



Brian P. Kemp
Governor

Hunter Hill
Executive Director

July 9, 2024

Re: 2024 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Lead Service Line Replacement Call for Projects

To Whom It May Concern:

The 2024 DWSRF BIL Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) Call for Projects is now open. The DWSRF BIL LSLR program will provide funding assistance to communities for service line inventory management and lead service line replacement projects.

To be eligible for funding, please submit a DWSRF BIL LSLR application via GEFA's website by 5:00 p.m. EST on Tuesday, December 31, 2024. Applications received after this time will be scored and ranked for funding within the 2025 DWSRF BIL LSLR Call for Projects application period. An application does not obligate or guarantee you funding. The application and additional guidance on LSLR program requirements are available at gefa.georgia.gov/call-for-projects.

Types of projects eligible for DWSRF BIL LSLR funding are listed on page two of this solicitation packet along with the program eligibility requirements.

Please note the following:

- The architecture and engineering qualifications-based selection requirements are on page 3; and
- The program federal requirements are on page 4; and
- The affordability criteria are on pages 5 and 6.

Please contact the Water Resources Division at 404-584-1000 or lead serviceline@gefa.ga.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Hunter Hill'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Hunter Hill

Enclosures



**Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (hereinafter, "GEFA")
2024 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (hereinafter "DWSRF") Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
(hereinafter "BIL") Lead Service Line Replacement (hereinafter "LSLR") Call for Projects
Project Submission Guidelines and Program Requirements**

Deadline	Application Website	Questions
5:00 p.m. EST. December 31, 2024	gefa.georgia.gov/call-for-projects	404-584-1000

Who Can Apply for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (hereinafter "DWSRF") Loans?

- Georgia cities
- Georgia counties
- Georgia water and sewer authorities
- Community Improvement Districts (hereinafter "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 (hereinafter, "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 (House Bill 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.
- Applicants within the Metro North Georgia Water Planning District (hereinafter "MNGWPD") must be certified by the director of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (hereinafter "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.

Timeline for Funding Applications

- July 9, 2024 – DWSRF BIL Lead Service Line Replacement Call for Projects Opens
- December 31, 2024 – Deadline to submit the DWSRF BIL LSLR Application via GEFA's website.

Eligible DWSRF Projects

- Developing service line inventory and data collection plans;
- Maintaining service line inventory management programs;
- Developing lead service line replacement capital improvement plans;
- Replacing lead service lines or galvanized service lines downstream of lead lines and all related fixtures (i.e., goosenecks, pigtails, connectors, lead solders) to improve drinking water quality;
- Statistical modeling, mapping, or field inspection (potholing) for the identification of service lines;

- Maintaining lead service line compliance with existing or proposed U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (hereinafter “EPA”) standards and regulations;
- Lead testing or monitoring programs, lead sampling, or water pitcher/filter devices;
- Community outreach events, lead service line communication plans or publications, and public education workshops.

Ineligible DWSRF Projects

- Projects that do not pertain to lead service line infrastructure improvements and/or lead service line compliance requirements.
- Projects for systems lacking adequate financial, management, and/or technical capability, unless assistance will ensure compliance.
- Projects that primarily serve future population growth efforts or economic development.
- Projects for systems in significant noncompliance unless funding will ensure compliance.
- Projects needed primarily for fire protection.

DWSRF Potential Funding Options:

- Grant funding for Service Line Inventory (hereinafter “SLI”) management projects for small and disadvantaged communities that meet the affordability criteria,
- Loan funding to assist communities with (SLI) projects and/or (LSLR) management projects.

Project Priority and Rank

GEFA will score all applications and rank projects based upon affordability criteria data (pages 5 and 6) on median household income (hereinafter “MHI”), unemployment rate, percentage not in labor force, poverty rate, percentage on Social Security, percentage on Supplemental Security Income (hereinafter “SSI”), percentage with cash public assistance, percentage with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (hereinafter “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 and rank projects in descending order. GEFA will fund as many eligible projects as financing is available. It is important that applicants complete the application in its entirety to ensure program eligibility.

Federal Requirements

Architectural/Engineering Qualification-Based Selection Process

Borrowers must comply with Section 602(b)14 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, which requires competitive procurement for architectural and engineering (hereinafter “A/E”) services through a Qualifications-Based Selection (hereinafter “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 DWSRF BIL LSLR, 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 request for qualifications 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.

Davis-Bacon Wage Requirements

The provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act apply to all projects financed in whole or in part by the DWSRF. These requirements apply to projects for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a treatment works. In all contracts in excess of \$2,000, the Borrower shall insert in full the document entitled “Supplemental General Conditions for Federally-Assisted State Revolving Fund.” This document is located on the GEFA website at gefa.georgia.gov/loan-documents.

American Iron and Steel

The American Iron and Steel (hereinafter “AIS”) requirements apply to all projects financed in whole or in part by the DWSRF. These requirements apply to projects for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a treatment works. In all contracts, the Borrower shall insert in full the document entitled “AIS Special Conditions.” This document is located on the GEFA website at gefa.georgia.gov/loan-documents.

State Environmental Review Process

Projects funded by the DWSRF must undergo an environmental review via the EPA-approved State Environmental Review Process (hereinafter “SERP”). This environmental review is conducted by EPD through either a Categorical Exclusion (CE) or Notice of No Significant Impact (hereinafter “NONSI”). This process addresses issues such as environmental impact, potential historical preservation issues, potential endangered species concerns, and permit compliance. Borrowers should review the “Guidance Document for Project Requirements” document, which is located on the GEFA website at gefa.georgia.gov/loan-documents.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (hereinafter “DBE”)

As a part of GEFA’s loan agreement, loan recipients are required to encourage the participation of minority- and women-owned businesses in all project subcontracts. The state’s DWSRF percentage goals through September 30, 2023, are four percent for Minority Business Enterprises (hereinafter “MBE”) and four percent for Women Business Enterprises (hereinafter “WBE”). Borrowers should review the “Supplemental General Conditions for Federally-Assisted State Revolving Fund,” which are located on the GEFA website at gefa.georgia.gov/loan-documents.

Build America, Buy America Act (hereinafter “BABAA”)

Alongside BIL, Congress passed BABAA, which establishes domestic sourcing requirements across all federal financial assistance programs. BABAA, which is a component of the Infrastructure and Jobs Act (IJA), requires federal agencies to ensure that “none of the funds made available for a Federal financial assistance program for infrastructure, including each deficient program, may be obligated for a project

unless all of the iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States.”

BIL Signage

Projects funded by the DWSRF must display EPA approved signs that display the Investing in America emblem and identify the project as a “project funded by President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law”. Signage costs are considered an allowable cost under this funding provided that the costs associated with signage are reasonable. Additionally, to increase public awareness of projects serving communities where English is not the predominant language, recipients are encouraged to translate the language on signs. The BIL Signage template is located at gefa.georgia.gov/loan-documents.

**Georgia Environmental Finance Authority
2024 DWSRF BIL LSLR Affordability Criteria**

GEFA's affordability criteria uses data on median household income (hereinafter "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

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)

* GEFA reserves the right to verify any information submitted within the application.

Please contact the Water Resources Division at 404-584-1000 or at leadservice@gefa.ga.gov if you have any questions about the 2024 DWSRF BIL Lead Service Line Replacement Program Call for Projects.