



# FY2017 Section 319(h) Grant Quick Guide to Evaluate Your Project & Apply



Georgia Environmental Protection Division  
NonPoint Source Program Grants Unit



# Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection

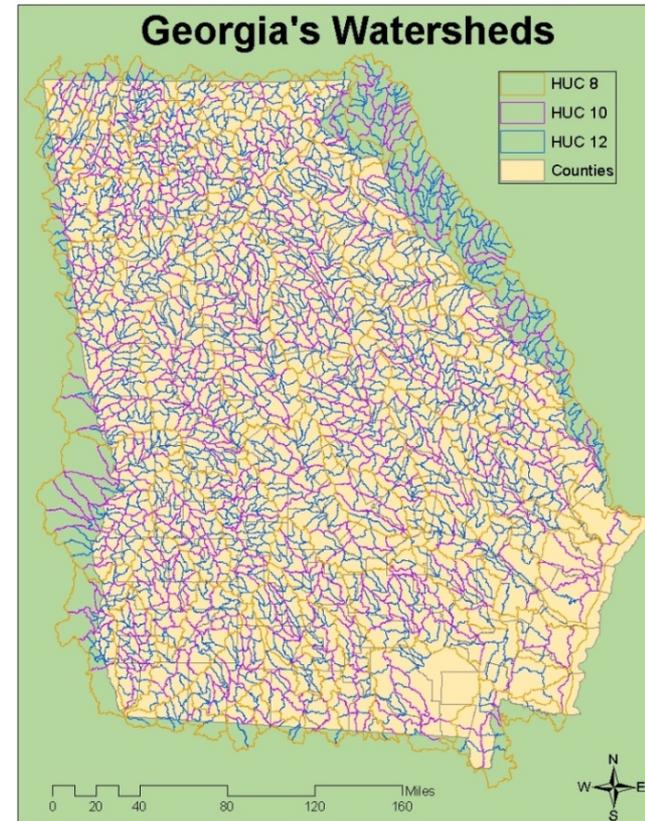
<https://ofmpub.epa.gov/apex/watershedfunding/f?p=fedfund:1>

USEPA's online catalog is a searchable database of financial assistance sources (grants, loans, cost-sharing) available to fund a variety of watershed protection projects. Search subject matter criteria or general words related to the funding programs, or both.

Criteria searches include the type of organization (e.g., non-profit groups, private landowner, state, business), type of assistance sought (grants or loans), and keywords (e.g., agriculture, wildlife habitat). Searches result in a listing of programs by name. Click on each program name to review detailed information on the funding source.

# Topics Covered

- Cost-Share Requirements
- Eligibility Requirements
- Selection Factors
- 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

## Minimum Requirements

- Applications **must** fulfill **all three** of the following:
  - ✓ **Implement existing watershed-based plans** that meet all USEPA's Nine Elements for Watershed Planning;
  - ✓ Locate project 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 USEPA's 9 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 USEPA's 9 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.

# Eligible Applicants

- 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.
- Function as Lead Organizations on project.
- Maintain Qualified Local Government Status.
- Partner with NGOs/NPOs/local watershed groups:
  - ✓ NGOs/NPOs/watershed groups are NOT eligible applicants;
  - ✓ NGOs/NPOs/local groups can partner with eligible applicants.

# Eligible Project Activities

- TMDL Implementation & Watershed Restoration;
- Local Regulatory & Non-regulatory Enforcement Programs;
- Urban Stormwater Controls Not Included in NPDES Permits or “Above & Beyond” NPDES Required BMPs;
- Education & Training to Build Local Capacity;
- Technical Assistance
- Financial Support for Project Management/Administration;
- Water Quality Monitoring to Track Trends in Water Quality Improvement.

**NOTE: This list represents examples of eligible projects and is not completely inclusive.**



# Best Management Practices

## Eligible Project Activities to implement BMPs must include the following tasks:

- Develop Schedule of BMP Operations & Maintenance or Standard Operating Procedures in accordance with commonly accepted standards and covering at least five to ten years.
- Estimate linear feet of streambank restoration or acres related to wetland protection each quarter.
- Model load reductions for nitrogen, phosphorus and/or sediment.

# Water Quality Monitoring

- **Post-BMP monitoring is eligible under a 319(h) grant for the following purposes:**
  - ✓ Collect & qualify samples to assess water quality for 305(b)/303(d) List of Waters;
  - ✓ Track post-BMP trends in water quality improvement (or degradation); and
  - ✓ Evaluate effectiveness of **new technology** BMPs.
- Schedule monitoring during the final twelve (12) months to give BMPs enough time to work.
- Submit DRAFT QA/QC Monitoring Plan that is appropriate for monitoring purpose with Application.
- See Appendix C in General Guidelines.

# Ineligible Activities

**The following are examples of ineligible projects:**

- Implementation of NPDES Permit Requirements (unless “Above & Beyond” specific permit BMPs);
- 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.



# “Above and Beyond” NPDES Permit Requirements

- BMP installations, approaches or applications “above and beyond” any elements associated with a NPDES permit.
- Grant-funded activities entered in an NPDES permit report MAY NOT be counted as compliance.
- Applicants must include **a signed Letter of Assurance on official letterhead** verifying 319(h) project is “above and beyond” and will not be reported as compliance.
- Section 319(h) Grants will not fund watershed monitoring required under a NPDES permit. However, ongoing NPDES monitoring data can be used to support a 319(h) project.

# Selection Criteria

## Key Ranking Priorities

- Specify nonpoint sources of pollution and identify activities best suited to address these sources.
- Demonstrate cost-effectiveness.
- Reference goals/milestones/implementation activities in 2014 revision of “Georgia’s Statewide Nonpoint Source Management Plan”.
- Identify Measures of Success for each Project Task, including numerical values, as appropriate.



# Additional Selection Priorities

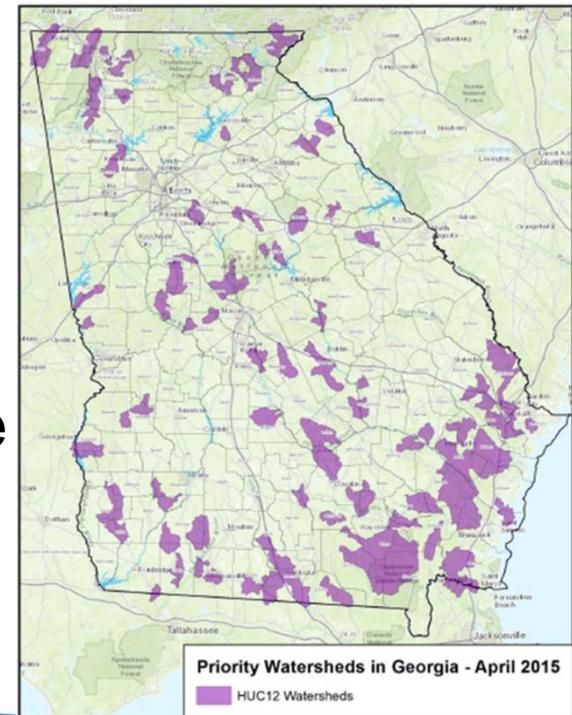
- Target Georgia's **2014** 305(b)/303(d) List of Waters in order to accomplish the following:
  - ✓ Improve water quality by 40% in impaired (not supporting) waters;
  - ✓ Restore impaired (not supporting) waters to meet State standards and support designated uses; or
  - ✓ Protect water quality in 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 finalized Total Maximum Daily Loads.
- 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 a WaterFirst Community or locate project within jurisdiction of committed partner that qualifies as a WaterFirst Community.
- Demonstrate BMPs, enforceable policies, and mechanisms that will result in “Georgia’s Coastal Nonpoint Source Management Program” being fully approvable under Section 6217 - Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990 (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

## FY2017 Application Time Line

**FINAL Application Deadline: October 31, 2016**

- July: GAEPD Announces FY17 Grant
- September 30<sup>th</sup>: Deadline for Written Reviews (optional)
- October 17<sup>th</sup>: Last Date for Pre-Application Meeting/Call
- October 31<sup>st</sup>: Final Applications Due
- December: GAEPD Scores Applications
- Following Spring: GAEPD Notifies Award Recipients\*
- Following Fall: GAEPD Negotiates & Executes Contracts\*

**\*Subject to change**



# Match

- Total Federal Funds x  $2/3$  = 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) FY2017 NPS Implementation Grant* . (If don't, Application may not be reviewed).
- Submit one electronic copy of Application with electronic files of all Appendices, Attachments & supporting documents on CD.

# Written Review of DRAFT Application

**DRAFT Deadline: September 30, 2016**

- **What Applicant Submits:**
  - DRAFT Work Plan, Budget & Schedule
  - Supporting Documents, as available
- **What GAEPD Reviews in Writing:**
  - Eligibility, Compliance
  - Clarity, Accountability
  - Cost Effectiveness

# Pre-Application Meeting

**Last Day to Meet/Call: October 17, 2016**

## What Applicants Bring to the Table:

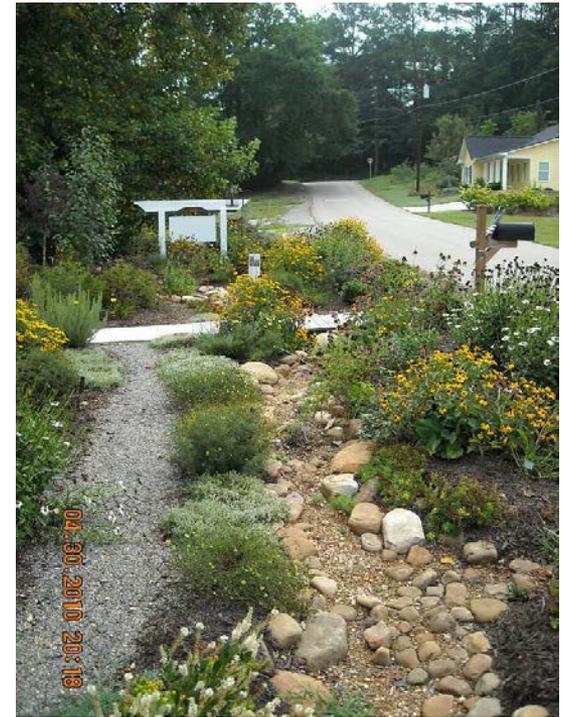
- Lead Organization & Primary Partners;
- Clear, concise summary of **what you want to do**, and **how you want to accomplish objectives**;
- Watershed-Based Plan or Summary of Nine Elements to be implemented;
- DRAFT Application for Evaluation:
  - ✓ Work Plan, Budget, Project Schedule, Sources for Match;
- Background Documents, as available:
  - ✓ Watershed Plans, TMDLs & TMDLIPs, Photos, Maps, Data.



# Pre-Application Meeting

## What Feedback to Expect from GAEPD:

- Clarify Eligibility & Priorities
- Vet & Evaluate Activities, Tasks, Deliverables & Measures of Success
- Feedback & Suggestions
- Access to Updated Documents:
  - ✓ Guidelines, Codes & Circulars
  - ✓ TMDLs, 305(b) / 303(d) List
  - ✓ Monitoring Data
- Networking & Connections
- Technical Assistance



# 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, Project Cover Page, Signature on Match Disclaimer.
- Completed Project Application, Work Plan & Budget.
- Project Schedule (in color).
- Watershed-Based Plan or Summary of Nine Elements to be Implemented.
- Files labeled appropriately to identify content.
- File labels referenced in List of Inclusions.

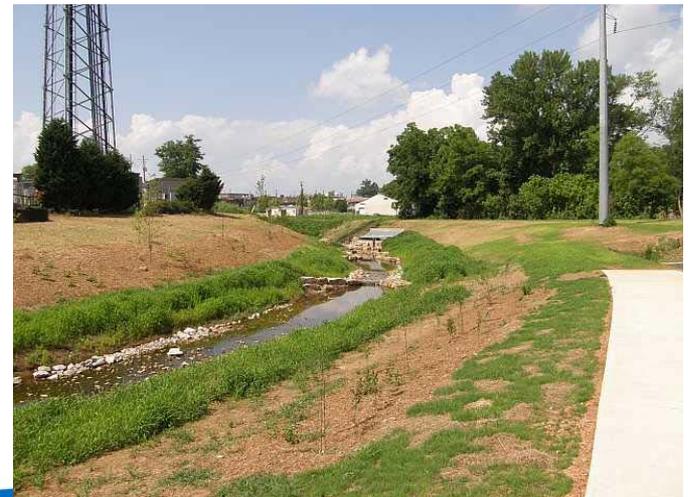


# Supporting Documents

## 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)
- Attachments, Appendices, Exhibits (studies, TMDLs, TMDLIPs)
- Photos, Figures, Tables (field surveys, water quality data)
- Maps (project area, watersheds, streams, municipalities, roads)

**All supporting documents referenced in Application must be included as files.**



# Legal Requirements & Allowable Costs

Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Implementation Grant projects must conform to all applicable legal requirements & allowable costs described in the following:

Office of Management & Budget (OMB) *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* - Title 2 CFR Part 200 and Part 1500, effective December 26, 2014.

# Project Administration

## Quarterly Reports & Invoices

- Quarterly Reports & Deliverables:
  - Submit in Template Format provided by GAEPD
  - Federal & Match Budget Accounting
  - Activities & Tasks Completed, Ongoing & Pending
  - According to Project Schedule
- Quarterly Invoices:
  - Reimbursement Drawdown
  - Match Accrued



# Final Close-Out

- 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



# Contacts & Links

## Contacts

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# Links



Section 319(h) FY17 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](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=cda0bdef668241883294f8587b2c1163&mc=true&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2tab_02.tpl)

Section 6217 - Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments 1990

<https://www.epa.gov/polluted-runoff-nonpoint-source-pollution/coastal-zone-act-reauthorization-amendments-czara-section>