Natural Gas Infrastructure Financing Program

Call for Projects Round Two Overview

October 2026

GEFA'S NATURAL GAS INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING PROGRAM

The Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) is a state authority that provides financing to local governments to replace, repair, and/or build environmental facilities. GEFA has been assisting local governments in the state since 1986.

In July 2026, GEFA launched its new Natural Gas Infrastructure Financing Program (NGIFP) to help eligible local government borrowers finance critical natural gas infrastructure improvements and expansions.

NGIFP CALL FOR PROJECTS ROUND TWO AND HOW TO APPLY FOR FUNDING

The second NGIFP call for projects is now open. Interested applicants should complete and submit a full NGIFP loan application for the project they would like GEFA to consider for funding under the program. GEFA will consider one funding request per applicant in this round. The deadline to apply for this round of funding is 5:00 p.m. on November 20, 2026. GEFA anticipates presenting the second round of loan applications to the GEFA board for approval in February 2027.

GEFA will make the second round of NGIFP funding available on a first-come, first-served basis, acting on complete loan applications until the available funding is exhausted. GEFA will manage the process according to the following steps:

1. Applicant submits its loan application as final and complete
2. GEFA will conduct a preliminary review of the application (prior to underwriting) in the order it was received and, within 72 business hours after submission, will either deem the application as complete or notify the applicant of any deficiencies
3. GEFA will put the applications in line for funding based on when staff deemed the application complete
4. If GEFA's underwriting department determines the application is deficient *and* the applicant is unduly slow in responding to requests for additional information, the application may be moved to the back of the line

Please visit the NGIFP webpage for more information. You can access the NGIFP loan application by clicking here or under the "Resources" section of the NGIFP webpage.

GEFA will host an informational webinar on October 20, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. to assist interested applicants with completing the application. Click here to sign up for the webinar or access the sign up link under the "Resources" section of the NGIFP webpage.

ROUND TWO FUNDING PROCESS AND TIMELINE

GEFA anticipates the following phases of NGIFP funding:

1. **Round two call for projects** (7.5 weeks): The call for projects opens on September 28, 2026 and closes on November 20, 2026. Interested applicants must complete their NGIFP loan applications by 5:00 pm on November 20, 2026.
2. **Application review and underwriting** (approx. two months): GEFA will review the NGIFP loan applications and complete applicant underwriting.
3. **Board approval**: GEFA will bring round two NGIFP loan applications to GEFA's board of directors for approval at its February 2027 meeting.
4. **Loan executions**: Completing and executing the loan documents after loan approval typically takes four to six weeks.
5. **Construction and loan draw**: Borrowers may submit monthly draw requests for reimbursement of billed expenses once their loan agreement is executed.

ELIGIBILITY: RECIPIENTS

Eligible NGIFP recipients include cities (municipal corporations); counties; local water, sewer, or sanitary districts; state or local authorities; boards; or political subdivisions created by the Georgia General Assembly or pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the state.

<u>Examples of Eligible Entities</u>

- Cities
- Counties
- Departments of county or city governments
- State agencies, including departments, agencies, authorities, and commissions
- State-sanctioned local authorities, including development authorities

<u>Minimum Borrower Qualifications</u>

Consistent with applicable loan fund policies, borrowers must meet the following qualifications to receive loan approval from the GEFA board of directors:

- *Qualified Local Government* – Municipalities and counties must be certified as Qualified Local Governments by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA).
- *Service Delivery Strategy* – Municipalities, counties, and authorities must be included in a DCA-verified Service Delivery Strategy. The project for which an applicant seeks financing must be consistent with the verified strategy.
- *State audit requirements* – Municipalities, counties, authorities, and nongovernmental entities must be in compliance with state audit requirements.
- *Current loan agreements* – A current GEFA borrower can receive additional GEFA financing only if the borrower is in compliance with the existing credit documents, such as the loan agreement and promissory note.

ELIGIBILITY: LOCATION

A project is eligible if it is located or operates outside any certified area of a nonmunicipal gas company [as such term is defined in paragraph (5) of O.C.G.A. Section 46-1-1] in Georgia. This includes projects undertaken by a municipal natural gas provider within that provider's home county or certified area[1] and projects undertaken by a municipal gas provider outside its certified area, so long as the project does not operate within the certified area of any other natural gas provider.

ELIGIBILITY: PROJECT TYPE

Consistent with O.C.G.A. Section 50-23-4, the NGIFP will provide financial assistance for any projects, structures, and other real or personal property acquired, rehabilitated, constructed, or planned for the purposes of storing, supplying, and distributing natural gas outside any certified area of a nonmunicipal gas company, including but not limited to:

- Pipelines
- Storage tanks and facilities
- Natural gas distribution systems
- Equipment
- Appurtenances and accessories for the storage, supply, and distribution of natural gas

ELIGIBILITY: ACTIVITIES

NGIFP financing may be used for a broad range of project activities, including:

- Project design
- Construction, grading, site preparation, dredging, etc.
- Land and easement acquisition needed for project implementation
- Compensatory mitigation
- Feasibility analysis
- Administrative services
- System purchase

FINANCING TERMS

- *Loan terms*: Applicants may elect a 5-, 10-, 15-, or 20-year loan. The available interest rate will vary based on the loan term.
- *Interest rate:* GEFA determines its amortized interest rates based on market conditions and updates these periodically. GEFA lists its 20-year amortized interest rate for the NGIFP on its website and provides rates for loans with other amortization periods upon request. Borrowers will receive the applicable available program interest at the time the board approves its loan.
- *Loan maximums*: In this second round of NGIFP funding, GEFA will limit loan awards to $7 million for any single natural gas provider applicant and will limit loan awards to $15 million for applicants that represent and directly support two or more natural gas providers / local distribution companies.
- *Local match*: NGIFP loans may cover the complete cost of project; no local capital match is required.
- *Fees:*
    - *Loan origination fee*: GEFA will charge NGIFP borrowers a 1.5 percent loan origination fee, due upon loan execution.
    - *Other fees*: Consistent with proposed Georgia Energy Fund program policies, GEFA will impose any of the following applicable fees: loan modification fee (after second loan modification), not sufficient funds fee, loan continuation fee, late fee, and a loan dormancy fee.

[1] Also referred to as a provider's "certificated" area.