

GREAT LAKES FISHERY TRUST

Fishing Is For Everyone (FIFE) Program

Mini-Grant Application

The Fishing Is For Everyone (FIFE) Program, a program of the [Great Lakes Fishery Trust](#), is supporting community-based projects that reduce barriers to recreational fishing and increase participation among Michigan Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) residents who have traditionally had limited access to angling opportunities. Projects should recruit, retain, and reactivate anglers while fostering stewardship of Michigan's fisheries and aquatic resources. **Applications due: September 28, 2026.**

This program is guided by four core principles that will be considered during proposal review:

- Community-Focused - Projects address locally identified needs and engage communities experiencing barriers to recreational fishing.
- Intentional - Projects have clear goals, measurable outcomes, and strategies to recruit, retain, or reactivate anglers.
- Inclusive - Projects intentionally engage underrepresented and underserved populations while reducing barriers to participation.
- Collaborative - Projects demonstrate meaningful partnerships that strengthen project implementation and community impact.

Typical mini-grant awards range from \$5,000 to \$50,000 and grants will run from December 2026-December 2027.

Before submitting an application, please review the following program requirements:

- The proposed project must support the goals of the Fishing Is For Everyone Program by increasing participation in recreational fishing and reducing barriers to angling.
- The project should demonstrate how it will recruit, retain, or reactivate anglers through education, mentorship, access to fishing opportunities, equipment, or other innovative approaches.
- Projects should include specific, measurable objectives and clearly defined outcomes.
- Projects should promote responsible recreational fishing, stewardship of Michigan's aquatic resources, and long-term participation in fishing.
- Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with community organizations, schools, parks and recreation departments, conservation organizations, fishing clubs, Tribal governments, local governments, or other partners.
- Letters of support (maximum of two) documenting project partnerships are encouraged.
- Applicants should describe how the project will continue to benefit the community after grant funding has ended.
- Grantees must be a registered 501c3 organization or must demonstrate that another 501c3 organization has agreed to serve as the fiscal agent for the grant.

Grant recipients must submit a final report summarizing activities, outcomes, impacts, and expenditures. Grant reports will be due in January, 2028. Please anticipate including pictures and relevant materials from events with this report. Contact Manja Holland-Smith (mhollandsmith@glft.org) with any questions.

Applicant Name:

Organization:

Descriptive Project Title:

Please complete the appropriate sections on a separate page with appropriate headings.

Project Abstract Summary/Description

Submit a Project Abstract (approximately 500 words or less). Include activities; target audience(s); community need and barriers addressed; deliverables and measurable outcomes; evidence supporting project need; expected project impact; and consequences of not funding the project.

Objectives and Outcomes

Describe project goals and measurable objectives in a brief paragraph in bulleted list format. Please include anticipated participant numbers, anticipated number of first-time anglers reached, planned activities, and expected long-term impacts.

Project Approach

In several sentences, briefly describe who will implement the project, what activities will occur, where and when the project will occur, and how participants will be recruited and engaged.

Timeline

State the anticipated project schedule and major milestones.

Project Budget

Expenses

Project Costs

Personnel

Fringe (___%)*

Travel

Supplies

Equipment

Contractual

Other (Specify)

Subtotal

Indirect Costs/Overhead**

Total Expenses

Budget Narrative

Explain all requested budget items and describe how project cost estimates were determined.

*Fringe: Fringe benefits are supplemental benefits that are not included in an employee's regular salary. They can include items such as health insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance, life insurance, disability insurance, and retirement benefits.

Indirect Costs: Salaries/wages/fringe benefits or other costs of any administrative support staff employed by the grant recipient not specifically identified in the grant or charged to the project. This also includes the cost of routine office supplies, materials, phone service, mail handling, utilities, copying, faxing, office workspace, and other similar items not specifically identified in the grant award as reimbursable direct costs. According to the Great Lakes Fishery Trust *Overhead Policy* for all projects, administrative/overhead costs are *limited to 10 percent of the total salaries and wages***. This means that the Indirect Costs cannot exceed 10% of the Personnel line item in the budget.