



Georgia's Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Implementation Grant FY2015 APPLICATION DEADLINE: **OCTOBER 31, 2014**

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD) receives an annual **Nonpoint Source Implementation Grant** from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) 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.

A Federal **cost-share** policy associated with the grant 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 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 agencies** such as local, regional, or State governments; authorities that operate public service or delivery programs (e.g. sewer, water); regional commissions; agricultural conservation councils and county extensions; and school and university systems. State law prohibits **private or non-profit companies or organizations** from receiving Section 319(h) funds directly; but, these groups **are encouraged to form partnerships with public agencies** to develop implementation projects and apply for grants. **APPLICANTS MUST MEET OR CONFERENCE-CALL WITH THE GAEPD GRANTS UNIT PRIOR TO OCTOBER 15, 2014.**

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR FUNDING: *To be considered for funding, all projects **must meet both** of the following minimum requirements:*

- **Implement existing watershed-based plans** that adequately address USEPA's Nine Elements for Watershed Planning; **and**
- **Commit to a minimum 40% non-federal Match** that can be accomplished through local, non-federal funds or in-kind services.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS: Grant proposals **must address nonpoint sources of pollution with activities recommended in a watershed-based plan which lead to water quality improvement** and 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; update and refinement of nonpoint source pollution assessment and initiatives; and water quality monitoring to evaluate success of management practices.

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA APPLIED DURING THE SELECTION PROCESS: All proposals will also be reviewed in the light of additional competitive criteria: target Georgia's 2012 305(b)/303(d) List of Waters; alleviate "criterion violated" due to NPS pollution on impaired waters or protect healthy watersheds; engage multiple partnerships; leverage ongoing watershed management activities; focus within a single 10-digit or smaller Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC); address specific pollutants (pathogens, dissolved oxygen, sediment, nutrients); demonstrate benefits in addition to water quality improvement; commit to 50% or higher Match; locate project in priority watersheds; correct adverse impacts of increased impervious surfaces; specify BMPs identified in appropriate Regional Water Plans.

Section 319(h) Grant Timeline

- **July:** GAEPD issues the call for proposals
- **July-October 15, 2014:** GAEPD staff meets with applicants to discuss proposals
- **September 30, 2014:** Last day to submit DRAFT proposals for GAEPD review
- **October 31, 2014:** Post mark or delivery deadline for proposals to GAEPD
- **Winter 2014-2015:** Grant award selection
- **Spring 2015:** GAEPD notifies applicants of grant award
- **Summer 2015:** GAEPD and grant recipient finalize project scope of services
- **Fall 2015:** GAEPD and grant recipient execute contract and project begins

TO APPLY:

APPLICANTS MUST USE THE CURRENT FY2015 APPLICATION AND GUIDELINES FOUND ON GAEPD'S WEBSITE AT:
<http://epd.georgia.gov/section-319h-georgias-nonpoint-source-implementation-grant>

CONTACT:

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to inquire about potential applications or to schedule a pre-application meeting / conference call.

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