

SUSTAIN OUR GREAT LAKES



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Eligibility

Is an organization that currently has a NFWF Sustain Our Great Lakes grant eligible to apply for additional funding?

- Yes, organizations with active Sustain Our Great Lakes grants are eligible to receive additional grants. An organization cannot have more than two active grants for different phases of the same project, but otherwise there is no formal limit on how many grants an organization may have at one time.

Can an organization submit more than one application? Can an organization receive more than one grant award?

- Yes, an organization may submit multiple applications. It is possible for an organization to receive more than one award under a single funding cycle. It's more common for an organization to receive one award, but some organizations have received multiple awards on rare occasion.

Is there a request amount ceiling for grant requests?

- Grant size can range from \$100,000 – \$1 million.

Is equipment purchase or rental eligible for funding?

- Yes, equipment purchase and rental is an eligible expense.

Can an eligible organization that receives a grant use SOGL funding to contract with a for-profit business in order to complete the project work?

- Yes, Sustain Our Great Lakes funding can support contracted labor that contributes to the restoration effort.

Can funding be used to pay salaries of permanent staff?

- Yes, staff salaries are an eligible expense. Your project budget (provided at the full proposal stage) should include a cost breakdown that lists line-item expenses, including labor and fringe benefits.

Can restoration projects occur on private lands protected by a conservation easement?

- Yes, grant funding can support work on private land and the existence of a conservation easement on the property does not affect eligibility. It should be apparent that the proposed restoration doesn't violate any of the terms of the easement.

Can restoration work take place on public and private land?

- Sustain Our Great Lakes funds work on public and private lands. For work on private land, it is important to demonstrate that there is a long-term commitment by the landowner to manage the property for conservation purposes.

What areas in Canada can receive Sustain Our Great Lakes funding?

- Most of the available funding will be directed to projects in the United States. Approximately \$200,000–400,000 may be directed to projects in Canada. Within Canada, preference will be given to projects in the western Lake Ontario region, particularly near Hamilton.

Timeline and Payment

When are awards expected to be announced? What is the earliest start date that can be anticipated?

- We anticipate awards being announced in mid-August with grant agreements being developed over the subsequent 4 to 8 weeks. We anticipate grant agreements to be in place for most projects by October. The start date indicated in an application should not precede August 12, 2019.

Is this a reimbursement grant, or is the funding provided up front?

- Most grants are paid on a reimbursable basis. Grantees typically bill us as they incur costs, according to the schedule they prefer, and we can provide payment as frequently as twice per month. In rare instances, grantees may receive payments in advance of incurring expenses if the need for a cash advance can be justified.

Is there a typical or average acre size per project?

- Project size can vary, but funded projects will typically restore or enhance habitat on the order of tens of acres or hundreds of stream feet at a minimum.

Metrics

What kinds of quantifiable metrics are grantees expected to track?

- If invited to submit a full proposal, applicants will use a dropdown in the Easygrants application menu to select metrics relevant to the project being proposed. There are many choices, and only a small subset of them is likely to be appropriate for any given project. For each metric selected, applicants will indicate the current condition (e.g., 0 acres restored) as well as the expected condition at grant completion (e.g., 30 acres restored). A few examples include: wetland acres restored, number of passage barriers rectified, and/or miles of instream habitat restored.
- Please see the "Guidance for Applicants – Metrics" document for more details at www.nfwf.org/greatlakes

Match and Indirect Rate

Is there a match requirement that must be met for an organization to receive funding?

- Although there is no formal match requirement for this program, projects that meet or exceed a 1:1 match ratio of non-federal sources are more competitive. Applicants are also encouraged to indicate relevant federal contributions.

What types of sources can qualify as matching contributions?

- Cash
- In-kind contributions of staff or volunteer time
- Work performed, materials or services donated in support of the project
- Cost of land acquisition or easement for a project involving work at the protected site
- Indirect costs in some cases, so long as it fits within NFWF's indirect policy

Matching contributions must also be:

- Verifiable from the grantee's records
- Not included as contributions for any other award
- Necessary and reasonable for accomplishment of project or program objectives
- Allowable costs based on the program and funding source guidelines
- Committed directly to the project and must be used within the period of performance

Where can I find more information about NFWF's indirect policy?

- A thorough explanation of National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's indirect policy can be found on the NFWF website ([click here](#) to open the webpage).

Can a Sustain Our Great Lakes grant be used to supplement habitat restoration projects funded by other GLRI grants?

- Yes, Sustain Our Great Lakes grant funding can be used to supplement funding from other GLRI grants.

Funding consideration/priority

How many applications do you typically get in a year and how many do you fund?

- In the past three years, the program has received an average of 122 applications per year and awarded an average of 21 grants per year, representing an application success rate of 22%.