



Clean Lakes Grants

Instructions & Application

Overview

Clean Lakes Alliance offers grants to support action and build partner capacity around the goal of improving the health and water quality of our five Yahara lakes: Mendota, Monona, Wingra, Waubesa, and Kegonsa. Consideration will be given to funding requests, up to a maximum of \$10,000 per applicant, that advance impactful projects, programs, and educational initiatives within the Yahara watershed. Requests will be considered that address any of the following five categories.

Eligible Project Categories

1. **Farmland Conservation:** Supports farmers and producers in adopting conservation practices that reduce phosphorus sources, build soil health, control runoff, and/or prevent soil erosion.
2. **Leaf-Free Streets:** Supports municipalities and residents in removing leaves and other debris that accumulates on urban and residential streets each fall.
3. **Resilient Landscapes/Green Infrastructure:** Supports projects and initiatives that use nature-based and green-infrastructure practices to improve habitat and reduce the amount of runoff, phosphorus, and E. coli entering the lakes. Examples include rain gardens, native plantings, bioswales, infiltration devices, permeable surfaces, etc.
4. **Beaches & In-Lake Management:** Supports efforts taking place at the shoreline and within the lakes themselves that foster improved access, better water quality, and enhanced understanding and enjoyment of the resource.
5. **Youth & Family-Friendly Education:** Supports efforts that connect K-12 students and families to the lakes, foster inclusivity among diverse communities, and generate greater awareness about our lakes and watersheds.

Eligible Project Locations

Projects must be located within the Yahara River Watershed (see map on last page), with priority given to project areas that drain directly to one of the five Yahara lakes.

Grant Period

Project work promised under the grant must be completed within one year of the official award date.

Eligible Applicants

Local units of government, colleges and universities, schools, and 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations

Application Review Process

Following an eligibility review by Clean Lakes Alliance staff, a panel of technical reviewers for each project category will review proposals, provide comments, and assign points using the project evaluation criteria outlined below. Clean Lakes Alliance staff will use technical scores to compare projects and make funding recommendations to relevant boards and committees for final funding decisions. Applicants should expect the review process to take 30-60 days following receipt of a complete application.

Evaluation Criteria

Priority consideration is given to proposals that support: 1) the mission and goals of Clean Lakes Alliance (see cleanlakesalliance.org); and 2) action recommendations in *RENEW THE BLUE: A Community Guide to Cleaner Lakes & Beaches in the Yahara Watershed* (see Yahara CLEAN page of our website).

Distribution of Grant Funds

Successful applicants will receive their awarded funds on a reimbursement basis. Funds will be released within 45 days following notification of project completion through the submission of a final report documenting outcomes and project-eligible expenses.

Clean Lakes Grant Application Form

How to Submit Your Application

1. Complete the Clean Lakes Grant Application Form
2. Submit a digital copy of your application and any attachments by emailing it to info@cleanlakesalliance.org . Please put "Clean Lakes Grant Application" in the subject line of your email.

Questions? Please direct questions to Clean Lakes Alliance at (608) 255-1000 or info@cleanlakesalliance.org

Type of project <i>(select the category that best fits the proposal)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Farmland Conservation <input type="checkbox"/> Leaf-Free Streets <input type="checkbox"/> Resilient Landscapes/Green Infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/> Beaches & In-Lake Management <input type="checkbox"/> Youth & Family-Friendly Education
Project Title	
Project Location	
Organization Name	
Organization Address	
Contact Person	
Contact Email	
Contact Phone	

Project Description

Briefly describe the project for which funding is requested (300-word max)

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Problem or Need Addressed

Briefly describe the specific problem or need that this proposal will address.

Impact of Project

Briefly describe the project and the impact it will have on the Yahara lakes.

- *Describe the extent to which the problem, need, or priority will be addressed by the project.*
- *Describe the extent to which the project leverages other technical or financial resources.*
- *Describe the anticipated measurable results that you will be able to report. Use the following suggested measures as applicable:*
 - *Projected audience and number of individuals impacted*
 - *Impact on raising awareness or fostering action around the problem or opportunity*
 - *Anticipated change in behavior and how that change will be assessed*
 - *Sustainability of the estimated benefits*
 - *Reduction in pounds of phosphorus delivered to the lakes and method of quantification*

Methodology and Deliverables

Briefly explain how you will accomplish the project and fulfill stated goals. Include specific tasks with explanation for how they will lead to the planned work products/deliverables.

Timetable

Provide a brief outline of your timeline and major milestones.

Budget

Provide a line item budget for your proposed project. Include the sources and amounts of other funding you have received or are requesting. While an applicant match is not required, it can help your technical score if you are leveraging other financial resources or contributing a significant amount of volunteer labor or other resources to the project.

SAMPLE BUDGET

Activity	Funding Request	Applicant Match	Total Budget
Personnel		\$16,000	\$16,000
Equipment	\$3,000	\$1,000	\$4,000
Supplies	\$2,000		\$2,000
Advertising/Brochures	\$1,500		\$1,500
Construction			
Other			
Indirect Charges			
Totals	\$6,500	\$20,000	\$23,500

