What is CIG?

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) is a voluntary program intended to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies while leveraging Federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection, in conjunction with agricultural production.

Under CIG, Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds are used to award competitive grants to non-Federal governmental or non-governmental organizations, Tribes, or individuals.

Benefits

CIG enables NRCS to work with other public and private entities to accelerate technology transfer and adoption of promising technologies and approaches to address some of the Nation's most pressing natural resource concerns.

CIG will benefit agricultural producers by providing more options for environmental enhancement and compliance with Federal, State, and local regulations. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers CIG. The CIG requires a 50-50 match between the agency and the applicant and has two funding components - national and state.

How CIG Works

Funding for CIG is announced each year through a Request for Proposals (RFP). Funds for single- or multi-year projects, not to exceed three years, will be awarded through a nationwide competitive grants process.

CIG competitions will emphasize projects that have a goal of providing benefits over a large geographic area. These projects may be watershed-based, regional, multi-State, or nationwide in scope.

Application Process

Applications should describe the use of innovative technologies or approaches, or both, to address a natural resource conservation concern or concerns.

All National CIG applications must include a letter to the NRCS State Conservationist requesting a letter of review. State Conservationists will review proposed projects for potential duplication of effort, ethics concerns, and consistency with NRCS needs and overall EQIP objectives.

State Component

In addition to the nationwide grants competition, the State component emphasize projects that have a goal of providing benefits within a limited geographic area. Projects may be farm-based, multicounty, small watershed, or Statewide in scope. Public notices in New Hampshire will announce the availability of funds for the State CIG competitions.

Eligibility

Proposed projects must involve EQIP-eligible producers. CIG funds that are used to provide direct or indirect payments to individuals or entities to implement structural, vegetative, or management practices are subject to EQIP eligibility requirements, including the $450,000 EQIP payment limitation and adjusted gross income (AGI) limits.

Following are two general examples of projects that would be eligible for funding under CIG:

• Market-based environmental credit trading projects addressing one or more natural resource concerns;

• Community-based solutions to watershed based or regional natural resource concerns that cannot be addressed by a single producer, or by a group of producers taking individual on-farm actions.

For more information on the
New Hampshire CIG program visit:

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/cig/

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USDA-NRCS/ Conservation District Offices

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603-868-7581

Belknap County Conservation District
64 Court Street
Laconia, NH 03246
603-527-5880

Concord Field Service Center
Merrimack County Conservation District
10 Ferry St., Suite 211,
Concord, NH 03301
603-223-6021

Conway Field Service Center
Carroll County Conservation District
73 Main St.
Conway, NH 03818
603-447-2771

Epping Field Service Center
Knightly Plaza
629 Calef Highway, Suite 201
Epping, NH 03042
603-679-1587

Lancaster Field Service Center
Coos County Conservation District
4 Mayberry Lane, Lancaster,
NH 03584
603-788-4651

Milford Field Service Center
Hillsborough County Conservation District
Chappell Professional Ctr.,
#468, Rte. 13 South,
Milford, NH 03055
603-673-2409

Orford Field Service Center
Grafton County Conservation District
19 Archertown Rd., Suite 1
Orford, NH 03777
603-353-4651

Rockingham County Conservation District
110 North Road, Brentwood,
NH 03833
603-679-2790

Sullivan County Conservation District
95 County Farm Rd.
Unity, NH 03743
603-863-4297

Strafford County Conservation District
264 County Farm Rd,
Dover, NH 03820
603-749-3037

Walpole Field Service Center
Cheshire County Conservation District
11 Industrial Park Dr.
Walpole, NH 03608
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USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Conservation Innovation Grants

in New Hampshire

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Helping People Help the Land