



**Brian P. Kemp**  
Governor

**Hunter Hill**  
Executive Director

April 1, 2024

Re: 2024 Georgia Fund Call for Projects

To Whom It May Concern:

The 2024 Georgia Fund call-for-projects is now open. The primary purpose of this call-for-projects is to capture projects that did not fit the eligibility criteria for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) call-for-projects performed earlier this year.

Projects submitted through this call-for-projects, along with the projects submitted through the CWSRF and DWSRF call-for-projects, will be evaluated to determine funding eligibility during FY2025 state fiscal year.

To be eligible for funding, submit a Georgia Fund pre-application via GEFA's website by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 30, 2024. The pre-application and additional guidance are available at [gefa.georgia.gov/call-for-projects](https://gefa.georgia.gov/call-for-projects).

Please note the following:

- Principal Forgiveness is not authorized in the Georgia Fund
- The architecture and engineering qualifications-based selection requirements are on page 4;
- The affordability criteria are on pages 5 and 6; and
- The project questions on page 7.

Please contact the Water Resources Division at 404-584-1000 or [waterresources@gefa.ga.gov](mailto:waterresources@gefa.ga.gov) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Hunter Hill'. Below the signature, the name 'Hunter Hill' is printed in a black, sans-serif font.

Hunter Hill

Enclosures



**Georgia Environmental Finance Authority  
2024 Georgia Fund Call-for-Projects  
Project Submission Guidelines and Program Requirements**

Deadline	Pre-application Website	Questions
5:00 p.m., April 30, 2024	<a href="https://gefa.georgia.gov/call-for-projects">gefa.georgia.gov/call-for-projects</a>	404-584-1000

**Who Can Apply for Georgia Fund 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](https://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 Projects**

- Correcting water system deficiencies including water quality, capacity, pressure, and water loss;
- Providing new or existing water service to other water systems through consolidation projects;
- Implementing security measures such as fencing and surveillance equipment;
- Installing backflow prevention devices and enhanced filtration/disinfection treatment;
- Maintaining compliance with existing or proposed standards and regulations;
- Rehabilitating or replacing aging infrastructure;
- Rehabilitating or developing sources to replace contaminated sources of drinking water, including replacing contaminated private wells with public water supply;
- Installing or upgrading treatment facilities to improve drinking water quality;
- Installing or upgrading storage facilities to prevent microbiological contaminants from entering system;
- Installing or replacing transmission and distribution pipes to prevent contamination
- Construction, renovation, or expansion of a publicly-owned treatment works;
- Installation of sewer systems;

- Combined sewer overflow (CSO) projects;
- Construction, repair, or replacement of decentralized wastewater treatment systems that treat municipal wastewater or domestic sewage;
- Construction and rehabilitation of municipal storm sewer systems (MS4s);
- Purchase of street and storm sewer cleaning equipment;
- Landfill closure and landfill leachate collection and treatment;
- Projects to increase the security of publicly-owned treatment works;
- Implementation of measures to manage, reduce, treat, reuse, recycle, or recapture stormwater;
- Projects primarily to serve future population growth;
- Construction of reservoirs and dams or the rehabilitation of dams;
- Projects needed primarily for fire protection; and
- Solid waste projects such as landfill cell construction and transfer stations.

### **Project Priority and Rank**

Project ranking is based on factors including A/E procurement, readiness to proceed, public health compliance benefits, and project benefits. GEFA will score all pre-applications and rank projects in descending order. GEFA will fund as many eligible projects as financing is available. It is important that applicants complete the pre-application in its entirety, including all supplemental attachments, to ensure the proposed project is accurately scored.

## A/E Procurement Requirements

### **Architectural/Engineering Qualification-Based Selection Process**

Borrowers must comply with a competitive procurement process 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 2024 Georgia 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](https://gefa.georgia.gov/architectural-and-engineering-services).

**Georgia Environmental Finance Authority  
2024 Georgia Fund 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
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## 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)

**Georgia Environmental Finance Authority**  
**2024 Georgia Fund Call for Projects**  
**Project Questions**

**Georgia Fund**

1. Is this a project primarily for future population growth or economic development?
2. Does this project benefit more than one community?
3. Does this project meet a strategic goal of the state?
4. Is this project needed to **FULLY ADDRESS** deficiencies documented in an enforcement action, e.g., Notice of Violation, Consent Order, Administrative Order (must provide copies)? The NOV, CO, or AO must be within the last 3 years.

Please be ready to give a detailed explanation of the project and how it fits any of these questions.

Please contact the Water Resources Division at 404-584-1000 or [waterresources@gefa.ga.gov](mailto:waterresources@gefa.ga.gov) if you have any questions about the 2024 Georgia Fund Call for Projects.