

2023 GLISA Small Grants Competition Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: June 19, 2023

What does GLISA stand for?

GLISA is funded by the NOAA Climate Program Office under a program that was formerly called the Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) program. To align with the federal program title, GLISA's original name stood for the Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments. In the last year, the federal government changed the name of the federal RISA program to the Climate Adaptation Partnership (CAP) program to better describe the work now conducted by its regional teams since the program's inception in the 1990s. During this transition period, we are referring to ourselves as 'GLISA, the Great Lakes CAP/RISA team,' moving away from the RISA-affiliated name. To learn more about the CAP/RISA network, visit NOAA's [webpage](#).

What is the difference between climate adaptation and climate mitigation? Are climate mitigation projects eligible?

Climate adaptation focuses on understanding and preparing for current and future climate impacts and limiting negative outcomes associated with those impacts. Climate mitigation focuses on limiting climate change from happening through measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Because GLISA's work and the Small Grants Competition focus on climate adaptation we will only accept project ideas that focus on adaptation, or a combination of adaptation and mitigation. We will not accept project ideas that are exclusively mitigation focused.

Who is eligible to apply? Are Canadian organizations eligible? Are organizations based outside the Great Lakes region eligible?

Eligible applicants include U.S. or Canadian community groups, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, local, state, and Tribal governments, trade associations, and other not-for-profit or private entities active in the Great Lakes region. Proposed projects must be completed within the Great Lakes basin which includes Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin in the United States, and the Province of Ontario in Canada. Organizations based outside the Great Lakes region are eligible, as long as the work is conducted in, and will directly benefit, the Great Lakes region. Applicants based outside the region should explain why and how they have or can develop relationships with partners in the region necessary to conduct successful work.

What is the goal of the letter of intent (LOI) phase?

The LOI phase is intended to be a low-barrier opportunity for groups to submit ideas for review before having to complete a longer full proposal. LOIs should define an adaptation topic or challenge followed by a strong approach to address the challenge or topic with the right partners

and with clear outcomes. GLISA team members will review LOIs and provide feedback to those who advance to the full proposal phase.

Is it possible to propose an idea that addresses both funding categories? What if I don't know which funding category is right for my idea?

Project ideas that address both funding categories are eligible. Additionally, we encourage prospective applicants who are unsure which funding category is the right fit to schedule office hours to discuss ideas with GLISA team members. After submitting a letter of intent, GLISA will provide feedback and allow applicants to switch funding categories in the full proposal if we recommend this is a better fit.

Can there be more than one project lead? How will collaborative projects be funded?

Collaborative projects are encouraged and welcome to apply, including those with multiple project leads and/or organizations. Collaborative projects will still need to identify an individual to serve as the primary lead who will facilitate communications with GLISA. Applicants may also budget for more than one organization to receive small grant funds for the same project. One organization should be the primary applicant and be able to issue subawards to the other organization(s). If invited to submit a full proposal, the applicant should reflect this in the budget and justification.

Should my project budget for direct and indirect costs? What rates should I use?

Awards should include direct and indirect costs, according to the grantee institution's indirect rate (and the indirect rate(s) for any other organizations that will receive awarded funds). GLISA will accept all indirect rates that have been negotiated with the U.S. or Canadian federal governments, or a de minimis indirect cost rate of 10% in lieu of an established indirect rate. GLISA's contribution to the project will be in-kind and need not be budgeted for.

Are match funds required? Are projects more favorable if they leverage outside funding?

Projects are not required to provide match funds or leverage outside funding, but applicants are welcome to leverage these funds. Projects that leverage outside funding will not be given a higher preference over projects that do not.

What is the maximum award amount? Will awards be distributed to Canadian grantees in USD or CAD?

All awards will be a maximum of \$30,000 USD total. For a Canadian grantee, this award would be converted to CAD and would be approximately \$40,000 CAD.

How many proposals has GLISA received in previous competitions? How many projects will be funded in the 2023 competition?

In GLISA's last small grants competition in 2019, approximately 40 letters of intent were received, 25 were invited to submit a full proposal, and 12 were funded. In 2023, GLISA plans to award at least six small grants, depending on the availability of funds. GLISA will run another small grant competition, tentatively scheduled for 2024, and will award an additional six small grants depending on the availability of funds.

To what extent is GLISA able to advise funded projects?

All funded projects will be considered a partnership between GLISA and the grantee, where GLISA offers time and resources in-kind and participates on the project team. Grantees will be able to guide how and the extent to which GLISA will support the project. While GLISA has certain expertise that can be provided to the team, we are also excited to learn from grantees throughout the process. Funded projects will be assigned a GLISA team member to support the project and groups will discuss and outline roles during initial meetings. Applicants who wish to leverage GLISA resources and expertise in their project proposal are encouraged to attend office hours before submitting LOIs to clarify if and how GLISA can support.

How many years will teams have to complete projects? When do funded projects need to be completed?

Funded projects must be completed within two years. Funded projects are anticipated to begin January 2, 2024 and end January 1, 2026. All dates are subject to change and projects will be eligible for one-year, no cost extensions.

How could proposed projects assess anticipated impacts?

GLISA uses guidance from NOAA (see below) to report our impact in the Great Lakes region. Small grant applicants may use this as a guide for considering how to track and report anticipated impacts of proposed projects. Applicants may use other metrics or evaluation methodologies.

- We built, increased, or maintained **assets**, such as data, infrastructure, tools.
- We increased the **flexibility** of our partners by showing them new options, alternative economic approaches, or helped them obtain new funding sources.
- We nurtured the **ability** of our partners **to self-organize** by supporting peer collaboratives or networks.
- We boosted **learning** outcomes, resulting in a deeper understanding of science or local knowledge related to climate, impacts, and adaptation.
- We shifted **mindsets**, resulting in documented cases of new readiness to act or acceptance of a need to act.
- We elevated a **sense of agency** by building the expertise, confidence, and capability of partners to act.

What information should I include when describing the composition of the project team?

At a minimum, please list the organization(s) anticipated to be a part of the project team. Applicants may also list the desired role(s) or positions of individuals (e.g., program manager or planner), but do not need to list individual names (e.g., Jane Doe).

How long will full proposals be? What information will be required?

We are still working on the Call for Full Proposals for the 2023 competition and therefore have not solidified certain details yet, including the page limit. In the 2019 competition, statements of work for the full proposal were limited to six pages. References, budget, budget justification, team member resumes, and letters of support were requested in addition to the six page limit.

How will awarded funds be distributed?

Grantees will invoice the University of Michigan quarterly during the project period and receive funds via check quarterly. Funds will not be distributed in a lump sum.

If I want to work with a specific GLISA team member, should I list them in my letter of intent?

GLISA team members do not need to be listed as project PIs, as our partnership and contribution to the project is provided in-kind as part of all small grant projects. In the letter of intent, you should explain the role envisioned for GLISA.