



# Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Gulf Hypoxia Program

*Implementing the Hypoxia Task Force's Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan  
Through Partnerships to Reduce Nutrient Pollution  
in the Mississippi River Watershed and the Gulf of Mexico*

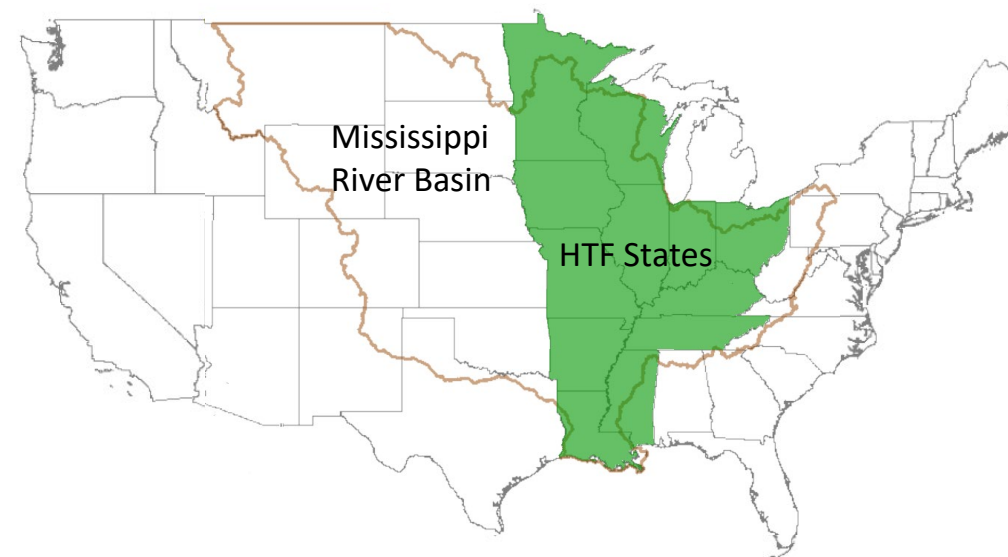
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# A Transformational Opportunity

- The BIL provides \$50 billion to EPA - the single largest investment in clean water that the federal government has ever made.
- For the first time EPA will have \$60 million in dedicated resources to support critically needed strategies to improve water quality in the MARB and Gulf of Mexico.
- This historic investment in addressing nutrient pollution will provide tangible benefits to communities and ecosystems across the region that depend on clean water.
- All communities across the MARB will benefit from safer drinking water, protected fisheries, and a more stable economy.

# Gulf Hypoxia Program General Background

- Support for the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force's (Hypoxia Task Force or HTF) Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan at \$12 M/yr for fiscal years 2022–2026.
- EPA will award most of the funding in equal portions to states through cooperative agreements.
- EPA will provide modest support to other entities (e.g., eligible tribes, sub-basin committees, and an LGU consortium).



## 12 HTF States

Arkansas	Kentucky	Mississippi
Illinois	Louisiana	Ohio
Indiana	Minnesota	Tennessee
Iowa	Missouri	Wisconsin

# Support States: Strategic Outcomes

**Over \$50,000,000 of GHP funds will support state workplans with five strategic outcomes:**

1. Support staff to accomplish the goals of the GHP, convene public meetings, engage with tribes, and generally implement the workplan
2. Reduce NPS nutrient pollution consistent with state strategies
3. Prioritize and target watersheds with the greatest opportunities for nutrient reductions
4. Collaborate across state boundaries with HTF partners
5. Use state-level water quality programs and actions to better support nutrient reductions

# Ensure Disadvantaged Communities Benefit

- Through the BIL, EPA is making historic investments in disadvantaged communities
- GHP is a Justice40 program – 40% of funds should benefit disadvantaged communities
- GHP Approach
  - 10% tribal set-aside
  - 30% of state base funds are invested in HUC12 watersheds that include disadvantaged communities or improve water quality in DACs

# Water Quality Actions with Climate Co-Benefits

- EPA will support state, tribes and communities prepare for, adapt to, and recover from the impacts of climate change.
- EPA will encourage targeting GHP funding towards practices that provide climate resilience benefits where possible and appropriate.
- Identify water quality actions that can also yield climate adaptation or mitigation co-benefits – e.g., nature-based solutions for natural hazard mitigation.



**ILLINOIS**  
NUTRIENT LOSS  
REDUCTION STRATEGY

## Illinois and the Hypoxia Task Force

- Engagement with the agricultural community.
- Model for intrastate and interstate collaboration.
  - Partnership between Illinois Department of Agriculture and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.
  - Participation in fellow HTF member state activities and sharing successes in Illinois, e.g., engagement with Tennessee Nutrient Taskforce.
  - Survey methodology used by Iowa to tell the story of nutrient management practice implementation.
- Committed to Illinoisians and communities across the Mississippi River basin.

## In Closing

- Collaboration is key to achieving the goals of the HTF.
  - Illinois is a leader in this effort and model for others.
- Historic BIL investment in HTF states is a transformational opportunity.
  - 20+ years of the HTF has established a strong foundation for productive and efficient use of GHP funds.
  - Significant progress will be made on the ground to implement nutrient reduction strategies and advance the goals of the HTF.





Thank you!