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**Name of Organization:** Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

**Type of Organization:** Other

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**Project Title:** Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network and Fund

**Project Category:** Habitat (Ecological) Protection and Rest

**Rank by Organization (if applicable):** 0

**Total Funding Requested (\$):** 25,000 **Project Duration:** 0.5 Years

**Abstract:**

The goal of the Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat and Fund is to serve place-based organizations and individual citizens working to protect wetlands, lakes, streams, shorelines, and other aquatic habitats throughout the Great Lakes Basin. This will be accomplished by providing direct financial support through the Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat and Fund's grants programs, and by providing indirect support to citizens and grassroots organizations in the form of consultation services, meetings, select site visits, and networking and communication tools.

**Geographic Areas Affected by the Project**

**States:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illinois  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New York     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indiana   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michigan  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minnesota | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ohio         |

**Lakes:**

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Superior | <input type="checkbox"/> Erie                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Huron    | <input type="checkbox"/> Ontario              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Michigan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Lakes |

**Geographic Initiatives:**

- |  |                                  |                                     |                                      |   |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greater Chicago | <input type="checkbox"/> NE Ohio | <input type="checkbox"/> NW Indiana | <input type="checkbox"/> SE Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake St. Clair |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|

**Primary Affected Area of Concern:** All AOCs

**Other Affected Areas of Concern:** Because this project serves grassroots groups throughout the Great Lakes Basin, there is a potential that many AOCs could be positively affected by this project.

***For Habitat Projects Only:***

**Primary Affected Biodiversity Investment Area:** All BIAs

**Other Affected Biodiversity Investment Areas:** Because this project serves grassroots groups throughout the Great Lakes Basin, there is a potential that many BIAs could be positively affected.

**Problem Statement:**

There are thousands of grassroots initiatives working to protect aquatic habitats across the Great Lakes Basin. These community-based initiatives provide an important voice for aquatic habitat protection where the majority of land use decisions are made--at the local level. Involved and committed citizens are the backbone and lifeblood of environmental protection in Canada and the United States.

These initiatives are often poorly funded due to their local nature and the frequent low level of citizen experience in funding and organizing such protection efforts. Additionally, these grassroots groups may lack the needed technical experience in protecting aquatic habitats to effectively accomplish their projects, and may not know where to find such assistance. Without a method to link these citizen initiatives with funding and technical expertise, the full potential of their aquatic habitat protection efforts may never be realized.

The funding requests to the Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network and Fund's grants programs are much greater than the available funds. Similarly, current funding for staff is not sufficient to meet the opportunities available for sharing GLAHNF staff expertise with local citizens. Support from EPA-GLNPO would assist in meeting the needs of local place-based aquatic habitat initiatives.

**Proposed Work Outcome:**

The goal of this project is to increase citizen involvement in aquatic habitat protection at the local level by providing both direct and indirect support to these local initiatives. The Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network and Fund's mini-grants programs will provide direct support through financial grants to the local aquatic habitat initiatives. Indirect support will be provided by covering the costs of GLAHNF site visits, meetings, and consultation services.

The anticipated outcome is to improve the effectiveness of efforts to protect aquatic habitats at the local level. The cumulative ecological effect, as place-based efforts successfully protect and restore important habitats in their community, will be to improve the quality of the Great Lakes Basin as a whole. The sociological effect, as citizens are empowered to care for biodiversity and habitat in their local community, will be that the citizens will be more inspired to support larger efforts to protect and restore habitat across the Great Lakes Basin.

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<b>Project Milestones:</b>	<b>Dates:</b>
Project Start	07/2000
Grant Applications Due	09/2000
Grants Approved	12/2000
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Project End	12/2000

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Project Addresses Environmental Justice

**If So, Description of How:**

We welcome grant proposals from all areas and all racial, ethnic and economic groups in the Great Lakes Basin. Therefore, there is a potential that these projects will address environmental justice issues. Additionally, at the recent Advisory Panel annual meeting, the issue of making increased efforts to serve racially, ethnically and economically diverse populations was made a work priority for GLAHNF.

Project Addresses Education/Outreach

**If So, Description of How:**

Categories of funded activities include Organizational Capacity Building, Community Involvement in Land Use Planning, Developing Coalitions, Education and Outreach, and Monitoring and Research. In addition, GLAHNF staff members assist grantees through select site visits, training meetings, phone consultation, and the Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network allows for an exchange of information on the Great Lakes Basin-wide level.

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**Project Budget:**

	<b>Federal Share Requested (\$)</b>	<b>Applicant's Share (\$)</b>
<b>Personnel:</b>	0	46,450
<b>Fringe:</b>	0	11,612
<b>Travel:</b>	3,000	7,500
<b>Equipment:</b>	0	0
<b>Supplies:</b>	0	6,500
<b>Contracts:</b>	0	2,000
<b>Construction:</b>	0	0
<b>Other:</b>	22,000	160,000
<b>Total Direct Costs:</b>	25,000	234,062
<b>Indirect Costs:</b>	0	0
<b>Total:</b>	25,000	234,062
<b>Projected Income:</b>	0	0

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**Funding by Other Organizations (Names, Amounts, Description of Commitments):**

The Applicant's match of the project budget represents the second year of a \$468,125.00 grant from the C.S. Mott Foundation, which began January 1, 1999 and will continue through December 31, 2000. This grant was provided with the understanding that additional funds would be sought to increase the amount of funding for the grants program element.

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**Description of Collaboration/Community Based Support:**

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The Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network--state or province-wide networks affiliated with GLAHNF have been established in all eight of the Great Lakes states and Ontario. The state/province network coordinators serve as advisors to the regrantee function of the Fund, exchange information with their counterparts on the entire Great Lakes Basin, coordinate a network of aquatic habitat advocates in their state/province, and provide consultation services to enhance the ability of other groups in their state/province to protect aquatic habitats. To ensure that the Network and Fund are managed to meet the diverse needs of individual citizen advocates and grassroots citizen initiatives, an advisory panel of individuals representing a broad range of experiences in protecting aquatic habitats comes together annually to develop strategic funding priorities for the Fund, focus efforts of the Network, and build relationships among a diversity of groups across the Great Lakes Basin. The "Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat News", a bi-monthly newsletter, and a web site, [www.glahabitat.org](http://www.glahabitat.org), are also available as tools for communication and collaboration.