

Georgia Power Foundation, Inc.

Water Grants

Request for Proposals

The Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. is inviting proposals for Water Grants. Through this funding program, the Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. seeks to invest in water quality improvement projects that are designed to contribute to measurable benefits to environments and communities across the state of Georgia. Primary consideration will be given to proposals that focus on waters of Georgia that are [currently listed as impaired](#) under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Further, successful projects should undertake specific conservation actions in support of de-listing or down-listing the impaired waters or segments, with a direct and measurable improvement in water quality or reduction in sources of impairment. The Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. expects proposals of \$25,000 and up, with a total expected investment in 2020 of \$1 million.

Proposal Submittal Instructions

Proposal due by **5:00 p.m. EST, December 20, 2019**. [Link to Application](#)

For questions - contact:

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Timeline

- Request for Proposal: November 8, 2019
- Proposal Due Date: 5:00 p.m. EST, December 20, 2019
- Proposal Review and Selection: January 2020
- Project Announcement: early February 2020
- Grant Agreements Prepared and Executed: February 2020
- Funding Disbursed: March 2020
- Intermediate Project Report: January 2021
- Project Completion: August 2021
- Final Project Report: September 2021

Program Details

Focal Geography

The Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. supports water quality efforts in Georgia to sustain the state's economy, to protect public health and natural systems, and to enhance the quality of life

for all citizens. To demonstrate our support the Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. is awarding \$1M in Water Grants in 2020. To amplify impact, supported projects must occur in locations throughout Georgia that have water bodies currently listed as impaired under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. These are waters that are failing to support one or more designated beneficial uses such as recreation, drinking water, or supporting aquatic life. In all cases, projects should address the parameters (or pollutants) of concern. For example, a project proposed to improve water quality in a lake or stream which is listed as having excessive levels of phosphorus and nitrogen - should seek to reduce inputs of phosphorus and nitrogen - nutrients that contribute to high rates of chlorophyll production.

Desired Outcomes

The Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. supports a wide range of project types that address the sources or causes of water quality impairments and contribute to multiple benefits for communities and aquatic ecosystems.

All projects must have a clear link to watershed and ecosystem health. Projects that also include objectives related to improving community well-being, water supply sustainability and/or resiliency for sustainable uses such as agriculture, municipal drinking water, industry, recreation, etc. are encouraged. Projects in underserved communities are also encouraged.

Proposed projects may include (but are not limited to):

- Implementation of agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) linked to improved water quality (e.g., stream fencing, off-channel livestock watering, sediment control, etc.)
- Physical enhancement of aquatic or riparian habitat (e.g., buffer revegetation/restoration, stream channel reconstruction, instream habitat structure, improved stream/aquatic passage, barrier removal etc.)
- Improving or addressing water conservation (e.g., irrigation efficiency, groundwater recharge, reconnecting floodplains, etc.)
- Green infrastructure: stormwater runoff management to the extent that stormwater influences impairment criteria
- Others (e.g., all project types which directly address and enhance water quality and aquatic habitats and meet all other program criteria will be considered for funding)

Applicant Eligibility

The Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. will consider proposals from applicants that meet the following criteria:

- Organizations that have an active 501(c)3 tax designation and described in Section 509 of the Internal Revenue Code with the exception of any organization described in Code Section 509(a)(3)(B)(iii) that is not “functionally integrated” with its supported organization; or
- Governmental agencies
- The Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. does not provide grants to individuals, private elementary or secondary schools and religious organizations, nor do we fund political campaigns or causes.

- The Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. does not support organizations whose policies or actions discriminate on basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, age or disability.
- The Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. does not support projects designed to mitigate legal or regulatory compliance obligations or tied to ongoing legal or regulatory action.

Evaluation & Priorities

Project submissions will be evaluated based on the core criteria outlined in this RFP.

Projects meeting the defined criteria will be reviewed by a committee including academic, agency, and/or non-profit stakeholders with knowledge of water quality issues in Georgia. Final project selection will be made based on the recommendation of the review committee.

Priority will be given to projects that:

- Have the potential to impact long-term ecological health of the greater watershed or water body and contribute to an existing watershed or water quality improvement plan or initiative.
- Address water quality or conservation priorities as defined in National, regional, State, or local plans.
- Leverage cost-sharing and/or matching funds through private donors, corporate partners, and/or state 319(h) grants or other government funding to maximize overall project value.
- Have current unmet funding needs of at least \$25,000.
- Will be implemented and begin delivering benefits by September 2021.
- Have two or more measurable and reportable social / environmental co-benefits and monitoring plans in place.

Required Proposal Elements

Project Title

- Provide a project title that is descriptive of the location and action being taken.

Project Sponsor Information

- Identify the organization that is the official proposal sponsor (name, address, phone, website, and EIN).
- Provide the contact information for the person responsible for all project related correspondence (name, address, phone, email).
- Provide contact information for the person(s) responsible for managing the project (project planning, implementation, and reporting) (name, address, phone, email).
- List all project partner organizations (name, address, phone, and contact person).

Project Information

1. Project summary or abstract

- Provide a narrative of 200 words or less that offers a concise description of the project context, approach, specific actions, outputs, and expected outcomes or long-term desired impact.
2. Timeframe
- Define the project implementation timeframe. Include the proposed project start-date, key intermediate milestones, and anticipated date of completion.
3. Location
- All proposals should include - at minimum - a basic Project Map (e.g. Google Earth): This should include the physical location of the project (Lat/Long coordinates), and the extent or targeted stream-reach expected to benefit. Please include names of streams or watersheds and nearest town and/or county place names.
4. Context
- Identify any relevant restoration/conservation plans or initiatives to which the project contributes (e.g. Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), species conservation plan, Watershed Assessment and Protection Plan, etc.).
 - Identify and describe the environmental and/or social issue(s) the project addresses or solves (as defined by existing comprehensive plans identified above).
 - List the designated uses the waterbody fails to support (is it listed as impaired under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act?) and the key parameters of concern.
5. Strategy
- Describe the project approach or strategy and the specific implementation objectives (outputs) against which progress or completion can be measured.
 - Identify the desired environmental or social outcomes and describe how the work benefits the ecosystem and/or human communities.
 - Describe the project's theory of change – what are the underlying assumptions or theory for how the implementation outputs are expected to produce the desired outcomes.
 - Describe how the project's implementation objectives and outcomes will be measured and over what timeframe.
 - What is the organization's track record for implementing similar projects?
6. Budget
- What is the overall estimated cost of the project and what are the projected or expected contributions of other funders (including in-kind donations of time and materials)? Please complete the provided budget template.
 - Identify any current unmet funding needs.
 - How much funding is sought from the Georgia Power Foundation, Inc.?
 - What activities or costs would be funded through support from the Georgia Power Foundation, Inc.?