

2019 Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments Small Grants Competition

Call for Letters of Intent March 20, 2019

In 2019, the Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments ([GLISA](#)) will award several 1-year demonstration grants of up to \$20,000 each to organizations that will work with GLISA to address the risks of climate variability and change in the Great Lakes region. We seek boundary organizations (see: [What is a boundary organization?](#)) to collaborate with decision makers from a diverse range of sectors and communities to implement climate adaptation projects in the Great Lakes region using current GLISA climate information services (see: [GLISA Service Categories](#)).

GLISA is one of eleven Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments ([RISA](#)) teams supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) dedicated to helping the nation prepare for and adapt to climate variability and change. Through research and service, we build capacity to respond to climate-related risks in the Great Lakes region by increasing the usability of climate information for decision making. GLISA is a partnership between the University of Michigan and Michigan State University and serves the eight states in the Great Lakes basin in the United States and the Province of Ontario in Canada.

All interested applicants must submit a letter of intent by *Friday, April 12th at 5pm Eastern*. GLISA will evaluate all letters and invite selected teams to submit a full proposal. For more information, see: [Proposal Process and Timeline](#).

Competition Approach

In [past competitions](#), GLISA awarded small grants to boundary organizations to bring together stakeholders in the region from specific sectors and communities to identify and promote understanding of vulnerabilities, anticipated impacts, and options for adaptation action to prepare and respond to climate variability and change. Established in 2011, this experimental approach aimed to increase adaptation options and action, create and foster a diverse network of stakeholders, and build trusted relationships in the Great Lakes region.

The goals of GLISA's 2019 competition are to sustain and strengthen GLISA's network of boundary organizations, foster close interaction between and among GLISA knowledge brokers and grantees, learn what GLISA products and services are ready to scale-up in the region and beyond, and to increase our impact in the Great Lakes.

What is a boundary organization?

GLISA defines boundary organizations as entities that span the space between the producers and users of climate information. In this respect, boundary organizations serve to broker knowledge between scientists and decision makers. GLISA acts as a boundary organization in our [boundary chain model](#) of stakeholder engagement, illustrated below. Boundary chains are networks of boundary organizations that complement each other and make it easier to bridge the gap between climate information and decision makers.



Boundary organizations, and the chains that they form, reduce the overall cost of bringing climate information to decision makers by saving time and leveraging the human and social resources usually required to build the trust and legitimacy essential to the use of science in decision making.

GLISA Service Categories

The table below includes three ‘GLISA Service Categories,’ and subcategories within each, that describe the types of climate information and support GLISA can provide to grantees. Within each subcategory, example projects are listed that show how these services have been used successfully in our partnerships to-date. Each example links to the product or project page on GLISA’s website where applicants can learn more.

Applicants must choose one of the service subcategories, listed below, for the proposed work. However, applicants may propose new ways to use GLISA’s information and support as long as it fits within one of the service subcategories (i.e., does not have to align with a listed example).

Funded projects are considered a partnership between GLISA and the granted organization. Grantees will work directly with one or more GLISA researchers on the project, according to the selected service category. GLISA cannot provide support for sector-specific expertise, such as engineering models, ecosystem assessments, health indices, or socio-economic analyses. Projects must focus on adaptation to climate variability and change in the Great Lakes region. Projects that link adaptation and mitigation will be considered, but those that address mitigation alone will not.

GLISA Service Categories & Example Projects	
A. Customized Historical & Projected Climate Information	
A1	<p><i>Customized Climate Information through the Co-development of a Stand-alone Product</i> The grantee, their stakeholders, and GLISA will work together to define the location, identify the climate information needed, and complete the product. GLISA will engage with the grantee and stakeholders to co-create the climate information (i.e., narrative, figures, tables) and provide design support, if needed. The applicant must identify the need (e.g., specific decision) and the partner-stakeholders (e.g., city leadership).</p>
Example	Location-specific fact sheet with custom climate variables and indicators
Example	City-specific fact sheet with narrative summary highlighting city adaptation efforts
Example	Regional climate localization documents with narrative summary and figures
A2	<p><i>Localized Climate Information for a Report, Proposal, Planning Process, or Policy Document</i> The grantee, their stakeholders and GLISA will work together to identify the climate information needed. GLISA will engage with the grantee and stakeholders to co-create the climate information, and the grantee will integrate the information into the document. GLISA can provide feedback on if the climate information is accurately represented, but is not responsible for drafting or finalizing the document. The applicant must identify the location and describe the document, the partner-stakeholders, and how it will be used.</p>
Example	Climate projections for FEMA Pre-Hazard Mitigation Plan
Example	Customized climate narrative and indicators for sustainability or climate action plan
Example	Climate information for natural resources vulnerability assessment
A3	<p><i>Localized Climate information for the Development or Implementation of an Adaptation Tool</i> The grantee, their stakeholders, and GLISA will work together to define the location and identify the climate information needed. GLISA will engage with the grantee and their stakeholders to create the climate information, which the grantee will integrate into the tool. The applicant must identify the existing tool to implement (or explain the need for and process to develop a new tool) and describe the stakeholders to be engaged. The examples refer to existing tools that may be proposed to be implemented.</p>
Example	Climate information for the development of a new vulnerability assessment process
Example	Climate information for the implementation of an existing adaptation tool
B. Creation of Climate Scenarios (ways of exploring different possible climate futures considering uncertainty)	
B1	<p><i>Creation of Climate Scenarios</i> Climate scenarios describe how future conditions may change and consist of a physically consistent set of climate variables (e.g., temperature, precipitation, extreme events) and can be qualitative and/or quantitative. The grantee, their stakeholders, and GLISA will work together to develop and explore a range of future climate scenarios by investigating several climate models and compiling the information in a usable format. This will likely serve stakeholders who are running simulations that incorporate future</p>

	climate data (see B2 if you desire to explore climate impacts in the form of scenarios). The grantee will recruit and engage stakeholders to provide expertise and experience to inform the climate information GLISA will provide. The grantee must identify need for the scenarios and the partner-stakeholders.
Example	Climate scenarios to explore impacts on agriculture drainage systems and yields
B2	<p><i>Creation of Climate Impact Scenarios</i></p> <p>Climate impact scenarios build on climate scenarios (see B1) and can be used to study the resulting on-the-ground impacts of future change. The grantee, their stakeholders and GLISA will work together to develop climate impact scenarios, ranging from quantitative impact models to qualitative thought exercises, based on management concerns and goals. GLISA will provide the climate information and can facilitate a scenario planning workshop, and the grantee must identify the need for scenarios, recruit and engage stakeholders, plan the workshop, and integrate the scenarios into defined future planning activities.</p>
Example	Scenarios to plan for extreme precipitation events on Tribal lands
Example	Scenarios to inform management concerns for a military installation
Example	Scenarios to inform ecosystem & wildlife planning for a National Park
Example	Scenarios to inform adaptation planning at a National Lakeshore
C. Education, Facilitation, & Training	
C1	<p><i>Education</i></p> <p>GLISA can partner with the grantee to present a series of in-person presentations or webinars on climate change in the Great Lakes, tailored to a specific location and/or impact(s) of interest. GLISA will develop content and present with input from the grantee, and the grantee will plan the meetings and invite participants. The grantee must identify the topic(s) of interest, the audience, and the series' purpose.</p>
Example	Great Lakes climate change presentation for community groups
C2	<p><i>Facilitation of Group Exercises</i></p> <p>GLISA can serve as the facilitator of a group exercise, or series of exercises, to help a group begin or continue talking about climate adaptation. While GLISA is familiar with the Game of Floods (see example, below) other exercises may be proposed if clear instructions are available. The applicant must identify the exercise, the audience, and the desired outcome, and will coordinate the meeting and invite stakeholders.</p>
Example	Facilitation of Game of Floods
C3	<p><i>Tool Training</i></p> <p>GLISA and the grantee will work together to provide training on and implement an existing adaptation tool. GLISA can provide climate information and work with the grantee to develop and facilitate webinar or in-person training. While GLISA is familiar with the U.S. EPA's National Stormwater Calculator (see below) other tools may be proposed if clear instructions are available and it aligns with GLISA's expertise. The applicant must identify the tool, the audience, and recruit stakeholders and plan any training activities.</p>
Example	Training and Implementation of EPA's National Stormwater Calculator

Proposed projects should address a specific problem, decision, policy, or management issue facing a particular sector or geography - defined by natural or political boundaries. Grants will be awarded to organizations who have a well-defined problem and approach, demonstrate a clear need and application for climate information, have experience engaging with the intended stakeholder audience, and who show an understanding of the selected service category. Climate information must be integral to the project purpose and outcomes.

Applicants should clearly articulate their experience engaging stakeholders, explaining how stakeholders will be identified and how they will participate in the project. Existing stakeholder relationships that can be leveraged for the proposed work should be described. For any new relationships, justification and reasoning must be included for why and how these new relationships will be successful in a one-year project. Projects engaging networks of users, either through professional associations, membership organizations, or natural feature systems (e.g., watersheds), are encouraged to apply.

Funding Details & Eligibility

GLISA will award several grants of up to \$20,000 for one-year projects. The \$20,000 must cover all direct and indirect costs, and we will accept all indirect rates that have been negotiated with the U.S. or Canadian federal governments. Funds may be used to support salaries of project team members, stakeholder communities, appropriate travel, and hosting and workshop costs. GLISA's time commitment is on top of the \$20,000 and does not need to be budgeted.

Eligible applicants include (but are not limited to) community groups, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, local, state, and Tribal governments, trade associations, and other not-for-profit entities active in the Great Lakes region. Interdisciplinary teams and partnerships are encouraged. Organizations that have received GLISA funding in the past may propose new projects. Organizations from all sectors are encouraged to apply.

The anticipated project start and end dates are August 1, 2019 and July 31, 2020, respectively.

All grantees will have the option to apply for an additional \$10,000 for a second year, contingent on the first year of work and GLISA's funding.

Anticipated Deliverables

Grant recipients will:

- Submit short quarterly progress reports on a standard form;
- Apply to present project outcomes at the 2020 Great Lakes Adaptation Forum with other grantees;

- Cooperate with GLISA researchers conducting ongoing evaluation studies of climate adaptation in the region (e.g., participate in a follow-up interview or provide a quote);
- Share project outcomes with their networks and GLISA, noting how the climate information was integrated and used; and,
- Produce a 5-10 page white paper of your activities, results, and impacts. The paper should include project objectives and detail the process, including interactions with GLISA and stakeholders and how climate information was used. The paper is due two months after the project is completed and will be posted on GLISA's website.

Proposal Process and Timeline

All interested applicants must submit a letter of intent by *Friday, April 12th at 5pm Eastern* via the [online Submittable platform](#). Letters should be no more than 2 pages (1 inch margins, font size 12) and briefly outline the purpose and scope of proposed work including:

- Project title;
- Lead institution and investigator;
- GLISA service subcategory (see: GLISA Service Categories);
- The problem or topic to be addressed;
- Relevant sector(s);
- Description of stakeholders to be engaged;
- Composition of the project team, including relevant experience engaging stakeholders and using climate information; and,
- Anticipated data and information needs.

GLISA will evaluate all letters and invite selected teams to submit a full proposal. Applicants will not be permitted to submit a full application without submitting a letter of intent and receiving an invitation to submit a full proposal.

Full proposal guidelines will follow in late April or early May, allowing 4 weeks for development of the full proposal. Final funding decisions are expected in late June and awards are anticipated to begin August 1, 2019.

Contact Information

Please direct all questions to GLISA Program Manager Jenna Jorns (jljorns@umich.edu).