

**State of Georgia
Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Program,
Emerging Contaminants
State Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report**



**Prepared by the
Georgia Environmental Finance Authority
for the
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IV
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PLEASE NOTE that this report does not constitute nor is it suitable for use as an official financial statement. This report is not prepared by an independent auditor or accountant, and is provided for informational purposes only.

**Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Annual Report,
Emerging Contaminants
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State Fiscal Year 2023**

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Introduction

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program provides assistance to public water systems for capital improvement projects in Georgia. These projects protect public health through regulatory compliance, ensure adequate water supply, and promote the goals of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (SDWA), as amended. The 1996 amendments to the SDWA (Pub. L. 104-182) authorized the administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish a DWSRF loan program to assist states in financing local public water system infrastructure needed to achieve or maintain compliance with SDWA requirements in order to protect public health.

GEFA was created by the Georgia General Assembly in 1986 as the successor agency to the Georgia Development Authority Environmental Facilities Program. GEFA assists local governments in financing the construction, extension, rehabilitation, replacement, and securitization of public works facilities. The GEFA board of directors consists of three ex-officio members and eight members appointed by the governor. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) provides certain professional services for the DWSRF. These services include:

- Project reviews and approvals;
- Planning and project development;
- Information tracking;
- Information gathering and assistance with the National Needs Survey;
- Issuing Notices of No Significant Impacts (NONSI) and Categorical Exclusions (CE);
- Assistance with the National Information Management System (NIMS); and

With the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) signed on November 15, 2021, by President Biden, funding has been allocated to reduce exposure to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and other emerging contaminants through drinking water priorities. The sole purpose of this funding is for addressing PFAS, and in general, may not be used for traditional DWSRF projects. This annual report outlines Georgia's uses of the FY2023 DWSRF Emerging Contaminants (EC) allotment of \$17,804,000.

Executive Summary

In September 2022, GEFA submitted an Intended Use Plan (IUP) and application for the 2022 Drinking Water EC grant. In October 2022 GEFA held a public meeting to present and receive comments on the IUP. The 2022 grant was awarded on November 09, 2022, for \$17,804,000. The original IUP grant amounts were as follows:

- City of Chatsworth - \$7,000,000
- City of Calhoun - \$1,315,401
- City of White – To be determined

During the early stages of planning, the cost and needs of each community were still being evaluated. As planning progressed, the estimated need for Chatsworth and Calhoun increased to approximately \$32,000,000.

The IUP was updated on June 15, 2023, the city of White was removed, which qualifies for the Emerging Contaminants Small Disadvantaged Communities Grant. The grant amount for the city of Calhoun was also updated to reflect their current need.

Attachment 1 shows the total sources of funds by quarter during state FY2023.

Currently, grants for city of Chatsworth and city of Calhoun are being drafted. (See Attachment 2).

All new grant agreements will be made to qualified local governments or water and sewer authorities according to the requirements of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), which includes a verified Service Delivery Strategy. Additionally, all grant recipients have the technical, managerial, and financial capability to operate a sewer system. Each project will be reviewed in accordance with the EPA approved State Environmental Review Process (SERP) and will be issued a Notice of No Significant Impact (NONSI) or a Categorical Exclusion (CE). Below is a short description for each of the projects funded in state FY2023.

Projects

No projects were funded in FY2023.

Meeting Intended Use Plan (IUP) Goals and Objectives

The 2023 DWSRF Emerging Contaminants IUP listed four goals for the program.

1. Long-term Program Goal: Ensure PFOS/PFOA impacted communities have the funding needed to implement remediation strategies.

Status: GEFA continues to work with communities with emerging contaminate eligible projects to ensure that those communities with the greatest need will have funding available. GEFA will work with these communities to ensure projects get underway and the funds are spent in a fiscally responsible manner to further the program goal of helping communities impacted by PFAS and emerging contaminant.

2. Short-term Program Goal: Collaborate with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (EPD) to determine PFOS/PFOA impacted communities.

Status: GEFA works closely with the EPD to identify communities with elevated levels of PFAS or other emerging contaminants. Three communities have been identified for future funding based on PFAS data: August, Harris County, city of Gray.

3. Short-term Program Goal: Collaborate with other agencies to determine funding options for impacted communities.

Status: The water resources division works in partnership with the Georgia Rural Water Association and the Georgia Association of Water Professionals to help inform impacted communities of grant and other funding opportunities available through GEFA.

4. Short-term Program Goal: Expand the outreach activities to ensure that systems are aware of and understand DWSRF assistance options and the application process by presenting at statewide workshops and conferences to publicize the DWSRF program.

Status: GEFA partners with IB Environmental, DBE Certified, to provide communities with current funding opportunities through webinars and training events. These can be found on GEFA's website and YouTube channel.

Program Administration (4 Percent)

GEFA does not intend to use any of the four percent set-aside for administrative purposes. GEFA has sufficient funds in its non-program fee account to cover the administrative costs.

DWSRF EC Non-Program Income

In state FY2023, no non-program fees were allocated.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Participation

Within GEFA's agreement, recipients are required to encourage participation of small minority and women owned businesses in all project subcontracts. The state's DWSRF percentage goals through September 30, 2023, are four percent for Minority Business Enterprises (MBE) and four percent for Women Business Enterprises (WBE).

GEFA makes every effort to comply with the EPA's Six Good Faith Efforts. Telephone calls and emails are regularly made to DBE subcontractors to encourage their participation in both the CWSRF and DWSRF projects. DBEs are alerted to GEFA-approved projects as soon as they appear in the database, allowing subcontractors to inquire and prepare for these projects prior to the bid date. Subcontractors are additionally urged to pursue EPA/Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT)/Small Business Administration (SBA) certification. GEFA staff are available to answer questions and assist subcontractors in the application process. GEFA also maintains an in-house bidder's list of certified DBE prime contractors and subcontractors. The data for the bidder's list is collected and forwarded to loan recipients with compliance approval. The bidder's list also serves as a database of MBEs and WBEs and non-MBE/WBE prime contractors and subcontractors.

In considering whether firms could subcontract with DBEs, GEFA encourages prime contractors to follow the Six Good Faith Efforts to solicit the services of MBEs and WBEs. Project approval is withheld if DBE documentation is insufficient. Prime contractors are also provided with an example of an EPA-approved newspaper advertisement and an example of a solicitation letter to help eliminate generic newspaper advertisements and poorly written letters. GDOT, city of Atlanta, SBA, and Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) are resources for prime contractors for identifying DBE-certified subcontractors. In addition, an EPA bidder's list is available upon request from GEFA. Guidance is provided in all related construction contracts to encourage prime contractors to divide work when feasible.

DWSRF EC Grant Disbursements

The DWSRF did not disburse any funds during state FY2023. Attachment 3 has been reserved to show funds disbursed in FY2024.

DWSRF EC State Match

The DWSRF EC Grant does not require a State Match.

The DWSRF adheres to the certifications covered in the SDWA and those within Georgia's Operating Agreement with the regional EPA office. The specific certifications are:

1. Capitalization Grant Agreement
2. Payment Schedule
3. State Matching Funds

4. Commitment of 120 Percent in One Year
5. All Funds - Timely Expenditures
6. Enforceable Requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act
7. Cross Cutting Issues
8. State Law and Procedures
9. State Accounting and Auditing Procedures
10. Recipient Accounting and Auditing Procedures
11. Annual Report
12. Limitations on Eligibility
13. Environmental Review Process
14. Maintain the Fund
15. Perpetuity
16. Types of Assistance
17. Priority List
18. Limitation of Double Benefits
19. Consistency with Planning Requirements
20. Annual Audit
21. Intended Use Plan
22. Annual Federal Oversight Review and Technical Assistance
23. Dispute Resolution
24. Reserve the Right to Transfer up to 30 Percent of Grant Amount Between Programs
25. NIMS
26. Public Benefits Reporting System

A copy of the state FY2022 unaudited financial data is provided under separate cover.

Attachment 1
Sources of Funds by Quarter
Drinking Water Emerging Contaminant State Revolving Fund
FY23
July 1, 2022 – June 30,2023

Sources	Quarter 1 07/2022-09/2022	Quarter 2 07/2022-09/2022	Quarter 3 07/2022-09/2022	Quarter 4 07/2022-09/2022	Total
Capitalization Grants for Drinking Water State Revolving Funds	--	--	--	\$17,804,000	\$17,804,000

Attachment 2
Communities Receiving Funds
Drinking Water Emerging Contaminant State Revolving Fund
FY23
July 1, 2022 – June 30,2023

Sources	Project Number	Population Served	Affordability Score	Project Type	Grant Amount
City of Calhoun (in draft)	ECDW2022001	17,088	24	Treatment Upgrades for PFAS Reduction	
City of Chatsworth (in draft)	ECDW2022002	4,247	27	Reverse Osmosis Water Plant	

Attachment 3
Disbursements of Funds by Quarter
Drinking Water Emerging Contaminant State Revolving Fund
FY23
July 1, 2022 – June 30,2023

Sources	Quarter 1 07/2022-09/2022	Quarter 1 07/2022-09/2022	Quarter 1 07/2022-09/2022	Quarter 1 07/2022-09/2022	Total
N/A	--	--	--	--	--