

2025 GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

**SPRING CYCLE DEADLINE:
MARCH 31, 2025**

FRESHWATER FUTURE'S GRANT PROGRAMS

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 by 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 drinking water, shorelines, inland lakes, rivers, wetlands, and groundwater in the Great Lakes Basin.



Freshwater Future's grant programs provide financial support to community groups working locally to protect drinking water, shorelines, inland lakes, rivers, wetlands, and groundwater in the Great Lakes Basin through grassroots advocacy efforts.



SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY GRANTS

Special Opportunity Grants are "emergency grants" for projects working to protect drinking water, shorelines, inland lakes, rivers, groundwater, and wetlands that may not coincide with the application timeline or funding period of the Project Grant Program. Grant awards are up to \$750 (USD).



Please visit our website for more details about our Grants Programs and to view past grantees' work at freshwaterfuture.org/grant-programs.

ABOUT PROGRAM

Freshwater Future grant programs have provided more than \$5.8 million over the past 29 years that support community-based efforts to protect the waters in our Great Lakes region. Visit our website for a map of projects.

ASSISTANCE FOR APPLICANTS

WE ARE HERE TO HELP! Please call us to discuss potential projects and ask questions! Call Alana to see if your project is a good fit for our grants program.

Contact: Alana Honaker
Alana@freshwaterfuture.org
231-348-8200, ext 6

LEARN MORE

View previous Q&A Webinar



See Frequently Asked Questions



YOU SHOULD APPLY IF:

- You are part of a grassroots initiative working to protect drinking water, rivers, lakes, wetlands, shorelines, or ground-water within the Great Lakes Basin. This includes projects completed outside the basin in the Great Lakes states that will positively impact policy or 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. A letter from sponsors is part of the application process. We can help!

SCAN ME



To access grant applications, scan the QR code above or go to our online grants portal.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY ADVOCACY

This is the part of your project that encourages 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.

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 approx. \$200,000 will be considered eligible as a grassroots initiative.

TYPES OF ACTIVITIES WE DO NOT FUND

- Education projects that do not include an action component to create permanent change
- On-the-ground restoration projects without an action component
- Water sampling projects without an advocacy component
- Governmental functions (including governmental entities such as units of government, governmental agencies, conservation districts, and conservation authorities)
- Lobbying activities (activities that attempt to influence specific pieces of legislation)
- Projects that have already been completed
- Consulting activities for organizational capacity building or strategy development services – these activities available through our Coaching and Consulting Grants Program: *See website.*