

# Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program 2026 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**Deadline: April 27, 2026 - 5:00 p.m. Eastern**

A webinar for applicants will be offered and recorded on March 11, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. Eastern to discuss funding priorities and the application process, receive tips for submitting competitive proposals, and ask questions of Great Lakes Commission staff. Information to join the webinar is below. For more information, please contact Connor Roessler, GLC Program Specialist at [croessler@glc.org](mailto:croessler@glc.org) or 734-396-6085.

To register for the webinar, go to: <https://bit.ly/glsnrp2026>

<b><u>I. PROGRAM BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES</u></b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b><u>II. GRANT ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION</u></b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b><u>III. 2026 PROJECT SOLICITATION</u></b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b><u>A. FUNDING PRIORITIES AND RESTRICTIONS</u></b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b><u>B. PROJECT FUNDING, SIZE, AND TIMEFRAME</u></b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b><u>C. ELIGIBLE PROJECT AREAS</u></b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b><u>D. SPECIFIC PROJECT REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA</u></b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b><u>E. CALCULATION OF LOAD REDUCTIONS</u></b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b><u>F. BUDGET INFORMATION</u></b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b><u>G. INDIRECT COSTS</u></b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b><u>H. MATCH REQUIREMENT</u></b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b><u>IV. GRANT REQUIREMENTS</u></b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b><u>A. APPLICANT CAPACITY</u></b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b><u>B. GRANT REPORTING</u></b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b><u>C. ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS</u></b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b><u>V. APPLICATION SUBMISSION INFORMATION</u></b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b><u>VI. SUBMITTAL DEADLINE</u></b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b><u>VII. REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS</u></b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b><u>VIII. CONTACT INFORMATION</u></b> .....	<b>13</b>

## **I. PROGRAM BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES**

Funding for the Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program (GLSNRP) is provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). The GLRI is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)-led initiative designed to accelerate efforts to protect and restore the water resources of the Great Lakes basin. Funding for GLSNRP supports work under GLRI Focus Area 3 aimed at controlling nonpoint source pollution and reducing nutrient runoff that contributes to harmful/nuisance algal blooms. The GLRI uses outcome-oriented performance goals and measures to target the most significant problems and track progress in addressing them. Under the GLRI, U.S. EPA and its federal partners, including NRCS, coordinate state, tribal, local, and industry actions to protect, maintain, and restore the chemical, biological, and physical integrity of the Great Lakes.

The GLSNRP supports Focus Area 3 objectives articulated in GLRI Action Plan IV, dated November 2024 (revised November 2025).

The objectives most relevant to the GLSNRP aim to reduce nutrient loads from agricultural watersheds; reduce or prevent stormwater runoff; and improve the effectiveness of nonpoint source control efforts to prevent harmful and nuisance algal blooms.

Project proposals supporting significant progress toward Focus Area 3 Measures of Progress relevant to the GLSNRP will be considered for funding:

- 3.1.1. Estimated pounds of phosphorus reductions from conservation practice implementation.
- 3.1.2. Acres receiving technical or financial assistance on nutrient management<sup>1</sup> in priority watersheds.
- 3.1.3. Number of active demonstration farms created or sustained with GLRI funding.
- 3.2.1 Estimated gallons (in millions) of stormwater runoff reduced.
- 3.2.2. Miles of Great Lakes streams and shoreline restored or protected.
- 3.2.3 Acres of riparian buffers, wetlands and floodplains restored or reconnected.

In accordance with agreements between the Great Lakes Commission (GLC) and NRCS, phosphorus control projects remain a priority for funding in 2026.

In recent years, this program has awarded on average 8 projects each year, representing an average applicant success rate of 35%. The range of funded projects per year in the past five years is included below<sup>2</sup>:

Project Year	Lowest Funded Project	Highest Funded Project
2021	\$26,878	\$200,000
2022	\$45,000	\$200,000
2023	\$61,142	\$300,000
2024	\$80,000	\$300,000
2025	\$153,070	\$300,000

**It is anticipated that roughly \$2,000,000 in funding will be available for project support contingent upon final authorization from the funder (NRCS).** A twenty-five percent match will be required for each project.<sup>3</sup> In 2026, the maximum amount available per project will be \$300,000.

## II. GRANT ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

All projects must clearly demonstrate how proposed activities will reduce total phosphorus contributions to the Great Lakes basin or otherwise reduce the effects of sediment and nutrient loads to improve local water quality consistent with any combination of the measures of progress set forth above and relevant watershed planning efforts.

GLSNRP funds cannot be used to support projects or costs required under local, state or federal regulation.

Applicants must be non-federal units of government or incorporated nonprofit organizations. Eligible applicants include, but are not limited to conservation districts, county and municipal governments, regional planning commissions, federally recognized tribes, and state agencies. Examples of eligible nonprofit organizations include watershed organizations, stream and lake associations, environmental groups, and other conservation-focused groups.

To be considered for funding, applicants must:

<sup>1</sup> Nutrient management: planning for and/or managing the amount, placement, and timing of plant nutrients to obtain optimum yields and minimize the risk of surface and groundwater pollution.

<sup>2</sup> Note that in 2023, the funding limit was increased from \$200,000 to \$300,000.

<sup>3</sup> Although additional match greater than twenty-five percent is welcome, excess match does not affect scoring.

- demonstrate sufficient experience in the successful administration of similarly sized projects, including sufficient staffing, and
- be cognizant that, as a reimbursement-based grant program, GLSNRP grantees must assure that sufficient funds are available to pay for activities.

Only areas within the United States portion of the Great Lakes basin are eligible for funding. U.S. federal agencies, public and private Canadian organizations, for-profit companies and private landowners cannot apply directly, but are encouraged to participate as project partners. First-time applicants to the program are encouraged to apply.

Applicants selected to receive a grant award will be required to enter into a project contract with the GLC. A project contract consists of standard “boilerplate” language and the applicant’s approved project description, work plan, timeline, and budget information. To ensure performance, contracts will include commitments to achieve estimated phosphorus reduction targets or other appropriate GLRI Focus Area 3 Measures of Progress based on the applicant’s approved work plan as well as committed matching funds. Failure of a successful applicant to accept contractual obligations as written by the GLC, including requirements pertaining to insurance, will likely result in withdrawal of any offer of project funds.

### III. 2025 PROJECT SOLICITATION

#### A. Funding Priorities and Restrictions

In 2026, the GLSNRP is soliciting projects that facilitate the reduction of total phosphorus inputs to waters of the Great Lakes basin and achievement of other relevant Focus Area 3 Measures of Progress as articulated on page two. Reductions may be achieved through a mix of structural or engineered controls and, for agriculturally focused projects, annual practices with an emphasis on long-term sustainability and behavior change among agricultural producers (i.e., retained beyond the duration of the grant agreement). **Annual practices should be implemented on the same acres for at least 3 years.** The program is particularly interested in creative approaches for engagement with the agricultural community and encourages applicants to review a GLC report on improving the effectiveness of GLRI investments in agricultural conservation, accessible at:

<https://www.glc.org/work/reap/products>.

Under this year’s program, GLSNRP will fund two types of projects aimed at reducing nonpoint source loading of nutrients and sediment to the Great Lakes: **Agricultural Projects**, and **Stream/Shoreline Projects**. Applicants will be asked to identify the primary Project Type within the application. Project Type does not influence scoring; funds are available for high quality projects of either type.

- An **Agricultural Project** focuses on reducing nutrient loads from agricultural lands through systems of conservation practices that avoid, control, or trap nutrients and sediment. This can be accomplished on farm fields (e.g., nutrient management) or at the edge of fields (e.g., saturated buffers, drainage water management). Projects should aim to reduce sediment and nutrient losses by minimizing nutrient inputs, preventing soil erosion, and improving infiltration to prevent agricultural stormwater runoff. Use of constructed or restored wetlands, and similar natural features within or adjacent to farm fields is encouraged. Maintenance of existing stormwater detention or retention features is not eligible for funding at this time.
- A **Stream/Shoreline Project** focuses on reducing nutrient and sediment loading from Great Lakes tributaries through implementation of resilient, natural techniques, such as floodplain reconnection, to prevent runoff and erosion. Projects should aim to maximize opportunities to infiltrate and detain stormwater runoff as part of a watershed-based approach. Use of constructed or restored wetlands, and similar natural features within riparian corridors or adjacent to beaches is encouraged. Projects can be located on any waterbody that drains to the Great Lakes including a beach, stream, drainage ditch, etc. however, projects should also consider activities to mitigate upland sources of sediment and nutrients

while considering hydrologic impacts upstream and downstream of the proposed work area. Projects intended to solely protect property or infrastructure without corresponding water quality benefits or projects which include hardening of streambanks and shorelines are not good candidates under this Request for Proposals.

Applications for each Project Type must:

- Provide sufficient context to demonstrate a strategic approach to sediment and nutrient load reduction as incorporated within a government endorsed watershed plan<sup>4</sup> and complementing existing work in the area.
- Benefit the water quality of the Great Lakes basin.
- Demonstrate efforts toward securing any necessary permits required to successfully execute proposed activities. (Projects which have secured necessary permits may be eligible for a bonus point during scoring.)

In 2026, the program continues to encourage applicants to consider the following attributes which are of particular interest to the Task Force and correspond to additional points awarded during scoring:

- Meaningful outreach activities to ensure that project impacts reach beyond the immediate impact of the project (for example, a recently completed GLSNRP project incorporated local youth engagement and education)
- New acres not recently enrolled in state or federal conservation programs
- Farmer-led networks, including demonstration farms, and innovative approaches for conservation delivery
- Stream restoration and agricultural nonpoint projects that help protect sources of drinking water
- Regenerative agriculture and best management practices resilient to extreme weather and relevant to preparedness efforts
- Practices for improved manure management
- Projects that “stack” multiple practices across one field or acreage
- Water quality improvements for HABs-laden systems hydrologically connected to the Great Lakes
- Incorporation of a “Batch and Build”<sup>5</sup> strategy to site and effectively install phosphorus removal structures, two-stage ditches, and other edge of field practices requiring engineering and design work that could be amplified through multiple similar efforts (i.e., a batch) requiring construction (i.e., the build)
- The application of ACPF as a tool in practice siting which informed communication to landowners and the development of BMP plans.

Projects reflecting one or more of the attributes listed above will be eligible for additional points during scoring, provided that attributes are articulated well and are a natural fit within the entirety of the proposed project.

### Restrictions

Under the program, water quality monitoring, research, and data analysis activities cannot be funded. However, soil testing and limited grab samples of surface water for outreach purposes are allowable expenses with adequate justification.

Purchases of equipment such as vehicles and/or field implements cannot be funded.<sup>6</sup> Additionally, in-lake treatment for nutrient reduction or removal cannot be funded. While grant dollars may be used toward technical assistance (i.e., personnel), grant dollars cannot be used to fund technical assistance to implement Farm Bill cost-share programs. Land acquisition, including the purchase of easements, is not eligible for grant funding, but may be used as match provided that the contribution occurs after the project start date.

---

<sup>4</sup> For applicant questions on whether a watershed plan is considered “government endorsed,” please contact your state’s [Task Force](#) member.

<sup>5</sup> For more information on the “Batch and Build” concept, please visit the [Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance webpage](#)

<sup>6</sup> Leasing of equipment using grant funds or as a match expense is allowable under this program. Lease to own arrangements for equipment should be disclosed within the grant application and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Retrofitting of existing equipment is also allowed with adequate justification and documentation of the disposition of purchased components.

## B. Project Funding, Size, and Timeframe

### Funding

Applicants are encouraged to focus their efforts on submitting a single “shovel ready” project application to be more competitive within the pool of applicants. **Funding will only be awarded for one application per organization.** Projects that are intended to be a continuation of a previously funded GLSNRP project should be appropriately identified within the project application. **The maximum funding request per project will be capped at \$300,000. Projects demonstrating the strongest return on investment of program dollars in terms of long-term reductions of nutrients and sediment will be a priority for funding. Smaller projects are also competitive within this program.**

Funds may be used for both technical assistance and financial assistance. However, as described above, grant dollars cannot be used to fund technical assistance (i.e., personnel or consultants) with the sole purpose of implementing Farm Bill cost-share programs. Cost-share for producers should align with NRCS pricing for practices in the relevant state, unless the project proposes an alternative pricing structure such as “pay for performance.” The mix of technical and financial assistance will depend on the local situation. Applications may propose to use up to 20% of an award for technical assistance funding; however, adequate justification must be provided.

### Size

It is suggested that areas where project activities would occur be limited to no more than four (4) USGS twelve-digit Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUCs) within an eight-digit HUC, but applicants can vary outside this range with justification.

### Timeframe

Selected projects should begin no later than October 1, 2026, with potential for earlier start dates, if circumstances warrant. **All work must be completed within a four-year period, inclusive of the time required to obtain all permits and approvals.** Applicants should account for possible permitting delays when planning the project timeframe as no extensions will be provided past the four-year project period. If a project would benefit from a start date between August 15 and October 1, 2026, please specify this within your proposal.

## C. Eligible Project Areas

Projects must be located within the United States portion of the Great Lakes basin. Projects seeking to improve conditions within an inland lake of the Great Lakes basin must demonstrate benefits to local communities in the basin, beyond lakefront property owners, to be considered. Projects with a discernable benefit to a Great Lake are likely to be preferred during scoring of proposals.

## D. Specific Project Requirements and Evaluation Criteria

Each proposal must utilize the provided application form. Do not vary from the instructions. Proposals that vary from the stated instructions will not be considered. A properly completed application will establish the following:

- 1.) Project Description & Importance to a Relevant Watershed Plan:
  - Show a direct and discernible reduction of nutrient and sediment losses, with emphasis on total phosphorus and/or other Focus Area 3 Measures of Progress, into waters of the Great Lakes basin and in support of a relevant government endorsed nonpoint source reduction plan(s).
  - Commit to achieving estimated reductions in total phosphorus or other Focus Area 3 Measures of Progress during the proposed four-year (or less) duration of activities.

- Address phosphorus and/or sediment problems from agricultural, urban, forest, range, and/or pastureland or other crucial land uses, with preference given to projects in areas with an identified need for phosphorus and/or sediment reductions.

## 2.) Implementation Strategy:

- Articulate any planning conducted to date or other preparatory activities that set the proposal on a course for success. Projects will be scored more favorably during the review process if the applicant can demonstrate specific planning that has occurred (e.g., landowner commitments, completion of engineering plans, permitting) prior to the submittal of the application. If activities have not yet occurred but will be completed prior to the start of the project period, please describe those as well. Outreach to landowners should be discussed within the Practice Siting and Communications Efforts section of the application.
- Identify conservation practice types and amounts, the schedule of activities for implementation, and financial incentive methodologies.
- Identify anticipated annual and cumulative results supporting applicable GLRI Focus Area 3 Measures of Progress.
- Describe the technical assistance required to implement the project over a four-year period. Technical assistance includes skilled conservation professionals guiding participating agricultural producers, as well as any other specific expertise necessary to assure project success such as contributions from agronomists, licensed engineers, landscape designers, archaeologists, or other specialized professions.

## 3.) Practice Siting and Communications Efforts:

- The [GLSNRP Task Force](#) strives to assure that the program invests in practices that will be placed at optimal locations to reduce phosphorus loss and otherwise support the objectives of the GLRI. Applicants must describe a strategy for practice siting and communication with landowners that will result in the right practices being deployed in the right place. For applicants that have already secured commitment from landowners, please share details on how those landowners and locations were identified to optimize phosphorus reductions and other relevant measures of progress. One approach for practice siting is the Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework, provided that necessary data has already been processed for target watersheds.
- In addition, and where appropriate, describe a strategy to keep the public, land users, elected officials, and government officials informed of project activities.
- Outline a plan to share project activities and outcomes with local partners, including any plans for youth engagement, through outreach and technology transfer.
- Share plans to participate in any statewide or regional knowledge transfer events, such as the GLSNRP Dialogues conference convened by the GLC during the grant performance period (this conference is held during even-numbered years, generally in August and at a coastal location in the Great Lakes basin).

## 4.) Schedule of Activities:

- Clearly identify all activities necessary to assure achievement of project outcomes, with planned delivery dates.
- It is understood that activities and dates may require adaptation over time; however, this section should demonstrate to the GLSNRP Task Force that a thoughtful, realistic plan is in place to assure project success, including acquiring necessary permits or other approvals.

## 5.) Budget Narrative:

- Describe activities under each relevant budget category to support the amounts requested in the separate Budget Table.
- For projects relying on significant contractor support for construction activities, provide details on anticipated activities, allocation of grant dollars, and plans for effective oversight and cost control.

- Applicants should demonstrate value supporting a strong return on investment of grant dollars.

#### 6.) Administrative Capacity and Past Performance:

- Provide adequate assurance of the applicant's ability to meet all terms of this Request for Proposals, including, but not limited to, reporting, record-keeping, and match commitments, as those requirements will become contractual obligations if an organization is selected for funding.
- Confirm the applicant's understanding that the GLSNRP is a reimbursement-based program and that sufficient funds are available to make payments for project activities *prior to* seeking reimbursement from the GLC.
- Provide documentation of an independent financial audit or other controls to assure proper management of funds.
- Details on previous performance of similar work or implementation of similarly sized awards are required.

### E. Calculation of Load Reductions

Applicants are required to estimate reductions their project will achieve and briefly describe the methodology used to arrive at the estimates.

Phosphorus and soil erosion reduction goals should be estimated using the Pollutant Load Estimation Tool (PLET) as appropriate for the proposed project, unless adequate justification for the use of an alternative approach is provided. Used to estimate particulate phosphorus reductions, PLET is available online at: <https://www.epa.gov/nps/plet>.

### F. Budget Information

All applicants must submit itemized project budgets for the proposed work along with appropriate justification for project expenses. Project budgets should not be increased arbitrarily to meet the suggested maximum amount and should be representative of the project's proposed size and scope. Refer to sections III. A and B, above, for additional funding restrictions under the program.

It is recommended that applicants include funding within their project budget to support travel to and participation at a 1- or 2-day conference for GLSNRP grant recipients during the late summer or early fall of 2028 or 2030. The GLC invites current and former grant recipients to share innovative work and lessons learned and convenes leading experts on sediment and nutrient control to present on the latest research supporting successful approaches in the Great Lakes basin. These "GLSNRP Dialogues" are slated to occur every two years at locations of interest within the Great Lakes basin.

### G. Indirect Costs

Indirect costs are those incurred by the applicant for a common or joint purpose benefiting more than one cost objective or project, and otherwise not readily assignable to specific cost objectives or projects as a direct cost. Common examples of indirect costs are the necessary facilities and administrative costs associated with the day-to-day business functions of an organization (e.g., rent, utilities, insurance, accounting services).

Applicants may include indirect costs within their GLSNRP project budgets but are not required to do so. As alternatives to charging all indirect costs to grant funds, applicants may voluntarily: (1) forego part or all of their indirect costs as a grant expense, or (2) include part or all of their indirect costs as match for the project (allowable only if costs are not otherwise supported by a federal source). **Applicants must explicitly describe within the budget narrative section of their application whether their indirect costs will be attributed to the grant portion of the budget and/or the match portion of the budget, and fully describe the method and rate used to calculate the indirect costs.**

If the applicant has a current federally approved negotiated indirect cost rate (e.g., fixed, predetermined, final or

provisional), this may be referred to as a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement or NICRA. Applicants with a current NICRA who choose to include indirect costs as a grant or match expense must use their negotiated rate to calculate indirect costs for the project budget and will be required to submit a valid negotiated indirect cost agreement with their proposal. Applicants wishing to deviate from their approved NICRA to recover a lesser indirect rate must explicitly describe the voluntary deviation within their grant application materials.

For multi-year projects, grant recipients with an approved NICRA shall be approved to recover indirect costs at the approved rate in effect at the time the eligible costs are incurred by the recipient. If selected for funding, grant recipients will be required to submit to the GLC any subsequent approved NICRAs received during the project period.

Applicants who have never negotiated an indirect cost rate with the federal government or do not have a current approved NICRA may elect to charge indirect costs at a de minimis rate of ten percent of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC), as defined by 2 CFR 200.414 (“Indirect (F&A) costs”), for the period of the grant agreement or until the applicant obtains an approved NICRA.

## H. Match Requirement

Match is a financial commitment made by the grant recipient and/or its partner entities to help implement the project, and can be cash, in-kind, or a combination of both. Cash is any money received from any source, other than from federal sources, that is part of the applicant’s annual budget and audit process and will be utilized in the implementation of the project. In-kind includes services or financial contributions to the project not paid for with the grant or other federal funds.

The following list provides some examples of acceptable match, but is not intended to be exhaustive:

- Technical and/or administrative assistance provided by the applicant, other entities, or persons not paid for with the grant or with federal funds.
- All or a portion of the applicant’s indirect costs not otherwise paid for with the grant or with federal funds.
- Use of local and state agency vehicles or equipment other than those of the applicant.
- Cost-share agreements from landowners.
- Unpaid members of local task forces, watershed councils, work groups, citizen groups, etc. are considered volunteers, and may be calculated at the prevailing national minimum wage (currently \$7.25/hour) unless justification is provided for a higher rate. Skilled labor may be charged at a higher rate with additional, detailed justification.

With the exception of payments for land acquisition or easement rights, match may not include activities that would otherwise be deemed ineligible for direct funding support under GLSNRP (e.g., water quality monitoring, research and data analysis activities, equipment purchases other than retrofitting of existing equipment). Match cannot be accumulated prior to the official start date of the project contract (for example, October 1, 2026) or earned after completion of the project contract.

The total amount of match committed through the project application will become part of the applicant’s contractual obligation if the project is selected for funding. Match projections should be realistic and achievable. Letters of commitment are required as a means of assuring adequate match. See Section V for details. **A match of 25% of the amount requested is required for all applications, and although additional match greater than twenty-five percent is welcome, excess match does not affect scoring.**

## IV. GRANT REQUIREMENTS

### A. Applicant Capacity

Each successful applicant must have the ability to:

- Maintain sufficient funds to make required payments prior to seeking reimbursement from the grantor (GLC) for allowable project expenses.
- Hire or contract for technical assistance (e.g., personnel).
- Provide office space, administrative support, computer and other equipment, general office supplies, and other items to perform the proposed implementation effort.
- Enter into a legally binding contract with landowners for the life span of the practice.
- Provide a plan and assurances to maintain the implemented practices over their life span.
- Design and install all implementation practices according to USDA-NRCS standards and specifications and applicable state standards. Applicants are encouraged to use the services of a certified professional engineer or agronomist for this purpose, as appropriate.
- Obtain all necessary federal, state, and local government permits and approvals.
- Achieve the total soil and phosphorus reduction savings as specified in the project proposal or otherwise achieve intended results toward identified Focus Area 3 Measures of Progress.
- Use PLET, or other appropriate modeling tools to estimate phosphorus reductions for the project.
- Conduct effective outreach throughout the project period.
- Provide before, during, and after pictures of practice implementation, media events, and other activities of interest to the project.
- Abide by all local, state, and federal laws, rules, ordinances and regulations in the performance of this project and conduct all work in a lawful and safe manner, consistent with the standards and level of care normally provided for comparable work.
- Track conservation practice implementation progress using the appropriate GLSNRP forms.
- Provide administrative capacity to timely submit quarterly and final reports of expenses and activities as well as provide other documentation as needed.
- **Provide the minimum levels of liability insurance coverage (see details below).**

## B. Grant Reporting

### Progress Reports

Progress reports must be submitted at least quarterly, even if no project activity has occurred during the reporting period. Reports will be due fourteen days after the end of each quarter of the federal fiscal year, which runs from October 1 through September 30.

Progress reports must include a signed (electronic or hard copy) invoice for reimbursement, a load reduction reporting form describing the conservation practice(s) installed during the quarter, and a narrative report of the project's activity during the period. In addition, GLC staff may request receipts or other documentation for invoiced amounts.

Continued failures to timely submit reports or inadequate reporting are grounds for cancellation of an award. As such, applicants should carefully consider the above requirements and only apply if comfortable that satisfactory reporting will be achieved.

### Final Report

A final project report will be required, and a template will be provided for grantee use. Before, during, and after photos are required and may be shared by the GLC within its own reporting and other publications, with attribution. Please be thoughtful in selecting locations such that before and after photos are appropriately labeled and include clear landmarks showing easily comparable scale and perspective. The completed final report, as well as a final invoice for all remaining eligible project expenses and a final load reduction reporting form will be required within sixty (60) days of the completion of the project, as determined by the GLC. Failure to submit an adequate final project report may result in the GLC withholding all remaining project funds until satisfactory completion of a report. As such, applicants should be mindful of this requirement and only apply if comfortable

that satisfactory reporting will be achieved.

## C. Administrative Requirements

### Funds and Reimbursement

The GLSNRP is a reimbursement-based program meaning that grantees will be reimbursed for eligible project expenses that have been incurred and paid by the grantee, with sufficient documentation provided to the GLC upon request. Applicants must assure that adequate financial systems are in place to be able to submit accurate invoices and supporting documentation on a quarterly basis.

There will be one upfront payment (**10% of grant amount**) at the start of the project, which will occur after the GLC receives the signed contractual agreement from the grantee. Additional upfront funding up to 15% may be available with justification. This advance should be used by grantees to manage cash flows over the life of the project.

Except for the first payment, all subsequent payments to the grantee are made in arrears, based on signed invoices submitted at least quarterly to the GLC using the forms provided to successful applicants. Reimbursement may take up to 90 days to be processed once submitted, with potential for a longer period of time should a grantee submit inadequate invoices and related reports or in the event NRCS is delayed in returning payments to the GLC for distribution to grantees.

### Financial Audit

Applicants that are regularly subject to an independent financial audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards should submit a copy of their most recent audited financial statements with their proposal. All applicants will be asked to briefly describe within their project application the administrative capacity and internal controls that exist to assure that grant funds will be managed properly.

### Open Records

All successful applicants will be required to provide open access to all data, records, financial information, and other materials generated by or associated with the funded project (within the limits of state and federal regulations). It is essential that successful applicants maintain detailed records of all expenses and activities as well as copies of submitted reports for future audits. Project results must also be disseminated in a manner that ensures accessibility to others.

### Insurance

Successful applicants must agree to obtain, provide, and maintain liability and other insurance coverages at not less than the levels indicated below (including coverage for their employees working on the project) for the duration of the project period and for three years thereafter. As part of the application, an authorized representative of the applicant organization is required to certify the organization's ability to meet the insurance requirements set forth below, without variance. The Insurance Certification form is where the applicant organization certifies their ability to meet the insurance requirements. The signed form is a required part of the application.

The grantee will be required to provide a certificate of insurance coverage (COI) to the GLC prior to execution of the grant contract and will need to ensure that an updated COI is on file at the GLC through the end of the grant period and for three years thereafter. Should an applicant renege on its assurance that insurance requirements will be met, without variance, during the contracting phase of the potential award of funds, then the GLC will not proceed with contracting, and any offer of grant funding will be rescinded. The grantee must require that all contracted personnel or entities used by the grantee in performing the project work maintain the required insurances contained in this section for the duration of the grant period. **If necessary, insurance costs for the project may be included within the project budget.**

1. Commercial General Liability with the following minimum coverages:
  - \$2,000,000 General Aggregate
  - \$2,000,000 Products/Completed Operations Aggregate
  - \$1,000,000 Personal & Advertising Injury
  - \$1,000,000 Each Occurrence
  - \$1,000,000 Blanket Contractual Liability
  - \$1,000,000 Broad Form Property Damage
  - \$1,000,000 Independent Contractors

**Grantee must list the Great Lakes Commission as an ADDITIONAL INSURED or COVERED PARTY on the Commercial General Liability certificate, on a Primary and Noncontributory basis, with a Waiver of Subrogation.**

2. If a motor vehicle is used to provide services or products under this Contract, the Grantee must have vehicle liability insurance on any auto including owned, hired and non-owned vehicles used in Grantee's business for bodily injury and property damage as required by law with the following minimum limits: \$1,000,000 Automobile Liability, including owned, hired, or non-owned vehicles (combined single limit for bodily injury and property damage)

Automobile Liability policies shall contain cross liability endorsements.

3. Workers' compensation coverage must be provided according to applicable laws governing the employees and employers work activities in the state in which the Project is located.
4. Employers liability insurance with the following minimum limits:
  - \$1,000,000 Each Accident
  - \$1,000,000 Disease (each employee)
  - \$1,000,000 Disease (aggregate limit)
5. If relevant to the proposed project, Grantees must provide Contractors Pollution Liability and/or Professional Liability coverages with the minimum limit of \$2,000,000 or otherwise demonstrate coverage through Grantee's subcontractors or consultants.

## V. APPLICATION SUBMISSION INFORMATION

The following items must be submitted for all grant applications. Additional instructions, templates, and the web application form are available at: <https://www.glc.org/work/sediment/apply-now>. Incomplete applications will not be considered for funding.

- Required: Completed Web Application Form
- Required: Completed Grant Application Template
- Required: Signed Insurance Certification
- Required: Completed GLSNRP Budget Form
- Required: A regional map depicting the general area of work within the Great Lakes basin
- Required: A local map depicting specific areas of work or potential work
- Required: Commitment letters articulating the terms of any applicable match toward the project, including any match to be provided by the applicant entity, should be provided to the extent available at the time of application. All match contributions committed to the project must be detailed prior to the award of funds.
- Optional: Up to three site photos that document or explain the problem addressed within the proposal
- Supporting Documents (as applicable):
  - Applicant's Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) – Required of applicants using a federal approved rate to calculate indirect costs within the project budget

- Applicant’s most recent financial audit – Required of applicant entities who conduct a regular independent financial audit

Any other information provided by the applicant – including reports and general letters of support – will not be considered, reviewed, or returned. Information provided in the grant application becomes public information and may be shared with others upon request.

If you are unable to submit the Grant Application materials via the online system or require additional submittal instructions or assistance, you must notify the Contact Person listed below to determine an acceptable alternative method for submitting your application materials prior to the application deadline.

## VI. SUBMITTAL DEADLINE

Complete applications – including all required supporting documents – must be received by the GLC by **5:00 p.m. Eastern on April 27, 2026**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered for funding. A confirmation email will be sent to the email address provided within the Web Application Form verifying that the application has been submitted successfully.

## VII. REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

Proposals meeting all criteria identified above will be reviewed and evaluated by the GLSNRP Task Force coordinated by the GLC. The Task Force is comprised of representatives from each of the eight Great Lakes states as well as federal agencies. A list of Task Force members can be found at <https://www.glc.org/work/sediment/taskforce>. Applicants are encouraged to contact their state’s Task Force member to discuss this RFP and the details of proposed projects.

Applications will be scored in accordance with the following rubric:

Category	Scoring Range
Project Description & Importance to a Relevant Watershed Plan	<b>0-10 per category</b>
Implementation Strategy	
Practice Siting and Communication Efforts	
Schedule of Activities	
Budget Narrative	
Administrative Capacity and Past Performance	
<b>Additional Points</b>	<b>1 point available for each attribute if adequately described and appropriate to the totality of the proposed work</b>
Permits have been secured for project work	
Meaningful outreach activities to assure that project impacts reach beyond the immediate impact of the project	
New acres not recently enrolled in state or federal conservation programs	
Farmer-led networks, including demonstration farms, and innovative approaches for conservation delivery	
Stream restoration and agricultural nonpoint projects that help protect sources of drinking water	
Regenerative agriculture and best management practices resilient to extreme weather and relevant to preparedness efforts	
Practices for improved manure management	
Projects that “stack” multiple practices across one field or acreage	
Water quality improvements for HABs-laden systems hydrologically connected to the Great Lakes	
Incorporation of “Batch and Build” strategy	
The application of ACPF as a tool in practice siting which informed communication to landowners and the development of BMP plans	
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>

Applicants may also be contacted for clarification of project or applicant details. The GLC (on behalf of the Task Force) reserves the right to offer grants for amounts other than those requested and may request changes to the proposed work plan prior to approving a project for funding.

Final grant decisions are anticipated in summer 2026. All applicants will be notified of the status of their application on or around that time. Awardees are prohibited from making public announcements on the receipt of funding until after the GLC makes its own announcement of the awards.

## **VIII. CONTACT INFORMATION**

Please direct any questions pertaining to the Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program application process to:

Connor Roessler, Senior Program Specialist  
Great Lakes Commission  
1300 Victors Way, Suite 1350  
Ann Arbor, MI 48108-5203  
734-396-6085  
[croessler@glc.org](mailto:croessler@glc.org)