GREAT LAKES THRIVING COMMUNITIES GRANTMAKING PROGRAM

Funding Committed as of May 2026

FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBAL NATIONS

- **Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians:** $75,000 to improve air quality monitoring, educate community members on renewable energy concepts, and aid teens and young adults in gaining professional skills in STEM fields in Wisconsin.
- **Bay Mills Indian Community:** $350,000 to clean up a contaminated dump site located upstream from the Bay Mills Indian Community's lands in the Hiawatha National Forest of Michigan. The project will improve access and remove hazardous debris that can impact waters, wetlands, wild rice beds, fish, and aquatic organisms.
- **Fond du Lac Tribal College:** $349,480 to install a garden, greenhouse, and irrigation system for an Ojibwe education center in Cloquet, Minnesota. This project will provide access to traditional Ojibwe foods and language while advancing food sovereignty for the Fond du Lac Band.
- **Grand Portage Reservation Tribal Council:** $350,000 to construct a building for seed and equipment storage at the tribe's bison ranch and provide solar upgrades to its winter greenhouse, broadening the community's food sovereignty efforts in northern Minnesota.
- **Ho-Chunk Nation:** $75,000 to hire an Energy Data Analyst to collect and analyze data to inform energy project development and to educate the community on renewable energy opportunities.
- **Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin:** $75,000 to support planning for the Band's energy-related projects, which seek to improve weather infrastructure for people facing increasing power outages from severe storms that can lead to food loss and life-threatening situations, especially for those who rely on medical equipment or refrigerated insulin.

- **Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians:** $150,000 to conduct a solar microgrid feasibility study in Michigan's Upper Peninsula to support tribal energy resilience, carbon neutrality, and long-term cost savings.
- **Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians:** $150,000 to support and expand the Band's existing food and energy sovereignty initiatives in Michigan, including work to restore access to traditional and local food harvesting and to develop a roadmap for implementing the Band's climate adaptation plan and recommendations of its climate risk assessment.
- **Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin:** $75,000 to improve the tribe's energy infrastructure by creating GIS-based field surveys to map current power lines, substations, and renewable resource potential.
- **Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe:** $150,000 to conduct climate mitigation and adaptation outreach in tribal communities, evaluate and select an appropriate climate model for this community, equip residents with air sensors and DIY air purifiers to address wildfire smoke, and provide workshops on the care of drinking water wells for tribal and non-tribal households across the tribe's service districts in east-central Minnesota.
- **Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians:** $159,683 to update a web-based application and data repository for environmental quality data. This application will be used by the Tribal Regional Monitory Network to monitor, analyze, and share long-term data related to climate change in northern Minnesota.
- **Sokaogon Chippewa Community:** $75,000 to build capacity on issues and projects related to climate change, including through staff trainings and by conducting community outreach and education.

ILLINOIS

- **American Indian Center of Chicago, Inc.:** $349,959 to support Indigenous food sovereignty for the Native community in the greater Chicago, Illinois region by cultivating Indigenous foods and medicines in a community garden, distributing food boxes sourced from Indigenous growers, hosting elder luncheons with Indigenous meals, and offering workshops on traditional cooking, nutrition, and plant medicine.
- **Breaking the Cycle EBU:** $150,000 to increase local resilience to natural disasters in two rural Indiana counties—Alexander and Pulaski—by developing a coalition and mapping assets such as equipment, key leaders, and resources.
- **Building Bridges, Inc.:** $75,000 to bring composting education to underserved middle schools and workforce development and training to young adults on the South and Southwest sides of Chicago, Illinois.
- **Chicago Food Policy Advisory Council:** $150,000 to provide local growers with land access as well as infrastructure and technical support to spur meaningful food production through the Community Growers Program in Chicago, Illinois.
- **City of Kewanee:** $350,000 to complete lead service line removals for homes in three disadvantaged census tracts in Kewanee, Illinois. Each home will also receive water filters and educational resources related to health, safety, and well-being.

In Chicago, a grant to Building Bridges supported composting education for underserved middle school students and workforce training opportunities for underrepresented young adults. "This grant has enabled us to bring sustainability education to life through hands-on learning, workforce development, and strong community partnerships," said Dr. Shy Brown, President and Executive Director of Building Bridges. "From worm bins and waste diversion activities to hand-crafted composting bins for students and families to take home, this opportunity allowed us to transform sustainability from a classroom concept into real-world application."

- **City of Shawneetown:** $150,000 to conduct environmental site assessments of brownfields for future reuse as a food bank, affordable housing, and/or a social services center in Shawneetown, Illinois.
- **Faith Coalition for the Common Good:** $150,000 to support healthier, more sustainable communities on the East Side of Springfield, Illinois by working with residents on solutions to lead hazards, costs resulting from energy inefficiency, and other environmental factors.
- **Garfield Park Community Council:** $155,000 to acquire a currently vacant lot undergoing soil remediation in Chicago, Illinois and develop it into an Eco Orchard for the Garfield Park Community Council's Garden Network.
- **Greater Chatham Initiative, Inc.:** $348,867 to address flooding by disconnecting residential rooftop downspouts and redirecting them to harvesting water cisterns, rain gardens, or raised garden beds in the Greater Chatham area of Illinois.
- **In Good Company Chicago:** $150,000 to transform a vacant lot into an urban garden, providing access to fresh produce and community gathering space in the North Lawndale neighborhood of Chicago, Illinois.
- **Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry:** $150,000 to sustain the garden providing fresh food for the pantry and conduct educational outreach on health related to eating in Aurora, Illinois.
- **Southeast Environmental Task Force:** $75,000 to develop and refine a model for school-based environmental advisory councils, providing environmental data to the councils, and uplifting community voices in climate governance on the Southeast Side of Chicago, Illinois.
- **Suelo Sano, Inc:** $75,000 to provide public education and community outreach in Chicago, Illinois on soil testing, health, contamination, and toxin exposure, with a focus on limiting exposure to toxins in food consumption.
- **Teens Take on Climate:** $75,000 to empower Chicago, Illinois teens from communities disproportionately impacted by climate change by expanding programming related to work-based learning and STEM-focused activities and supporting youth-led projects to help them become agents of environmental change in their own communities.
- **Why We Care:** $150,000 to test air, water, and soil for contamination, assess health risks, and inform remediation while supporting community empowerment, civic engagement, and awareness in the Altgeld Gardens neighborhood of Chicago, Illinois.

INDIANA

- **Allen County Soil & Water Conservation District:** $150,000 to support composting, urban gardening, and regenerative agricultural practices for residents who live in an urban food desert in Allen County, Indiana.
- **Aspire House Indy / Aspire Higher Foundation:** $150,000 to map neighborhood lots, inventory health-related infrastructure, assess community assets, and update a quality of life plan with engagement and input from the Northwest Landing community of Indianapolis, Indiana.
- **City of Boonville:** $150,000 to assess potentially contaminated properties and inspect community water pipes for lead to protect public health and ensure safe drinking water for residents in Boonville, Indiana.
- **City of Oakland City:** $150,000 to conduct environmental site assessments of potentially hazardous buildings to protect public health in Oakland City, Indiana.
- **Gary Advocates for Responsible Development:** $75,000 to map community-identified sites along the city's shoreline for green infrastructure that will advance public health, natural restoration, and climate mitigation, and to share the results with local stakeholders in Gary, Indiana.
- **Mother Loves Garden Inc:** $75,000 to increase access to healthy food by helping residents obtain soil testing and plant backyard gardens in the King Commons neighborhood of Indianapolis, Indiana.
- **National Black Chamber of Commerce of Northern Indiana:** $75,000 to conduct a community survey to assess environmental and economic opportunities and challenges. Results will support increased resident awareness, guide future green workforce training, and inform future programs in three Indiana cities: Gary, East Chicago, and Merrillville.
- **Pilgrim's Progress Community Development Corporation:** $75,000 to establish a resilience hub supporting solar energy education, emergency preparedness, green job training, and emergency planning in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

In Gary, Indiana, more than 90 percent of residents live alongside 87 brownfield and 5 Superfund sites. A Great Lakes Thriving Communities grant helped community members increase public access to environmental data and equip residents with the knowledge and tools to use it. "The Minneapolis Foundation made it possible for us to develop the skills needed to uncover hidden environmental burdens left by long-forgotten industrial operations in residential neighborhoods," said Cynthia Williams, Program Director of StartUP Gary/Gary Townmakers. "This knowledge is now driving community centered strategies for prioritized reinvestment, remediation, and residential redevelopment."

- **Southwestern Indiana Citizens for Quality of Life:** $75,000 to place air quality monitors in strategic locations so residents can have immediate and accurate data to guide health decisions.
- **StartUP Gary Community Development Corp:** $125,000 to provide public access to brownfield location and site assessment data in Gary, Indiana, and to educate and engage the community in project prioritization and equitable cleanup.

MICHIGAN

- **Beautify Pullman:** $75,000 to test water and soil quality in Pullman, Michigan—a rural community affected by historical industrial contamination—and to create a remediation plan with community input.
- **Community 2 ME Network:** $75,000 to empower residents in a community facing high energy burdens, aging housing stock, and environmental health risks such as cancer, asthma, and heart disease. Project goals include increasing energy awareness, lowering household energy expenses, and enhancing environmental sustainability in Detroit, Michigan.
- **Foundation for Pops:** $150,000 to assess environmental and public health risks by testing air and water quality and supporting community-led advocacy for environmental improvements in six small and mid-sized communities in Southeast Michigan.
- **Friends of Parkside:** $75,000 to strengthen resident leadership and education to ensure safer, more transparent redevelopment at The Villages in Parkside, Michigan, which is public housing built on contaminated land. The project trains resident leaders; distributes community action alerts about toxic soil, radon, and noise risks; and supports resident-led public comments on environmental safety.
- **Global Center for Systemic Change Outcomes Research Evaluation & Development, Inc.:** $150,000 to address the high asthma rate in Benton Harbor, Michigan by monitoring indoor and outdoor air quality and educating the community through asthma resource fairs.
- **Grand Valley State University:** $150,000 to work with community partners to assess truck traffic concentrations and emissions near three public schools, share this information with the community, and enforce solutions to reduce truck traffic pollution in the Roosevelt Park neighborhood of Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- **Grandmont Rosedale Development Corporation:** $50,000 to install air quality monitoring devices, research how local activity, green spaces, and traffic affect air quality, and better understand related health disparities in the Minock and Grandmont neighborhoods of Detroit, Michigan.
- **Growing Hope:** $350,000 to renovate a former bank building into a commercial kitchen, host year-round farmers' markets, and create public spaces in Ypsilanti, Michigan.
- **Hemp for Humanity Foundation:** $150,000 to build the region's capacity to construct sustainable and affordable buildings, and to address toxic building materials that affect indoor air quality, energy efficiency, carbon sequestration, and other issues experienced by underserved communities in Detroit, Lansing, and tribal nations in Michigan.
- **Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice:** $150,000 to grow a strong Resilience Hub Network in Ypsilanti, Michigan that focuses on food access, disaster resilience, and emergency

preparedness where communities are most impacted by the effects of climate change.

- **Masa Center:** $150,000 to develop an urban community garden in Battle Creek, Michigan through the use of milpas, a farming technique central to Indigenous cultures in many parts of the Americas.
- **Micah 6 Community:** $125,000 to assess contamination on a former school property in advance of building affordable, energy efficient, and ADA-compliant homes in Pontiac, Michigan.
- **Michigan Health Improvement Alliance Inc. / Saginaw Community Alliance for the People:** $150,000 to engage youth in green jobs training, climate health education, and training in environmental data collection that focuses on culturally and ecologically significant sites in Saginaw, Michigan.
- **Northend Christian Community Development Corporation:** $350,000 to support a phased project to purchase and transform a former liquor store into a community-driven resilience hub for Detroit, Michigan. The building will operate as a commercial kitchen, community center, and space for emergency preparedness programs and workforce development.
- **Regents of the University of Michigan - Taubman College:** $150,000 to work with community partners in developing an Emergency Disaster Relief Hub, an area-specific evacuation plan, and a resident emergency manual and kit for southwestern neighborhoods in Detroit, Michigan.
- **Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision:** $75,000 to raise awareness in communities that have been affected by years of ecological devastation resulting from industrial operations, including water contamination and high rates of health problems such as cancer, asthma, and neurological disorders.
- **Village of Ontonagon:** $50,000 to conduct a feasibility assessment to identify optimal long-term sediment control solutions, enabling rural, low-income residents to continue using the community's marina for subsistence fishing, for economic activities, and as a safe harbor during extreme weather events in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.
- **Yankee Springs Township:** $75,000 to assess the need for expanding a drinking water filtration system due to polluted local groundwater in Yankee Springs Township, Michigan.
- **Young, Gifted & Green:** $350,000 to fund a Youth Energy Auditor Training Program in Flint, Michigan, providing hands-on experience for students to conduct comprehensive energy audits.

In northwest Detroit, the Grandmont Rosedale Development Corporation used a grant to support the Grandmont Breathe Well Initiative. "This partnership allows us to look closely at how neighborhood air quality impacts our daily lives, connecting real-time data directly to the health of our community," said Bre'Anna Johnston, the organization's Community Engagement Manager. "We are so grateful for this opportunity to improve the lives of our neighbors today while planning ahead for a safer, climate-resilient tomorrow."

MINNESOTA

- **American Indian Community Housing Organization:** $348,335 to support renovations of Niiwin Indigenous Food Market in Duluth, Minnesota. The market provides access to healthy and culturally specific foods, as well as employment opportunities.
- **City of Hackensack:** $75,000 to create a GIS map of community water, wastewater, and stormwater pipelines to identify fragile infrastructure and emergency shutoff valves in case of an emergency in Hackensack, Minnesota.
- **City of St. Louis Park:** $50,000 to survey residents in two disadvantaged census tracts to learn how they are experiencing climate change and inform a Resiliency Roadmap that summarizes environmental and public health concerns for St. Louis Park, Minnesota.
- **Clean River Partners:** $75,000 to convene a wide range of stakeholders to listen to community members and develop a strategy to protect land and water resources in the Cannon River watershed of Minnesota.
- **Climate Justice Commons / Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light:** $350,000 to establish community-based resilience hubs for at least two faith-based organizations in Minneapolis-St. Paul. Funds will be used to develop plans, install solar and battery backup systems, and provide training on climate, technology, and hub leadership.
- **Frogtown Gardens:** $330,000 to support food sovereignty through urban farming in the Frogtown/Rondo community of St. Paul, Minnesota, increasing fresh food distribution and providing hands-on learning for youth and families. Key activities include workforce training, community growing spaces, improving soil health, and expanding green infrastructure.
- **Harrison Neighborhood Association:** $125,000 to proactively address threats to tree species by conducting targeted residential outreach, creating a public-facing inventory of trees on private property, and securing funding for tree removal and plantings in the Harrison neighborhood of Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- **Headwaters Regional Development Commission:** $150,000 to bridge the gap between growers and consumers with a local foods directory, and to connect growers with local school districts so students can eat fresh fruits and vegetables in north-central Minnesota.

- **Little Earth Residents Association, Inc.:** $350,000 for the architectural design of an 18,000-square-foot aquaponics facility serving more than a thousand residents of Little Earth, a Minneapolis, Minnesota housing complex and surrounding low-income neighborhoods. The facility will have vertical farming and fish tanks to support year-round regenerative farming.
- **Region Nine Area, Inc / Food Recovery by Wooden Spoon:** $150,000 to strengthen existing food recovery and redistribution processes, redirect food waste from landfills, and create a sustainability action plan to address regional hunger in the Mankato region of Minnesota.
- **Region Nine Development Commission:** $350,000 to provide clean energy education to rural contractors and install clean energy technologies for underserved households that previously received energy audits in and around St. James, Minnesota.
- **Resources, Justice & Management:** $150,000 to offer an 11-week program for disadvantaged youth in the Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota metro area that provides education on environmental challenges through hands-on projects like urban gardening and water quality testing, along with career exploration.
- **Sabathani Community Center:** $350,000 for solar-plus-battery storage to support the development of a Resilience Hub in the Sabathani Community Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota along with paid workforce training in carbon-reducing careers.
- **We All Need Food and Water:** $75,000 to develop a curriculum about the green economy that substitute teachers can use to teach high school students about future careers. The curriculum will be cost-effective, scalable, and replicable and is being piloted in the Twin Cities of Minnesota.
- **West Side Citizens Organization:** $150,000 to educate and engage residents to increase neighborhood safety, improve air quality from truck traffic and dust, and establish emergency evacuation routes in the Southport neighborhood of St. Paul, Minnesota.
- **Urban Homeworks, Inc. / Housing in Action:** $349,373 for providing healthy housing to low-income residents in North Minneapolis. This project will support building affordable new homes that are 85% more energy efficient than standard code-built houses.

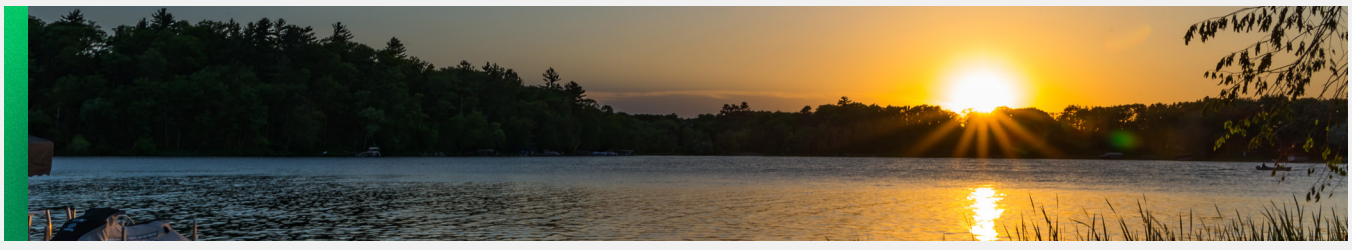
OHIO

- **City Fresh:** $100,000 to deliver fresh, sustainable local produce to low-income, low-access communities in Cuyahoga and Lorain counties in and around Cleveland, Ohio.
- **Greater Cleveland Congregations, Inc.:** $150,000 to support community engagement and public education to address environmental and public health disparities such as lead exposure, indoor air quality, and toxins in the Lee-Harvard community of Cleveland, Ohio.
- **Groundwork Ohio River Valley:** $150,000 to build air quality monitors and provide air quality education so residents are aware of industrial pollutants in Cincinnati, Ohio.
- **Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission:** $150,000 to pair residents impacted by environmental challenges with regional stakeholders offering professional expertise and strategic partnership for a year-long training program on the EPA's Collaborative Problem Solving Model, and to complete a collaborative community project in Dayton, Ohio.

- **NuPoint Community Development Corporation:** $150,000 to train residents in environmental surveying, aerial mapping, and sustainability outreach in the Union-Miles and Mount Pleasant neighborhoods of Cleveland, Ohio.
- **Organic Connects, Inc.:** $75,000 to bring awareness to air quality inequities by conducting studies in four communities and building relationships with local stakeholders to co-design sustainable solutions in Toledo, Ohio.
- **Partners for Clean Streams:** $50,000 to organize community cleanups, monitor water quality, and offer educational workshops to raise community awareness, reduce pollution, and protect local waterways in Toledo, Ohio.
- **Rising Appalachia:** $350,000 to acquire land in an economically depressed former mining town and transform the abandoned mining land into community forests. This will provide job opportunities, health benefits, and local raw materials for a new forest product facility in Dover Township, Ohio.
- **Southeast Ohio Recycling Terminal:** $100,000 to assess how this multi-county facility can convert biosolids into cheap, safe organic matter that can be used to restore mined lands. This process will also divert organic waste from the landfill and reduce methane production in Southeast Ohio.
- **The Junction Coalition:** $350,000 to support the revitalization of one of Toledo, Ohio's oldest neighborhoods through the Eco Village initiative. The project will help fund the installation of solar panels for their growing center, along with installing greenhouses and providing job training in urban agriculture, dietary, and construction fields.
- **Village of Amesville:** $350,000 to construct grid-tied, pole-mounted solar panels for wastewater treatment facilities in the Ohio villages of Amesville and Coolville. This project will provide a model for other small communities and will also promote environmental job training via a solar installer course and job shadowing.
- **Village of West Lafayette:** $100,000 to conduct GIS mapping and surveying to inform a stormwater study to address flooding in this Ohio village.

WISCONSIN

- **Crawford Stewardship Project:** $150,000 to conduct surface and groundwater testing in rural landscapes that are highly vulnerable to pollution to inform local and regional planning and educate the community about unique water challenges in Southwest Wisconsin.
- **FreshAir Collective:** $150,000 to monitor outdoor and indoor air quality in neighborhoods with high rates of asthma-related healthcare needs in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- **Native American Educational Technologies, Inc.:** $75,000 to work with local tribes, growers, producers, regional partners, and researchers to build a comprehensive map of the current Indigenous food system in the bioregion of Mooningwaanekaaning on Madeline Island, Wisconsin.
- **Quasimondo Physical Theatre:** $350,000 to help transform a Milwaukee, Wisconsin gravel lot into a hub for arts and ecology by installing green infrastructure and sustainable technologies. This Artpark will foster community connectedness and improve residents' quality of life through engaging eco-arts programming.
- **The Sherman Park Community Association, Inc.:** $150,000 to expand access to local and statewide housing improvement programs through outreach, and to provide free energy audits and healthy home assessments in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

MULTI-STATE

- **Black Environmental Leaders Association:** $350,000 to support a coalition to enhance disaster preparedness in 10 cities across the Midwest, and to create a feasibility study for a solar microgrid Resilience Hub on an historic property in Cleveland, Ohio.
- **Brown People Foundation:** $150,000 to improve access to healthy food and wellness resources by creating a green hub community space for community gathering and setting up fully stocked community apothecaries—small cupboards offering free health and wellness supplies—in Chicago, Illinois and Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- **Greater Cincinnati Native American Coalition / Urban Native Collective:** $150,000 to strengthen food sovereignty and Indigenous land stewardship by expanding the group's Urban Garden Project, conducting GIS mapping, and restoring soil health in and around Cincinnati, Ohio.
- **Wild Path Collective Inc.:** $75,00 to produce an action plan for establishing a community-governed climate resilience hub, and to train community members in regenerative land stewardship, agroecology, and other Indigenous land stewardship practices in Minnesota and Wisconsin.