WESTERN NEW YORK GREAT LAKES RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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QUESTION #1: Can a 501(c)(4) submit a proposal?

ANSWER #1: No, a 501(c)(4) cannot submit a proposal. Nonprofit organizations interested in applying must be organized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

QUESTION #2: Eligible costs -- Is there a limit on how much can be spent on engineering and feasibility, as opposed to actual construction. Could a project be entirely an engineering study? (Total construction of our project would exceed the funding available)

ANSWER #2: There is no specific cap on engineering or feasibility costs. Those costs may be included if they lead to implementation of an eligible project funded as a part of the proposal. Stand-alone studies or designs are not eligible for funding.

QUESTION #3: Are projects that are currently underway eligible?

ANSWER #3: A project that is part of a broader ongoing effort may be eligible, but the activities funded by this grant must fall within the program's project period, which is no earlier than January 1, 2027, and no later than September 30, 2029. Applicants should clearly distinguish completed or current work from the future phase they are proposing for WNYGLRGP funding.

QUESTION #4: Can Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper be a consultant for work included in the grant proposal?

ANSWER #4: Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper is not eligible to be included as a consultant or contractor for work included in a proposal under this program.

As part of the program's structure, BNW may provide awardee technical assistance, and will conduct project oversight and review. If a project requires QAPP support, BNW will provide access to a third-party QAPP consultant directly.

QUESTION #5: Can you speak a bit more about the leveraged funds expected to be included?

ANSWER #5: There is no match requirement, and leverage is optional. Applicants may include information about secured or anticipated leverage if it helps explain how the proposed project fits into a larger effort or complements other work. If the proposed project depends on additional unsecured funding, the application should explain how the project would be adapted or scaled if that funding does not become available in time for the project performance period.

QUESTION #6: Provided they meet the goals of the GLRI, is there a minimum size (acres, stream miles, etc.) that you are looking for?

ANSWER #6: The RFA does not establish a minimum acreage, stream-mile, or similar size threshold. Applicants should propose a project scale that is reasonable, measurable, and clearly tied to at least one eligible GLRI Measure of Progress and a relevant regional, local, or community environmental priority.

QUESTION #7: Is a nonprofit that already has an EPA grant eligible for this grant?

ANSWER #7: Yes, a nonprofit that already has an EPA grant is eligible for this grant. The RFA does not prohibit an otherwise eligible nonprofit from applying simply because it already has another EPA grant. The organization would still need to meet all program eligibility requirements and be prepared to comply with the federal requirements associated with this award.

QUESTION #8: If the GLRI measures of projects are addressed but not directly in-water, will they be considered?

ANSWER #8: Projects do not have to be directly in-water to be eligible. Projects must be located within the Niagara River/Lake Erie watershed in Western New York, fit one or more eligible project types, and include environmental deliverables tied to at least one eligible GLRI Measure of Progress and at least one regional, local, or community environmental priority.

QUESTION #9: Can an organization apply that runs a workforce development program focused on Stormwater Runoff Reduction?

ANSWER #9: Yes, if the applicant meets the eligible organization types listed in Section 5 of the RFA Instructions. However, the proposed project itself must primarily be an eligible restoration project, such as stormwater runoff reduction, and not a stand-alone workforce development project. Workforce-related elements may support the project, and provide co-benefits, but they cannot be the sole focus.

QUESTION #10: Would a project that implements eligible activities across multiple properties be eligible? For example, invasive species control across several properties within a designated area?

ANSWER #10: Yes, a project may include eligible activities across multiple properties. If implementation work will occur on land not owned by the applicant, the application should identify the landowners and site-control status if known. If sites or landowners will be identified during project planning, applicants may explain that in the application. If the specific areas are known at the time of application, you may submit multiple locations as part of your application. If the specific areas are not known at the time of application, you may submit a larger contiguous area to identify the potential area of invasive species control activities.

A video tutorial on how to submit your project area can be found at https://youtu.be/TTt2JG4E64k.