

Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM CALL FOR PROPOSALS

LAKE ONTARIO COASTAL INITIATIVE and THE GREAT LAKES RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

LAKE ONTARIO'S COASTAL REGION—A CRITICAL ISSUE

The U.S. portion of Lake Ontario's shoreline and watershed lies wholly in New York State. Lake Ontario coastal waters are a valuable resource for drinking water, recreational boating, fishing and swimming, tourism, and waste water processing, and a key asset in the economic revitalization of upstate New York. Despite significant water quality improvements in the open, offshore waters of the Lake over the last three decades, the 300 miles of shoreline, river and creek mouths, and embayments suffer from many impairments that limit their recreational use, elevate the cost of drinking water withdrawals serving over a million customers, including the Rochester and Syracuse metropolitan areas, and affect the region's recreation and tourism-based economy and property values, which are reliant on high quality water resources. These impairments include algae blooms, habitat destruction, erosion, sedimentation, turbidity plumes, invasive species and nutrient enrichment.

The mission of the Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative (LOCI), encompassing all of New York State's North Coast stakeholders from the Niagara River to the St. Lawrence River, is to enlist and retain broad public commitment for remediation, restoration, protection, conservation and sustainable use of the coastal region. This mission will be accomplished by securing funds and resources to achieve scientific understanding, educate citizens, and implement locally supported priorities, programs and projects as identified through the "Action Agenda".

General Information

This small grants program provides seed funding for new, cooperative approaches to projects with the potential to improve understanding and/or management of New York's "north coast" including embayments, rivers, creeks and their watersheds. The program is intended to supplement the Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative restoration and remediation program and to expand the program to include cooperative projects between academic institutions, local governments, non-profit organizations and others. Small grants of up to \$10,000 each will be awarded. Awards can be used either 1) as seed money for pilot projects, preliminary research or project planning that leads to larger projects or 2) to support small-scale projects consistent with the goals and objectives established by the Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative "Action Agenda" (See the following web site: <http://www.envsci.brockport.edu/LOCI/>). In this program, we encourage working with local government and community organizations to identify local and regional issues. The money for this program comes from funds provided by Congressman Walsh of New York State.

Money Available: The maximum amount for an individual grant is \$10,000. Grants will be in the form of a Research Foundation of SUNY contract. These funds are subject to all applicable rules and regulations of the Research Foundation of SUNY and EPA. No indirect costs are allowed. We expect to fund 3-5 projects through this solicitation. Award decisions and funds are anticipated to be available by 15 April 2006. The small grants program is targeted at research, applied or theoretical, on the coastal zone. Funding for remediation and restoration projects (\$260,000 total) will be under another RFP.

Proposal Submission: *Proposals must be postmarked or delivered no later than March*

15, 2006. An original and 5 copies of each full proposal should be submitted to: Dr. Joseph Makarewicz, Department of Environmental Science and Biology, 125 Lennon Hall, SUNY Brockport, Brockport, NY 14420. **One copy of each proposal should be e-mailed to jmakarew@brockport.edu.**

Purpose of the Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative

For the purpose of this RFP, coastal zone is defined as the nearshore of Lake Ontario including creeks, rivers, embayments and the immediate watershed of Lake Ontario.

The following are “types of projects” that are eligible:

- Research identifying contamination and causes of contamination of the coastal zone of Lake Ontario;
- Collection and analysis of historical data not available in the open literature on the coastal zone of Lake Ontario;
- Development of processes/models that create a hierarchical, tier-based or priority based approach to focus restoration and remediation of the coastal zone of Lake Ontario;
- Development of new or improved environmental remediation or restoration technologies applicable to the Lake Ontario coastal zone;
- Field testing of best management plans (BMPs) for restoration and remediation of the coastal zone;
- Research to assess State and Federal legislation and policy that pertain to protecting the coastal zone; and
- Assessment of the health of the Great Lakes fish, wildlife, waterfowl and other organisms associated with the Lake Ontario coastal zone.

The top five “priority areas” of research identified by a Great Lakes Research Consortium and LOCI workshop on Coastal and Watershed issues are:

1. Long-term monitoring of the coastal zone and embayments.
2. Creating a rank order of watersheds for remediation based on nutrient loading, RAP status, etc.
3. Segment analysis of sub-watersheds to identify location of pollution sources.
4. Development of a central location of literature, especially “grey” literature, pertaining to Lake Ontario coastal zone and embayments.
5. Quantification of natural resources through GIS of the coastal and embayment areas.

The full list of research topics identified at the Workshop may be viewed at <http://www.envsci.brockport.edu/LOCI/>

Reports: A final report on research accomplished is due two months after the completion date of the project. **Five percent of funding will be withheld until a final report is received.**

Proposal Review: The Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative (LOCI) establishes a review panel to evaluate proposals based on technical merit and how well each proposal furthers the goals, objectives and criteria of the Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative. The review panel provides the ranking to the Executive Committee of LOCI, which selects projects for funding.

Proposal Format:

A. Cover Sheet

1. Project Title
2. Principal Investigator Name, Affiliation, Address, City, State, Zip, Phone, Fax, Email
3. Collaborator(s) Name, Affiliation, Address, City, State, Zip, Phone, Fax, Email

4. Amount Requested

B. Proposal: The text of the proposal should be no more than 4 pages, excluding supporting materials.

1. Abstract: Briefly summarize the problem, scope of work, nature of collaboration, and significance to the priorities of the Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative.

2. Statement of the Problem: State the issues that are to be addressed by the project and how the project relates to the objectives and priorities of LOCI. This is very important and should be clear and concise.

3. Scope of Work: Describe the purpose and scope of work to be accomplished. Include the following: the purpose of the project and the specific objectives to be achieved; end-products of this project and how these products will be used to further develop the project and raise additional funding in the future.

4. Personnel and Collaboration: Describe the nature and degree of collaboration between those involved. Describe the personnel to be assigned to this project. If the project will involve an internship, list major professor and how the intern will be recruited. Include resumes of lead personnel.

5. Budget The budget should include the following items:

a. Amount of Funds Requested.

b. Matching Funds: If matching funds are applied, show them in the budget. Please use only other than state funds for match. Matching funds are not required for this program.

c. Person-months. Person-months must be broken down into LOCI-funded and contributed shares.

d. Fringe benefits are paid only for personnel on other than state payroll.

e. Permanent equipment. This is defined as items having a life of two or more years and/or a cost of \$500 or more. For items fitting this description, attach a *separate written justification*. It is important to note that the purchase of equipment is not a priority.

f. Indirect costs. Because of the nature of this program, **no indirect costs should be assessed.**

Funding Criteria: The intent of the Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative Small Grants Program is to promote “research” projects that contribute to the understanding of problems or issues associated with coastal Lake Ontario - including bays, rivers and watersheds of Lake Ontario. *Projects funded by this small grants program must meet one or more of the “priority areas and “types of eligible projects” listed above, and must satisfy the following criteria:*

Appropriate Project must be consistent with the goals and purposes of LOCI.

Collaborative Project must foster communication and cooperative action between NY’s colleges, universities, state and local governments, business and industry, environmental or conservation organizations.

Effective Proposals must demonstrate how the project will lead to measurable progress in achieving the goals and priorities of the Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative.

Productive Projects must demonstrate how the award will be used to initiate a new project and how this project will then be able to grow into a larger project consistent with LOCI goals and purposes.

Relevant Projects should describe their relevance to significant Lake Ontario Coastal issues.