

# Fiscal Year 2014 NY NRCS Financial Assistance Program Local Working Group Task Guide

## **Local Working Group Counties:**

Thank you for participating in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 NY NRCS Local Working Group (LWG) for your field team. The LWG provides recommendations to USDA NRCS on local natural resource priorities, helps draft local ranking questions, and assigns funding distributions for focus areas. The LWG also provides input on local outreach. This year, the LWG will also have the ability to submit a proposal for consideration for additional funding. Your input is critical to effectively developing and implementing 2014 NY NRCS programs.

## **Tasks to be completed:**

Provide LWG input on the following pages as indicated. Add additional sheets as needed.

### **1. Field Team Focus Areas**

- a) Select the fund codes to be offered in the field team
- b) Identify the funding distribution for the selected fund codes

### **2. Priority Areas**

- a) Identify the priority watersheds for your field team

### **3. Local Question Development**

- a) For each selected fund code, develop the local ranking questions

### **4. Outreach**

- a) Please provide comments and suggestions regarding outreach and underserved communities in your county/field team

### **5. Additional Comments**

- a) Please feel free to provide any additional comments, questions or suggestions

### **6. Local Working Group- Request for Proposals (attached)**

- 1. EQIP Field Team Focus Areas** – Each NRCS field team will receive an allocation which may be used to address selected resource concerns through local funding pools. The local working group may select any of the listed fund codes to be offered within the field team area. Soil Health (formerly cropland) and other initiatives will be offered statewide. Each fund code selected by the local working group will be offered for the entire field team. Field team funding allocation may factor in partner support.

Please determine which fund codes you wish to offer as well as the funding distribution, as a percentage of the field team allocation, for the selected fund codes. For fund codes which will be offered in the field team, please indicate any anticipated in-kind partner support, in the form of full-time equivalent staff (FTE); this is not mandatory, but is beneficial in assessing the potential contract implementation rates.

Will the Fund Code Be Offered?	Fund Code	In-kind Partner Support (FTE)

- 2. EQIP Priority Areas** – Identify up to six, 12-digit Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUC) per county in the Local Working Group that you wish to identify as priority areas. This information will be used when developing local questions and will also assist NRCS State Programs staff in developing state-wide questions. Local questions may give points to applications located within priority HUC areas.

**List the 12-digit HUCs per county:**

**3. Develop Local Questions for Identified Fund Codes –**

Local questions attribute 250 points to the 1000 point ranking. The questions must be non-discriminatory, size neutral, and geared at addressing overall resource concerns and not at specific practices. Questions will be reviewed by NRCS Area/State staff to assure consistency with program policy and regulation.

Please provide up to 10 local questions for each fund code that will be offered by your LWG and include a point distribution for the questions, totaling 250 points per fund code.

**Local Questions:**

4. **Outreach** – Typically, our local outreach consists of placing information in local newspapers and newsletters, such as the SWCD newsletter. Please comment on any communities that you feel might be underserved and suggest methods of reaching out to these communities. This information will help the District Conservationists with outreach efforts.

<b>Community:</b>
<b>Outreach Suggestions:</b>
<b>Community:</b>
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<b>Outreach Suggestions:</b>

5. **Additional Comments** – We value your feedback. Please use this space to provide any additional comments, questions or suggestions that you have for NRCS.

<b>Comments:</b>
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**Thank you for your participation!**