remainder needed during the second year of the funding period, correct?</p>	<p>For the SF 424 A document, the direction on the document should be followed. This is not an exception. The first quarter of the federal year begins October 1. Line 16 would be the remainder needed during the second year of the project.</p>	2/13/2020

<p>General</p>	<p>The RFA, page 31. IV.7 Page Limit & Format <u>Page Limit</u> (very bottom of the page) "... pages in length, and include the items below, in the requested order. Excess pages will not be reviewed..."</p> <p>On page 35. V. Application Review & Selection, under <u>Review Criteria</u>, the list in is this order: Project Design Programmatic Capability and Past Performance Outreach and Education Results Budget</p> <p>However, page 46 <u>Appendix I</u> has the Work Plan in this order: Project Design Results Programmatic Capability and Past Performance Outreach and Education Budget</p> <p>Can you please tell me which is correct?</p>	<p>We recommend following the order in the Application Review & Selection section starting on page 35. However, due to the conflicting information, both orders will be considered acceptable.</p>	<p>2/13/2020</p>
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<p>Budget</p>	<p>It appears from the RFA that there is no allotment for a 10% de minimis 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>In accordance with 2 CFR Part 200.414(f), recipients that have never had an IDC rate (and exempt governmental agencies), are eligible for a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs that will be used for all awards. In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB’s) Frequently Asked Questions For The Office of Management and Budget’s Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards At 2 CFR 200, governmental agencies that receive more than \$35,000,000 in Federal funding per fiscal year are ineligible for the 10% de minimis rate, even if they have never had an IDC rate before. See the Indirect Cost Guidance for Recipients of EPA Assistance Agreements for information on verifying that an applicant has never had an IDC rate.</p> <p>This is from “Indirect Cost Policy for Recipients of EPA Assistance Agreements” which is from linked to https://www.epa.gov/grants/rain-2018-g02.</p>	<p>2/13/2020</p>
<p>Budget</p>	<p>Page 46 lists the budget as a required section of the Narrative Proposal but grants.gov has Project Narrative and Budget Narrative listed separately.</p>	<p>It should be in the same document as the Project Narrative.</p>	<p>2/13/2020</p>

<p>General</p>	<p>How do we fill out Applicant Identifier Federal Entity Identifier Federal Award Identifier?</p>	<p>Per the instructions found on Grants.gov Applicant Identifier: Enter the entity identifier assigned by the Federal agency, if any, or the applicant’s control number if applicable. If this does not apply or you are not aware that it applies, you may leave it blank.</p> <p>5a. Federal Entity Identifier: Enter the number assigned to your organization by the federal agency, if any. If this does not apply or you are not aware that it applies, you may leave it blank.</p> <p>5b. Federal Award Identifier: For new applications, leave blank.</p>	<p>2/13/2020</p>
<p>General</p>	<p>How would EPA handle confidential business information?</p>	<p>Per page 25 of the RFA, “EPA recommends that you do not include confidential business information (“CBI”) in your proposal/application. However, if CBI is included, it will be treated in accordance with 40 CFR 2.203. Applicants must clearly indicate which portion(s) of their proposal/application they are claiming as CBI. EPA will evaluate such claims in accordance with 40 CFR Part 2. If no claim of confidentiality is made, EPA is not required to make the inquiry to the applicant otherwise required by 40 CFR 2.204(c)(2) prior to disclosure. The Agency protects competitive proposals/applications from disclosure under applicable provisions of the Freedom of Information Act prior to the completion of the competitive selection process.”</p>	<p>2/13/2020</p>

<p>General</p>	<p>I am completing form SF242 and have a question regarding item 19, executive order 12372. According to this document, https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2004-04-29/pdf/04-9721.pdf, 66.469 Great Lakes Program is subject to these requirements. This list of state contact people: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/SPOC-February-2019.pdf does not contain one for my state, and stipulates that if one is not listed, to send my application to a federal awarding agency. Does this mean I should just send my application to EPA and disregard the state review?</p> <p>This EPA fact sheet about EO 12372: https://www.epa.gov/grants/fact-sheet-applicants-intergovernmental-review-process says that if there is no state contact listed, to contact the local EPA office who will refer you to a planning agency.</p>	<p>States that are not listed on this page have chosen not to participate in the intergovernmental review process, and therefore do not have a SPOC. If you are located within a State that does not have a SPOC, you may send application materials directly to a Federal awarding agency. Meaning you can submit directly to grants.gov. However, we do encourage you to coordinate with any state or local planning or permitting agencies as appropriate.</p>	<p>2/13/2020</p>
<p>Eligibility</p>	<p>Would a beach on Lake St. Clair be eligible? It's directly connected to a Great Lake via the Detroit River. Additionally, would Belle Isle be eligible? These are both more than 5 miles away from a Great Lake but I'm not sure if they're close enough to a Great Lakes harbor to be counted.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Activities along the shoreline of U.S. islands within the Great Lakes and waterways connecting Great Lakes are also eligible.</p>	<p>2/6/2020</p>

<p>Eligibility</p>	<p>We are working with several other partners to create a robust Great Lakes wide trash removal project. We are planning to list these partners as sub-awardees in the budget.</p> <p>Will the sub-awardees need to submit a detailed budget? I see you have already been asked this question before, but I want to make sure I understand the answer correctly.</p> <p>From the example budget it looks like I could just add a line under the "Total Other" category stating this: "Subaward agreement XYZ organization to implement trash removal activities: \$30,000."</p> <p>Is that enough for the application? Would I then just describe in the narrative how the subawardee will be using the funds or will I need to do a table with the 9 categories below for each sub-awardee?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel • Fringe benefits • Travel • Equipment • Supplies, • Contractual costs • Other direct costs • Indirect costs; and • Total costs 	<p>Page 54 of the RFA states, "List each item in sufficient detail for EPA to determine the reasonableness and allowability of its cost." You can do this by describing how subawardees will use the funds, in the budget narrative.</p>	<p>2/6/2020</p>
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<p>Eligibility</p>	<p>I'm working on a proposal for the trash free waters community cleanup opportunity. We will be proposing a number of beach and river cleanups on 20+ sites along the West Michigan coast. Our efforts will be primarily focused on cleanup, but we will include an education and outreach component as well. Can grant funds be used to purchase promotional give-away materials? We were considering small trash bins to give away to boaters at marinas to encourage them to not toss their trash in the lake, and small trash bags to give pedestrians/hikers/beach goers so that they can pick up trash along their way or be sure to pack out what they pack in. Both items would likely be \$3-4K combined, so only a small fraction of our overall budget.</p>	<p>Items solely for promotional purposes are ineligible. The items you describe could be eligible to the extent they contribute directly to your cleanup and prevention efforts. Your project narrative should describe how these items will be used to accomplish those goals.</p>	<p>2/6/2020</p>
<p>Eligibility</p>	<p>This device can help keep an area clean and we believe it can assist. If you think it is not eligible a quick no would be also appreciated. https://www.tennantco.com/en_ca/1/machines/sweepers/product.636.gre-en-machines-air-sweeper.M636.html</p>	<p>Such equipment could be eligible. Applicants should describe the rationale for how the purchase of equipment contributes to meeting the goals of the funding category.</p>	<p>2/6/2020</p>
<p>General</p>	<p>In regards to sub contracts on these types of proposal. As the lead or prime on this proposal I see that they have to fill out forms (EPA form 4700-4 Pre award Compliance Review Report). I have had to submit these forms before through your agency and know that these are legal questions. I wanted to know that if there is a sub contract on this proposal does the sub contract organizations have to fill one of these forms out to or just the lead?</p>	<p>EPA only requires 4700-4 forms from direct EPA recipients.</p>	<p>2/6/2020</p>

<p>General</p>	<p>What do we do about technical issues with Grants.gov?</p>	<p>Per page 24 of the RFA, “For any technical questions or issues, call 1-800-518-4726 or email support@grants.gov. Grants.gov</p> <p>Applicants who are outside the U.S. at the time of submittal and are not able to access the toll-free number may reach a Grants.gov representative by calling 606-545-5035.”</p>	<p>2/6/2020</p>
<p>General</p>	<p>I did not see anywhere in this RFP a limit for fringe benefit percentage? Is there a limit?</p>	<p>EPA does not have a limit on fringe benefit costs. However, applicants are expected to list each item of cost in sufficient detail for EPA to determine the reasonableness and allowability of its cost.</p>	<p>2/6/2020</p>
<p>Eligibility</p>	<p>Our beach is adjacent to Green Bay and near the mouth of Fox River. Is a Green Bay beach considered eligible for the “Trash Removal in Great Lakes Communities” funding opportunity by being ‘adjacent to Great Lake’? Or would it be a better fit for the Trash Removal from “Great Lakes Rivermouths and Harbors?”</p>	<p>Beaches within Great Lakes embayments, including Green Bay, are eligible for the Trash Removal in Great Lakes Communities funding opportunity. If your project includes the demonstration of the use of devices/machinery to remove trash from Great lakes rivermouths and harbors, it may be eligible for the Trash Removal from Great Lakes Rivermouths and Harbors funding opportunity.</p>	<p>2/6/2020</p>
<p>General</p>	<p>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>	<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</p>	<p>1/30/2020</p>

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		<p>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>	
Eligibility	<p>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?</p>	<p>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.</p>	1/30/2020
Eligibility	<p>Can trash removal occur on private property or must all activities occur on public property?</p>	<p>Trash removal can occur on private property.</p>	1/30/2020
Eligibility	<p>Are beach cleaning machines able to be purchased as equipment?</p>	<p>Beach cleaning machines may be an eligible equipment. Applicants should describe the rationale for how the purchase of equipment contributes to the meeting the goals of the funding category.</p>	1/30/2020
Budget	<p>Are we allowed to use grant funds to purchase thank you gifts for volunteers? Things like t-shirts, water bottles, waterproof pouches, etc.?</p>	<p>These would be ineligible expenses per 2 CFR 200.421 (e)(3).</p>	1/30/2020
General	<p>To whom should the letters of support be addressed?</p>	<p>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.</p>	1/30/2020

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<p>General</p>	<p>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?</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 carefully read the relevant language covering match in the RFA, including on pages 19, 30, 54, and 60.</p>	<p>1/24/2020</p>
<p>Eligibility</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>1/24/2020</p>
<p>Eligibility</p>	<p>We also clean and maintain trash racks across the Regional Stormwater System, would that be eligible under this program?</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>1/24/2020</p>
<p>Eligibility</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>1/24/2020</p>

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	Detroit River (ex: abandoned cars, shopping carts, etc) eligible for funding? I am not sure if either of these items count as “trash”.	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).	
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
Eligibility	Is the Upper St. Lawrence River area included in the geographic area of this program?	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. Projects in and along the U.S. portion of the St. Lawrence River are eligible.	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.	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.	1/24/2020

		Projects in and along the U.S. portion of the St. Lawrence River are eligible.	
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 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).	1/24/2020

<p>Eligibility</p>	<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 carefully read the relevant language covering match in the RFA, including on pages 19, 30, 54, and 60.</p>	<p>1/24/2020</p>
<p>Eligibility</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>1/24/2020</p>

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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 locations as clean up areas place receptacles use volunteers but have our staff outreach to them and organize the activity	Yes, these types of partnerships are eligible.	1/24/2020
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)?	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. 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	1/24/2020

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		River, and the Niagara River are eligible for funding.	
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?	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). Budgets for subawardees and contractors must be detailed in the budget narrative. Please see pages 56-57 for more information.	1/24/2020
Eligibility	How much of the St. Lawrence River is covered, to the Moses Saunders Dam or down to the international boarder? So the project has to be only in a waterway that connects directly to the lake, and not tributaries to that waterway?	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 River. Projects must also meet all other eligibility requirements.	1/24/2020
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	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 .	1/24/2020

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		This eligibility criterion applies to both categories.	
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 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?	Such activities could be eligible. Applicants should describe in their proposals why 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.	1/24/2020
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	1/24/2020

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		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.	
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. Please refer to the Eligible Activities section on page 19 and Ineligible Activities section on page 20 for more information.	1/24/2020
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	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	1/24/2020

	<p>other promotional items to volunteers</p>	<p>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 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</p>	
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		prior approval if federal funds aren't used to purchase them.	
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 has a demonstrated track record of success.	1/24/2020
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	1/24/2020

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		<p>removed”. Page 49, under Results, asks applicants to “specify the estimated quantitative and qualitative expected results” and to “describe the anticipated accuracy of estimates”.</p> <p>EPA does not have specific suggestions on how to estimate the amount of trash to be removed.</p>	
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
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

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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
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	Activities along the waterways connecting the Great Lakes are eligible for funding.	1/24/2020

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	the lake, and not tributaries to that waterway?	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	
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
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?	<p>EPA does not specify a required percentage of outreach and education or cleanup activities. To be eligible, projects must include trash removal.</p> <p>Please see "Eligible Activities" (page 19) and "Ineligible Activities" (page 20) sections for more information.</p>	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	1/24/2020

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		an efficient and effective plan to use coalitions.	
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
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?	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-	1/24/2020

		<p>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> <p>https://www.epa.gov/grants/rain-2018-g01-r</p>	
<p>Budget</p>	<p>What if the T-shirts we designed to promote the coalition and promote the event?</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 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>	<p>1/24/2020</p>

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Budget	We have an event April 25th, I assume we would not have funding by then?	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 organization's own risk. Pre-award costs are covered on page 59 of the RFA.	1/24/2020
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 prohibitive 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</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

	<p>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 return to the lake during major storm events.</p>		
General	<p>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>	<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</p>	<p>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</p>	1/24/2020

	<p>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 feet out from shore) multiplied by the amount of shoreline. 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>Does that sound reasonable?</p>	<p>two dimensions to calculate the total acres searched in the water.</p>	
<p>Scoring</p>	<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>	<p>1/24/2020</p>
<p>Eligibility , Budget</p>	<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,</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>	<p>1/24/2020</p>

	trailer, and truck be eligible expenses?		
Eligibility	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.	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 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. NOAA Nautical Chart Catalog and Chart Viewer https://www.charts.noaa.gov/ChartCatalog/GreatLakes.html USACE Hydrographic Surveys https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opdashboard/index.html#/4b8f2ba307684cf597617bf1b6d2f85d	1/24/2020
Application	Will this RFA be an annual funding opportunity? I'd like to apply 2021.	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-opps) EPA's Great Lakes Funding Page (https://www.epa.gov/great-lakes-funding	1/24/2020

