



Georgia Environmental Finance Authority

GEFA Architectural/Engineering Procurement Policy Frequently-Asked Questions

1. If the cost of the project or the cost of the engineering services is unknown, which type of procurement should be conducted?

Answer: A two-step procurement would be the best practice when costs are unknown.

2. Does the procurement need to be specifically for a GEFA project, or can the procurement for a different funding program be used (e.g. Community Development Block Grants and USDA Rural Development Loans)?

Answer: Other program procurement guidelines can be used if they meet the minimum standard of GEFA's one- and two-step policy.

3. Does the engineer have to be procured through a qualifications-based selection (QBS) procedure if the borrower does not submit engineering invoices for reimbursement with the loan?

Answer: No. The A/E policy only applies to loans with engineering costs outlined in the budget. If the project has more than one funding source, please be sure to check with the other funding agency/agencies to inquire if their A/E policy requires A/E procurement even if they are not funding the engineering services.

4. If an engineer provides services to a community prior to being procured through a QBS procedure, can those services be reimbursed after the procurement (assuming the same engineer is awarded the contract through the procurement)?

Answer: No. Only services that occur after the procurement can be reimbursed.

5. Can a community procure engineering services for general assistance with water-related infrastructure planning, or does the procurement have to be specific to the project?

Answer: Yes, a general procurement is acceptable. The procurement does not have to be specific to the project. In this case, it would be a best practice to conduct a two-step process.

6. How long will a procurement be considered effective?

Answer: Five years.

7. For the advertisement for A/E services, does the borrower have to post the solicitation on the Georgia Procurement Registry?

Answer: Yes, if it is not cost-prohibitive to the borrower. The proof of advertisement must be submitted with the loan application.