



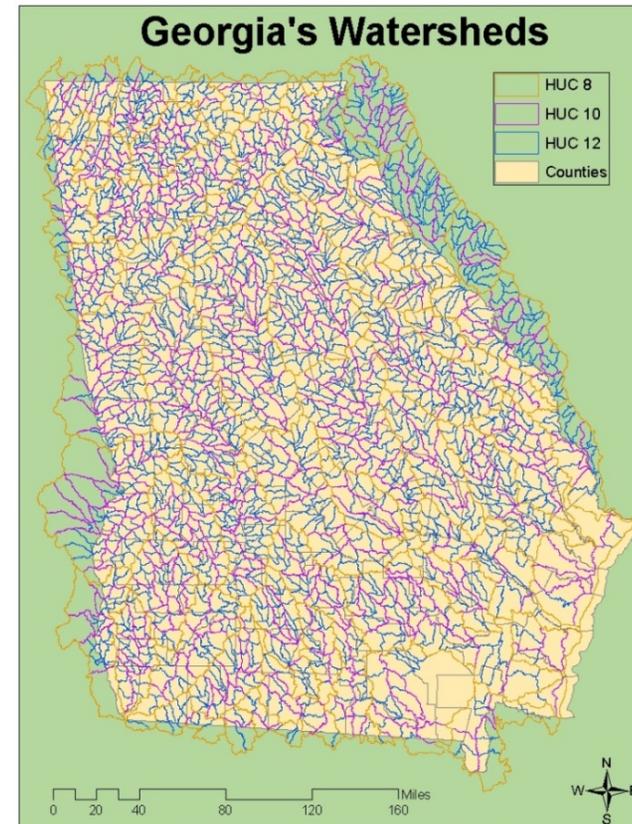
FY2016 Section 319(h) Grant Quick Guide to Evaluate Your Project & Apply



Georgia Environmental Protection Division
NonPoint Source Program Grants Unit

Topics Covered

- Cost-Share Requirements
- Eligibility Requirements
- Competitive Criteria
- Application Process
- Project Administration
- Monitoring Procedures
- Contacts & Links



Cost-Share Requirements



Federal Funds & Local Match

- Maximum Federal Award: **\$400,000** and limited to **60%** of total project cost.
- Minimum non-federal, local Match: **40%** of total project cost.
- Calculate Match as Federal Funds x 2/3.
- Maximum Time Frame of project: **3 Years**.
- See Appendix D in General Guidelines for more details on Match.



Eligibility Requirements



Eligible Applicants

- Function as Lead Organizations on project.
- Must be public entities or local governments:
 - ✓ Local, regional or State departments, units or agencies;
 - ✓ Authorities that operate public service or delivery programs;
 - ✓ Regional Commissions & RC&D Councils;
 - ✓ Public school & university systems.
- Maintain Qualified Local Government Status.
- Partner with NGOs/local watershed groups:
 - ✓ NGOs/local watershed groups are NOT eligible applicants;
 - ✓ NGOs/local watershed groups are encouraged to partner with eligible applicants.



Minimum Requirements

- ✓ **Implement existing watershed-based plans** that meet all USEPA's Nine Elements for Watershed Planning;
- ✓ Locate within a single 10-digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC-10), or smaller; and
- ✓ Commit to a minimum 40% non-federal cash or in-kind Match.
 - Submit complete watershed-based plans with Applications (see Appendix A in General Guidelines).
 - **No funds will be awarded to either revise or develop new watershed-based plans.**



Watershed-Based Plan Check List of 9 USEPA Elements

- A. Identification of Pollutant(s) & Impairment Causes & Sources.
- B. Pollutant Load Estimates Expected from Nonpoint Source (NPS) Best Management Practices (BMPs).
- C. Nonpoint Source (NPS) Best Management Practices (BMPs) & Critical Target Areas for BMP Installations.
- D. Financial & Technical Assistance to Implement NPS BMPs plus Associated Costs & Sources of Funds.



Watershed-Based Plan Check List of 9 USEPA Elements

- E. Education & Outreach to Encourage Public Participation in Watershed-Based Plan Implementation.
- F. BMP Implementation Schedule.
- G. Interim Milestones to Determine Progress of BMP Implementation.
- H. Set of Criteria (what) to Measure/Monitor & Assess (how) BMPs.
- I. Component to Determine Effectiveness of Watershed-Based Plan Implementation.



Example Eligible Project Activities

- TMDL Implementation & Watershed Restoration;
- Local Regulatory & Non-regulatory Enforcement Programs;
- Urban Stormwater Controls Not Included in NPDES Permits;
- Education & Training to Build Local Capacity;
- Technical & Financial Assistance;
- Water Quality Monitoring to track trends in water quality improvement.



Best Management Practices

BMP projects must provide the following:

- Schedule of BMP Operations & Maintenance, or manual describing Standard Operating Procedures, that cover the expected lifespan of the practice and in accordance with commonly accepted standards;
- Estimates of linear feet for streambank restoration or acres for wetland protection each quarter.
- Quarterly estimates of load reductions for nitrogen, phosphorus and/or sediment;
- Post-BMP monitoring data for nine (9) months prior to the close of the project.



Water Quality Monitoring Requirements

- Post-BMP monitoring is eligible under a 319(h) grant for the following purposes:
 - ✓ Collecting & qualifying samples for 305(b)/303(d) List of Waters assessments;
 - ✓ Evaluating effectiveness of new technology BMPs;
 - ✓ Tracking trends in water quality improvement (or degradation).
- Schedule monitoring during the last nine (9) months of the project to give BMPs enough time to work.
- Must submit DRAFT QA/QC Monitoring Plan that is appropriate to monitoring purpose with Application.



Example Ineligible Activities

- Implementation of NPDES Permit Requirements:
 - ✓ Includes any and all elements in the permit;
- Fulfillment of Consent Orders and/or Decrees;
- Construction of Wastewater Infrastructure;
- Water Quantity/Water Supply Projects;
- Dam Construction and/or Removal;
- Surface Paving (Impervious);
- Installation of Incinerators;
- Lake Dredging or Aquatic Macrophyte Harvesting.



Competitive Criteria



Key Ranking Criteria

- Specify nonpoint sources of pollution and identify activities best suited to address these sources.
- Demonstrate cost-effectiveness.
- Support milestones/implementation activities in 2014 revision of "Georgia's Statewide Nonpoint Source Management Plan".
- Develop appropriate Measures of Success for each Project Activity and Task, including numerical values, as needed.



Additional Selection Priorities

- Target Georgia's DRAFT **2014** 305(b)/303(d) List of Waters in order to accomplish the following:
 - ✓ Improve water quality by 40% in impaired (not supporting) waters;
 - ✓ Restore impaired (not supporting) waters to meet State standards and support designated uses; or
 - ✓ Protect water quality in Category 1 (supporting) waters by incorporating USEPA's "Healthy Watersheds Initiative".
- Implement **structural or non-structural** BMPs that show quantifiable water quality improvements.
- Engage **committed** multi-jurisdictional partners in conjunction with ongoing NPS activities.



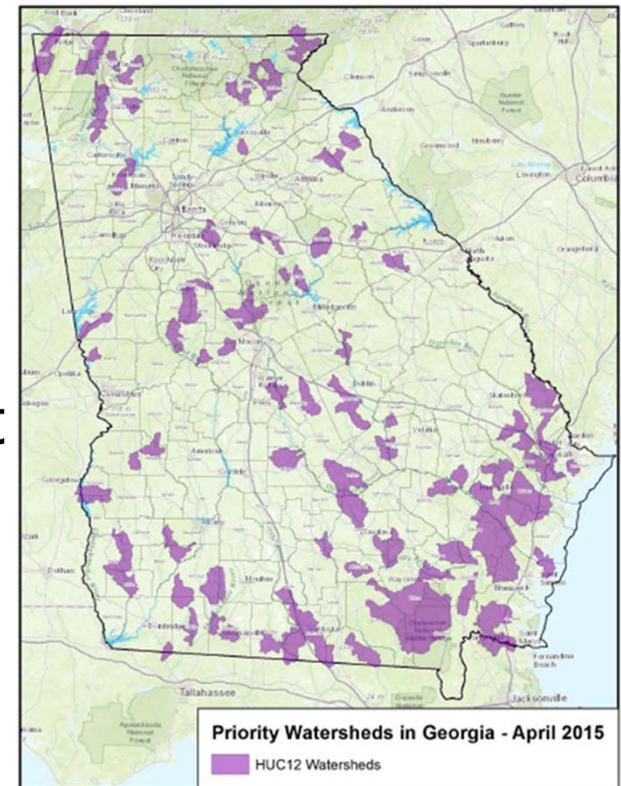
Additional Selection Priorities

- Target Pathogens (Bacteria), Sediment, Dissolved Oxygen, Nitrogen and Phosphorous impairments.
- Implement BMPs identified in Regional Water Plans;
- Address waters with finalized Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs).
- Demonstrate environmental benefits in addition to nonpoint source impairments.
- Commit to 50% or higher Match, and provide appropriate documentation.
- Include structural or non-structural initiatives to prevent/correct adverse hydrological impacts from impervious surfaces.



Additional Selection Priorities

- Locate the project in Priority Watersheds
- Qualify as WaterFirst Community or locate project within jurisdiction of committed partner that qualifies as a WaterFirst Community.
- Demonstrate intentions to address/implement BMPs, enforceable policies, and mechanisms that will result in "Georgia's Coastal Nonpoint Source Management Program" being fully approvable under Section 6217 CZARA.



Other Competitive Conditions

- Follow all instructions and guidance as described in GAEPD's "General Guidelines: Section 319(h) FY2016 Nonpoint Source Implementation Grant".
- Prepare Application clearly & concisely where goals, objectives and tasks are plainly stated and can be easily understood.
- Show that financial resources support successful administration of current or previous GAEPD Grant-funded projects
- Summarize how staff & technical experts are qualified to perform functions assigned to them.



Application Process



FY2016 Grant Timeline

Application Deadline: November 2, 2015

- August: GAEPD Announces FY Grant*
- August-October: Pre-Application Meeting
- September: GAEPD Reviews DRAFTs
- October: Final Applications Due
- December: GAEPD Scores Applications
- Following Spring: Award Notifications*
- Following Fall: Negotiate & Execute Contracts*

*Subject to change



Legal Requirements & Allowable Costs

All projects must conform to all applicable legal requirements and allowable costs:

- OMB *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*
- Title 2 CFR Part 200 and Part 1500, effective December 26, 2014.



Match

- Total Federal Funds $\times \frac{2}{3} = 40\%$ Match:
 - Non-federal (state, local or private) sources;
 - Not already applied as Match to another project;
 - Not required under NPDES permit or enforcement.
- Cash contributed to cover actual project costs;
- In-kind services performed to support project;
- Public Land Conservation restricted to water quality purposes & permanent protection.



Application Format

- Use current template/format (MS WORD).
- Complete all sections (N/A if Not Applicable).
- Follow ALL directions and instructions found in GAEPD *General Guidelines: Section 319(h) FY2016 NPS Implementation Grant* .
- Submit one electronic copy on CD with all Appendices, Attachments & supporting documents.



Pre-Application Meeting

Schedule Deadline: October 15, 2015

What Applicants Bring to the Table:

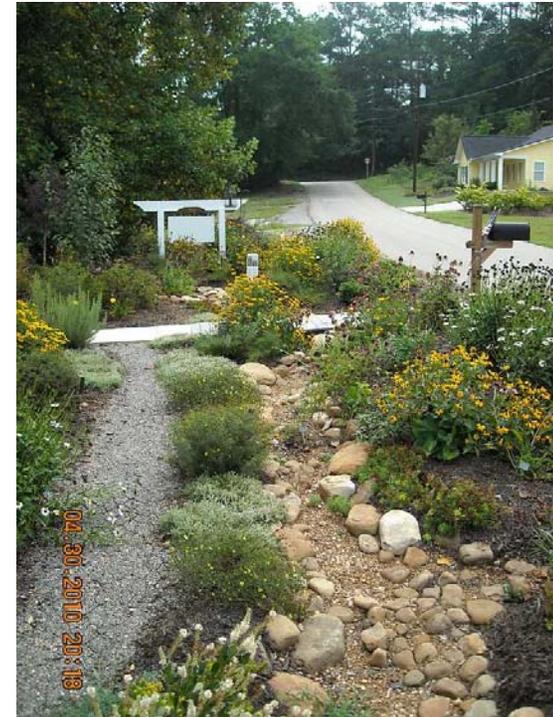
- Lead Organization;
- Primary Partners (essential to developing project);
- Ideas & Proposals for Evaluation (DRAFT work plan);
- Initial Sources for Match;
- Preliminary Application & Budget;
- Rudimentary Implementation & Drawdown Schedule;
- Background Documents, as available:
 - ✓ Photos; Maps; Watershed Plans; TMDLs & TMDLIPs; Data.



Pre-Application Meeting

What to Expect from GAEPD:

- Clarify Eligibility
- Vet & Evaluate Ideas & Proposals
- Feedback & Suggestions
- Access to Updated Documents:
 - ✓ Guidelines, Codes & Circulars
 - ✓ TMDLs
 - ✓ 305(b) / 303(d) List
 - ✓ Monitoring Data
- Networking & Connections
- Technical Assistance



DRAFT Application Review

Deadline for Comments: September 30, 2015

- **What Applicant Submits:**
 - DRAFT Application & Budget
 - Implementation & Drawdown Schedule
 - Supporting Documents, as available
- **What GAEPD Reviews:**
 - Eligibility
 - Compliance
 - Clarity
 - Cost Effectiveness



Application Walk-Through

- Project Goals & Background;
- Project Activities:
 - Tasks, Deliverables & Measures of Success;
- Roles & Responsibilities of Partners;
- Location, Size, Watershed(s) & Land Use;
- NPS Pollutants/Indicators to be Addressed;
- Section 305(b)/303(d) Lists & NPS Impacts;
- Monitoring (List Assessment or Targeted);
- Budget, Schedule & Attachments.



Supporting Documents

Required to be Considered for Funding:

- Check List of Inclusions (one paper copy)
- Project Cover Page (one paper copy)
- Project Application
- Signature on Budget Disclaimer: Non-Federal Source & No Overlap of Match Funds
- Project Implementation and Drawdown Schedule (in color)

Label file appropriately to identify content. Reference label in list of Application attachments.



Supporting Documents

Expected to be Competitive for Funding:

- Letters of Commitment that Quantify Match Values (letterhead)
- DRAFT QA/QC Water Quality Monitoring Plan (GAEPD review)
- Letter of Assurance: Project Activities Qualify as Above & Beyond NPDES Permits (letterhead)
- Watershed-Based Plan to be Implemented
- Attachments, Appendices, Exhibits (studies, TMDLs, TMDLIPs)
- Photos, Figures, Tables (field surveys, water quality data)
- Maps (project area, watersheds, streams, municipalities, roads)

GAEPD will not consider any supporting documents referenced in Application unless they are included as attachments.



Project Administration



Project Administration

- Quarterly Deliverables & Progress Reports according to Implementation & Drawdown Schedule:
 - Template Format
 - Federal & Match Budget Accounting
 - Activities & Tasks Ongoing & Completed
 - Communication
 - Accountability
- Quarterly Invoices:
 - Reimbursement Grant



Project Administration

- Close-Out Report:
 - Template Format
 - Title Page
 - Project Summary
 - Descriptions of Outputs
 - Equipment Purchased
 - Projected Budget & Actual Expenses
 - Supporting/Final Deliverables
- Final Invoice:
 - Hold 10% Federal Amount until project closes



Monitoring Procedures



Monitoring Procedures

- GAEPD General Guidelines: *Section 319(h) FY2016 NPS Implementation Grant , Appendix C (Monitoring Guidance)*
- Monitoring Purposes
- Monitoring Pollutants or Indicators
- Monitoring Types
 - 305(b)/303(d) List
 - Targeted
- Monitoring Plans



Contacts & Links



EPD Grants Unit Contacts

Joy Hinkle, Acting Unit Manager

404-463-3142

joy.hinkle@dnr.ga.gov

Connie Gilliam

404-651-8530

connie.gilliam@dnr.ga.gov

Harriet Bryant

404-651-8525

harriet.bryant@dnr.ga.gov

Barbara Stitt-Allen

404-651-8538

barbara.stitt@dnr.ga.gov

Mary Gazaway

404-651-8522

mary.gazaway@dnr.ga.gov



Helpful Links



Section 319(h) FY15 Application & Guidance Documents
<http://epd.georgia.gov/section-319h-georgias-nonpoint-source-implementation-grant>

Georgia 305(b) / 303(d) List of Waters (2014)
<http://epd.georgia.gov/georgia-305b303d-list-documents>

Georgia Total Maximum Daily Loads
<http://epd.georgia.gov/total-maximum-daily-loadings>

Title 2 CFR Part 200 and Part 1500 (2014)
http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=cda0bdef668241883294f8587b2c1163&mc=true&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2tab_02.tpl

Other Federal Funding Sources

Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection: www.epa.gov/watershedfunding

- Information about federal funding allocations for watershed protection and restoration projects.
- Searchable database of 85 programs that offer financial assistance sources, including grants, loans and cost-sharing
- Search by keyword, type of assistance, match requirement, etc.