

FY2021 Section 319(h) Grant **Quick Guide to Evaluate Your** **Project & Apply**



To join by phone: 470-381-2552
Webinar ID: 990 3661 9104
Participant ID: 371213 Passcode: 319319



Georgia Environmental Protection Division
NonPoint Source Program Grants Unit

Application Process

FY2021 Application Time Line

FINAL Application Deadline: APRIL 30, 2021

- ✓ January 2021: GAEPD issues the call for proposals
- ✓ March 10th: Pre-application Meeting Webinar (required)
- ✓ March 31st: Last day to submit DRAFT proposals for GAEPD written review (optional)
- ✓ April 30th: Deadline to email digital applications to GAEPD
- ✓ Summer: Grant award selection
- ✓ Summer: GAEPD notifies applicants of grant award
- ✓ Fall: GAEPD and grant recipients finalize project scope of work
- ✓ Fall: GAEPD and grant recipients execute contract and project begins



Pre-Application Meeting

Webinar

(Required in order to submit)

What to Expect:

- Meet the EPD Team
- Highlights of changes from FY20
- Cost-Share Requirements
- Eligibility Requirements
- Selection Criteria
- 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**



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



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, however they may partner with eligible applicants



Eligibility Requirements

Minimum Requirements

- Applications must fulfill **all three** of the following:
 - ✓ Commit to a minimum 40% non-federal Match
 - ✓ Locate project within a single 10-digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC-10), or smaller
 - ✓ Implement existing watershed-based plans that meet all USEPA's Nine Elements for Watershed Planning



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



Watershed-Based Plan Check List of USEPA's 9 Elements

- EPA requires the nine elements be addressed in watershed based plans funded with Clean Water Act section 319 funds and strongly recommends that they be included in all other watershed based plans intended to address water quality impairments.



Eligible Project Activities

- ✓ TMDL Implementation & Watershed Restoration
- ✓ Urban Stormwater Controls Not Included in NPDES Permits or “Above & Beyond” NPDES Required BMPs
- ✓ Education & Outreach
- ✓ Technical Assistance
- ✓ BMP Effectiveness Monitoring
- ✓ Project Administration



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



Eligible Project Activities

- Additional Project Activities
 - Install/operate/maintain BMPs
 - Estimate load reductions (nitrogen, phosphorus & sediment)
 - Restore & protect streambanks or wetlands
 - Fence out livestock; provide alternate watering sources; install heavy use protection areas
 - Recruit partners to practice pollution controls
 - Design and implement green infrastructure
 - Target BMPs in recharge & wetland areas
 - Establish & maintain buffers
 - Develop ordinances

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



Ineligible Activities

- ✗ Implementation of NPDES Permit Requirements (unless "Above & Beyond")
- ✗ 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



Best Management Practices

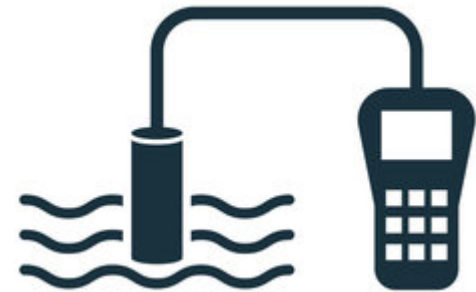
– Project Activities for BMPs must include the following tasks:

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



Water Quality Monitoring

- Funding to conduct water quality monitoring for individual projects will not be awarded in FY2021.
- GA EPD will comprehensively evaluate monitoring efforts of the Nonpoint Source Program.
- A limited number of projects that propose to **evaluate effectiveness of new technology BMPs MAY** still qualify for funding.



“Above and Beyond” NPDES Permit Requirements

- 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 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

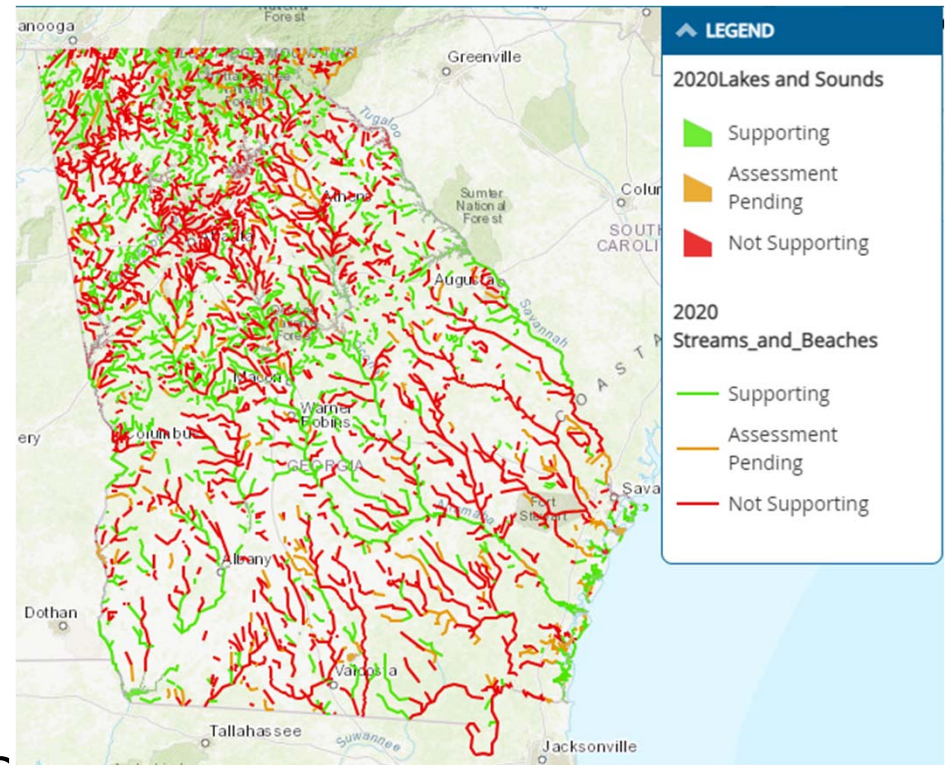
Key Ranking Priorities

- Specify nonpoint sources of pollution and identify activities best suited to address these sources
- Demonstrate cost-effectiveness
- Reference goals/milestones/implementation activities in 2019 revised "Georgia's Statewide Nonpoint Source Management Plan"
- Identify Measures of Success each Project Task



Additional Selection Priorities

- Target Georgia's 2020 305(b)/303(d) List of Waters in order to:
 - ✓ Improve water quality by 40% in impaired waters
 - ✓ Restore impaired waters to meet State standards
 - ✓ Protect water quality in Category 1 (supporting) waters by incorporating USEPA's "Healthy Watersheds Initiative".



Additional Selection Priorities

- Implement structural or non-structural BMPs that show quantifiable water quality improvements
- Engage committed multi-jurisdictional partners in conjunction with ongoing NPS activities
- Target Pathogens (Bacteria), Sediment, Dissolved Oxygen, Nitrogen and Phosphorous impairments
- Implement BMPs identified in Regional Water Plans



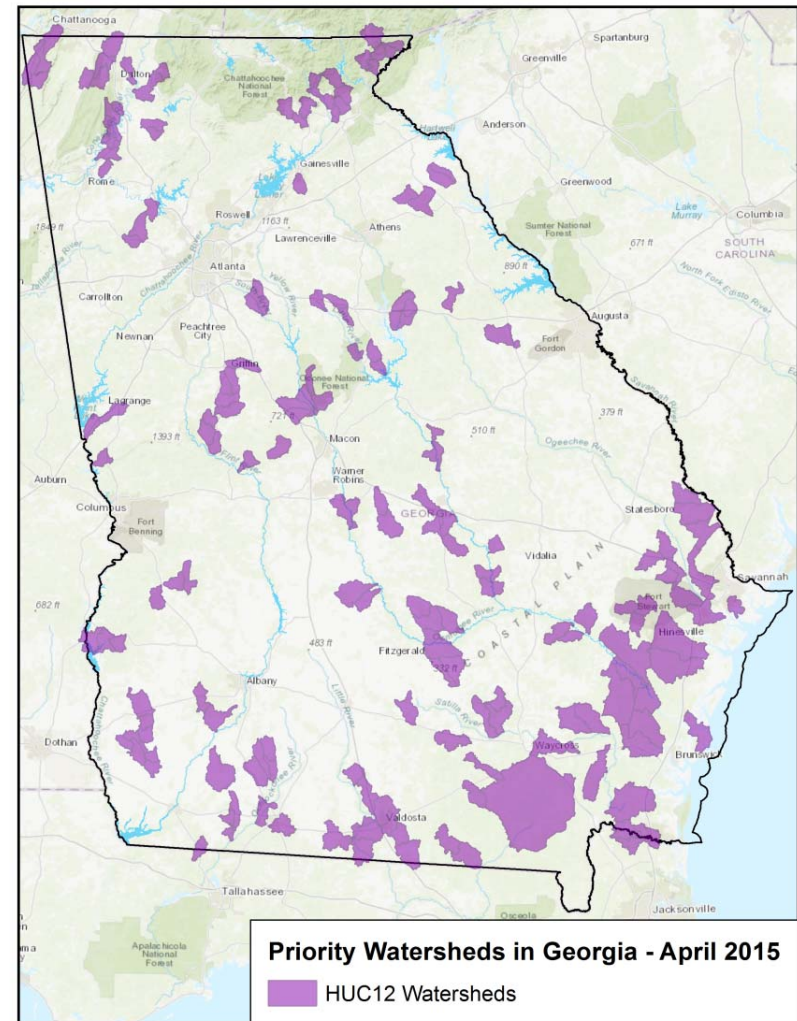
Additional Selection Priorities

- Address finalized Total Maximum Daily Loads
- Demonstrate environmental benefits in addition to nonpoint source impairments
- Commit to 50% or higher Match
- 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 implemented
- A new update is that Implementing BMPs in nine Coastal Georgia urban clusters is no longer on this list



Other Competitive Conditions

- 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
- For the Project Budget, it is essential to please double-check all Project Budget calculations



Procuring Subcontractors

- Code of Federal Regulations Section 200.317
- General procurement standards and Georgia Procurement Manual
- Procurement can be a complicated topic, and any specific questions will be addressed during contract negotiations.



Supporting Documents

Required to be Considered for Funding:

- Project Cover Page
- Project Narrative
 - Reference all supporting documents in *Section 11. Project Attachments*
- Project Schedule
- Signed/Dated Match Disclaimer and Authorization
- Signed/Dated Letter of Assurance on official letterhead from the lead organization

* All files should be labeled appropriately to identify content



Supporting Documents

Expected to be Competitive for Funding:

- Letters of Commitment that Quantify Match Values
- Letter of Assurance: Project Activities Qualify as "Above & Beyond" NPDES Permits
- Studies, TMDLs, TMDL Implementation Plans
- Photos, Figures, Tables (field surveys, water quality data)
- Maps (project area, watersheds, streams, municipalities, roads)

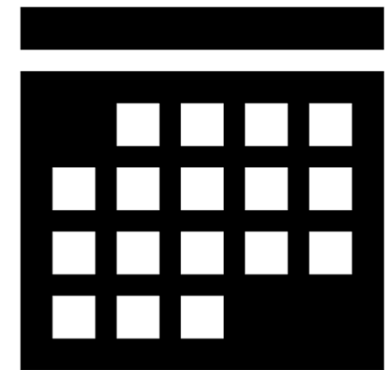
* All supporting documents referenced in Application should be included as files.



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



Project Administration

Final Close-Out

- Close-Out Report:
 - 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



Written Review of DRAFT Application

DRAFT Deadline: March 31, 2021

- **What Applicant Submits:**
 - DRAFT Work Plan, Budget & Schedule
 - Supporting Documents, as available

- **What GAEPD Reviews:**
 - Eligibility, Compliance
 - Clarity, Accountability
 - Cost Effectiveness



Contacts & Links

Contacts

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Links



Section 319(h) Application & Guidance Documents

<https://epd.georgia.gov/outreach/grants/section-319h-georgias-nonpoint-source-implementation-grant>

Georgia 305(b) / 303(d) List of Waters (2020)

<https://epd.georgia.gov/watershed-protection-branch/watershed-planning-and-monitoring-program/water-quality-georgia#toc-georgia-2020-305-b-303-d-list-documents-approved-by-u-s-epa-august-5-2020>

Georgia Total Maximum Daily Loads

<http://epd.georgia.gov/total-maximum-daily-loadings>

Georgia's Statewide NPS Management Plan

<https://epd.georgia.gov/outreach/grants/section-319h-georgias-nonpoint-source-implementation-grant>