



FRESHWATER™  
F U T U R E

# Grants Q&A

September 2026



# Who are we?

**Mission:** to catalyze community action that strengthens policies designed to safeguard the waters of the Great Lakes region.



Grants



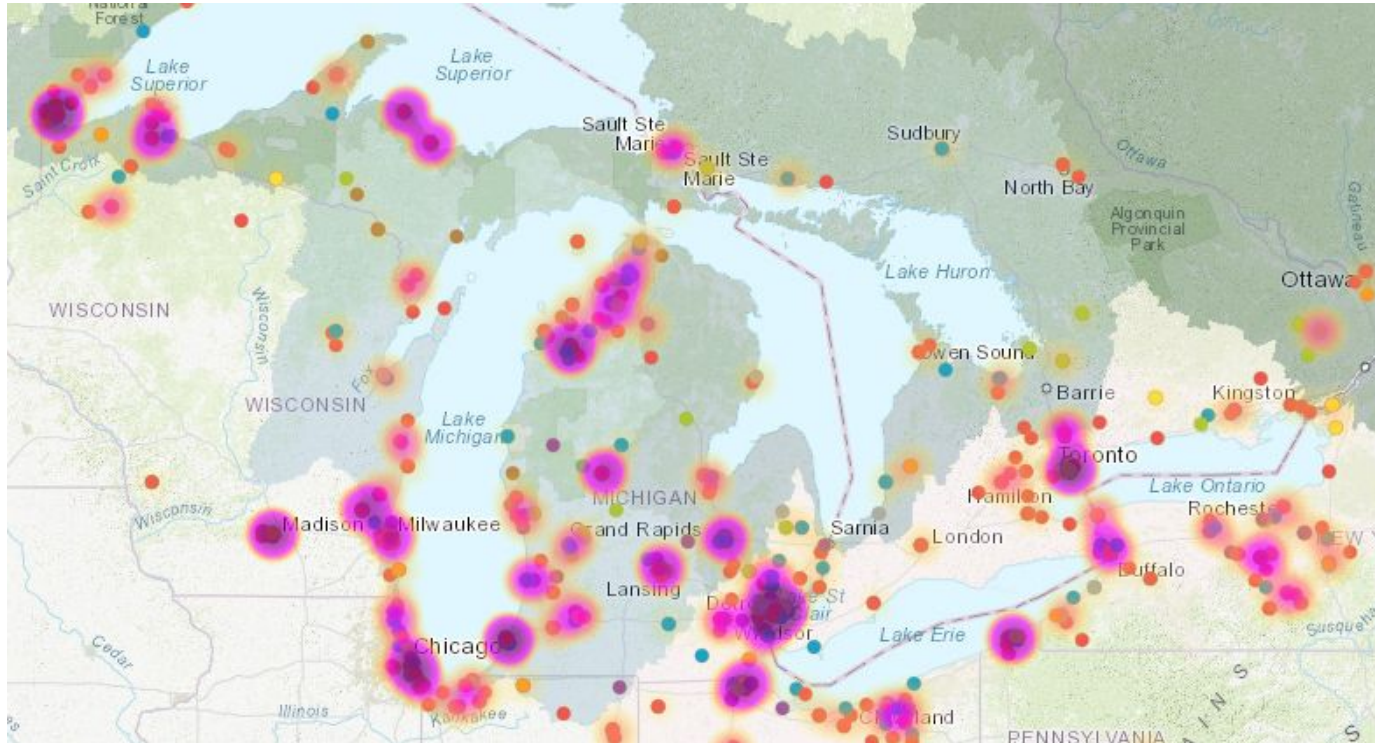
Policy



Coaching &  
Consulting

*Photos: Citizens for a Clean & Safe Lake Superior and Freshwater Future*

## 30 years: Over \$6 million in 1,500 grants



# Requirements

- ✓ Grassroots + advocacy
- ✓ Great Lakes Region
- ✓ Current organizational member
- ✓ 501(c)3 or sponsored

If you have already received a grant:

- ✓ No outstanding grant reports
- ✓ One project grant per calendar year



*Photo: Lake Superior Watershed Conservancy, Canoes for Conservation.*

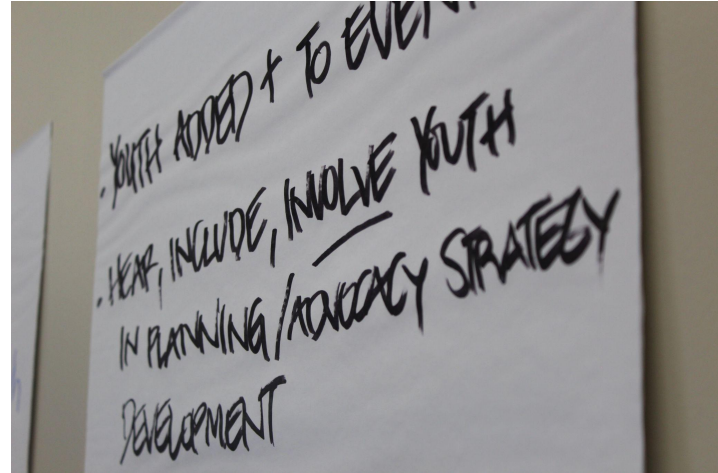
# Grassroots

Volunteers & limited funds



# Advocacy

Support for or recommendation of a particular cause or policy



*Photos: Freshwater Future.*

# Membership Benefits

- Networks to exchange information with others
- Apply for grants
- Consulting assistance at reduced fees
- Newsletter, online resources, toolkits
- Training and events



*Photo: Citizens for a Safe & Clean Lake Superior*



*Photo: Water Is Life Festival.*

## Types of Projects We Fund

- Ongoing or permanent change that improves water resources
- Watch-dogging and participating in the development, implementation, and enforcement of water protection regulations
- Creating opportunities to strengthen citizen involvement

# Types of Projects We Do NOT Fund

- ✗ Governmental functions (including governmental entities such as units of government, governmental agencies and conservation districts)
- ✗ Lobbying activities (activities that attempt to influence specific pieces of legislation)
- ✗ Projects that have already been completed
- ✗ Consulting activities for organization capacity building or strategy development services
- ✗ Partisan election activities
- ✗ Monitoring projects that don't have a strong advocacy component.

# Process and Timeline

- Deadline: **September 30, 2026**
- Grant period: January 1, 2027 to December 31, 2027
- Report due: January 31, 2028
- Have questions? **Contact us** for assistance.



*Pexels photo / Ken Jacob*

# Questions to Ask Yourself When Applying

- What is the water-related problem that we are addressing?
- Who are the decision-makers who can help make change in addressing this problem?
- How will we connect with the decision-maker?
- What tools and information can we provide to educate the decision-maker?
- Would it help to discuss this with someone outside our group to see if they have additional insights? Don't hesitate to call us!

# Other Opportunities



## Special Opportunity Grants

Up to \$750

No deadline



## Coaching & Consulting Grants

Assistance from  
Freshwater Future staff

# Other Opportunities

- Board development
- Succession planning
- Fundraising
- Finance assistance
- Advocacy strategy
- Membership planning
- Marketing strategy
- Nonprofit registration



## Coaching & Consulting Grants

Assistance from  
Freshwater Future staff

# Questions?



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