

Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Implementation Grant

Sample* of Questions Used to Score Competitive Applications

REQUIRED FOR FUNDING

- ✓ All required application items are included, completed, and signed.
- ✓ Applicant has Qualified Local Govt Status (if applicable).
- ✓ Project will implement an existing Nine-Element Watershed-Based Plan or alternative.
- ✓ Applicant commits to a minimum of 40% match.
- ✓ All project activities are "above and beyond" any applicable NPDES permit.

Key Ranking Criteria

Applications receive the majority of points in the scoring process for the following items:

- Are the proposed activities best suited to prevent, control or abate the sources of pollution?
- Are the proposed activities supported by the Watershed Plan or alternative?
- Does the project intend to implement aspects of *Georgia's Nonpoint Source Plan*?
- Do the budget and justification sufficiently detail how the funds will be spent?
- Is the project cost effective?
- What % of the budget is allocated for BMP implementation and education?
- Are the line item total expenses (Federal + match) reasonable?
- Are the measures of success related to the tasks and/or deliverables? Are they quantifiable/measurable?

Additional Selection Priorities

Applications may receive extra points in the scoring process for the following items:

- Will the project address water quality in a listed segment(s)?
- Does the project directly address Pathogens (ex. Fecal coliform), Sediment, Nutrients (Nitrogen, Phosphorus), Low Dissolved Oxygen (excluding caused by nutrients)?
- Are the impairments listed as Category 4a, Category 5?
- Will the project protect water quality via Healthy Watershed Initiative?
- Does the applicant partner with local nonprofit watershed groups?
- How many partners provided letters of commitment describing activities or resources they will be contributing to the project and the dollar values of their donations?
- Does project propose leveraging existing water quality efforts within project area?
- Does project propose activities identified in Regional Water Plans?
- Will project activities achieve results beyond water quality improvements, such as Environmental Justice, Air Quality, Water Conservation, Energy Conservation, Stream Flow Profile, Habitat Connectivity?
- Does the applicant commit to match 50% or greater?
- Is the project located in a Priority Watershed?
- Is the applicant a Water First Community? Is the project taking place in a Water First Community that is not the applicant but an active partner?
- Will the project help Georgia implement the Coastal NPS Program under CZARA, or be implemented in one of the 11 coastal counties under the NPS Coastal Plan, or be implemented in a priority coastal urban cluster?

*** Subject to change. Additional criteria may be used based on priorities for GAEPD or guidance from USEPA. Not all criteria receive equal points in the scoring process.**