Why an Islands Alliance?

While present-day island communities are uniquely distinct from one another in character, traditions, and geography, they share a number of complex, inter-related challenges, including: access to public services and quality education, supporting a diversified economy, managing natural, cultural, and historical resources across public and private boundaries, and changing demographics (size, age, seasonality, ownership, economic status, etc.).

These challenges are hurdles, not immovable barriers. In fact, some island communities have already independently developed their own “island solutions to island challenges.” There is great value in islanders learning from other islanders about best practices that work, as well as those that don’t. GLIA provides a structure for those conversations and tools to be shared.
About GLIA

The Great Lakes Islands Alliance (GLIA) is a new voluntary, collaborative network. In this arrangement, a diverse team of island leaders, residents, and advocates from across the region offer their time, energy, and complementary skills to meet shared objectives.

The mission of the GLIA is to encourage relationship building, foster information exchange, and leverage resources to address shared challenges and embrace opportunities to benefit islands.

To learn more about GLIA, visit www.greatlakesislandsalliance.org

Explore our online Resources

WHAT WORKS SOLUTIONS LIBRARY
The What Works Solutions Library, created and supported by our partners at the Island Institute, offers case studies and practical information about how residents of rural island communities have successfully addressed challenges. The solutions library from the Island Institute offers lessons and advice that can inspire and inform projects and initiatives of all scales.

GREAT LAKES ISLANDS COMMUNITY RESOURCE DIRECTORY
This comprehensive list of resources was created to help improve communications between island communities. The directory includes contacts for local governments, environment and natural resources, socio-economic organizations, education, health, transportation, infrastructure, and more.

ISLAND SHOWCASE
Learn about each of our member islands on the Island Showcase page of the GLIA website.

ISLANDS SUMMIT
The Island Summit is an annual conference held in the fall that provides GLIA members a chance to meet face-to-face, share ideas, and learn from experts on a wide variety of topics.

INNOVATIVE ISLAND PROJECT CONCEPTS (Coming Soon)
GLIA is an incubator for innovative ideas that address the challenges and create opportunities for connection. The following projects are currently being developed with more to come: Monitoring Monarch, One Book, and The Island Passport.