



Water Infrastructure Planning Program

June 2026

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Water Infrastructure Planning Program (WIPP) is to incentivize planning efforts that protect and conserve Georgia's water resources, improve water quality, enhance the financial sustainability of public water systems, and support affordable water for Georgians—particularly in small and disadvantaged communities.

HOW TO APPLY FOR WIPP FUNDING

Applications will be open through August 31, 2026. [Click here to apply online.](#)

PROGRAM BUDGET

The budget for the first year of the program is **\$5 million**. Funding for subsequent years will depend on first year demand for the funding and annual GEFA financial analysis.

ELIGIBLE PROJECT TYPES

- Asset management program planning
- Long-term capital improvement planning
- Water and wastewater rate studies
- Planning for dedicated stormwater funding
- Security risk assessments, including cybersecurity
- Resiliency, vulnerability, drought, and/or emergency response studies and planning
- Water supply, drought, conservation, and/or efficiency planning
- Water infrastructure financing planning, including preparation for GEFA funding applications
- System partnership and consolidation feasibility studies (including regionalization, system creation, or system extension)
- Preparation for WaterFirst designation applications
- Inflow and infiltration studies
- Water loss audits and water loss control programs for public water systems serving populations under 3,300 (communities above this threshold are statutorily required to perform annual audits.)
- Watershed management plans meeting U.S. EPA's Nine Elements of Watershed Planning
- Septic tank and septage studies and planning
- Source water protection planning, including Critical Source Area identification and best management practice selection
- Stormwater management planning for small communities without MS4 permits or where MS4 requirements are newly applicable
- Energy management planning and energy efficiency audits
- Other planning project types can be proposed during the first-year pilot

INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Activities involving ground disturbance, including construction and potholing
- Engineering design, including preparation of design plans and specifications
- Costs related to in-house staff time (eligible for community match)
- Operations and maintenance costs
- Costs incurred prior to application

ELIGIBILITY AND GRANT INFORMATION

- The maximum grant is **\$150,000 per project** and will require a **10 percent match** from the community. In-kind match is allowed. If the project is a collaboration between two or more communities, the maximum grant is \$250,000.
- Applicants may undertake up to **two project types** listed under project type with a single award.
- Eligible grant recipients are local governments and water and sewer authorities.
- Grantees must complete the project within two years of execution. Communities with an existing grant are not eligible to apply for a new grant until the current project is completed.
- A water system may only receive funds once for each eligible project type.

PROJECT SCORING CRITERIA

Projects will be ranked based on community affordability score. Please refer to the [Affordability Criteria](#) and the [Affordability Score Index](#).