



Request for Proposals
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Subgrants for Projects in
Nine-Element Nonpoint Source Implementation Strategies
Project Application Deadline – April 17, 2020

March 16, 2020

Dear Nutrient Reduction Management Partner:

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission is soliciting proposals for subgrants to be awarded under a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant (00E02397) from U.S. EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO). Subgrants in varying amounts are being offered in accordance with Ohio's "Domestic Action Plan (DAP) Implementation Grant" workplan. Specifically, these subaward opportunities are being offered only for projects contained within nine-element nonpoint source implementation strategies (a.k.a 9-Element NPS-IS) developed under prior subawards for this same federal grant.

Eligible Applicants and Eligible Watersheds

Eligible applicants include: soil & water conservation districts; local municipalities; county engineers; townships; county and municipal park districts; and 501(c)(3) nonprofit conservation and watershed organizations for projects on land within the HUC-12 scale watersheds listed in the Table 1 below.

Table 1: Watersheds where projects consistent with those developed in watershed specific nonpoint source implementation strategies are eligible. "*" indicates the county within which the majority of the watershed exists.

Table with 6 columns: Watershed Name, HUC 12#, County*, Watershed Name, HUC 12#, County*. It lists 18 different watersheds and their corresponding HUC-12 codes and counties.

Eligible Projects

- Must be consistent with projects included in approved Nonpoint Source Implementation Strategies (NPS-IS) in the watersheds described in Table 1. This is in specific reference to those projects described with Project Summary Sheets (PSS) in Section 4 of each individual NPS-IS.
- May include a combination of projects from more than one HUC-12 watershed from this list so long as they each can be managed by the same sub-awardee.

Project Priorities

Projects that:

- Install or implement practices designed to reduce sediment and nutrient loads generated by agricultural runoff and drainage waters in watersheds dominated by agricultural land use;
- Have the highest potential for long term nutrient load reduction potential;
- Are highly cost-effective, where most (if not all) grant funds go toward the cost of on-the-ground implementation (i.e., minimizing funding for administrative, overhead, and personnel costs);
- Demonstrate technology transfer to other conservation organizations, local SWCDs, and the regional farming community;
- Focus on long-term, innovative and effective conservation practices that are consistent with Ohio's Nonpoint Source Management Plan, Nutrient Reduction Strategy, and Domestic Action Plan. Examples include but are not limited to:
 - Edge-of-field retention basins for agricultural runoff and/or drainage water — with or without drainage water reuse;
 - Expanded/enhanced edge-of field filter areas (including infiltration areas that compliment or replace traditional CRP filter strips) that receive and retain surface and tile drainage;
 - Edge-of field infiltration and retention wetlands (including linear wetlands that compliment or build upon traditional CRP filter strips) that receive, distribute and/or retain surface and tile drainage
 - Cascading wetlands placed in new or rehabilitated grassed waterways;
 - Edge-of field infiltration and retention wetlands (including linear wetlands and infiltration areas that compliment or replace traditional CRP filter strips) that receive and retain surface and tile drainage; Expanded/enhanced edge-of field filter areas;
 - Drainage Water Management Structures;
 - Saturated Buffers;
 - Blind Inlets

Approximately \$500,000 will be available under this Request for Proposals. In order to provide project funding to as many areas and entities (from those who participated in NPS-IS development portion of Ohio's Domestic Action Plan Implementation award GLRI grant) as possible, **applicants may not request more than \$100,000 under this RFP.**

Application Deadline & Review Procedures

Applications must be submitted to the Ohio Lake Erie Commission. **Applications must be received no later than Friday April 17th, 2020.**

Please submit a **digital copy ONLY** of the complete application with signatures as a PDF, via email to Sandra.kosek-sills@lakeerie.ohio.gov. If the application package is over 25 MB of material, please contact us to determine the best way to submit.

Upon receipt, all applications will be reviewed for completeness and technical merit. Applications found to be administratively complete will undergo a comprehensive review. Upon completion of reviews, recommendations for funding will be developed. Funding decisions will be made by the Executive Director of the Ohio Lake Erie Commission and recommended to U.S. EPA GLNPO. Successful applicants will be required to execute a formal grant agreement and adhere to all requirements of federal and state grant guidance.

Application Materials and Technical Assistance

The application may be found at the Ohio Lake Erie Commission Webpage at <https://lakeerie.ohio.gov/LakeErieProtectionFund.aspx>.

Questions may be answered by contacting the Ohio Lake Erie Commission - Sandra Kosek-Sills at (419) 357-2775 and/or Ohio EPA - Rick Wilson at (614) 644-2032.

We appreciate your interest in this subgrant funding opportunity and look forward to working with you to help develop implementation strategies that will allow Ohio to implement agricultural, stream, and riparian area focused conservation practices that are designed to make progress toward achievement of important water quality goals. If after reviewing this information you require additional assistance or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at the phone numbers listed above.

Sincerely,

Sandra Kosek-Sills, PhD
Ohio Lake Erie Commission