



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

Nonpoint Source Program Request for Proposals

September 3, 2025

Applications are requested for proposals to update or develop watershed management plans.

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NONPOINT SOURCE PROGRAM GRANTS

Introduction

Michigan's Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program assists federal, state, and local partners to restore water bodies impaired by NPS pollution and protect high quality waters from impairments caused by NPS pollution. The basis of our program is watershed management; therefore, we are requesting proposals to update or develop new watershed management plans that will help meet our program goals. A separate Request For Proposals (RFP) for projects implementing the NPS elements in approved watershed management plans will be released later in 2025 and be available on the [Nonpoint Source Web site](#).

Funding

Source and Availability

This RFP contains information concerning funding authorized under the federal Clean Water Act Section 205(j). Up to **\$275,600** is expected to be available through this RFP to support watershed planning efforts. Grant awards should be announced early in 2026. Grant awards are contingent upon the enactment of sufficient funding in the federal and state budgets to support this grant program as well as any other necessary approvals.

Required Match

Projects require a minimum of 10 percent local match, which may include cash and in-kind services from non-federal sources.

Minimum and Maximum Funding Amounts

The minimum request is \$25,000 in grant funds (\$27,778 total project including minimum match). Requests up to the total amount available will be considered.

Eligibility

Eligible Applicants

Regional planning agencies, councils of governments, conservation districts, counties, townships, cities, towns, and villages and interstate and sub-state public planning agencies (including Watershed Councils and Watershed Alliances established under parts 311, Local River Management; and 312, Watershed Alliances, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended [NREPA]) are eligible to apply. Private colleges, private universities, and non-profit organizations with 501(c)(3) status are also eligible. In addition, all applicants must:

- Supply proof of a successful financial audit for a period ending within the 24 months immediately preceding the RFP release date as demonstrated by an *Independent Auditor's Report* signed by a Certified Public Accountant from a Comprehensive Annual Report. The audit must be of the applicant organization – **No fiduciary arrangements will be accepted** (i.e., the proposed work plan must include an active role for the applicant organization). The audit date is based on the audit period and not the date of the audit or the audit letter. To be eligible under this RFP, the end date of the audited period must be after August 31, 2023.
- Be in good standing with EGLE programs. Within the 24 months immediately preceding the application due date:
 - No EGLE grant revoked or terminated.

- No demonstrated inability to manage a grant or meet the obligations in a project agreement with EGLE.
- Not appear on the Federal Debarment and Suspension List. The list can be searched through the System for Award and Management ([Sam.gov](https://sam.gov)).
- Successful applicants and all contractors will be required to certify they are not an Iran-based business and contractors must also certify they are not an Iran-linked business as defined in [MCL 129.312](#).

For questions and clarifications about eligibility issues please contact Robert Sweet, NPS Unit, Great Lakes Watersheds Assessment, Restoration, and Management Section (GLWARMS), Water Resources Division (WRD) at SweetR@Michigan.gov or 517-512-9765 or see the [NPS Staff List](#) for assistance.

Ineligible Applicants

Federal and state agencies, tribal entities, public colleges and public universities, Resource Conservation and Development Councils, individuals and groups without 501(c)(3) status, for profit companies, and entities that cannot meet the eligibility elements bulleted above. However, these entities can serve as project partners and in some cases receive grant funds as subcontractors to eligible grantees.

Eligible Activities

All activities needed to develop a new watershed management plan or to update an existing plan to an approvable level, as defined in [Appendix A](#), are eligible.

Ineligible Activities

Activities not related to the production of an approvable watershed management plan, including the installation of Best Management Practices, are not eligible. However, implementation activities are eligible under a separate RFP and process to be issued later in 2025.

General Requirements for All Proposals

- Projects must result in an approvable watershed management plan as defined in the USEPA's "nine minimum elements of watershed planning" ([Appendix A](#)) or an EGLE approved addendum or appendix to a watershed management plan previously approved as meeting the nine elements.
- Proposals must be for a hydrologically-based area. The NPS Program generally recommends the 10-Digit HUC level or smaller as the preferred scale for planning projects as described in "[Scale Considerations in the Development of a Nine-element Management Plan.](#)"
- Proposals must include a Geographic Information System shapefile of the geographic extent of the watershed. If a shapefile is not available or for questions about this requirement, please contact Peter Vincent, NPS Unit, GLWARMS, WRD at 517-512-3969 or VincentP@Michigan.gov.
- Proposals must include a minimum of 10 percent local match consisting of cash or in-kind services (federal, state, and tribal sources are not eligible for match).
- Proposals must include a list of pollutants that the plan will target in the Project Description and Summary (Sections A and F) as described in the [Instructions](#).

- This list must include pollutants, primarily from nonpoint sources, listed in Michigan’s current [Integrated Report](#) as causing designated use impairments in the watershed. The list can also include pollutants important at the local level as well as the rationale for their inclusion.
- All projects must include an evaluation component to determine the success of the project activities in relation to the stated project goals. Plan approval is an excellent evaluation end point for watershed management planning grants.
- The time frame for planning projects is generally two (2) years. However, time frames of up to three (3) years will be considered.
- The USEPA’s policy, “Timely Obligation, Award and Expenditure of USEPA Grant Funds” requires the expedient obligation of federal grants. Therefore, applicants must be able to enter into a grant agreement with EGLE within 90 days of a grant award. EGLE retains the right to withdraw funding if an agreement has not been signed within 90 days.
- All outreach and education materials must:
 - Meet current Americans with Disabilities Act best practices for publications and web content. Suggested resources include:
 - The National Center on Disability Access Education - [Accessibility handouts](#) geared toward publications.
 - [WebAIM](#) - Resources for accessible digital content.
 - Be consistent with the copyright clauses in the EGLE boilerplate.
 - Be consistent with the Nonpoint Source Program’s [Acknowledgement Guidance](#).
 - Be reviewed and approved by EGLE prior to use.
- Announcements and Public or Media Events:
 - Announcements through the web or print materials for workshops, conferences, or other events as part of a project must follow the NPS Program [Acknowledgement Guidance](#).
 - The EGLE Project Administrator must be notified at least 15 working days prior to any public or media events related to the project to provide the opportunity for attendance and participation by state and federal representatives.
- Projects must include a wetlands component as described in [Appendix B](#).
- All projects selected for funding will be required to take steps to minimize the risk of spreading terrestrial and aquatic invasive species. Selection of appropriate project measures depends on the type of work being conducted and the specific situation. Additional information is available from [NPS staff](#).
- Proposals for watersheds with flooding, flashy flows, or other hydrology issues must refer to [Appendix C](#). Proposals for watersheds that may recommend stream bank stabilization, channel realignment, changes to channel geometry, or changes impacting flow or sediment transport should also refer to [Appendix C](#).

Guidance for Proposals within the Coastal Nonpoint Boundary

The Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program, established by Section 6217 of the federal Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA), addresses nonpoint source pollution problems in coastal waters. Section 6217 requires the development of Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Programs. Michigan's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program requires specific activities be implemented within Michigan's Coastal Nonpoint Boundary as well as requiring some additional elements in EGLE funded new or updated watershed management plans within the boundary. Applicants should refer to [Appendix D](#) to determine if this new guidance applies to their proposal. Proposals to develop watershed management plans wholly or partially within the Coastal Boundary will not be competitive unless they address the coastal planning elements described in [Appendix D](#).

Monitoring and Quality Assurance Project Plans

Projects that include physical, chemical, biological, or social monitoring activities for evaluation or project guidance will be required to submit a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for approval by EGLE prior to the start of monitoring. A QAPP is not needed for the proposal, but a task for QAPP development and approval must be included in the work plan.

QAPP guidance for **social surveys** is available on the [Social Monitoring and Evaluation](#) page. Applicants proposing to perform social data collection must complete and include the social monitoring table in the Project Description, Section E of the [Instructions](#). Applicants are encouraged to contact Robert Sweet, NPS Unit, GLWARMS, WRD at 517-512-9765 or SweetR@Michigan.gov prior to submitting a proposal including social monitoring. Additional information on social monitoring is in [Appendix E](#).

The QAPP guidance for **environmental monitoring** is available from the [Environmental Monitoring Guidance](#) page. Applicants proposing to perform environmental data collection (water quality, macroinvertebrate populations, stream morphology, inventories, modeling, etc.) must complete and include the environmental monitoring table in the Project Description, Section E of the [Instructions](#). Applicants are encouraged to contact Caroline Keson, NPS Unit, GLWARMS, WRD at 517-512-0892 or KesonC1@Michigan.gov prior to submitting a proposal including environmental monitoring.

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

- The anticipated water quality benefits of the project in relation to the cost (although a thorough cost/benefit analysis is not required).
- The ability of the applicant and the partners and contractors to carry out the project as demonstrated by previous NPS grants or submitted information.
- Financial and technical assistance from the partners in the project, as documented by letters of commitment.
- Financial and other resource contributions in excess of the required minimum match.
Note: The match percentage listed in the proposal will be used in the project agreement if the proposal is selected for funding.

- Expectations for long-term water quality improvement or protection from nonpoint sources.

Proposal Selection

Proposals will be selected based on the above Evaluation Criteria and how well they meet the priorities of the [NPS Program](#) and this RFP.

Process, Schedule, and Deadline

Each project should be applied for with a complete proposal package consisting of one electronic copy of all required components. Please read this information package carefully. Extraneous information will not be accepted or included in the grant proposal review process.

The cover sheet (signed), project description, work plan, timeline, budget, and all necessary forms must be submitted using Microsoft Office compatible formats or searchable PDF(s). Any, maps, graphics, and photographs can be submitted as PDF or similar files.

Instructions for the grant proposal should be downloaded and followed. The checklist on page five of the [Instructions](#) should be used to ensure you have a complete application package. Proposal evaluation will be based on the information received by the due date. Full applications must be emailed to EGLE-NPSGrants@Michigan.gov and received **by 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, October 8, 2025**. EGLE will reply to all applications submitted to the listed address. If you do not receive a reply within four hours during regular business hours or if your proposal is too large to email, please contact Robert Sweet, NPS Unit, GLWARMS, WRD at SweetR@Michigan.gov or 517-512-9765 for assistance. Late proposals will not be accepted or reviewed.

All required forms for this grant proposal are available from the [NPS home page](#) (under "Grant Application Information"). Forms should be downloaded and saved to your computer, completed, and then submitted with the other components of the grant proposal. **Do not use forms from previous years or from other programs.**

Project Clarification/Revisions

EGLE may request additional information for clarification purposes. EGLE can offer grant amounts other than those requested and request changes to the proposed work plan.

Confidentiality

Submitted proposal information is not confidential. Grant proposals are considered public information under the Freedom of Information Act, PA 442 of 1976, as amended.

Acceptance of Agreement Content

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a project agreement with EGLE. A project agreement consists of standard "boilerplate" language (a past year example is available from [NPS Staff](#)), the applicant's project description, work plan, timeline, and budget information. Failure of a successful applicant to accept these obligations will result in cancellation of the grant award.

Please note:

1. Faxed or mailed full proposals will not be accepted.
2. Late proposals will not be considered for funding.

Contacts

For questions about this RFP and its contents or general grant or grant process questions, contact [Robert Sweet](#), 517-512-9765. For questions about watershed planning or watershed plan approval requirements, contact [Peter Vincent](#), 517-512-3969. For questions about specific project ideas contact the appropriate [NPS Staff](#).

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