



USDA NRCS South Dakota

Conservation Collaboration Cooperative Agreements (CCCA)

Conservation Collaboration Agreements At-a-Glance:

The USDA NRCS South Dakota is accepting proposals for agreements for Fiscal Year 2022.

View the CCCA post at:
www.bit.ly/SDCCCAFY22

Apply via www.grants.gov by
11:59 p.m. EST May 13, 2022.

Who Can Apply:

Applicants and applications must meet the eligibility criteria by the application deadline to be considered for the award. Eligibility for this NFO is limited to the following entity types:

- City, township, or county governments
- Independent school districts
- Native American Tribal government (federally recognized)
- Native American Tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized Tribal governments)
- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS (other than institutions of higher education)
- Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS (other than institutions of higher education)
- Private institutions of higher education
- Public and State-controlled institutions of higher education
- Special district governments
- State governments

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) serving South Dakota (SD) has partnership opportunities through the Conservation Collaboration Cooperative Agreements (CCCA) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NFO). These are competitive and leverage NRCS and partner assets to address local natural resource concerns and encourage collaboration and development of state and community-level conservation leadership.

These CCCA often result in improved agriculture production agriculture and farm or ranch operational benefits.

Successful CCCA proposals will have effective project outcomes and leverage NRCS and partner resources to help NRCS address at least one of the following areas:

- Improve soil health.
- Improve landscape performance in dealing with water quantity issues; either excess or inadequate, and downstream impacts.
- Improve water quality
- Improve habitat for local wildlife species of concern.
- Improve the environmental and economic performance of working agricultural lands.
- Assist communities and groups to build and strengthen local food projects that provide healthy food and economic opportunities.

Priority will be placed on projects that address soil health/climate smart agriculture, water quality and quantity, habitat, and urban/community agriculture, and will be executed through:

- Building technical capacity of the NRCS to implement Farm Bill Conservation Programs.
- Building technical capacity of NRCS and partner field conservation employees.
- Building the capacity of local partners to develop and implement effective projects that align within the mission and scope of NRCS.
- Leveraging non-Federal and non-government resources to achieve positive natural resources conservation outcomes.

CCCA NFO Process

The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NFO) is posted on the federal e-Grants portal www.grants.gov, key word search for "NRCS South Dakota," and specifies in detail the information required from applicants.

The NRCS SD CCCA funding notices are for single- or multi-year projects, not-to-exceed three years. Projects must be South Dakota-based in scope. *Continued next page.*

South Dakota
Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

www.sd.nrcs.usda.gov

MARCH 2022



CCCA NFO Process, *continued*

The natural resource concerns eligible for funding will be identified in the NFO and may change annually to focus on new, emerging, or high priority natural resource issues. Agreements will be awarded through a competitive process. Criteria is described in the NFO on grants.gov. Entities may submit more than one proposal.

Questions regarding this opportunity must be submitted to the Federal Awarding Agency Contact identified in the announcement with the respective NFO number in the subject line. A summary of questions and answers will be posted to the "Related Documents" tab of the NFO in www.grants.gov approximately two weeks before the application due date.

Application Information and Proposal Guidelines

The guidelines and details regarding the contents and length of each section for proposals for SD CCCAs are posted on www.grants.gov.

While a Grants.gov account is not required to download an NFO and related documents, it is required to submit an application. Please be aware there are several steps for registering an organization before submitting an application, including a SAM registration and providing a valid unique entity identifier (DUNS number).

Proposals must be submitted to www.grants.gov any time before 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the established deadline day. Eligible proposals may be added to a list for funding consideration throughout the fiscal year. The Review and Selection Process criteria is outlined in the NFO

document. Proposals with match, that support or continue the work of an existing agreement, geographical dispersion, program balance or diversity in support of USDA's priority for racial justice, equity and opportunity will be given additional consideration.

Final funding decisions will be made by the NRCS SD State Conservationist with consideration given to the NRCS SD Leadership Team's priority areas of emphasis and program funding availability.

With CCCA, the agency will be substantially involved in the work performed. While there is not a specific cost sharing nor match requirement for this NFO, proposals will be evaluated in part on the overall proposal project costs and relative contribution of non-federal resources to the project. The portion not covered by federal funds, or the Match, for a CCCA can be achieved with contributions of cash, services, materials, equipment, or third-party in-kind contributions.

Match must be secured at the time of the application.

The minimum amount for a FY22 NRCS SD proposal is \$20,000 and the maximum is \$1,000,000.

Applications must submit proposals via Grants.gov; the agency will not accept applications submitted via e-mail or any other method.

To be considered for funding under this opportunity, an application must contain:

- a. **Project Narrative:** include institutional background, problem statement/needs assessment, goals and objectives, method/implementation plan, and an evaluation plan. The project

narrative must not exceed *seven* pages. This page limitation applies to the project narrative only. *Please refer to the NFO for full guidelines.*

- b. Application Form: (Standard Form 424 Application for Federal Assistance)
- c. Standard Form (SF) 424A, Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs
- d. Budget Narrative
- e. Grants.gov Lobbying Form, Certification and Disclosure of Lobbying Activities
- f. Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) (if applicable)
- g. Disclosure of Potential Conflict of Interest.
- h. Post Award Documentation.
- i. Unique entity identifier/DUNS and System for Award Management (SAM)

The application form and the Standard Form documents do not count toward the stated narrative page limit. All standard grant forms must be submitted at the time of application and are available at www.grants.gov.

To view the official CCCA post online, visit: www.bit.ly/SDCCCAFY22

