



Georgia's Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Implementation Grant FY2017 APPLICATION DEADLINE: **OCTOBER 31, 2016**

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD) receives an annual grant under Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act to help prevent, control and/or abate nonpoint source pollution in support of **Georgia's Nonpoint Source Management Program**. GAEPD then conducts a competitive process to fund **eligible projects that will lead to direct reductions in pollutant loads and measurable water quality improvements in impaired waters** throughout the State.

The grant's **cost-share** policy requires a **maximum of 60% Federal dollars** and a **minimum of 40% non-federal cash or in-kind Match** toward the total project cost. Currently, the **maximum Federal award** to any individual project is **\$400,000**, which requires a minimum local Match of \$266,667, resulting in a total project cost of \$666,667. There is no minimum Federal award amount that a project can receive. The **maximum duration** of any individual grant is limited to **three years** to achieve the project goals and objectives.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS: **Public entities** such as city or county governments with Qualified Local Government status; regional and State agencies; authorities that operate public service or delivery programs (e.g. sewer, water); regional commissions; resource conservation and development councils; county extensions; and local school systems and State colleges and universities. State law prohibits **private or non-profit companies or organizations** from receiving Section 319(h) funds directly. However, these groups **are encouraged to partner with public agencies** to develop implementation projects and apply for grants.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR FUNDING: Projects **must** meet **all three** minimum requirements:

1. **Implement existing watershed-based plans** that adequately address USEPA's Nine Elements for Watershed Planning;
2. **Focus within a single 10-digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC-10), or smaller; and**
3. **Commit to a minimum 40% non-federal cash or in-kind Match.**

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS: Proposals **must specify the nonpoint sources of pollution and identify the activities best suited to address these sources**, which can include: TMDL implementation; watershed restoration; local regulatory or non-regulatory enforcement programs; urban stormwater controls not included in NPDES permits; technical and financial assistance; education and training; and water quality monitoring to evaluate success of best management practices (BMPs).

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA APPLIED DURING THE SELECTION PROCESS: Include appropriate project evaluation components; demonstrate cost effectiveness; support 2014 *Georgia Nonpoint Source Management Program*; alleviate NPS pollution in impaired waters or protect healthy watersheds (Georgia's 2014 305(b)/303(d) List of Waters); engage multiple partnerships; leverage ongoing watershed management activities; address priority pollutants; target priority watersheds; correct adverse impacts of increased impervious surfaces; correlate best management practices (BMPs) to management strategies identified in appropriate Regional Water Plans.

TO APPLY:

- Applicants **MUST** meet or conference-call with the GAEPD Grants Unit by **October 17, 2016**, for review of draft proposals and an initial project evaluation.
- Applicants **MUST** use the current FY2017 Application and Guidelines found on GAEPD's website at: <http://epd.georgia.gov/section-319h-georgias-nonpoint-source-implementation-grant>

CONTACT: To inquire about potential projects or to schedule a pre-proposal meeting or conference call, contact Joyce McClain at joyce.mcclain@dnr.ga.gov or 404-651-8525.

Section 319(h) Grant Timeline

- **July:** GAEPD issues the call for proposals
- **September 30, 2016:** Last day to submit DRAFT proposals for GAEPD written review (optional)
- **October 17, 2016:** Deadline for pre-application meetings with GAEPD staff to discuss proposals
- **October 31, 2016:** Post mark or delivery deadline for applications to GAEPD
- **Winter 2016-2017:** Grant award selection
- **Spring 2017** GAEPD notifies applicants of grant award
- **Summer 2017:** GAEPD and grant recipient finalize project scope of work
- **Fall 2017:** GAEPD and grant recipient execute contract and project begins