Freshwater Future’s Grant Programs

The goal of Freshwater Future’s grant programs is to provide financial support for activities led by community groups working to promote river, lake, shoreline, wetland, groundwater, and drinking water protection in the Great Lakes Basin through grassroots advocacy efforts.

**PROJECT GRANTS:** The Project Grant Program provides awards ranging from $500 to $5,000 (USD) for grassroots project expenses and activities that promote water protection. This can be done through influencing community or individual behavior, addressing corporate conduct, or encouraging good public policies. Projects should strengthen the role of individuals and community groups working locally to protect shorelines, inland lakes, rivers, groundwater, drinking water and wetlands in the Great Lakes Basin.

**Spring Cycle Deadline:** March 31, 2020
**Fall Cycle Deadline:** September 30, 2020

We will be offering a webinar before the deadline to discuss this grant program and answer your questions before applying. Visit freshwaterfuture.org/grants/project-grant-program/ for webinar dates.

**SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY GRANTS:** Special Opportunity Grants are “emergency grants” for projects working to protect shorelines, inland lakes, rivers, groundwater, drinking water and wetlands that may not coincide with the application timeline or funding period of the Project Grant Program, up to $500 (USD).

*No Application Deadline:* Qualifying applications are funded until funds are depleted for the year.

**CONSULTING GRANTS:** Formerly known as Insight Grants, Consulting Grants provide awards ranging from $500 to $3,000 (USD) in value to improve organizational effectiveness of grassroots organizations through customized trainings and services on board development, membership expansion, communications, fundraising, strategic planning, and more. Grant funds are used for Freshwater Future staff time to provide professional assistance to your project or organization. No Application Deadline: Qualifying applications are funded until funds are depleted for the year.

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION INFORMATION ON REVERSE.**

For a detailed description of Freshwater Future’s Grants Programs, visit: freshwaterfuture.org
You Should Apply If:

• You are part of a grassroots initiative that is working to protect rivers, lakes, wetlands, shorelines, groundwater, or drinking water within the Great Lakes Basin.
• Your organization is a Freshwater Future member. You may already be one! Check your status and learn about membership benefits at 231-348-8200.
• Your organization is a registered 501(c)(3) [US] or charity [Canada], or you have a sponsor that is. We can help with this!

What You’ll Need to Apply:

• Your completed application, available at freshwaterfuture.org/grants. You can contact us anytime to discuss completing your grant application. We encourage you to call at least 10 days prior to the application deadline.
• Your current Freshwater Future membership. Check your membership status with us at 231-348-8200.

What Do We Mean by Grassroots? Grassroots groups are those with limited funds that rely on volunteers for all or a majority of their work. While Freshwater Future has no specific budgetary limitation for eligibility, it is highly unlikely a group with an annual budget over approximately $200,000 will be considered eligible as a grassroots initiative.

What Do We Mean by Advocacy? This is the part of your project that aims to encourage permanent and broad-reaching change at the corporate, community, or regulatory level. This goes beyond education or stewardship by providing people or institutions with the tools, resources, and information they need to implement lasting change. However, the program does not support lobbying. Please call if you have questions about what counts as lobbying.

How We Can Provide Additional Support: An important strength of Freshwater Future is the linkage between funding assistance and other services to help make you stronger. For more information about capacity building, consulting and/or coaching, please give us a call at 231-348-8200 or visit freshwaterfuture.org.

Please visit our website to view past grantees’ work.

DEADLINE TO APPLY:
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Thank you to our Program Grants Funder: