

# **FY2020 Section 319(h) Grant** **Quick Guide to Evaluate Your** **Project & Apply**



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Georgia Environmental Protection Division  
NonPoint Source Program Grants Unit

# Application Process

## FY2020 Application Time Line

### **FINAL Application Deadline: APRIL 30, 2020**

- January 2020: GAEPD issues the call for proposals
- April 2<sup>nd</sup> : Pre-application Meeting Webinar (required)
- April 14<sup>th</sup>: Last day to submit DRAFT proposals for GAEPD written review (optional)
- April 30<sup>th</sup>: 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  $\frac{2}{3}$
- Maximum Time Frame of project: **3 Years**



# Match

- Total Federal Funds x  $\frac{2}{3}$  = 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



# 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:
  - ✓ 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
  - ✓ Commit to a minimum 40% non-federal Match



# 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
- Project Management/Administration
- Water Quality Monitoring



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

# 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 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

- 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
  - ✓ Evaluate effectiveness of **new technology** BMPs
- Submit DRAFT QA/QC Monitoring Plan that is appropriate for monitoring purpose with Application
- Schedule monitoring during the final 12 months to give BMPs enough time to work



# "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

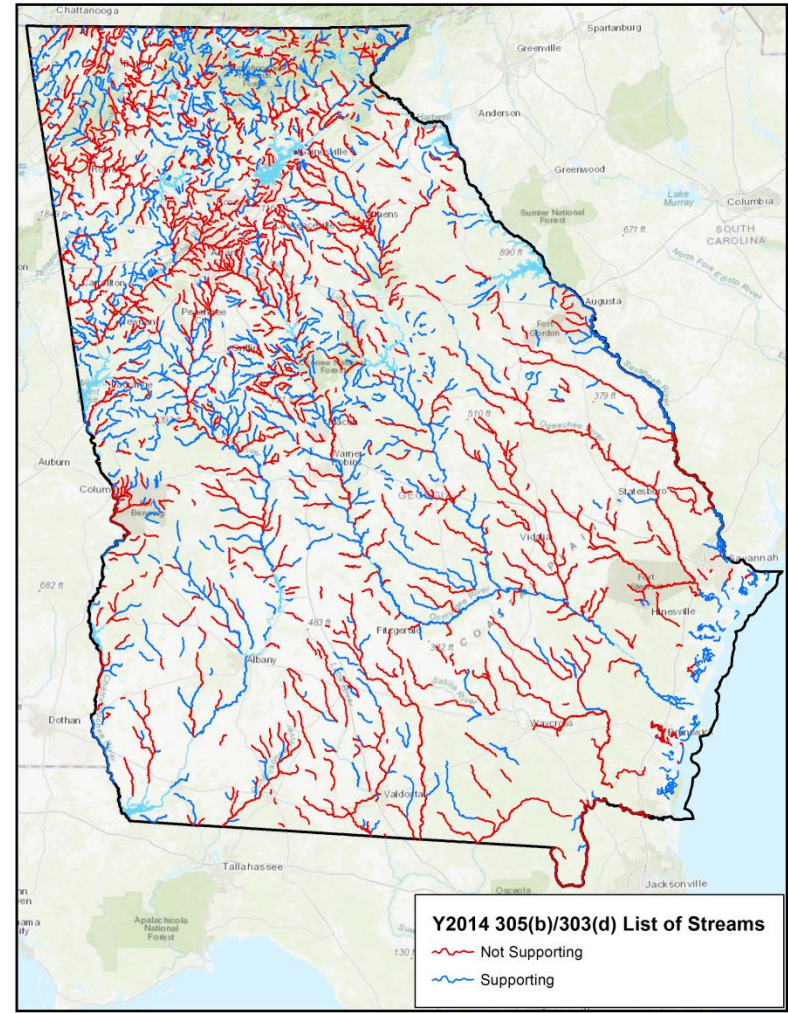
- Specify nonpoint sources of pollution and identify activities best suited to address these sources
- Demonstrate cost-effectiveness
- Reference goals/milestones/implementation activities in 2019 revised "Georgia's Statewide Nonpoint Source Management Plan"
- Identify Measures of Success each Project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





# Additional Selection Priorities

- Target Georgia's 2018 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



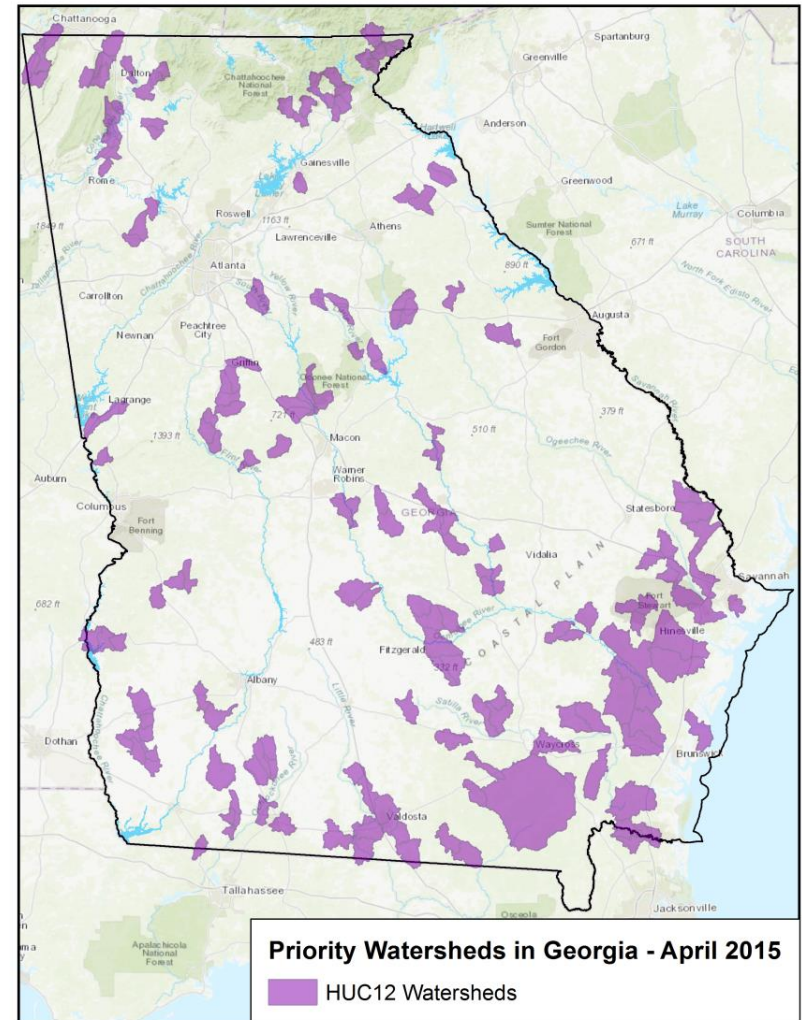
# Additional Selection Priorities

- 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
- If you subcontract out then you must follow the state procurement process or your own competitive process if a single line item in your contract is greater than \$25,000.
- Do not preselect a subcontractor unless the line item is less than \$25,000 or you can provide documentation of a competitive solicitation.
- If a single line item in your contract is under the \$25,000 dollar threshold then that negates the need for a competitive bid process and you can direct award with a contract to that subcontractor. Please contact us for details, if needed.

# Procuring Subcontractors

According to the Georgia Procurement Manual local governments are exempt from the State Purchasing Act but are entitled to request purchasing assistance and may use statewide contracts and according to the Georgia Procurement Manual certain goods/services included in the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing List are exempt from the State Purchasing Act.



# Supporting Documents

## **Required to be Considered for Funding:**

- Check List of Inclusions, Project Cover Page and 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
- DRAFT QA/QC Water Quality Monitoring Plan
- 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



# 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: April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

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



# Contacts & Links

## Contacts

Unit Manager  
Open

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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 (2018)

<https://epd.georgia.gov/watershed-protection-branch/watershed-planning-and-monitoring-program/water-quality-georgia#toc-georgia-2018-305-b-303-d-list-documents-approved-by-u-s-epa-june-14-2019>

## 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>