



Great Lakes Air Deposition Program

FY 2016 Indiana Solicitation for Proposals



Proposals Due: August 26, 2015 5:00 p.m.

Application material at: <http://www.in.gov/idem/airquality/2635.htm>

Background Information

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is soliciting for project proposals under the Great Lakes Air Deposition (GLAD) program. GLAD is a program set up to address the deposition of toxic pollutants and how these pollutants adversely affect not only human, but also ecosystem health in the Great Lakes basin. In the past, GLAD, under the efforts of the Great Lake Commissions (GLC) and United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), has been able to engage scientific leaders to better understand the sources of toxic pollutants by supporting more than 35 projects that identify, quantify, and reduce the sources, environmental transport process, deposition rates, fate, and impacts of toxic pollutants into the Great Lakes region. The GLAD program places a large emphasis on promoting scientific efforts that will increase the ability to manage this complicated but urgent environmental issue.

For the first year under IDEM, the GLAD program will be used to set in motion a need to better understand the impacts associated with the deposition of pollutants and what can be done to aid in relief efforts. Through this annual solicitation, IDEM will be able to help educate the public about the impacts associated with the persistent chemicals in the environment surrounding the Great Lakes Region. IDEM hopes to aid in the efforts of maintaining the delicate ecosystem of the Great Lakes by working closely with leading scientists to help further scientifically sound management of atmospheric deposition.

Proposals should concentrate on the toxic pollutants of concern that are present in and around the atmosphere of the Great Lakes region and promote efforts to reduce their deposition. In addition, proposals should demonstrate the need for work and show that the pollutant(s) being examined are being deposited from the atmosphere at a rate that could cause adverse human or wildlife impact. Submitted proposals must clearly describe how the project will aid in reducing the input and/or impact of atmospheric deposition of toxic pollutants in the environment.

IDEM and GLAD program priority activities for the current year include projects that focus on reducing emissions of pollutants through new or developed technologies and/or policies,

reduction of toxic pollutants which have bioaccumulated in the ecosystem, and improving the understanding of the transport and deposition of the pollutants within the Great Lakes.

General Information

Available Funds

The available funding for the current year of the GLAD program operating under IDEM will be approximately \$90,000. Funding is made available through U.S. EPA. Successful applicants will be invited to enter into a grant agreement with IDEM to perform the work described within their proposal. Choices will be based on the selection criteria identified in Attachment A. IDEM anticipates funding 1-2 projects depending on the scope of work and cost per proposal.

Eligibility

All institutions and individuals are eligible to apply for funding. The sole exclusion is federal agencies of the United States government. Any questions regarding eligibility should be directed to Amanda Raber at (317) 233-6870 or emailed to araber@idem.IN.gov.

Question/Inquiry Process

All questions/inquiries regarding this solicitation for proposals must be submitted in writing by the deadline of **5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on July 10, 2015**. Questions/Inquiries may be submitted via email to araber@idem.IN.gov and must be received by the time and date indicated above.

Following the question/inquiry due date, IDEM will compile a list of the questions/inquiries submitted by all respondents. The responses will be posted to the IDEM website by **July 22, 2015 by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time**. Only answers posted on the IDEM website will be considered official and valid by the IDEM. No Respondent shall rely upon, take any action, or make any decision based upon any verbal communication with any State employee.

Matching Funds Requirements

This program under GLAD and IDEM does not have a requirement for matching funds or cost sharing. However, project proposals that specify specific levels of fund or cost leveraging will be given greater consideration during the evaluation process.

Project Duration

All sponsored projects must be completed within 24 months or less (depending on the scope of work) from the issue date of the grant agreement with IDEM. No extensions will be granted.

Program Objectives and Priorities

The Great Lakes are among the most sensitive ecosystems in the world to toxic contaminant deposition and accumulation. Thanks to programs such as GLAD, the Great Lakes Region is considered a leader in gaining scientific understanding of the threats associated with toxic pollutants. In turn, this is aiding in forming strong management approaches to help combat the atmospheric deposition of environmental contaminants. The GLAD program strives to support research that will promote the reduction of emissions and deposition of contaminants. The chemicals of greatest concern include those that are persistent in the environment, bioaccumulative, and are toxic to humans or the wildlife, also known as persistent bioaccumulative toxins (PBTs). In addition, other pollutants of concern will also be considered based on new and expanding scientific information regarding air deposition to the Great Lakes region. Many major pollutants of concern for the Great Lakes Region are listed in Table 1.

Despite all the progress already made, many more developments are needed to enable the effective management of the toxic pollutants being deposited in the regions waters. The GLAD program helps recognize and support projects that identify and quantify the sources of contamination and understand the transport processes, deposition rates, as well as, the fate and impacts of pollutants on human and wildlife health.

Project priorities include, atmospherically deposited toxic pollutants and their impacts on wildlife, how local and global climate change can affect toxic deposition and bioaccumulation in the Great Lakes basin, monitoring of atmospheric pollutants in the Great Lakes under such groups as Coordinated Science and Monitoring Initiative (CSMI), and emerging compounds and the impacts associated with them. Projects that are able to demonstrate a possibility to reduce emissions and deposition will be given more clout in the decision process as well as those that address the aforementioned priorities. Applicants are encouraged to propose any projects they believe are consistent with the goals of the GLAD program and IDEM. Due to funding restraints, not all priorities may be funded. Projects *must* specify how the proposed activities will apply to ongoing and future policy, regulatory and/or pollution prevention efforts.

| Table 1: Great Lakes Contaminants of Concern and Relevant Programs and Legislation | Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement | Great Waters Pollutants of Concern | CAAA section 112 HAPS (subtitle b) | Binational Toxics Strategy (Levels 1&2) | EPA priority PBTs | EPA Urban Air Toxics | EPA National Toxics Inventory | Great Lakes Water Quality Initiative | CAAA section 112 (c)6 | Stockholm Convention | Lake Michigan LaMP | Lake Huron LaMP | Lake Superior LaMP | Lake Erie LaMP | Lake Ontario LaMP |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 2,3,7,8 Tetrachloro-dibenzofuran | | X | | 1 | X | | X | | X | X | | | | | |
| 2,3,7,8-Tetrachloro-dibenzo-p-dioxin | | X | | 1 | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Acrylamide | X | | X | | | | X | | | | | | | | |
| Aldrin / Dieldrin | | X | | 1 | | | | X | | X | | | X | X | X |
| Alkyl Lead | | X | | 1 | X | X | | | X | | | | | X | |
| alpha-Hexachlorocyclohexane | | X | | 2 | | | X | | | | | | | X | |
| Arsenic | X | | X | | | X | X | X | | | X | X | | X | |
| Benzo(a)pyrene | | | X | 1 | X | X | X | X | X | | X | | | X | |
| Cadmium | X | X | X | | | X | X | X | | | X | X | | X | |
| Carbon Tetrachloride | | | X | | | X | | X | | | | | | | |
| Chlordane | X | X | X | 1 | X | | | X | | X | X | X | X | X | |
| Chromium | X | | X | 2 | | X | X | X | | | X | X | | X | |
| DDT | X | X | | 1 | X | | | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Hexachlorobenzene | | X | X | 1 | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | |
| Lead | X | X | X | | | X | X | X | | | X | X | | X | |
| Lindane | | X | X | 2 | | | X | X | | | | | | X | |
| Mercury | X | X | X | 1 | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X |
| Mirex | | | | 1 | X | | | | | | | | | X | X |
| Octachlorostyrene | | | | 1 | X | | | | | | | | X | | |
| Pentachlorophenol | X | | X | 1 | | | | X | | | | | | | |
| Polychlorinated Biphenyls | X | X | X | 1 | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Polychlorinated Dibenzodioxins | | X | | 1 | X | | | | | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Polychlorinated Dibenzofurans | | X | | 1 | X | | | | | X | X | | | | |
| Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons | | X | X | 2 | | X | X | | X | | | | | X | X |
| Toxaphene | X | X | X | 1 | X | | X | X | | X | X | | X | X | |

Proposal Review and Selection

Process

Selection of proposals will be made based on the program objectives and priorities determined by the GLAD program selection team. The selection team will be comprised of IDEM staff with past experience selecting GLAD grant recipients along with those with expertise in atmospheric deposition of toxic pollutants. The team will consider a number of factors in the decision process. Please see selection criteria.

Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria listed in Attachment A. Each application will be given a numerical score and will be rank-ordered according to the numerical score. Preliminary funding recommendations will be decided based on this ranking.

Reward Notifications

IDEM anticipates notification to the *successful* applicant will be made via email or postal mail. The notification will advise the applicant that its proposed project has been successfully evaluated and recommended for award. The notification will be made to the original signer of the proposal.

This notification, which advises that the applicant's proposed project has been recommended for award, is **not** an authorization to begin performance. At a minimum, it could take up to 6-8 weeks from the date of recommendation before grants are awarded.

IDEM anticipates notification to *unsuccessful* applicant(s) will be made via email or postal mail. The notification will be made to the original signer of the proposal.

Additional Guidance

Proposal formatting

Proposals should have a one-inch margin, no smaller than 12 point font, and in Times New Roman.

- a. Summary Information Page: Recommended not to exceed one page
 1. Project title
 2. Applicant information: Organization name, address, contact person, phone number, email address.
 3. Funding Request: Specifically, the amount you are requested from IDEM
 4. Total project cost: Including all additional resources
 5. Project period: Estimated start and end date (Please keep in mind that all projects must be completed within 24 months of the grant agreement; no extensions will be granted)
- b. Project Summary/Approach: The summary should contain the following components: Recommended to not exceed seven (7) pages.
 1. Detailed project summary, description of specific actions and methods to be taken and the responsible institutions.
 2. Project Rationale: Why the proposed project is important in achieving the GLAD program goals.
 3. Description of the roles of the applicant and partners, if any.
 4. Description of the applicant's organization and experience related to the proposed project.
 5. Description of staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project.
 6. Include an estimated and reasonable time line for the various tasks associated with the project.

7. Environmental Results: What do you expect could be the outcome of this proposal?
- c. Past performance: Please submit a list of any federally funded assistance agreements similar in size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project that your organization performed within the last three years (no more than 5). Please describe your history of meeting the reporting requirements under those agreements including whether you adequately and timely reported on your progress towards achieving the expected outputs and outcomes of those agreements (and if not, explain why not) and whether you submitted acceptable final technical reports under the agreements. If your organization has no past performance for the proposed project, please provide information that shows efforts for synergies to avoid duplication of work. Failure to provide this may result in a score of 0 for this factor.
 - d. Voluntary cost share/match and leveraged funds: Please identify if any funds for this project will be matched or leveraged. Describe the amount and type of leveraged resources to be provided. Please note that because GLAD is federally funded, that federal funds cannot be used to match other federal funds.
 - e. Detailed Budget Narrative that includes cost break down by task in conjunction with task-by-task timeline requested under b.6.

Deadline and Submission

Proposals must be received by **August 26, 2015 before 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time**. Applications submitted after the closing date and time will not be considered for funding. Proposals must be submitted via email to araber@idem.IN.gov. Format may be in Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF. If electronic submission is not available, please call (317) 233-6870 for instructions.

Notification of receipt

Once the proposal has been submitted via email, you will receive direct confirmation within three (3) business days. If receipt of email submission is not received by email within this time, applicants *must contact Amanda Raber to confirm receipt*.

Quality Assurance

If chosen to receive a grant from IDEM, a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) must be submitted within six (6) weeks after receiving the award recommendation (if applicable per scope of work, i.e. monitoring or data collection). Costs associated with data collections are not allowed until the QAPP is approved. Proposed budgets and timelines should account for the preparation of a QAPP. For general information regarding a QAPP please visit <http://www.epa.gov/quality/qapps.html>. Further instruction and information will be given to grantees following the Recommendation for Award.

Key Dates

| Activity | Date |
|--|---------------|
| Issue of Solicitation | JUNE 23, 2015 |
| Deadline to Submit Written Questions | JULY 10, 2015 |
| Response to Written Questions/ Solicitation Amendments | JULY 22, 2015 |
| Submission of Proposals | AUG 26, 2015 |
| <i>The dates for the following activities are target dates only. These activities may be completed earlier or later than the date shown.</i> | |
| Proposal Evaluation | TBD |
| Proposal Discussions/Clarifications (if necessary) | TBD |
| Recommended for Award | SEPT 9, 2015 |
| Contract Award (Target Date) | OCT 1, 2015 |

Subcontracting

All expected subcontracting should be identified within the project proposal with their scope of work. Additional subcontracting not included in the proposal after the start of the project will be required to have written approval of the GLAD Project Officer.

Progress Reports

Quarterly progress reports will be required that summarize technical progress, planned activities for the next quarter and summary of expenditures. Schedule will be established by IDEM after award has been presented.

Final Products

All projects sponsored under this request are to be completed no later than 24 months from the initiation of the grant agreement. Grantees of funded projects will submit a final report to IDEM in electronic form via email to araber@idem.IN.gov for acceptance and approval at the completion of the project within 90 calendar days of the completion of the project. All data collected, compiled, or calculated will be submitted. Final payment will be delayed until final reports have been received. Final products will be placed on the IDEM website at IDEM's discretion and are subject to the Access to Public Records Act (IC 5-14-3).

For Further Information Contact:

Amanda Raber, Environmental Manager, phone: (317) 233-6870; email: araber@idem.IN.gov

Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Attn: Mrs. Amanda R. Raber, GLAD Program
100 North Senate Avenue
Mail Code 61-50 IGCN 1003
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2251

Attachment A: Evaluation Criteria

| GLAD Proposal Evaluation Criteria | |
|--|----|
| Conformance with the goals and priorities of the GLAD program | |
| The work proposed would further progress toward the priorities of the GLAD program. The overall goals of the GLAD program are: | |
| a. <u>Improve the understanding of processes and impacts</u> : The completed work will lead to a better understanding of the processes of atmospheric transport and deposition or the impacts of pollutants of concern within the Great Lakes basin. | 10 |
| b. <u>Reducing input of toxic substances</u> : The work will inform decisions for reducing emissions of pollutants of concern. It will enable better identification and evaluation of technologies or policies that may reduce loadings of pollutants of concern within the Great Lakes. | 15 |
| c. <u>Reducing human health and ecosystem impact</u> : The work will lead to protection of the Great Lakes' environment, wildlife and human health from atmospheric deposition of pollutants of concern. | 15 |
| Each project need not address all of these priorities, but should form an important component of an overall regional effort toward achieving them. | |
| Need for the proposed work | |
| The proposal demonstrates that there is a large need within the region for the proposed work. Gaps in current knowledge or infrastructure that will be filled are identified and the importance of filling these gaps is explained. The work will result, directly or indirectly, in an increased ability of the Great Lakes' states and their partners to make informed management decisions regarding atmospheric deposition of toxic substances and associated impacts and risks. | 20 |
| Integration with prior and concurrent work and capacity-building for future work | |
| The proposal takes account of similar prior and concurrent work. Whenever possible, efforts to form synergies with such work are made and duplication is avoided. The work is designed in a way to facilitate use of resulting information in future projects. The project builds the regional capacity for additional research. | 10 |
| Appropriateness of budget | |
| The budget suggested is reasonable in keeping with the work proposed and with expected benefits. | 15 |
| Integration with management efforts | |
| The project will facilitate environmental management efforts by engaging appropriate partners, for instance government agencies, academia, community groups, or stakeholders for Lakewide Management Plans, Binational Toxics Strategy, etc. The project is structured such that results may inform resource management and/or regulatory decisions within the region. | 5 |
| Leveraging of additional resources | |
| The project budget provides leveraged resources from other sources. In addition, resources contributed from other sources that are not quantified in the proposal and/or do not appear in the budget will be considered and weighed by reviewers. | 10 |