

## Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. Water for Georgia Program Request for Proposals

The Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. is inviting proposals for the Waters for Georgia Program. Through this funding program, the Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. seeks to invest in water quality improvement projects that result in measurable benefits to environments and communities across the state of Georgia.

The Georgia Power Foundation will grant awards of \$25,000 and up, with a total anticipated investment of \$1 million, for projects that will be implemented and begin delivering benefits by December 31, 2023. The Foundation will consider smaller investments for projects that promise exceptional water stewardship benefits to the community.

To ensure that funding is directed where it is most needed, proposed projects must be focused on waters of Georgia that are [currently listed as impaired](#) under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Further, successful projects should focus on reducing the source(s) of impairment and include actions that will contribute to de-listing or down-listing the impaired waters. Additional consideration will be given to projects benefitting majority Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) and underserved communities.

### Proposal Submittal Instructions

Proposal due by 12 midnight **EST, July 30, 2021** [Link to Application](#)

For questions contact:

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### Timeline

- Request for Proposal: June 1, 2021
- Proposal Due Date: 12 midnight EST, July 30, 2021
- Q&A Webinar: Tuesday, June 29 at 11am ET
- Proposal Review and Selection: August – October 2021
- Award Notification: October – November 2021
- Grant Agreements Prepared and Executed: October 2021
- Funding Disbursed: November 2021
- Announcement (Press Release): December 2021
- Intermediate Project Report: June 2022
- Intermediate Project Report: December 2022
- Intermediate Project Report: June 2023

- Project Completion: December 2023
- Final Project Report: December 2023

## Program Details

### Focal Geography

The Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. supports water quality improvement efforts in Georgia to help protect public health and natural systems and enhance the quality of life for all citizens. To demonstrate our support, the Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. is awarding up to \$1M in water grants in 2021. 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 aquatic ecosystems. 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 (nutrients that degrade water quality by promoting excessive algal blooms or aquatic plant growth) should seek to address the cause or source of those nutrients.

### 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 support 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 strongly encouraged.

Examples of project types 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)

### Applicant Eligibility

The Georgia Power Foundation, Inc. will consider proposals from governmental agencies or organizations that have an active 501(c)3 tax designation and described in Section 509 of the

Internal Revenue Code except for any organization described in Code Section 509(a)(3)(B)(iii) that is not “functionally integrated” with its supported organization.

Georgia Power Foundation does not provide grants:

- To individuals, private elementary or secondary schools, religious organizations, or political campaigns or causes
- To organizations whose policies or actions discriminate on basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, age or disability
- For projects designed to mitigate legal or regulatory compliance obligations or tied to ongoing legal or regulatory action

## Evaluation & Priorities

Proposals meeting the eligibility and content requirements of this RFP will be reviewed by a committee including academic 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 with the following attributes:

- Have the potential to **impact the long-term ecological health** of the water body and larger watershed;
- Contribute to an existing **watershed, water quality improvement, or conservation plan** or initiative (including National, regional, State, or local scales);
- Contribute to **species conservation** in biologically impaired streams, particularly those involving rare, threatened and endangered (RTE) species;
- Can be monitoring by an existing or proposed **monitoring plan**;
- Provide clear **social co-benefit(s)** - especially in -BIPOC or underserved communities;
- 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; or GPF will consider unmet/gap funding proposals of less than \$25,000 for projects that promise exceptional water stewardship benefits to the community
- Will be **implemented and begin delivering benefits by December 31, 2023**.

## 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
  - a. Provide a concise narrative of 200 words or less that describes the project context, site conditions, and factors that may influence successful implementation, expected outcomes, and long-term desired impact.
2. Location
  - a. 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.
3. Context
  - a. 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.).
  - b. Identify and describe the environmental and/or social issue(s) the project addresses or solves (as defined by existing comprehensive plans identified above).
  - c. 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.
4. Strategy
  - a. Describe the project approach or strategy and the specific implementation objectives against which progress or completion can be measured.
  - b. Identify the desired environmental or social outcomes and describe how the work benefits the ecosystem and/or human communities.
  - c. [Upload] Project designs, if available.
  - d. Describe how the project's implementation objectives and outcomes will be measured and over what timeframe.
  - e. What is the organization's track record for implementing similar projects?
5. Timeframe
  - a. Define the project implementation timeframe. Include the proposed project start-date, key intermediate milestones, and anticipated date of completion. Include any key permits, landowner permissions, and authorizations necessary for project success.
6. Budget

- a. What is the overall estimated cost of the project? Identify any unmet funding needs?
- b. If known, what percentage of the total project cost is shared (or anticipated to be shared) by other funding sources (e.g. 25%, 50%, 75%, 100%) and the diversity of funder types (public, private, local to demonstrate local commitment, etc.)?
- c. How much funding is sought from the Waters for Georgia Program?
- d. Please complete the provided budget template and include the following details:
  - i. Funding amount sought from the Waters for Georgia Program?
  - ii. Identify any secured funding.
  - iii. What activities or costs would be funded through support from the Waters for Georgia Program?