

GEFA Qualification-Based Selection (QBS) Certification

Section 602(b)(14) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (FWPCA) requires competitive procurement of architectural and engineering (A/E) services through a qualifications-based selection (QBS) process. This requirement applies to contracts for program management, construction management, feasibility studies, preliminary engineering, design, engineering, surveying, mapping, or other engineering-related services.

Effective January 1, 2021, all borrowers of GEFA's federal and state loan programs must follow a Qualification-Based Selection (QBS) process to competitively procure their A/E services for a project to be eligible for financing. Borrowers listed on an existing GEFA annual intended use plan (IUP), such as the 2020 IUP and earlier, are exempt from the QBS process.

GEFA Qualification-Based Selection (QBS) Process Review and Elements

GEFA reserves the right to review any QBS process to ensure compliance with the requirements of FWPCA Section 602(b)(14). If any element of the QBS process is found to be out of compliance with federal requirements, corrective action will be required of the loan recipient and must be completed within GEFA's designated time frame.

Elements of GEFA's review can include but are not limited to: ensuring that the loan recipient developed a QBS process, ensuring that the developed QBS contained the appropriate level of depth and complexity, and ensuring that the QBS process was implemented.

Qualification-Based Selection (QBS) Certification

Please select one of the following three certification options (required):

- ☐ I certify that the anticipated project cost is less than \$1,000,000 and A/E services are less than \$100,000. A QBS process is not needed to procure A/E services.
- ☒ I certify that the anticipated project cost is between \$1,000,000 and \$3,000,000 and A/E services are more than \$100,000. A one-step QBS process has been completed or will be completed to procure A/E services.
- ☐ I certify that the anticipated project cost is more than \$3,000,000 and A/E services are more than \$100,000. A two-step QBS process has been completed or will be completed to procure A/E services.

Applicant Name: Hall County, Georgia	
Authorized Certifier #1: David Gibbs	Authorized Certifier #2: Justin Lawhon
Title: Chairman, Board of Commissioners	Title: County Attorney
Signature:	Signature:
Date: 8/27/2026	Date: 8/27/2026