



Brian P. Kemp
Governor

Hunter Hill
Executive Director

July 3, 2023

Re: 2023 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Lead Service Line Replacement Request for Interest

To Whom It May Concern:

The 2023 DWSRF BIL Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) Request for Interest (RFI) is now open. The DWSRF will provide annual funding over the next five years for lead service line inventory management and lead service line replacement projects that will assist local communities with the implementation of proactive LSLR programs.

To be eligible for funding, please submit a DWSRF pre-application via GEFA's website by Friday, September 29, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. Pre-applications received after this time will not be scored for funding. A pre-application does not obligate you to apply or guarantee funding. The pre-application and additional guidance are available at gefa.georgia.gov/call-for-projects.

Please note the following:

- Eligible DWSRF projects listed on page two; and
- Project priority ranking criteria listed on page three.

Please contact the Water Resources Division at 404-584-1055 or leadserviceline@gefa.ga.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hunter Hill", is positioned above the printed name.

Hunter Hill
Enclosures

Georgia Environmental Finance Authority



**2023 DWSRF BIL Lead Service Line Replacement Request for Interest
Project Submission Guidelines and Program Requirements**

Deadline	Pre-application Website	Questions
5:00 p.m., September 29, 2023	gefa.georgia.gov/call-for-projects	404-584-1055

Who Can Apply for DWSRF Grants and Loans?

- Georgia cities
- Georgia counties
- Georgia water and sewer authorities
- Community Improvement Districts (CID)
- Any state or local authority created by the Georgia General Assembly

Minimum Criteria for Eligibility

- Only those counties and municipalities certified as Qualified Local Governments by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and the water and sewer authorities within those certified governments may receive funding.
- Only applicants within counties that have current DCA-certified Service Delivery Agreements (HB 489) may receive funding and the proposed project must be consistent with the verified strategy.
- Applicants must be in compliance with state audit requirements. Compliance questions can be answered at audits.ga.gov.
- Applicants within the Metro North Georgia Water Planning District (MNGWPD) must be certified by the director of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) as complying or making a good faith effort to comply with all MNGWPD plans and/or enforcement measures.
- Project must conform to applicant's regional Water Development and Conservation Plan, once adopted.
- All applicants must adopt and enforce the state minimum standard plumbing code provisions outlined in O.C.G.A. Section 8-2-3 to be eligible to receive funding.

Eligible DWSRF Projects:

- Developing lead service line inventory and data collection plans;
- Maintaining lead service line inventory management programs;
- Developing lead service line replacement capital improvement plans;
- Replacing lead or galvanized water service lines and all related appurtenances or fixtures (i.e., goosenecks, pigtails, connectors, lead solders) to improve drinking water quality;
- Providing new lead-free water services to other water systems through consolidation projects;
- Performing statistical modeling, mapping, or field inspections for identification of lead service lines;
- Maintaining lead service line compliance with existing or proposed EPA standards and regulations;
- Maintaining lead testing, random lead sampling, and lead monitoring programs;
- Conducting extensive lead service line replacement community outreach communication, water pitcher/filter programs, and public education workshops.

Ineligible DWSRF Projects:

- Projects that do not pertain to lead service line infrastructure improvements and/or lead service line compliance requirements.
- Projects for systems lacking adequate financial, management, and/or technical capability, unless assistance will ensure compliance.
- Projects specifically eligible and designated for CWSRF funding.

DWSRF Potential Funding Options:

- 1) Grant funding for Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI) management projects for disadvantaged communities that meet affordability criteria.
- 2) Loan funding to assist communities with (LSLR) projects and/or (LSLI) management projects.

Project Priority and Rank

GEFA will score all pre-applications and rank projects based upon affordability criteria data (Pages 5 & 6) 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, and population trend from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 American Community Survey. The applicant's data is categorized in percentiles. GEFA will use the affordability criteria to score communities for principal forgiveness and rank projects in descending order. GEFA will fund as many eligible projects as financing is available. **It is important that applicants complete the RFI pre-application in its entirety to ensure program eligibility.**

Federal Requirements

Architectural/Engineering Qualification-Based Selection Process

Borrowers must comply with Section 602(b)14 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, which requires competitive procurement for architectural and engineering (A/E) services through a Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) procedure. This applies to contracts for program management, construction management, feasibility studies, preliminary engineering, design, engineering, surveying, mapping, or other engineering-related services.

To be eligible for financing from the 2023 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, all borrowers must comply with the following A/E selection requirement:

- If the anticipated project cost is less than \$1,000,000 and A/E services are less than \$100,000, a QBS procedure is not required.
- If the anticipated project cost is \$1,000,000 to \$3,000,000 and A/E services are more than \$100,000, a **ONE-STEP procurement** is required for selecting an A/E firm. In a one-step procurement, the borrower selects a consultant based on the scoring methodology that has been published in a Request for Qualifications for A/E Services.
- If the anticipated project cost is more than \$3,000,000 and A/E services are more than \$100,000, a **TWO-STEP procurement** is required for selecting an A/E firm. In a two-step procurement, the borrower uses the scoring methodology published in its RFQ to narrow down the candidates to three to five "finalist" firms. Then, the borrower interviews the "finalist" firms to select the most qualified candidate.

Guidance and templates for a one-step and two-step QBS process can be found on the GEFA website at gefa.georgia.gov/architectural-and-engineering-services.

Davis-Bacon Wage Requirements

The provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act apply to all projects financed in whole or in part by the DWSRF. These requirements apply to projects for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a treatment works. In all contracts in excess of \$2,000, the Borrower shall insert in full the document entitled "Supplemental General Conditions for Federally-Assisted State Revolving Fund." This document is located on the GEFA website at gefa.georgia.gov/loan-documents.

American Iron and Steel

The American Iron and Steel (AIS) requirements apply to all projects financed in whole or in part by the DWSRF. These requirements apply to projects for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a treatment works. In all contracts, the Borrower shall insert in full the document entitled "AIS Special Conditions." This document is located on the GEFA website at gefa.georgia.gov/loan-documents.

State Environmental Review Process

Projects funded by the DWSRF must undergo an environmental review via the EPA-approved State Environmental Review Process (SERP). This environmental review is conducted by EPD through either a Categorical Exclusion (CE) or Notice of No Significant Impact (NONSI). This process addresses issues such as environmental impact, potential historical preservation issues, potential endangered species concerns, and permit compliance. Borrowers should review the "Guidance Document for Project Requirements" document, which is located on the GEFA website at gefa.georgia.gov/loan-documents.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)

As a part of GEFA's loan agreement, loan recipients are required to encourage the participation of 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). Borrowers should review the "Supplemental General Conditions for Federally-Assisted State Revolving Fund," which are located on the GEFA website at gefa.georgia.gov/loan-documents.

Build America Buy America (BABA)

Alongside BIL, Congress passed BABA, which 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."

Timeline for Funding Pre-Applications

July 3, 2023 – The 2023 BIL Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) Request for Interest Opens

September 29, 2023 – Deadline to submit LSLR Request for Interest pre-applications via GEFA's website at gefa.georgia.gov/call-for-projects

**Georgia Environmental Finance Authority
2023 DWSRF Lead Service Line Replacement
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, and population trend from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 American Community Survey. The applicant's data is categorized in percentiles. GEFA will use the affordability criteria to score communities for principal forgiveness. **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	\$34,679	\$45,093	\$59,178	\$59,179 or higher

2. Unemployment Percent

State Percentiles	25th Percentile (1 point)	50th Percentile (2 points)	75th Percentile (3 points)	100th Percentile (4 points)
Unemployment Percent	1.5%	2.9%	4.2%	4.3% 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	35.7%	43.5%	50.7%	50.8% 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	10.4%	18.8%	26.2%	26.3% 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	28.6%	35.9%	43.4%	43.5% 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	3.0%	6.1%	9.7%	9.8% 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%	1.2%	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	9.2%	16.3%	23.5%	23.6% 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	67.3	78.3	78.4 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)