#### Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)

# Fiscal Year 2014 Announcement for Program Funding

(Full Proposals)

April 10, 2014



1

#### **Full Proposal Information**

- Review APF (Section V. on page 14)
- Application Form: SF-424-Application for Federal Assistance
- Project Executive Summary
- Project Description
- Assessment of Environmental and Social Impacts



## Assessment of Environmental and Social Impacts

- V. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION FOR FULL PROPOSALS (only for those applicants notified at the end of the pre-proposal review process that their application has been identified for further evaluation).
- 4. Assessment of Environmental and Social Impacts: Describe and assess the potential environmental and social impacts of the proposed project. The description of the potential environmental and social impacts must address all potential beneficial and adverse impacts of the proposed action. A full description and assessment of the potential impacts to all environmental resources must be disclosed. The length of the analysis should be commensurate with the complexity of the project proposed and the environmental resources impacted directly, indirectly, or cumulatively. Where possible, information on environmental impacts should be quantified, such as number of acres of wetlands impacted, amount of carbon sequestration estimated, etc. Environmental resources include soil, water, air, plants, and animals, as well as other resources protected by law, regulation, Executive Order, and agency policy. In addition to describing impacts, applicants are required to assess the significance or degree of potential environmental impact of the proposed project on environmental resources.

Note: Please be aware that applications for *projects with potentially adverse impacts may need* to be modified in order to achieve acceptable and beneficial levels of environmental impact. NRCS may choose not to select projects that cannot be modified.



Conservation Innovation Grants

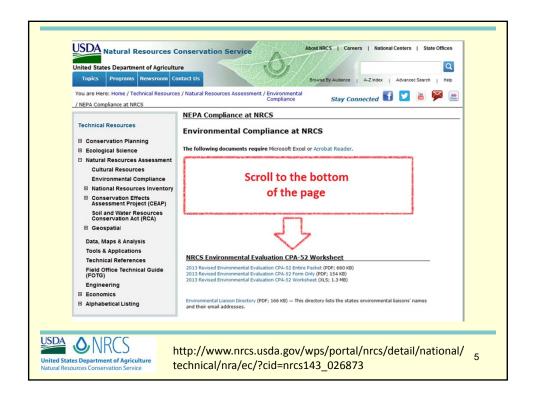
3

#### Assessment of Environmental and Social Impacts

#### I. Environmental Review Requirements

The Council on Environmental Quality's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations at 40 CFR parts 1500-1508 and the NRCS regulation that implements NEPA at 7 CFR part 650 require that an environmental review be prepared for Federal actions that may have environmental effects. NRCS financial assistance under the CIG program requires compliance with these regulations. As part of the application packet, applicants are required to provide environmental information pertaining to their project to help NRCS determine the appropriate documentation required to comply with NEPA and NRCS regulations. If the application is selected for funding, the NRCS Program Contact and NRCS Environmental Liaison will coordinate with the selected applicant concerning documentation for compliance with NEPA. The selected applicant will be required to prepare and pay for the preparation of the appropriate NEPA document (e.g., Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement if required for NEPA compliance). Grant funding cannot be approved until the environmental review requirements demonstrating compliance with NEPA are met.





NRCS Environmental
Evaluation
Worksheet "Special
Environmental
Concerns" — Laws,
Regulations and
Executive Orders for the protection of natural resources.

Special Environmental
Concerns" — Laws,
Regulations and
Executive Orders for the protection of natural resources.

Special Environmental
Concerns" — Laws,
Regulations and
Executive Orders for the protection of natural resources.

Special Environmental
Concerns" — Laws,
Regulations and
Executive Orders for the protection of natural resources.

Special Environmental
Executive Orders for the protection of natural resources.

Special Environmental
Executive Orders for the protection of natural resources.

Special Environmental
Executive Orders for the protection of natural resources.

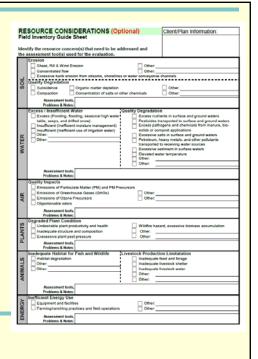
Special Environmental
Executive Orders for the protection of natural resources.

Special Environmental
Executive Orders for the protection of natural resources.

Special Environmental
Executive Orders for the protection of natural resources.

Special Environmental E

NRCS Environmental Evaluation
Worksheet soil,
water, air, plants,
animals, and energy resource
considerations.

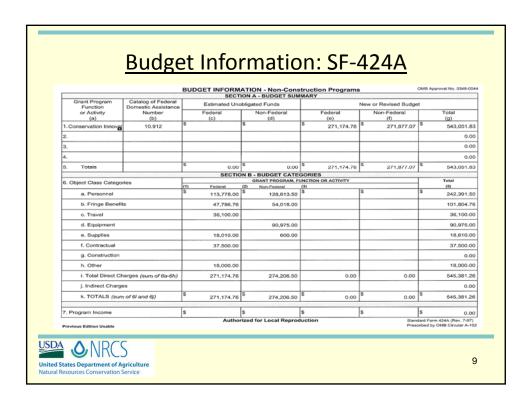


#### **Full Proposal Information**

- Review APF (Section V. on page 14)
- Application Form: SF-424-Application for Federal Assistance
- Project Executive Summary
- Project Description
- Assessment of Environmental and Social Impacts
- Budget Information: SF-424A-Budget Information
- Indirect Costs
- Matching

USDA ONRCS





#### **Full Proposal Information**

- Declaration of Previous CIG Project Involvement
- Declaration of Beginning Farmer or Rancher, Limited Farmer or Rancher, or Indian tribe
- Declaration Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Eligibility



To participate in <u>EQIP financial assistance</u>, an individual or entity must meet the eligibility requirements in 7 C.F.R. 1466.8, which include the following:

Criteria	Potential Verification Documentation*
Be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions (7 C.F.R. Part 12)	Documentation of their compliance status can be obtained by the producer at their local USDA Service Center or through the USDA customer service on-line portal
Have an interest in the agricultural operation as defined in 7 C.F.R. Part 1400	Documentation of their farm interest can be obtained by the producer at their local USDA Service Center or through the USDA customer service on-line portal showing that the producer has farm records established
Have control of the land for the term of the proposed contract period	Documentation can be provided in the form of a deed, lease, or other documents which show the producer has adequate control for the term of the proposed contract period
The average adjusted gross income of the individual, joint operation, or legal entity may not exceed \$900,000	If using FY 2014-2018 CIG funding, documentation of a producer's Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) eligibility status can be obtained by the producer at their local USDA Service Center, or through the USDA customer service on-line portal.

<sup>\*</sup>Many of the verification documents will require that the producer have current records established with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) or require that the producer establish new records.



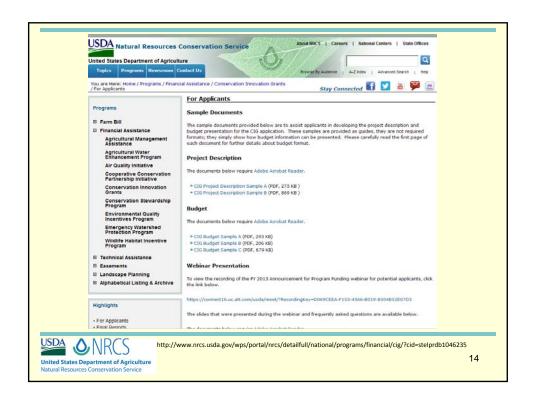
11

#### **Full Proposal Information**

- <u>Declaration of Previous CIG Projects Involvement and Past</u>
   <u>Performance</u>
- Declaration of Beginning or Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher, or Indian Tribe, or Community Based Organizations comprised of or representing these entities
- Declaration Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Eligibility
- Documentation of Submission to State Conservationist(s)
- Certifications: SF-424B-Assurances-Non-Construction Programs
- DUNS
- SAM







### Full Proposal Deadline

May 5, 2014 at 4 pm EDT



15

#### **How to Submit**

- Electronically
  - √nrcscig@wdc.usda.gov
- Hardcopy
  - √ Hand-deliver
  - ✓ Mail



#### **Contact Information**

**Program Contacts:** 

Gregorio Cruz, National CIG Program Manager

Phone: (703) 235-8065

E-mail: gregorio.cruz@wdc.usda.gov

Stacy Swartwood, National CIG Program Analyst

Phone: (703) 235-8061

E-mail: <a href="mailto:stacy.swartwood@wdc.usda.gov">stacy.swartwood@wdc.usda.gov</a>

**Acquisition Division Contact:** 

Sheila Leonard, Grants & Agreement Specialist

Phone: (202) 720-5436

E-mail: <a href="mailto:sheila.leonard@wdc.usda.gov">sheila.leonard@wdc.usda.gov</a>



17

#### Questions?



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers. If you believe you experienced discrimination when obtaining services from USDA, participating in a USDA program, or participating in a program that receives financial assistance from USDA, you may file a complaint with USDA. Information about how to file a discrimination complaint is available from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.

USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex (including gender identity and expression), marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

To file a complaint of discrimination, complete, sign and mail a program discrimination complaint form, available at any USDA office location or online at <a href="https://www.ascr.usda.gov">www.ascr.usda.gov</a>, or write to:

USDA Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

Or call toll free at (866) 632-9992 (voice) to obtain additional information, the appropriate office or to request documents. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

