

2013 HOW Grant Program Outcomes



The HOW Implementation Program

The Healing Our Waters – Great Lakes Coalition Implementation Grant Program ensures that local groups are prepared to participate in the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative by:

- effectively navigating the federal funding opportunities under the GLRI;
- efficiently managing projects under the GLRI; and,
- ensuring that funds result in successful restoration projects on the ground.

With guidance from its science advisory panel, the Coalition focused its grant program in eight priority areas: St. Louis Bay, Chicagoland, Saginaw Bay, Western Lake Erie, Eastern Lake Ontario, Green Bay, the Huron-Erie Corridor, and Eastern Lake Erie/Buffalo. These areas include sites suffering from some of the most acute problems in the Great Lakes; however, they also possess the greatest opportunities for restoration success. Restoring these areas will create jobs and promote tourism while improving conditions for fish, wildlife and human health. The Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition Grant program provides funding of up to \$15,000 per project to aid the development and implementation of restoration proposals or projects by local organizations working in the identified HOW priority areas.

HOW Grant Recipients

Recipients of HOW grants work on a variety of projects, from invasive species control to habitat enhancement to wetland restoration and public outreach. The grants allow them to perform critical research, establish strategic partnerships, and explore project options to be better prepared to apply for funding under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Success in 2013!

The 2013 HOW Grant Program expended \$100,000 on 7 projects. Because of HOW grants, these groups were able to put together 10 proposals under the GLRI, 2 of which were subsequently awarded totaling \$501,000. These groups were also able to apply for and receive \$2,791,000 in non-GLRI funds. In total, these 7 HOW grants leveraged a total of \$3,292,000, which is a nearly 33:1 return on the original \$100,000 investment.

This return on investment, garnering over \$3 million in grants to support Great Lakes Restoration, shows the continuing success and value of the HOW Implementation Program. The program is helping local groups leverage GLRI and other dollars throughout the Great Lakes region and filling an important gap in getting projects off the ground in areas where there is the most need.

The success of the 2013 HOW Grant Program was not only seen through numbers: recipients were also able to accomplish important projects that are already benefiting the Great Lakes. For example, Grand Rapids Whitewater was able to complete a study of endangered mussel populations that was critical to moving forward with their project to restore rapids in the Grand River – the group is continuing to receive subsequent support. . Milwaukee Riverkeeper was able to do work towards removing impediments to fish passage in Milwaukee’s rivers that will directly benefit fish populations there. Kalamazoo Nature Center was able to perform invasive species remediation and put together an application for funding under the GLRI. Friends of the Detroit River was able to use HOW funds to put together a successful grant application under the GLRI for invasive species removal on Belle Isle in Detroit, Michigan. These small grants awarded by the HOW Grant Program have a lasting impact and are already showing results.

Learn More

Information on the eight priority areas and the HOW Implementation program can be found on the Healing Our Waters – Great Lakes Coalition website: www.healthy lakes.org. More information on the HOW Grant Program can be found on the Freshwater Future website, at <http://www.freshwaterfuture.org/grant-programs/healing-our-waters-grants.html>

Total GLRI funding leveraged	\$501,000
Total other funding leveraged	\$2,791,000
Total Funding Leveraged Overall	\$3,292,000
Total GLRI Applications	10
Total GLRI Awards	2
Total HOW Grant Expenditures	\$100,000
Total Return on Investment	33:1