Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP)

Fact Sheet

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service offers voluntary Farm Bill programs that benefit both agricultural producers and the environment.

What Is VPA-HIP?

The Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP) provides funding to help state and tribal governments encourage landowners to allow public access to their land for hunting, fishing, and other wildlife-dependent recreation.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) delivers the largest long-term investment in NRCS conservation programs in decades, delivering over $34 billion through fiscal year 2031, including $52 million in 2026 for VPA-HIP. This increase in funding ensures conservation remains rooted in agriculture, with benefits to producers, communities and natural resources.

VPA-HIP is a critical source of funding for increasing public access to private lands for wildlife-dependent recreation, while also supporting farmers and contributing to habitat conservation efforts.

VPA-HIP is a competitive grants program available to state and tribal governments. Projects may last up to three years. Projects can receive up to $3 million, and project sponsors can use up to 25% of funds to provide incentives to landowners to improve wildlife habitat on enrolled public access program lands.

Who Is Eligible?

States and Indian tribal governments may apply to use VPA-HIP grant funding to create new or expand existing public access programs or to improve habitat on land enrolled in their public access programs.

How to Apply

Applications are accepted on Grants.gov during open application periods. For more information and details on how to apply, visit the NRCS website.

More Information

For more information or to find your local USDA Service Center, visit nrcs.usda.gov or scan the QR code.

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