



United States Department of Agriculture

# Regional Conservation Partnership Program



## 2019 Program Implementation



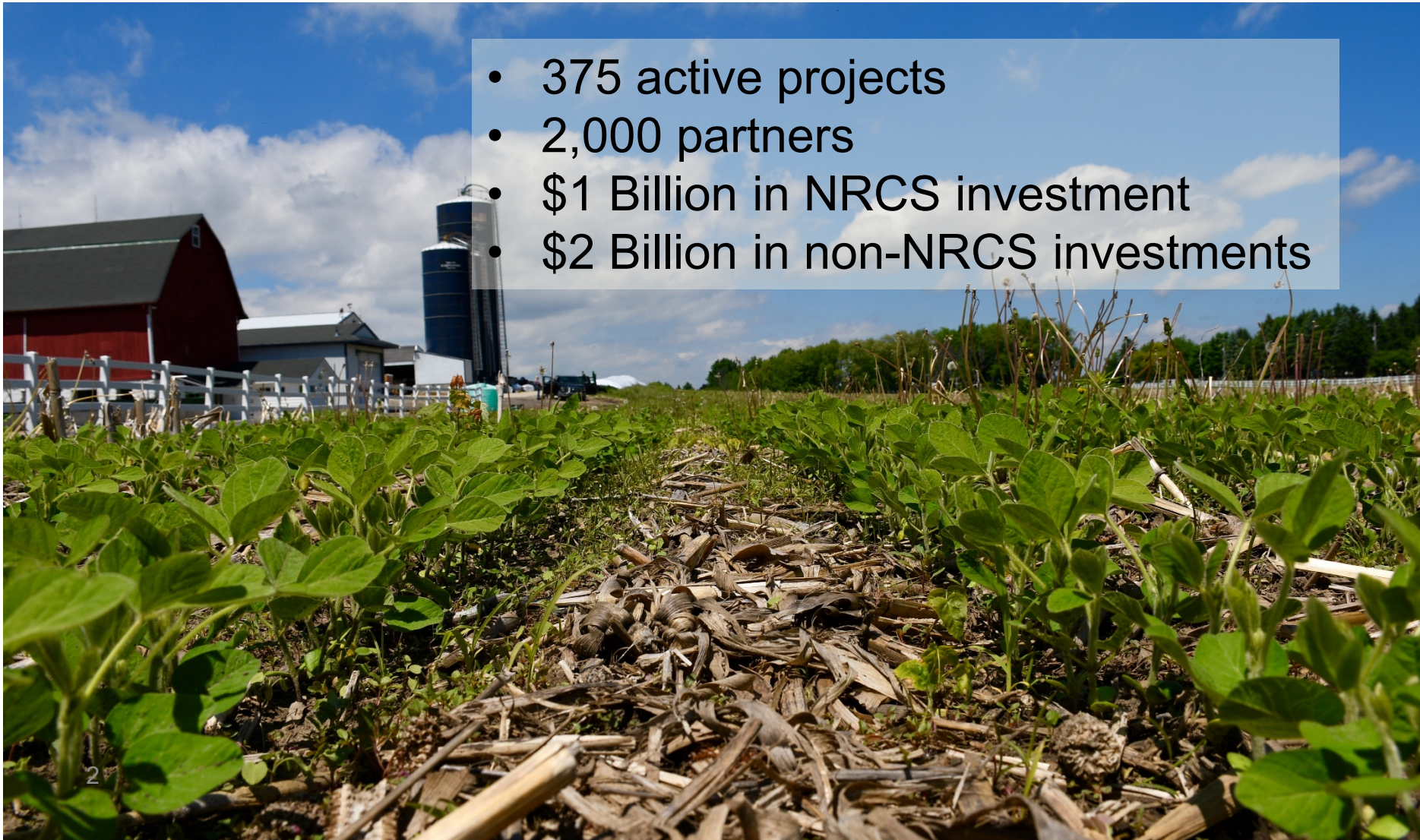
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# RCPP – Building on Success

- 375 active projects
- 2,000 partners
- \$1 Billion in NRCS investment
- \$2 Billion in non-NRCS investments



# RCPP Pillar Principles



- **Impact**
- **Partner Contributions**
- **Innovation**
- **Partnership and Project Management**



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# Impact



RCPP applications must propose effective and compelling solutions that address one or more natural resource priorities to help solve natural resource challenges. Partners are responsible for evaluating a project's impact and results.



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# Partner Contributions



Partners are responsible for identifying any combination of cash and in-kind value-added contributions to leverage NRCS's RCPP investments. It is NRCS's goal that partner contributions at least equal the NRCS investment in an RCPP project. Substantive and sizable partner contributions are given priority consideration as part of the RCPP application evaluation criteria.



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# Innovation



NRCS seeks projects that integrate multiple conservation approaches, implement innovative conservation approaches or technologies, build new partnerships, or effectively take advantage of program flexibilities to deliver conservation solutions.



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# Partnership and Project Management



Partners must have experience, expertise, and capacity to manage the partnership and project, provide outreach to producers, and quantify the environmental (and when possible, economic and social) outcomes of an RCPP project. RCPP ranking criteria give priority consideration to applicants that meaningfully engage historically underserved farmers and ranchers.



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# 2018 Farm Bill--Significant Changes

- **Standalone program with \$300 million annually**
- **Three funding pools reduced to two**
  1. Critical Conservation Areas
    - Prairie Grasslands
      - Inadequate habitat for fish, wildlife and invertebrates
      - Degraded plant condition
      - Excess/insufficient water/drought
  2. State/Multi State Pool



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# 2019 Funding Announcement

- **Consistent with the forthcoming Interim Final Rule**
- **Makes available \$300 million**
- **Maximum of \$10 million, minimum of \$250k**
- **Application period is 90 days – Ends Dec. 3**
- **No pre-proposal phase to application process**



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# First things First....



- 1. eAuthentication level-2 credentials**
- 2. DUNS number**
- 3. SAMS number**



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# Eligible Activities



- **Land Management/improvement/restoration**
- **Land rental**
- **Entity-held easements**
- **US-held easements**
- **Public works/watersheds**

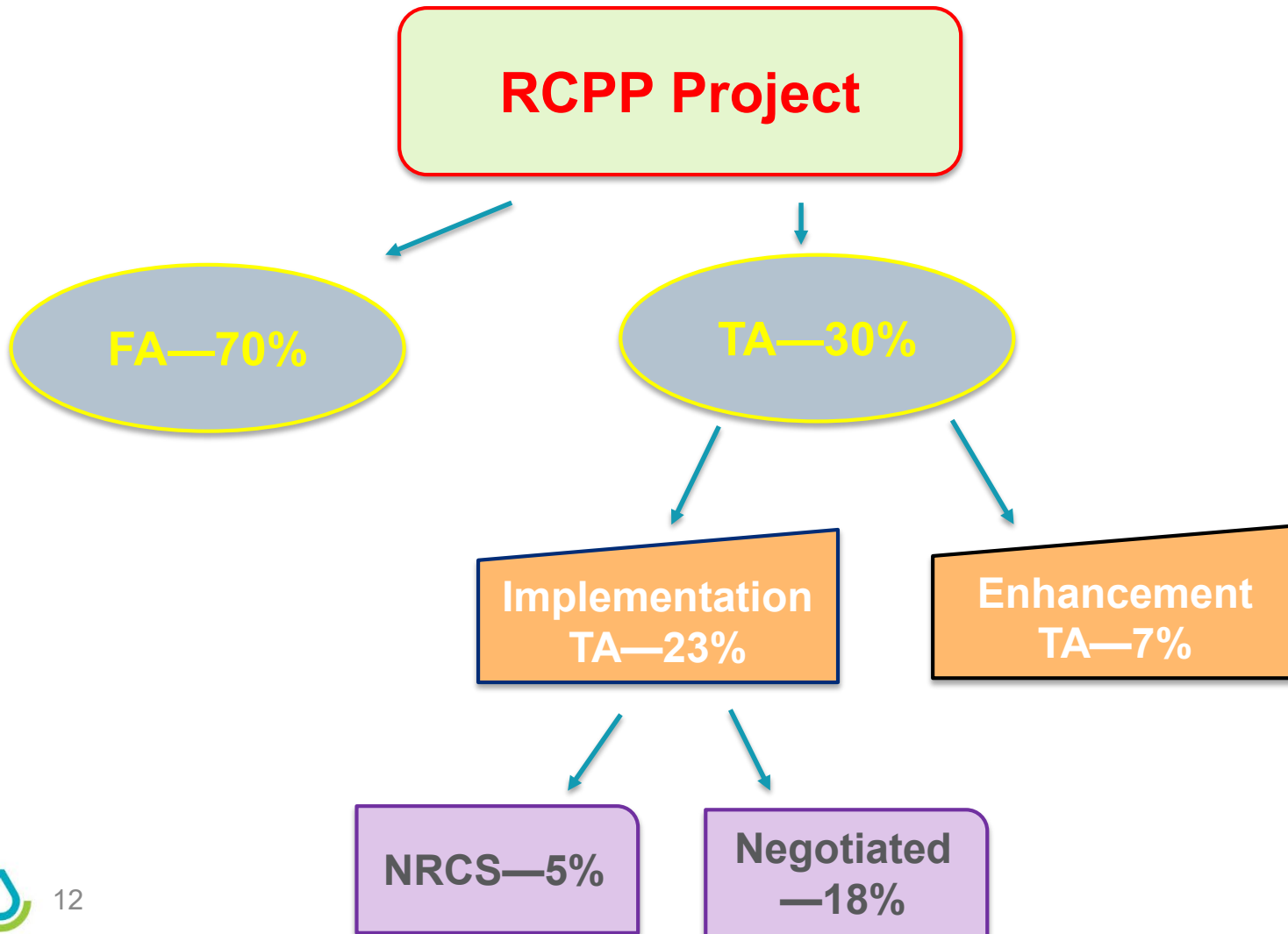


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# RCPP FA/TA Approach



# Enhancement TA—7% maximum of total project cost

- **Partners may request TA funding for project enhancement activities**
- **See APF table for full list of eligible activities**
- **Example requests at 7% level**
  - \$2 million project, \$140k maximum
  - \$4 million project, \$280k maximum
- **Subject to negotiation during agreement development**
- **Partners must identify means of justifying expenses as a part of their Portal application**
- **If not requested, total project TA maxes out at 23%**

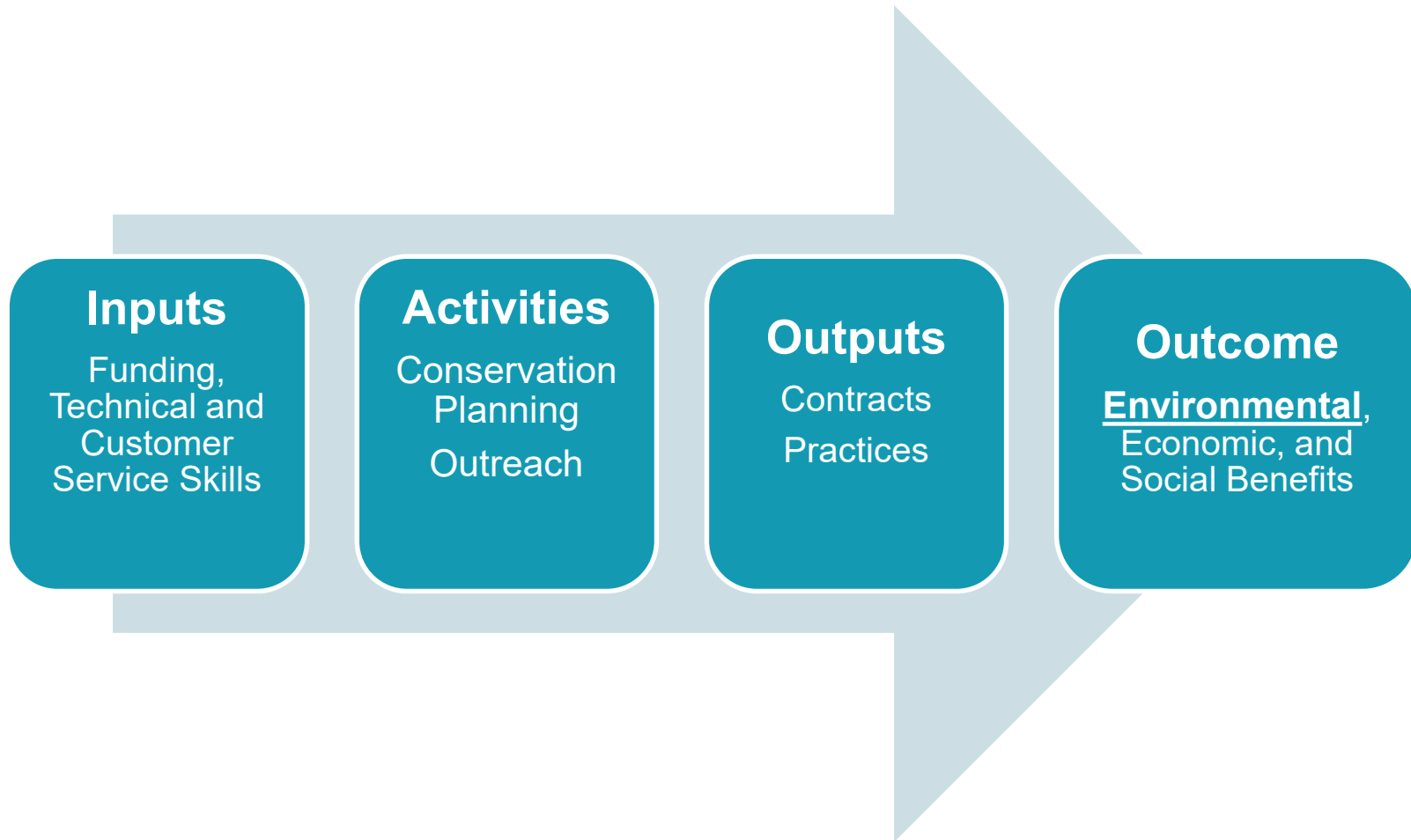


# Implementation TA—23% of total project cost

- 5% retained by NRCS, non-negotiable, for required project implementation activities
- 18% retained by NRCS unless requested and justified by partners and approved by NRCS
- See APF table for implementation TA activities
- Requests must be accompanied by partner or 3<sup>rd</sup>-party qualifications in Portal application
- TA rates of partners or 3<sup>rd</sup> parties must be competitive with NRCS rates



# What is an Outcome?



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# RCPP FY 19/20 Timeline



<u>RCPP Action</u>	<u>Timeline</u>
RCPP FY 2019 funding announcement released	September 3, 2019
Application period closes	December 3, 2019
RCPP Interim Final Rule released	Late 2019/Early 2020
RCPP award announcement	Week of March 9, 2020
FY 2019 RCPP partnership agreements (including renewals) executed	By mid-June 2020
Next funding announcement released	July 1, 2020



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# Partner Webinar



## Participant Instructions

The conference begins at 3:00 PM Eastern Time on September 26, 2019; you may join the conference 10 minutes prior.

Step 1: Dial into the conference.

Dial-in: 1-877-369-5243 or 1-617-668-3633

Access Code: 0213915##

[Need an international dial-in number?](#)

Step 2: Join the conference on your computer.

Entry Link: <https://ems8.intellor.com/login/817999>

When you access the entry link above, you will be provided a choice - to install the WebEx plug-in for your preferred browser or to join the web conference using a temporary path. Either option is acceptable.

Need urgent assistance? Call 1-301-250-7202.



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# Announcement of Program Funding

**<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=10.932>**

# RCPP Contact



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