



At a Glance

Why We Did This Review

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Inspector General (OIG) received a hotline complaint that Great Lakes Shoreline Cities Green Infrastructure grants were being awarded with the only criterion being population; the potential environmental benefit was not the primary factor for determining awards. Our objective was to determine whether the EPA followed its policies when announcing these grants. The grants were designed to help Great Lakes shoreline cities reduce urban runoff and sewer overflows that impair Great Lakes water quality.

This report addresses the following EPA theme:

- *Protecting water: A precious, limited resource.*

For further information, contact our public affairs office at (202) 566-2391.

The full report is at:
www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2014/20131105-14-P-0004.pdf

Environmental Benefits Being Considered in Award of Great Lakes Grants

What We Found

EPA Region 5 took prompt action to ensure that Great Lakes Shoreline Cities Green Infrastructure grants will support lakewide management plan activities and will result in reduction of discharges to the Great Lakes. While the grant announcement did not specifically require proposed projects to support lakewide management plan activities as identified in the competition exemption, Region 5 management agreed that it should have. To address the issue, Region 5 developed criteria for staff to use when reviewing grant applications. Going forward, staff members will consider how each proposed project will support lakewide management plan goals and result in reducing discharges to the Great Lakes.

Region 5 plans to assure the \$8.5 million of infrastructure grants will result in reducing discharges to the Great Lakes.

Since Region 5 has already taken action to address the issue noted, the report contains no recommendations.