MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

Water Resources Division

Microplastics Research Grants 2026 Request for Pre-Proposals

Introduction

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) is offering a research grant(s) to better understand gaps in knowledge related to microplastics in surface water and/or drinking water.

EGLE received funding from a one-time appropriation enrolled in Senate Bill 747 section 1005 dedicated to research and recommendations in addressing microplastic contamination. Grant projects to be funded are intended to further our understanding of microplastics in surface and/or drinking water matrices. The goal of this request for pre-proposals is to select applicants to invite to submit full applications to be considered for obligation of these funds.

Eligibility

Academic institutions, municipalities and municipal authorities located in Michigan that can undergo microplastics research are eligible to apply. Additionally, academic institutions, municipalities and municipal authorities located outside of Michigan that work with institutions, municipalities, and municipal authorities within Michigan on microplastics research are also eligible to apply. Eligible applicants should have access to the equipment and instrumentation to sample and analyze microplastics in surface water and/or drinking water. Applicants must be in good standing with EGLE programs; not appear on the Federal Debarment and Suspension List; and supply proof of successful financial audit for a period ending within the last 24 months.

Eligible Activities

Eligible activities will focus on knowledge and research gaps in microplastics surface water and/or drinking water research. Eligibility of activities will be project specific and determined on a case-by-case basis. Examples of project topics that address knowledge and research gaps are included below. This is not an exhaustive list and other topics that fill research and knowledge gaps regarding microplastics in surface and/or drinking water can also be considered.

- Surface water and/or drinking water microplastic research that is helping standardize sampling and analysis methods.
- Surface water/drinking water microplastic research that is helping increase Raman Spectroscopy and Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy reference libraries to include microplastics that have been weathered, include colorants, additives etc.

- Surface water and/or drinking water microplastic research related to presence, distribution, and behavior of microplastics. This can include how microplastics move, where they end up, and how long they stay.
- Research related to the effective removal of microplastics in source water for drinking water use.
- Microplastics research related to the presence and behavior of microplastics in groundwater.
- Microplastics research related to the presence and behavior of microplastics in sediment.
- Microplastics research related to ecosystem level effects of microplastics and movement of microplastics in the food web. This could include research that can help inform risk assessment frameworks and information on the bioaccumulation and biomagnification of microplastics in aquatic organisms.
- Microplastics research related to how different compositions, sizes, age, and shape of microplastics interact with other contaminants in the environment.
- Research related to subclassification of microplastics to more effectively address this large contaminant class.

Application Requirements

There is not a matching funds requirement to apply for this grant. The grant award start date is anticipated as May 2027. Projects will be expected to be completed within a 2-year timeframe.

The total grant award will be based on reasonably estimate costs and documentation provided by the grantee on the grant application. The grant will function on a reimbursement basis where work is reported quarterly and expenses are based on costs incurred and paid and associated invoices or other appropriate supporting document are submitted to EGLE, prior to grant funds being reimbursed to the grantee.

The Microplastics Research Grant pre-proposals must be received by December 14, 2026, and should be emailed to Eddie Kostelnik at KostelnikE@Michigan.gov and Stephanie Kammer at KammerS@Michigan.gov.

Pre-proposals must include the following information:

- Project title
- Name, address, phone number, and email address of applicant
- A list of project partners
- Total project cost; amount of grant funding requested shall not exceed $422,816
- Anticipated project schedule including start and completion dates
- Project summary: This includes the project scope, description of planned activities, deliverables, and organizational capacity (including description of available equipment to be used for microplastics research).

Process, Schedule, and Deadlines

Pre-proposals will be evaluated using factors such as the knowledge and data gaps to be addressed, access or ability to gain access to sampling and analysis equipment, project design, and proposed deliverables. EGLE will invite applicants to submit full application packages according to this evaluation and total amount of funding requested. Pre-proposals and full applications are planned to be evaluated and awarded according to the following schedule:

Request for pre-proposals begins	**October 30, 2026**
Pre-proposals due	**December 14, 2026**
Invitation to submit grant application package begins	**February 1, 2027**
Grant application package due	**April 5, 2027**
EGLE review and selection process completed	**May 17, 2027**
Project period begins	**Upon execution of grant agreement**
Project schedule	**Follows work plan and 2-year schedule**

EGLE may request additional information for clarification purposes. EGLE may offer grant amounts other than those requested and request changes to the proposed work plan. Submitted application information is not confidential. Grant applications are considered public information under the Freedom of Information Act, 1976 PA 442, as amended.

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a grant agreement with EGLE. A grant agreement consists of standard “boilerplate” language and the applicant’s project description, work plan, timeline, and budget information.

Contact

For questions, contact Eddie Kostelnik, Emerging Pollutants Section, WRD at 517-331-0122 or KostelnikE@Michigan.gov or Stephanie Kammer, Manager, Emerging Pollutants Section, WRD, at 517-897-1597 or KammerS@michigan.gov.

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