2024
Intended Use Plan
Drinking Water
State Revolving Fund
Emerging Contaminants

Prepared by the
Georgia Environmental Finance Authority

May 1, 2026

DRAFT

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION 3
Emerging Contaminants Funding 3
EC-DWSRF PROJECT SOLICITATION PROCESS 4
GEFA Outreach Events 4
GEFA Consultation 4
GEFA Application Process 5
EC-DWSRF COMPREHENSIVE LIST 5
EC-DWSRF FUNDABLE LIST AND ESTIMATED DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE 5
Build America, Buy America Act (BABA) 6
TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF FINANCING 6
Financing Terms 6
Four Percent Administration 6
SOURCES AND USE OF FUNDS 6
Criteria and Method for Distribution of Funds 7
GEFA OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES 7
Long-Term Goals/Outcomes 7
Short-Term Goals/Outputs 7
Attachment 1 – Comprehensive List EC-DWSRF 10
Attachment 2 – Fundable List and Estimated Disbursement Schedule 11
Attachment 3 – ASAP EC-DWSRF Payment Schedule 12
Attachment 4 – 2024 DWSRF Affordability Criteria 13
Attachment 5 – Public Meeting Summary Intended Use Plan (IUP) 15

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Emerging Contaminants
Intended Use Plan
2024

INTRODUCTION

Section 1452(b) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Amendments of 1996 requires each state to annually prepare an Intended Use Plan (IUP) identifying the use of the funds from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) allotment to support the goal of protecting public health. This IUP outlines Georgia's proposed use of the FY2024 DWSRF Emerging Contaminants allotment of $20,716,000.

The Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) was created by the Georgia General Assembly in 1985 as the successor agency to the Georgia Development Authority Environmental Facilities Program. GEFA serves as the central state agency for assisting local governments in financing the construction, extension, rehabilitation and 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. Under an interagency agreement, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) provides professional services to administer the DWSRF. These services include, but are not limited to:

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

Emerging Contaminants Funding

In November 2021, Congress passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Over $50 billion will be invested in American water infrastructure over a five-year period. The IIJA's Emerging Contaminants Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (EC-DWSRF) provides targeted funding to mitigate exposure to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and other emerging contaminants, with a specific focus on communities with limits above the EPA Health Advisory.

GEFA's primary objective is to assist as many small and/or disadvantaged communities as possible, prioritizing those with elevated PFAS levels.

EC-DWSRF PROJECT SOLICITATION PROCESS

GEFA Outreach Events

In February 2026, GEFA conducted a pre-application submission for EC-DWSRF funding and hosted a webinar solicitation webinar. The GEFA webinar was recorded and is available on GEFA's website at https://gefa.georgia.gov/water-webinars.

GEFA Consultation

In December 2021, GAEPD initiated PFAS sampling in the northwestern region of Georgia, identifying communities as high priority where contaminant levels exceeded the previous EPA Health Advisory limits.

Building on those findings, EPD has launched Phase II PFAS sampling, prioritizing large public water systems serving populations greater than 100,000 and systems located near significant Department of Defense installations. Consistent with Phase I, the effort includes all surface water and groundwater public drinking water systems serving populations of 500 or more.

Phase	Scope	Coverage
Phase I	North Georgia	North Region
Phase II	Major cities and military installations	Urban/Military
Phase III	Public water systems serving 500–3,300 individuals	Small Systems
Phase IIII	Public water systems serving 3,301-10,000 individuals	Medium Systems

EPD developed a PFAS Interactive Story Map where the public can access PFAS sampling data: https://epd.georgia.gov/pfoa-and-pfos-information

GEFA works closely with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to identify communities with elevated levels of PFAS or other emerging contaminants through a phased approach. Currently, three public water systems have confirmed detectable PFAS levels in finished drinking water. These communities are city of Albany, Dalton Utilities, and Harris County Board of Commissioners.

Identified communities whose sample results indicate the presence of PFAS are notified and encouraged to contact GEFA for financial assistance. An initial consultation is conducted to assess the community's situation and identify financial options, addressing the following:

- What is the situation and its impact?
- Has the community identified a potential solution?
- Does the community need immediate funds to ensure safe drinking water?
- What are the next steps the community is prepared to take?

Once the community confirms interest in utilizing funding, the formal application process begins.

GEFA Application Process

1. Community submits the GEFA Emerging Contaminants application form and initiates the State Environmental Review Process (SERP) with EPD.
2. Community initiates the A/E One-Step/Two-Step Selection Process.
3. Community signs the agreement with GEFA upon SERP approval by EPD.
4. Community initiates RFP bidding and preconstruction requirements.

EC-DWSRF COMPREHENSIVE LIST

The EC-DWSRF comprehensive list (Attachment 1), compiled from drinking water projects recommended by GAEPD and projects submitted during the pre-application solicitation period, which closed February 27, 2026, includes each impacted community's current population, anticipated project costs, affordability score per SRF guidelines, PWSID and a project description.

The GEFA Board of Directors reserves the right to prioritize lower-ranked projects when, in its judgment, a higher-priority project has not taken the necessary steps to prepare for funding or construction (e.g., GEFA has not received a complete and approvable financial application, the project is not ready to proceed, or the community withdraws its project from consideration). Should a qualified project become viable within the funding year, GEFA may amend the Comprehensive List through a public meeting to accommodate communities electing to participate in the EC-DWSRF program after the capitalization grant award. Any changes to the IUP, including the addition of projects not listed on the IUP at the time of solicitation for public comment, will require an additional public comment period of 30 days. The Division will re-solicit this IUP for notice if changes are made in future fiscal year(s).

GEFA will collaborate with GAEPD to incorporate any such projects accordingly. At least twenty-five percent of all funds will be allocated to disadvantaged communities or public water systems serving fewer than 25,000 population severed.

EC-DWSRF FUNDABLE LIST AND ESTIMATED DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE

The EC-DWSRF fundable list and estimate disbursement schedule (Attachment 2-3), consist of projects that demonstrate readiness to proceed. The disbursement schedule indicates the timeframe for requesting the DWSRF capitalization grant allotment from the EPA Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) System.

The EC-DWSRF assistance includes loan or grant financing as outlined in the applicable appropriations language. Assistance will be provided to municipalities and water/sewer authorities created by the Georgia legislature for the construction, expansion, and improvements to publicly owned drinking water facilities. All construction projects will meet the requirements of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to

Davis-Bacon requirements in section 513, American Iron and Steel (AIS) requirements in section 608 and Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act section 1.

Build America, Buy America Act (BABA)

IIJA was signed into law on November 15, 2021. The law authorizes funding for transportation and infrastructure spending with $550 billion of that figure going toward "new" investments and programs. This establishes strong and permanent domestic sourcing requirements across all federal financial assistance programs. BABA, which is a component of the Infrastructure and Jobs Act (IIJA), requires federal agencies to ensure that "none of the funds made available for a Federal financial assistance program for infrastructure, including each deficient program, may be obligated for a project unless all of the iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States."

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF FINANCING

Financing Terms

Funding under this appropriation is limited to projects and activities that satisfy standard DWSRF eligibility requirements and are primarily directed at addressing emerging contaminants in drinking water, with focus on perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

Four Percent Administration

GEFA intends to withhold use of the capitalization grant for administrative purposes. Based on the FY2024 allotment of $20,716,000, $0 are allocated for administrative support to manage and operate the DWSRF.

SOURCES AND USE OF FUNDS

GEFA is anticipating funding FY 2024 emerging contaminants projects using the EPA Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Emerging Contaminants Capitalization Grant. Per the IIJA, no state match is required for the EPA Emerging Contaminants Grant. The estimated sources and uses of funds in the FY 2024 EC-DWSRF program are as follows:

SOURCES:

2022 DWSRF Emerging Contaminants Cap Grant Balance (as of 4/30/26):	$11,906,031
2023 DWSRF Emerging Contaminants Cap Grant Balance (as of 4/30/26):	$20,716,000
2024 DWSRF Emerging Contaminants Cap Grant Balance (as of 4/30/26):	$21,464,000
State Match:	$0
	Total: 54,390,747

USES:

Approved Grants (not executed as of 4/30/26):	$9,234,000
Approved Grants (executed, undisbursed as of 4/30/26):	$25,906,031
	Total: $29,950,000

Criteria and Method for Distribution of Funds

Projects on the DWSRF Project List are ranked by their respective priorities and will be funded according to availability of funds. Projects that are not funded from the Project List will be considered for funding in subsequent . Priority ranking is based on GEFA's affordability score (Attachment 4), small or disadvantaged water systems experiencing PFAS contamination or other contaminants listed on EPA's Contaminant Candidate List with elevated health concerns, and systems that violate or exceed any maximum contaminant level or action level.

Only those cities and counties that have been designated as a "Qualified Local Government" and are in compliance with O.C.G.A. Section 36-70-20 and appear on the comprehensive list may receive a DWSRF agreement commitment. Communities within the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (MNGWPD) that are in compliance or making a good faith effort toward compliance with the MNGWPD plans are eligible for DWSRF funding. Lastly, only those communities that are in compliance with plumbing code standards as codified in O.C.G.A. Section 12-5-4 will be eligible for funding through GEFA. Eligible project costs include planning, design, engineering, and construction. Ineligible costs include maintenance and operation expenditures, projects needed primarily for fire protection, or projects to facilitate future growth. No agreement will be executed until environmental approval has been issued and financial requirements have been met.

GEFA OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

Georgia has aligned the short- and long-term goals of this IUP with EPA's strategic pillars and objectives. GEFA's goal is to provide clean and safe water: in partnership with state and tribe, sustainably manage programs to support drinking water infrastructure and public health. GEFA anticipates both increasing the number of public water systems with enhanced preparedness and also reducing the number of public water systems impacted by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and other emerging contaminants.

Long-Term Goals/Outcomes

1. Improved public awareness of threats posed by emerging and regulated contaminants and the funding available to implement remediation strategies against emerging contaminants.
2. Support EPA Pillar 1 of Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American.
3. Reduction in number of people exposed to emerging contaminants.

Short-Term Goals/Outputs

1. Support disadvantaged communities that have detects of PFAS, by prioritizing eligible projects that help communities meet and comply emerging contaminant levels with SDWA regulations.
2. Expand outreach activities to ensure that systems are aware of and understand the EC-DWSRF assistance options and the application process by presenting at statewide workshops and conferences to publicize the EC-DWSRF program.
3. Collaborate with GAEPD to determine PFAS impacted communities.

20 Percent State Match Requirement

IIJA requires these funds to be distributed to communities entirely as forgivable loans or grants. States are not required to provide matching funds.

Assurances and Specific Proposals

In addition to the assurances that accompany the capitalization grant application (Standard Form 424) for the 2024 funds, GEFA further agrees to adhere to all the certifications covered within the Operating Agreement with EPA Region 4. 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. Limitations 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 33 percent of grant amount between programs
25. OWS/NIMS

The Georgia SDWA of 1977, as amended, and the Rules for Safe Drinking Water, as amended, require that before constructing a public water system EPD must approve of: 1) the source of water supply and 2) the means and methods of treating, purifying, storing, and distributing water to the public. Furthermore, before placing the public water system in operation, the owner must obtain a permit to operate from EPD. Through the construction approval procedures and the issuance of operating permits, EPD ensures that public water systems are built and operated with adequate technical capacity to comply with existing and future state and federal drinking water regulations and standards. EPD also requires that public water systems have a certified operator. EPD supports several operator training and technical assistance programs to ensure that water systems and their operators maintain an adequate level of technical capacity.

As in previous years, DWSRF program managers will continue to coordinate with the EPA Region 4 office on items such as quarterly and annual reports, annual reviews, National Need Surveys, collection of NIMS data no less than quarterly, training opportunities, attendance at regional and national conferences, workshops, and various administrative program efforts.

Public Participation

This IUP is subject to review and comment by the public prior to incorporation into the 2024 capitalization grant application. Public notice was placed in the *Fulton Daily Report* on Friday July 17, 2026, announcing a public meeting on the DWSRF Emerging Contaminants IUP on Wednesday August 18, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. via conference call. A summary of the public meeting can be found within Attachment 5.

ATTACHMENT 1
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
Emerging Contaminants
2024 Comprehensive List

Community	Community Population	Population Served	Total Project Cost	Affordability Score	Project Description
City of Albany	101,245	65,500	$11,550,000	34	This project will consist of the installation of granular activated carbon (GAC) for PFAS at three well sites.
City of Hawkinsville	3,980	3,702	$5,151,000	31	This project will consist of the development of a new well and WTP to address elevated manganese MCL.
City of LaFayette	7,044	18,430	$7,821,000	28	This project will consist of conducting a pilot study to identify and install the most effective advanced treatment technology for PFAS at Big Springs WTP.
City of LaFayette	7,044	18,430	$9,796,000	28	This project will consist of the installation of the most effective advanced treatment technology for PFAS at the Lee School WTP.
City of LaFayette	7,044	18,430	$9,284,000	28	This project will consist of the installation of the most effective advanced treatment technology for PFAS at the Dickson Spring WTP.
City of Ringgold	3,414	3,200	$5,984,500	26	This project will consist of improvements to WTP, replacing the existing media with dual-media, sand and anthracite, and the installing (2) inline pressure vessels for PFAS and to return to compliance.
City of Valdosta	55,667	50,000	$1,000,000	25	This project will consist of conducting a pilot study to identify and install the most effective advanced treatment technology for PFAS at the Guest WTP.
City of Rome	45,586	45,586	$585,377	24	This project will consist of the installation of granular activated carbon (GAC) for PFAS at Bruce Hamler WTP.
City of Calhoun	60,765	65,590	$14,000,000	22	monitor filters for post-conversion performance tracking, and provide engineering services for microfiltration (MF) and reverse osmosis systems (RO) for PFAS at both the Brittany and Mauldin WTP.
Newton County	124,010	243,000	$5,000,000	22	This project will decommission the City Pond Reservoir and Williams WTP and update the existing Cornish Creek WTP from 25 MGD to 39.5 MGD with advanced treatment technology for PFAS .
Dalton Utilities	36,000	105,000	$1,370,000	22	This project will consist of conducting a pilot study to evaluate and identify the most effective advanced treatment technology for PFAS at the VD Parrott WTP.
Dalton Utilities	36,000	105,000	$47,000,000	22	This project will consist of the installation of new media retrofitted for the existing media structures for PFAS at the VD Parrott WTP.
Gainesville Water Resources	200,000	140,000	$2,000,000	22	an updated monitoring and sampling strategy, investigating predictive modeling for taste and odor events, and identifying a solution to address HABs.
Gainesville Water Resources	200,000	140,000	$2,100,000	22	This project will consist of conducting a pilot to evaluate and identify the most effective mitigation equipment and strategies for HABs at the WTP.
City of Gray	3,500	2,060	$5,100,000	21	This project will consist of conducting a pilot study to identify and install the most effective advanced treatment technology for PFAS for installation at the Highview WTP.
Harris County Board of Commissioners	35,509	10,585	$627,000	21	This project will consist of conducting a pilot study to evaluate and identify the most effective advanced treatment technology for PFAS at the WTP.
Harris County Board of Commissioners	35,509	10,585	$3,000,000	21	This project will consist of the installation of the most effective advanced treatment technology for PFAS at the WTP.
City of McDonough	16,187	16,187	$932,500	19	This project will consist of the installation of the most effective advanced treatment technology for PFAS at the Big Springs Well.
City of Chickamauga	3,062	5,720	$650,000	14	This project will consist of conducting a pilot study to identify and install the most effective advanced treatment technology for PFAS for installation at the Coke Oven Well.

Attachment 2
Emerging Contaminants Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
Project PriorityList/Deliverables
Estimated Disbursement/Milestone Schedule

COMMUNITY	GRANT AMOUNT	NOTICE TO PROCEED DATE	CONSTR. START DATE	TARGET COMPL. DATE	2nd Qtr 10/25 - 12/25	3rd Qtr 1/26-3/26	4th Qtr 4/26-6/26	1st Qtr 7/26-9/26	2nd Qtr 10/26-12/26	3rd Qtr 1/27-3/27	4th Qtr 4/27-6/27	1st Qtr 7/27-9/27	2nd Qtr 10/27-12/27	TOTAL DISBURS.
City of Albany	$11,246,000	9/1/2026	10/1/2026	12/1/2028	$0	$0	$0	$500,000	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	**$ 10,500,000**
Dalton Utilities	$1,370,000	1/1/2026	1/1/2026	12/31/2026	$0	$456,667	$456,667	$456,667	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	**$ 1,370,000**
City of Gray	$5,100,000	6/1/2026	7/1/2026	6/1/2027	$0	$0	$0	$1,020,000	$1,020,000	$1,020,000	$1,020,000	$1,020,000	$0	**$ 5,100,000**
Harris County	$3,000,000	6/1/2026	7/1/2026	6/1/2027	$0	$0	$0	$600,000	$600,000	$600,000	$600,000	$600,000	$0	**$ 3,000,000**
TOTAL	**$ 20,716,000**				**$ -**	**$ 456,667**	**$ 456,667**	**$ 2,576,667**	**$ 3,620,000**	**$ 3,620,000**	**$ 3,620,000**	**$ 3,620,000**	**$ 2,000,000**	**$ 19,970,000**

Attachment 3 – ASAP EC-DWSRF Payment Schedule

Attachment 3 ASAP Payment Schedule Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Emerging Contaminants			
Payment No.	**Federal Fiscal Year**		**Amount ($)**
	Quarter	**Date**	
1	4th	7/2024 - 9/2024	$0
2	1st	10/2024 - 12/2024	$0
3	2nd	1/2025 - 3/2025	$0
4	3rd	4/2025 - 6/2025	$0
5	4th	7/2025- 9/2025	$20,716,000
6	1st	10/2025 - 12/2025	$0
7	2nd	1/2026 - 3/2026	$0
8	3rd	4/2026 – 6/2026	$0
TOTAL			**$20,716,000**

Attachment 4 – 2024 DWSRF Affordability Criteria

GEFA's affordability criteria uses data on median household income (MHI), unemployment rate, percentage not in labor force, poverty rate, percentage on Social Security, percentage on Supplemental Security Income (SSI), percentage with cash public assistance, percentage with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), age dependency ratio, population trend, and size of community. Except for size of community, the data for the affordability criteria is provided by the U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 American Community Survey. The size of the community is based on the number of water or sewer connections. GEFA will use the affordability criteria to score communities for principal forgiveness. The applicant's data is categorized in percentiles. Please note that the affordability percentiles may change based on updated census data.

1. Median Household Income (MHI)

State Percentiles	25th Percentile (4 points)	50th Percentile (3 points)	75th Percentile (2 points)	100th Percentile (1 point)
MHI	$40,260	$53,295	$71,781	$71,782 and higher

2. Unemployment Percent

State Percentiles	25th Percentile (1 point)	50th Percentile (2 points)	75th Percentile (3 points)	100th Percentile (4 points)
Unemployment Percent	1.0%	2.4%	3.8%	3.9% and higher

3. Percentage Not in Labor Force

State Percentiles	25th Percentile (1 point)	50th Percentile (2 points)	75th Percentile (3 points)	100th Percentile (4 points)
Percentage Not in Labor Force	34.4%	42.4%	50.4%	50.5% and higher

4. Poverty Rate

State Percentiles	25th Percentile (1 point)	50th Percentile (2 points)	75th Percentile (3 points)	100th Percentile (4 points)
Poverty Rate	9.4%	16.3%	25.2%	25.3% and higher

5. Percentage on Social Security

State Percentiles	25th Percentile (1 point)	50th Percentile (2 points)	75th Percentile (3 points)	100th Percentile (4 points)
Percentage on Social Security	28.0%	36.0%	43.1%	43.2% and higher

6. Percentage on SSI

State Percentiles	25th Percentile (1 point)	50th Percentile (2 points)	75th Percentile (3 points)	100th Percentile (4 points)
Percentage on SSI	3.2%	5.7%	9.5%	9.6% and higher

7. Percentage with Cash Public Assistance

State Percentiles	25th Percentile (1 point)	50th Percentile (2 points)	75th Percentile (3 points)	100th Percentile (4 points)
Percentage with Cash Public Assistance	0.0%	1.3%	2.4%	2.5% and higher

8. Percentage with SNAP

State Percentiles	25th Percentile (1 point)	50th Percentile (2 points)	75th Percentile (3 points)	100th Percentile (4 points)
Percentage with SNAP	8.4%	16.0%	24.4%	24.5% and higher

9. Age Dependency Ratio

State Percentiles	25th Percentile (1 point)	50th Percentile (2 points)	75th Percentile (3 points)	100th Percentile (4 points)
Age Dependency Ratio	57.2	67.9	79.8	79.9 and higher

10. Population Trend

The following categories will be used to determine scoring for change in population from 2011 to 2020.

- Positive growth or no growth (1 point)
- Between -0.01% to -1% (2 points)
- Between -1.01% and -2% (3 points)
- Greater than -2% (4 points)

11. Size of Community

Number of Water or Sewer Connections (highest number)	Number of Points
500 and under	15
501 to 1500	13
1501-3300	10
3301-6000	6
6001-10,000	0
10,001 and up	-5

Attachment 5 – Public Meeting Summary Intended Use Plan (IUP)

Georgia Environmental Finance Authority
IUP Meeting Minutes
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
August 18, 2026
10:00 a.m.

Call to Order

The Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division held a public meeting on August 18, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the GEFA boardroom. GEFA is located at 47 Trinity Ave SW, Fifth Floor, Atlanta, GA 30334. The purpose of the public meeting was to present and receive comments on the updated FY2024 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Emerging Contaminants (DWSRF EC) IUP

> Members of the public were also invited to participate via the following toll-free conference call number, 1-877-304-9269, and conference code 645112.

GEFA staff present at the meeting were:

Amanda Carroll

Public participants present at the meeting were:

Amanda Carroll welcomed everyone and introduced the staff in attendance. After discussing the purpose for the public meeting was to present and receive comments on the updated 2024 EC-DWSRF IUP, she opened the floor for comments.

(XXXX) comments were made.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.