

Great Lakes  
RESTORATION



BUFFALO NIAGARA  
WATERKEEPER®

# WNY Great Lakes Restoration Grant Program

2026 Request for Applications (RFA)

Informational Webinar

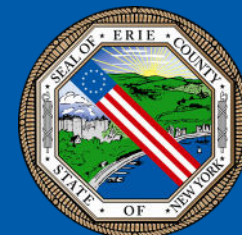
Thursday, March 26, 2026 – 11:00 AM

via Zoom



Community Foundation  
for Greater Buffalo

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR GENEROSITY



# WNY Great Lakes Restoration Grant Program Team



Jarrett Steffen  
Program  
Administrator



Katherine Winkler  
Program  
Manager



Nick DiNardo  
Program  
Analyst



Sky Braeges  
Program  
Analyst



We **PROTECT**  
clean water.



We **RESTORE**  
the health of  
ecosystems.



We **CONNECT**  
people to the  
water.



We **INSPIRE**  
economic growth  
and community  
engagement.

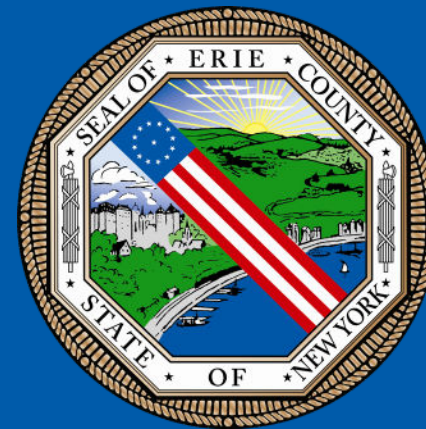
# WNY Great Lakes Restoration Grant Program Partners



U.S. EPA  
Great Lakes  
Restoration  
Initiative



Community  
Foundation for  
Greater Buffalo



Erie County  
Department of  
Environment and  
Planning




Lake Erie  
Watershed  
Protection  
Alliance

# Asking Questions






zoom Workplace BNWaterkeeper Host's screen



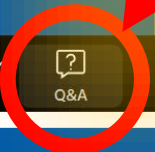
## WNY Great Lakes Restoration Grant Program

2026 Request for Applications (RFA)  
Letter of Intent (LOI) Webinar  
Thursday, March 26, 2026 - 11:00 AM  
via Zoom

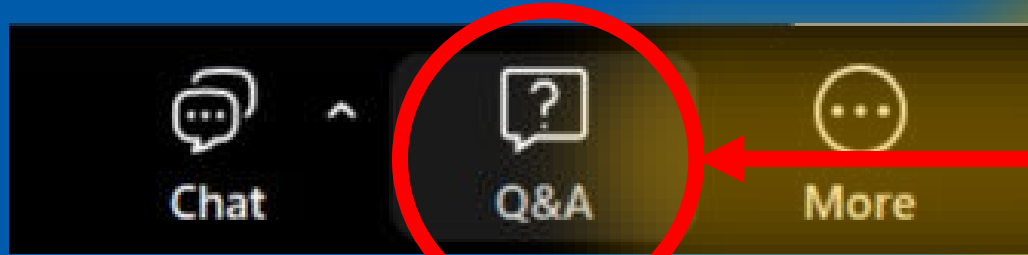


Audio settings ^ Chat Q&A More Leave

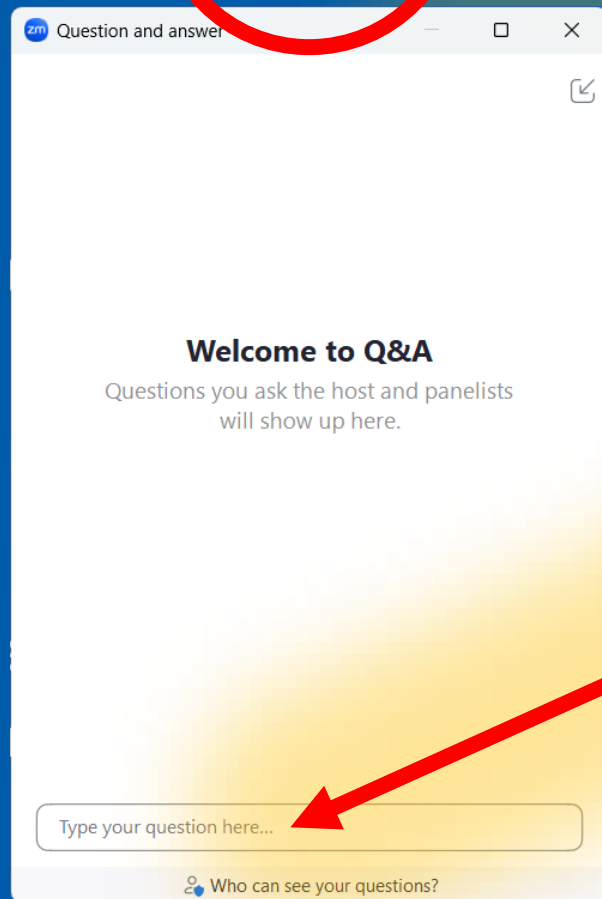
Click Here to Ask Your Questions During the Presentation



# Asking Questions



Click Here to Ask Questions

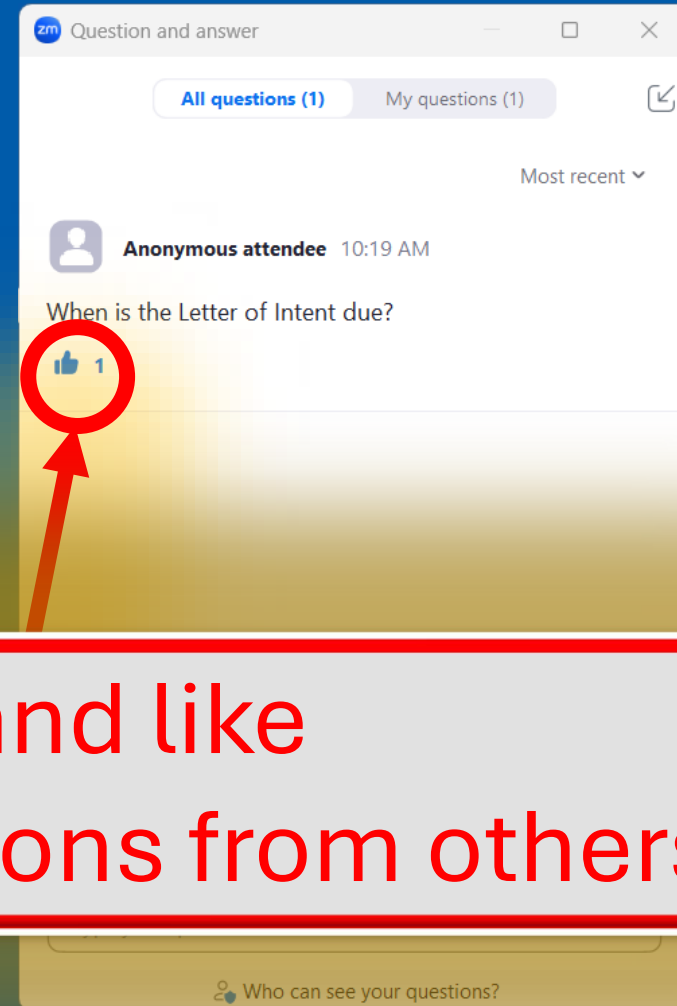


Type Your Question Here

# Asking Questions



Check box to send anonymously



View and like questions from others

# Asking Questions



**Questions due by 3:00 PM ET on Wednesday, April 8, 2026**

Email you question using the subject line “**WNYGLRGP Question**” to:  
Bonnie Majda, Administrative Assistant  
[bmajda@bnwaterkeeper.org](mailto:bmajda@bnwaterkeeper.org)

Answers will be published in a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) resource on the program webpage at <https://bnwaterkeeper.org/grantprogram/>.

FAQ Resource will be published **Monday, March 30, 2026**, and will be updated routinely until the question period closes.



# Grant Program Details

- Anticipated Award Amounts
  - Eligible Applicants
- Eligible Project Locations
  - Eligible Project Types
  - Project Components
- Eligible & Ineligible Use of Funds
  - Award Requirements



# Anticipated Award Amounts

**\$1.6 million available for 2026 Request  
for Applications**



**\$25,000 to \$500,000 per award**



**Anticipating up to 10 awards**

# Eligible Applicants



**Non-profit 501(c)(3)  
Organizations**



**Municipal or Tribal  
Governments**



**Quasi-municipal  
Entities  
(Authorities/SWCDs)**



**Public or Non-profit  
Institutes of Education**



# Project Types



Invasive Species  
Control Efforts



Habitat  
Restoration



Stormwater  
Runoff Reduction

# Invasive Species Control Efforts

Prevent, control, or mitigate the spread of aquatic or terrestrial invasive species

Examples:

- Public outreach
- Public education
- Traditional control or retreatment



# Habitat Restoration

Improve water quality and enhance natural ecosystems

Examples:

- Streambank stabilization
- Riparian and coastal restoration
- In-stream restoration



# Stormwater Runoff Reduction

Reduce or prevent stormwater runoff to improve water quality

Examples:

- Wetland construction or enhancement
- Rain gardens or bioswales
- Green infrastructure practices



# Project Types



Invasive Species  
Control Efforts



Habitat  
Restoration



Stormwater  
Runoff Reduction

# Component #1 – GLRI Measures of Progress Contribution

## GLRI Measures of Progress

2.1.1 – Number of regional introduction pathways for non-native species invasion addressed through comprehensive approaches.

2.3.1 – Acres controlled for invasive species to benefit habitats, native species and communities.

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.

4.1.1 – Acres of coastal wetland, nearshore and other habitats protected or enhanced.

# Component #2 – Local Alignment

## Examples of Planning Documents

New York's Great Lakes Action Agenda 2023

Regional Niagara River/Lake Erie Watershed Management Plan – Phase 2

Municipal Master Plans

e.g., Hazard Mitigation Plans, Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Plans

Published planning recommendations

Locally sourced community survey analysis

# Component #3 – Community Participation



1. Identify the community or communities affected by the project.
2. Share a strategy for appropriate levels of community awareness and/or involvement.
3. Describe anticipated community impact and outcomes.

## IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation



IAP2's Spectrum of Public Participation was designed to assist with the selection of the level of participation that defines the public's role in any public participation process. The Spectrum is used internationally, and it is found in public participation plans around the world.

**INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION**

	<b>INFORM</b>	<b>CONSULT</b>	<b>INVOLVE</b>	<b>COLLABORATE</b>	<b>EMPOWER</b>
<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL</b>	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
<b>PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC</b>	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

# Eligible & Ineligible Use of Funds

Eligible Costs
Personnel – salaries and wages
Fringe – employer-provided benefits
Travel – staff transportation only
Equipment – purchased property over \$5,000/unit
Supplies – purchased property under \$5,000/unit
Contractual – third-party contracted services
Construction – third-party construction services
Other – subawards, participant support costs, etc.
Indirect Costs – 15% or federally approved rate

Ineligible Activities
Projects focused solely on youth education, workforce development, improving access, recreational activities, or environmental monitoring activities
Scientific research or studies
Septic system work to include inspection, maintenance, repair, or installation
Activities outside the historic Great Lakes basin
Lobbying activities
International travel
Any costs prohibited by federal regulations

# Award Requirements



EIN, SAM, UEID



Award  
Agreement



Mandatory  
Workshops



Quarterly  
Reporting



Virtual and In-  
Person Reviews



Reimbursable  
Invoicing



Procurement  
Policies



Quality  
Assurance  
Project Plan



General Terms  
and Conditions



# Application Process

- Instructions and Resources
- Letter of Intent Submission
- Letter of Intent Review Process
- Letter of Intent Evaluation Criteria
- Full Application Review Process
  - Key Dates



# Instructions and Resources

- [bnwaterkeeper.org/grantprogram](https://bnwaterkeeper.org/grantprogram)
- Funding Opportunity Overview
- RFA Instructions
  - Appendix A – Key Terms
  - Appendix B – Application Materials
  - Appendix C – Budget Information
  - Appendix D – Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions
  - Available Monday, March 30, 2026
  - Accepting questions until Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 3:00 PM ET



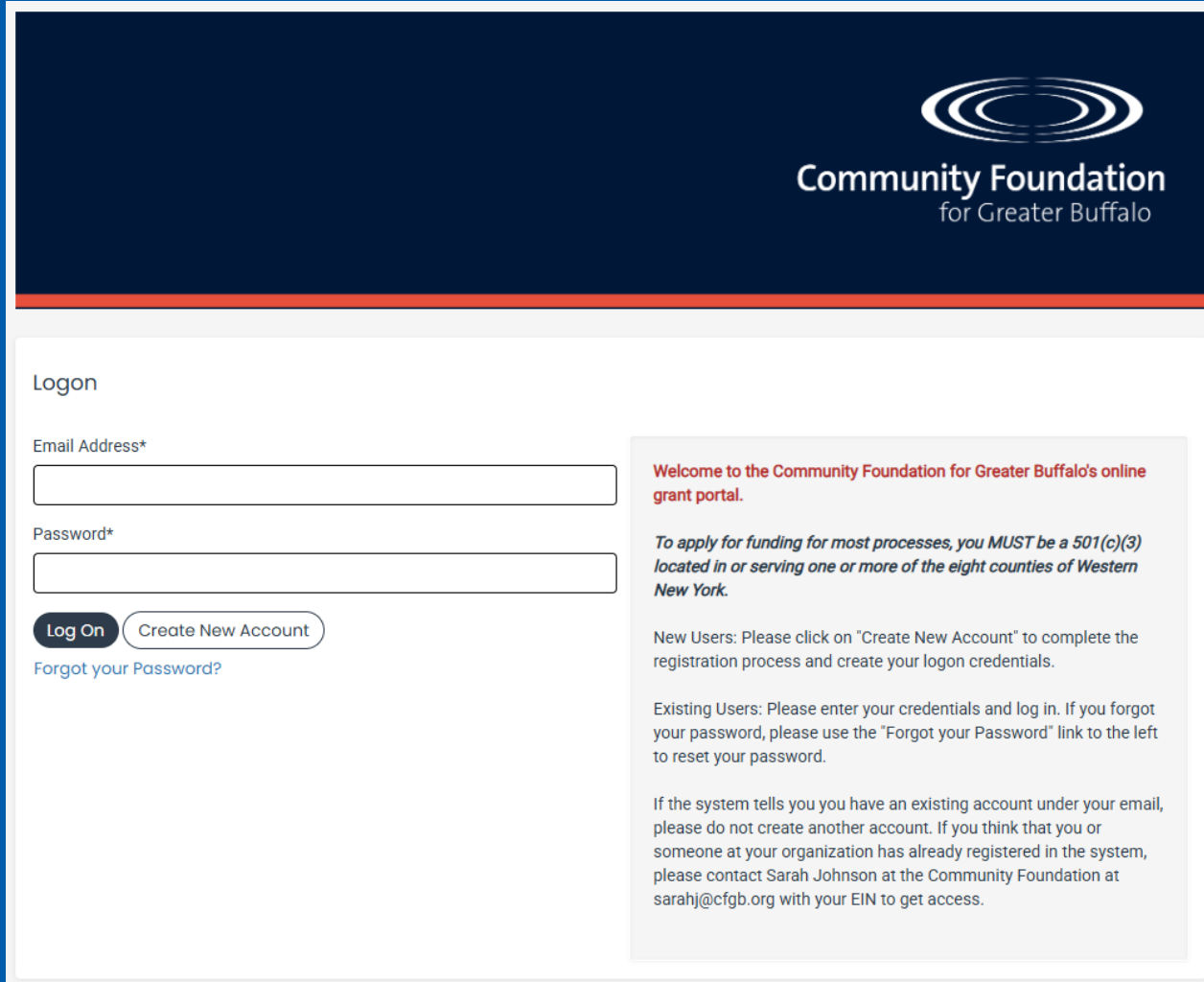
WESTERN NEW YORK  
GREAT LAKES RESTORATION  
GRANT PROGRAM




2026 REQUEST FOR  
APPLICATIONS



# Letter of Intent Submission



The screenshot shows the login page for the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo's online grant portal. At the top, there is a dark blue header with the organization's logo and name. Below the header, the page is divided into a white login area and a grey informational sidebar. The login area contains fields for "Email Address\*" and "Password\*", a "Log On" button, and a "Create New Account" button. A link for "Forgot your Password?" is located below the buttons. The sidebar contains a welcome message, a requirement for 501(c)(3) status, and instructions for new and existing users.

  
Community Foundation  
for Greater Buffalo

Logon

Email Address\*

Password\*

[Log On](#) [Create New Account](#)

[Forgot your Password?](#)

**Welcome to the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo's online grant portal.**

*To apply for funding for most processes, you MUST be a 501(c)(3) located in or serving one or more of the eight counties of Western New York.*

New Users: Please click on "Create New Account" to complete the registration process and create your logon credentials.

Existing Users: Please enter your credentials and log in. If you forgot your password, please use the "Forgot your Password" link to the left to reset your password.

If the system tells you you have an existing account under your email, please do not create another account. If you think that you or someone at your organization has already registered in the system, please contact Sarah Johnson at the Community Foundation at [sarahj@cfgb.org](mailto:sarahj@cfgb.org) with your EIN to get access.

- Online application portal
- Due no later than 3:00 PM ET on Friday, April 17, 2026
- Need help?  
Contact  
Sarah Johnson  
[sarahj@cfgb.org](mailto:sarahj@cfgb.org)

# Letter of Intent Review Process

Selection  
Committee Reviews  
LOIs

Inviting up to  
approximately 30  
applicants to submit  
a Full Application

LOI Decision  
Notification on or  
around June 1, 2026

# Letter of Intent Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Description
<b>Eligibility, Completeness, and Program Requirements</b>	Required information and attachments are included and the project meets basic eligibility and program requirements as described in the RFA instructions.
<b>Quantifiable Contribution Toward GLRI Measure(s) of Progress</b>	GLRI Measure(s) of Progress are identified and outcomes and quantifiable metrics are described.
<b>Supports Local or Regional Environmental Priorities</b>	Sources for local or regional environmental priorities are identified and outcomes and quantifiable and/or qualitative metrics are described.
<b>Community Participation Approach</b>	The community or communities affected by the project are identified and how community members will be made aware of and/or involved in the project are described.
<b>Work Plan Feasibility</b>	The clear and realistic approach, scope of work, and timeframe is provided and key staff, partners, and/or technical experts needed are identified.
<b>Readiness to Proceed</b>	The status of planning to date, existing community support, and key considerations for project implementation are described.
<b>Cost Reasonableness and Justification</b>	An estimated total funding request is provided and considerations about project scale and reliance on additional funding are described (if applicable).

# Full Application



Builds upon responses from the LOI



Requires a more detailed budget and budget narrative



Full application questions can be found in the Application Workbook



A webinar for full application invitees will discuss further details for full application development

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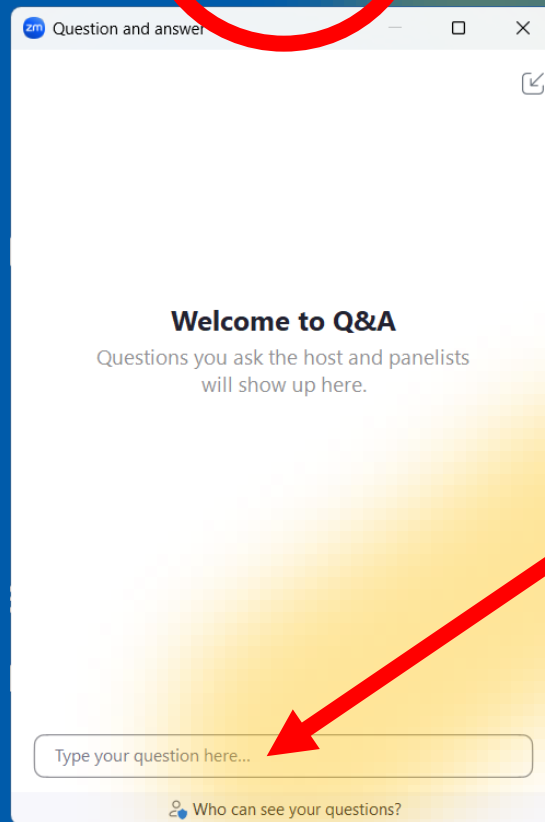
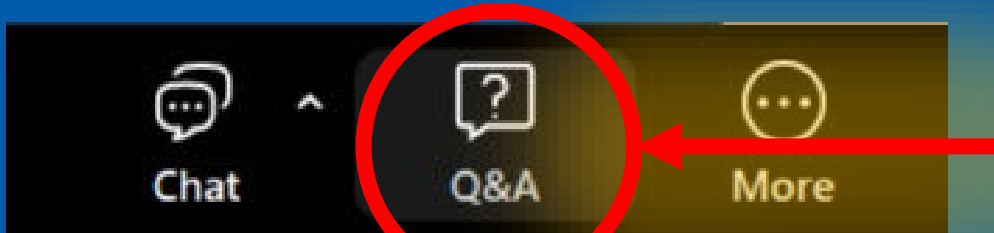
# Key Dates

Item	Date
RFA Webinar + FAQ Resource Published	<b>Mon, March 30</b>
Questions Due	<b>Wed, April 8 at 3:00 PM ET</b>
Letter of Intent Due	<b>Fri, April 17 at 3:00 PM ET</b>
Letter of Intent Decision Notification	<b>Mon, June 1 *</b>
Full Application Due	<b>Fri, July 17 *</b>
Full Application Decision Notification	<b>Mon, October 26 *</b>
Award Start Date	<b>January 2027 *</b>

**\* Denotes anticipated date, date subject to change**



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“**WNYGLRGP Question**” to:  
[bmajda@bnwaterkeeper.org](mailto:bmajda@bnwaterkeeper.org)

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