

2023 GLISA Small Grants Competition

Call for Letters of Intent

May 16, 2023

(Updated: June 12, 2023)

Overview: In 2023, [GLISA](#) will award several 2-year grants of up to \$30,000 each to organizations that will partner with us to advance equitable climate adaptation in the Great Lakes region. The competition will foster and sustain a suite of collaborative projects that build effective and equitable climate resilience in the region. Our goal is to increase GLISA's impact in the Great Lakes region and address and amplify dimensions of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) in adaptation action. We seek applicants to either: 1) scale up or improve GLISA's existing suite of tools and approaches; or 2) propose an idea to advance priorities of frontline communities and increase their capacity to adapt. All interested applicants must submit a letter of intent (LOI) by **Friday, June 30 at 5pm Eastern** (see page 5). GLISA will review all LOIs and invite select teams to submit a full proposal.

About GLISA: GLISA works at the boundary between climate science and decision-making, striving to enhance communities' capacity to understand, plan for, and respond to current and future climate impacts in the Great Lakes region. We advance this mission through applied research and engagement, and collaborative relationships with communities. GLISA is a partnership between the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, the College of Menominee Nation, and the University of Wisconsin, and serves Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin in the United States (U.S.), and the Province of Ontario in Canada. GLISA has been supported since 2010 by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Program Office as part of the Climate Adaptation Partnerships program ([CAP](#), formerly the Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments, or RISA).

Funding Approach: Since 2011, GLISA's Small Grants [Program](#) has awarded 34 small grants to organizations in the region to increase the use of climate information to support adaptation decision-making. This has allowed GLISA to amplify its impact by funding and partnering with organizations that have trusted relationships with a range of partners and climate information users. In 2023, all funded projects will continue to be a partnership between GLISA and the grantee, where GLISA offers time and resources in-kind and participates on the project team. If desired, GLISA can provide assistance like customizing climate information (e.g., past observations, future projections) and engagement support (e.g., workshop planning, co-facilitation). GLISA cannot perform new modeling or provide sector-specific expertise (i.e., engineering models, ecosystem assessments).

Funding Requirements: All proposed projects must address the following two topics.

Climate Adaptation: Projects must focus on climate adaptation in the Great Lakes region. Adaptation projects aim to understand and prepare for current and future climate impacts and limit negative

outcomes. Projects should address a specific adaptation challenge, decision, or management issue facing a particular sector, geography, or user group – defined by natural or political boundaries.

Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Projects must explain how the proposed work will integrate dimensions of JEDI throughout the proposed work. This supports GLISA's mission to advance sustainable and equitable adaptation action and NOAA's commitment to the [Justice40 Initiative](#). The NOAA Climate Program Office suggests considering the following factors when developing projects. This list is not exhaustive, but offers a range of ways to address JEDI:

- The vulnerabilities and disproportionate impacts of climate change on frontline communities including economically disadvantaged communities; historically marginalized communities; First Nations, Tribes, and Indigenous communities; and rural communities.
- Communities, towns, or neighborhoods under-resourced and underserved by technical, financial, and/or human resources (e.g., communities too small to qualify for FEMA grants) to address climate risks and vulnerabilities.
- The role of researchers and practitioners in carrying out work in ways that acknowledge existing legacies of social and environmental inequities and supporting actions that address them, including but not limited to the inclusion and compensation of frontline community members in setting project priorities.
- Diversity clearly expressed in the team structure, roles and responsibilities, team decision making approaches, institutional roles, and broader networks and partnerships.
- Contributions to a diverse, next-generation climate adaptation workforce through training, mentorship, education, and other means and by engaging with students and early career professionals.

Funding Categories: Applicants must choose from one of two funding categories: 1) scale up or improve GLISA's existing suite of tools and engagement approaches, or 2) propose an idea to advance priorities of frontline communities and increase their capacity to adapt. ***We encourage applicants to be creative and propose new partnerships or approaches.***

1. Scale up or improve GLISA's existing suite of tools and engagement approaches.

GLISA has engaged with practitioners to collaboratively develop a suite of tools and engagement approaches to integrate climate information in adaptation decision-making. GLISA seeks applicants to scale up or improve one or more of the five options listed in the table on the next page.

Scaling up refers to expanding the reach of an existing GLISA tool or engagement approach, utilizing it in its current form with partners in new locations or with different user groups. Improving and/or scaling-up a tool or approach could include, but is not limited to:

- Broadening participation in the engagement process to increase the number or type of participants compared to previous iterations (e.g., engaging community members);
- Gathering a cohort of similar participants in a collaborative learning setting (e.g., a group of municipalities or farmers);
- Convening more than one type of participant together (e.g., practitioners, residents);
- Integrating other types of knowledges (e.g., socioeconomic information, oral histories);
- Pursuing follow-up after engagement that leads to more tangible and/or equitable outcomes (e.g., actions, policies);
- Providing feedback on desired modifications to an existing tool (i.e., web platform); or,
- Developing evaluation mechanisms to measure the efficacy of the tool/approach.

GLISA TOOLS AND ENGAGEMENT APPROACHES

FloodWise Communities (FWC)

Background: FWC helps practitioners complete a municipal stormwater vulnerability assessment. The process includes a web-based tool with customized climate and socioeconomic information and a series of probing questions. The final product is a stormwater vulnerability assessment which evaluates the sensitivity and adaptive capacity of a stormwater system to climate-related flooding and other hazards. Past participants have used the assessment to update stormwater design and fees, develop hazard mitigation plans, influence capital improvement planning, secure grants, and communicate risk to community leaders.

Opportunity: Implement FWC in new locations or improve the process (web-platform cannot be modified).

To learn more: Video [tutorial](#), [factsheet](#)

Climate Hazard and Mitigation Planning (CHaMP) Tool

Background: The CHaMP Tool is an interactive website designed to summarize information that can be integrated into FEMA hazard mitigation plans and related planning efforts. Designed for local hazard mitigation, infrastructure, and land use planners, CHaMP provides users a single point of access to county- and region-specific historical climate and hazard data and projected climate information. The tool is organized by climate-hazard themes and displays climate metrics, hazard data, and hazard impacts in a visual format with downloadable data visualizations and tables that are accompanied by explanatory text.

Opportunity: Apply CHaMP to develop hazard mitigation or other plans (web-platform cannot be modified).

To learn more: Video [tutorial](#), [factsheet](#), web-based [tool](#)

Scenario Planning (SP)

Background: SP is an engagement approach used to address uncertainty in decision-making. The process engages with practitioners for several months to identify key management concerns, goals, and vulnerabilities to develop a suite of tailored climate and/or lake level scenarios describing a range of plausible futures.

Participants further customize the scenarios in a workshop where they discuss potential impacts and outline decision points and recommendations. GLISA has applied SP to a range of climate adaptation problems including ecosystem management, lake level variability, and extreme weather.

Opportunity: Expand the SP approach with new partners, locations, and/or applications.

To learn more: Video [tutorial](#), [factsheet](#)

Participatory GIS Urban Development Tool (PIVOT)

Background: In response to potential climate-induced human migration into the Great Lakes region, GLISA is developing an interactive online platform (PIVOT) using geographic information systems (GIS) to help communities plan for potential growth in an equitable way. PIVOT allows users to access data on current conditions and climate stressors related to urban growth and explore vulnerabilities. Users can identify opportunities for, and stressors from, growth in their communities and test different management scenarios. PIVOT aims to help communities learn how population increases may result in complex social and climate trade-offs over time and to consider them within changing demographics, growth patterns, and flood risk.

Opportunity: Pilot the tool in new locations and provide feedback on the web platform (can be modified).

To learn more: Video [tutorial](#), [factsheet](#), pilot web-based [tool](#)

Evaluating Frost Protection as an Adaptation Strategy

Background: GLISA is working with specialty crop commercial growers in the Great Lakes region to understand if and how they invest in frost protection adaptation strategies (i.e., convective wind machines and water sprinklers). GLISA has surveyed growers and hosted workshops in Michigan to learn about their climate information needs to ultimately determine potential economic consequences. Next steps of this work include:

1) assessing the potential of wind machine technologies to increase the economic viability of fruit production in the Great Lakes region, 2) engaging with growers to learn more about the barriers and benefits of wind machine adoption, and 3) educating growers on the latest research findings related to frost risk mitigation.

Opportunity: Partner to expand research and engagement with farmers outside of Michigan.

To learn more: Video [tutorial](#), project [webpage](#)

LOIs should clearly specify the GLISA tool or approach to be used, explain the partners to be engaged, and describe any anticipated climate information needs. The scale of proposed projects can vary based on the selected tool/approach and the time and resources needed to implement it with partners. For all projects in this category, GLISA will provide access to the tool or engagement approach and all supporting materials (e.g., web tool access, workbooks, presentations, etc.) and train the grantee. GLISA will also customize the climate data or other types of information needed to implement the tool (varies according to tool/approach) and GLISA can present at or co-facilitate workshops or other engagement activities. The grantee will be responsible for recruiting and engaging partners, planning and executing workshops or other engagement activities, and conducting follow-up, among other proposed activities. Applications that use more than one tool or approach are welcome.

2. Propose an idea to advance frontline community priorities & increase their capacity to adapt.

Since 2010, GLISA has developed partnerships with scholars and practitioners at local, state, and federal agencies, Tribal governments, professional associations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), businesses, and universities. We aim to continue expanding our partnerships to advance equitable adaptation action and support projects that directly benefit frontline communities. This category aims to better understand and elevate the knowledge, lived experiences, perspectives, and priorities of frontline communities in GLISA's work, and in climate adaptation in the Great Lakes more broadly. For this competition, GLISA considers frontline communities broadly as those who:

- Experience greater vulnerability to climate change impacts;
- Are more likely to be adversely affected by those impacts; and,
- May experience greater risk of disproportionate impacts because of historical and continuing systemic injustices that have marginalized certain communities.

These groups are often communities of color, Indigenous, low-income, or those whose lives and livelihoods depend on climate-sensitive natural resources (e.g., farmers, indigenous communities). Frontline communities can range in scale and scope, for example entire small or rural municipalities or particular neighborhoods within a larger urban municipality. However, GLISA recognizes that characterizing community identity is inherently complex, changes over time, and is best defined by communities in their own terms.

Projects in this category could cover a range of themes, topics, and geographic scales. We encourage projects that incorporate different types of knowledge and information including local and Indigenous knowledges, socioeconomic data, historical or projected climate data, and others. Proposed projects in this category should identify the frontline community partner(s) and explain how they will be recruited and engaged. Proposed projects should also have clear anticipated benefits for the identified communities and participants and should articulate how these benefits will reach these communities. Projects are encouraged to use climate information (i.e., historical observations or future projections that GLISA would provide), but this is not required.

Examples of potential themes and topics are listed in the table on the next page, but GLISA welcomes applications that reflect frontline community needs outside of this list that meet the goals of this competition.

Assess & Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assess and understand local climate risk or vulnerabilities to local climate impacts; ● Develop a community-centered adaptation or resilience plan; ● Brainstorm adaptation solutions and seek funding opportunities to implement them.
Convene & Collaborate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strengthen existing networks or form new networks to take collective action; ● Form strategic partnerships that expand capacity to respond to climate impacts; ● Facilitate inclusive conversations between various partners (e.g., frontline community members and local decision makers).
Educate & Elevate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Curate opportunities for climate education with various audiences; ● Document local climate impacts and experiences (e.g., maps, storytelling); ● Broaden community participation in local climate-related planning processes.
Investigate & Inform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conduct a community-based research project; ● Develop and pilot a new engagement approach or adaptation action; ● Evaluate the effectiveness of an existing or proposed adaptation action.

Funding Details: GLISA will award several grants of up to \$30,000 each for two-year projects. The \$30,000 should cover direct and indirect costs, and may be used to support salaries of project team members, host workshops, compensate participants, implement adaptation solutions, or fund travel. Projects intending to engage directly with community members whose time spent participating in the project is not part of a paying job should budget to compensate participants for their time. In these cases, GLISA will offer an additional \$5,000 on top of the \$30,000 for participant honorariums. GLISA’s time commitment and travel is provided in-kind and does not need to be budgeted. 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. The small grants will be administered as subawards from the University of Michigan to the grantee organization using federal funds from GLISA’s NOAA award.

Eligibility: 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. Interdisciplinary teams and partnerships are encouraged and GLISA will accept proposals from all sectors. Organizations that have received GLISA funding in the past may propose new projects, but no prior relationship with GLISA is required. To receive federal funds, all awardees will eventually need to be registered in [SAM](#) (System for Award Management) and have a UIE (Unique Entity Identifier), and provide an EIN (Employer Identification Number) from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (U.S. organizations only). This is not a requirement for the LOI stage, and the onboarding process will allow enough time and support for grantees to register in SAM and/or receive an EIN.

LOI Requirements & Review: All interested applicants must submit a letter of intent by **Friday, June 30 at 5pm Eastern** via the online [Submittable](#) platform. Applicants must create a free Submittable account to access the platform, which will also be used for notifications and the full proposal phase. The application includes a short online form with a series of questions (e.g., name, lead contact, applicant organization) and a LOI to be uploaded as a PDF attachment. Applicants (i.e.,

an individual or an organization) may submit more than one LOI. LOIs should be no more than 2 pages (1 inch margins, font size 12) and include:

- Project title;
- Composition of the project team;
- Funding category (for category 1, tool/approach to be used)
- Total requested amount, and proposed spending categories (detailed budgets not needed until the full proposal phase);
- Identification of the problem/topic (including relevant sectors and geographic scale);
- Summary of proposed work, approach, and anticipated outcomes;
- Description of partners to be engaged in, and impacted by, project activities; and,
- Anticipated role for GLISA and preferred extent of GLISA involvement (e.g., climate data, facilitation, or other needs).

Applicants should clearly articulate their experience engaging the intended partners, explaining how they will be identified, participate in, and benefit from the project. Applicants should also describe existing relationships that can be leveraged and justify why and how new relationships would be successful in a two-year project. Partner organizations intended to be on the project team (i.e., receive funding) or be engaged need not be committed at this stage, but will be expected to demonstrate in the full proposal their willingness to participate on the project (e.g., with a letter of support). Applicants should clearly articulate how the project will address dimensions of JEDI and should integrate this information throughout the LOI. The types of support GLISA can provide will depend on the funding category selected and will be described in more detail in the Call for Full Proposals. Applicants are encouraged to attend office hours (see below) with GLISA team members to discuss project ideas and GLISA's support before submitting an application.

GLISA will evaluate all LOIs and invite select teams to submit a full proposal. Applicants will not be permitted to submit a full application without submitting a LOI and receiving an invitation to submit a full proposal. LOIs will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- Specificity of problem/topic to be addressed;
- Clarity of the proposed approach, including integration of JEDI principles;
- Strength of engagement approach, including if and how impacted individuals/communities will be engaged throughout the project;
- Fit of proposed work in selected funding category;
- Ability of proposed work to advance climate adaptation and increase GLISA's impact; and,
- Feasibility to complete the work with the proposed project team, budget and two-year period.

Timeline: The Call for Full Proposals will be sent to invited applicants and will allow at least four weeks to develop and submit final proposals. Final funding decisions are expected by early October, allowing at least eight weeks for grant processing. The table below lists important dates and deadlines, all subject to change.

Funding opportunity open	May 16, 2023
Informational webinar (recording)	May 23, 2023
GLISA office hours (sign-up)	May 16-June 30, 2023

LOI deadline (extended)	June 30, 2023 at 5pm ET
Invitation to submit full proposals	July 24, 2023
GLISA office hours for questions (online)	August 2023
Full proposal deadline	September 1, 2023
Notification of awardees	October 2, 2023
Projects begin	January 2, 2024

Expectations for Grantees: Projects are anticipated to begin January 2, 2024 and end January 1, 2026. All awardees will be expected to:

- Submit short progress reports every 6-12 months;
- Participate in quarterly calls with the cohort of 2023 small grantees;
- Disseminate and present results and outcomes with their networks;
- Collaborate with GLISA to produce at least one public, final deliverable highlighting project goals, activities and impacts (e.g., white paper, impact story, podcast, news article); and,
- Continue to engage with GLISA team members conducting ongoing evaluation of climate adaptation in the region (e.g., participate in a follow-up interview, complete a survey, or provide a testimonial after the project period ends).

For More Information: GLISA hosted an informational webinar on Tuesday, May 23, 2023. A [recording](#) and frequently asked questions (FAQ) can be found on our [website](#). GLISA will also host office hours throughout May and June and applicants are highly encouraged to [sign-up](#) to discuss and receive preliminary feedback on their ideas. Applicants may also reach out to GLISA directly with any questions or accommodation requests by contacting GLISA's Sustained Engagement Specialist, Tori Graves Field, at gravesvi@umich.edu.