The Alliance for the Great Lakes’ Young Professional Council is thrilled to announce the official opening of our grant application! Our grant program enables us to engage a new generation of Great Lakes leaders. Ranging from $500 to $5,000, our grants will fund innovative ideas and support creative and unconventional approaches to Great Lakes stewardship and protection. Does this sound like a group you know or work with? We’d love it if you’d pass this along or apply. We’re ready to hit the ground running and spread the Great Lakes love. Let’s get started!

Applications are due March 24, 2017 at 5pm. Please contact the YPC at a4glypc@gmail.com with any questions.

**Grant Summary**

The Alliance for the Great Lakes’ Young Professional Council (YPC) will award grants that strengthen the role of visionary leaders and community groups working in the Chicago metropolitan area on projects benefiting the Great Lakes. Ranging from $500 to $5,000, grants will fund innovative ideas that transform or enhance the Great Lakes.

**Priority Funding Areas**

The following is a list of our priority funding areas. However, the Young Professional Council believes that the next big idea is one we haven’t heard of yet. We strive to champion and celebrate creative, unconventional, and/or outside-of-the-box approaches. As such, we encourage applications that do not appear to fit well within our priority funding areas. Reach out with questions to YPC co-chairs Katie and Sandy at a4glypc@gmail.com.

Priority funding areas include efforts that are focused on:

- Engaging millennials, communities of color, and/or underserved communities;
- Addressing Great Lakes issues, including, but not limited to, water resource management, resource awareness, or recreational experiences;
- Environmental stewardship activities with a community engagement or volunteer component;
- Engaging people in outdoor experiences that encourage awareness and exploration of the Great Lakes;
- Promoting equal access to the Great Lakes;
- Utilizing the arts or technology to bring attention to or heighten awareness of the Great Lakes;
- Generating income for a community through a social enterprise or community effort tied to the Great Lakes; or

Start-ups, expanding projects, organizations, or companies in need of seed funding to support growth or secure larger funding sources.