Attachment 8 - Ranking Criteria for DWSRF Projects
Georgia Environmental Finance Authority
2025 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Call for Projects
Project Scoring Criteria

Projects will be rated in five categories to determine eligibility and selection for funding from the DWSRF.

DWSRF Scoring System Categories

1. Readiness to proceed
2. Compliance and public health benefits
3. Priority project types
4. Priority planning elements
5. Priority applicant status

DWSRF Scoring System – Detailed Breakdown

Readiness to Proceed (only one option can be selected)

State Environmental Review Process (SERP) – Categorical Exclusion or Notice of No Significant Impact determination published in a letter from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD).	30 pts
SERP approved (EPD published a final approval letter after public comment).	40 pts

Compliance and Public Health Benefits (only one option can be selected)

Project to facilitate compliance with primary drinking water standards. To qualify projects must correct deficiencies resulting in non-compliance with the primary drinking water standards.	50 pts
Project is needed to **FULLY ADDRESS** deficiencies documented in an enforcement action, e.g., Notice of Violation (NOV), Consent Order (CO), Administrative Order (AO). The NOV, CO, or AO must be within the last three years and attached to the application.	50 pts
Project will provide additional water supply to systems that have neither a backup well nor an emergency tie-in to another system.	50 pts
Project will expand an existing system capacity or construct a new drinking water system to ensure safe drinking water to serve **EXISTING** residences/businesses in unserved areas. This could include a project to acquire a failing privately-owned	50 pts

system by a publicly-owned system.

Priority Project Types (To receive these points, the priority project scope must exceed 50 percent of the total project cost.)
Select all that apply.

Aging and Critical Infrastructure: Projects which replace, rehabilitate, or improve critical water infrastructure that has reached or exceeded its design life, reducing the risk of failure and ensuring continued delivery of essential water services.	10 pts
Conservation: Eligible DWSRF projects described by GEFA's Financing Conservation Projects including water efficiency and conservation, and energy production and conservation.	10 pts
Resilience: Projects that support a water system's ability to withstand extreme events that would disrupt service. Projects include but are not limited to backup generators, redundant equipment and infrastructure, and moving a treatment plant out of the floodplain. See Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Eligibility Handbook (Appendix A and B) for guidance.	10 pts
Regional Significance: Projects that involve collaboration between at least two cities, counties, or other eligible borrowers.	10 pts
Cybersecurity: Development of effective cybersecurity practices and measures at drinking water systems. See Supporting Cybersecurity Measures with the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for guidance.	10 pts

Priority Planning Elements (select all that apply)

Aligns with Regional Water Plan: Project proposals consistent with the implementation priorities,vision, and goals articulated in the applicable Regional Water Plan. See attached applicable plan and section.	10 pts
Capital Improvement Planning: Applicant has implemented an asset management plan as of the date of application OR Applicant has a current capital improvement plan that span at least 10 years and the proposed project is included in the plan. Attach documentation of asset management plan or capital improvement plan.	10 pts
Rate-making: Applicant has performed a rate study and implemented a rate change within the last two years. See attached rate study and rate change documentation.	10 pts

Priority Applicant Status (select all that apply)

First-time borrower (outside of lead service line inventory funding)	5 pts
WaterFirst Community	5 pts
PlanFirst Community	2 pts