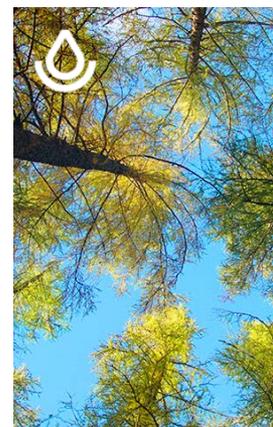




United States Department of Agriculture



Natural
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Conservation Innovation Grants

12-2-2016

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Conservation Innovation Grants

Remember to please Mute your Phones

Call-in Information:

888-844-9904

Access Code: 2674600





Conservation Innovation Grants

Agenda:

- CIG Basics
- Eligibility
- How to Apply
- Expectations of an awarded project

Note: This program is conducted through our national office.



Conservation Innovation Grants

CIG Basics:

- CIGs are competitive grants to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative approaches and technologies for conservation on ag lands.
- \$25 Million for FY17 Funding
- FY16 NRCS awarded 45 projects in 3 focus areas: Improving Water Quality, Advancing the Conservation Finance Aspect of Environmental Markets, and Boosting the Number of Historically Underserved (HU)



Conservation Innovation Grants

CIG Basics:

Historically Underserved:

Historically underserved individuals and groups include those who have not participated in, or have received limited benefits from, USDA or NRCS programs.

- Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher
- Limited-Resource Farmer or Rancher
- Beginning Farmer or Rancher
 - Veteran Farmer or Rancher



Conservation Innovation Grants

CIG Basics

FY2017 has 6 Categories:

- Historically Underserved producer or veteran farmers or ranchers
- Data analytics for natural resources conservation
- Pay-for-success models to stimulate conservation adoption
- Precision conservation approaches
- Projects that demonstrate the cost effectiveness of leveraged public and private impact investments in working lands conservation.
- Water management technologies and approaches to maximize agricultural production efficiency and minimize off-site impacts

*Definitions can be found in the CIG Announcement



Conservation Innovation Grants

CIG Basics:

- USDA has invested \$145 million to nearly 400 national and regional CIG awards
- **National Competition** (last year rec'd 170 applications, funded 45)
- Seeking project proposals focusing on technologies and/or approaches covering conservation finance; natural resources data analytics; precision conservation; water management and soil health; pay-for-success models; increased assistance to (HU)



Conservation Innovation Grants

CIG Basics:

- 3 year projects.
- Does not fund untested technology, does not fund business start ups
- Looking for projects that will benefit NRCS and the producers in the field
- Applications must be received **BEFORE** January 9, 2017
- Announcements will be made ~April, funds released in June



Conservation Innovation Grants

CIG Eligibility:

- Applications are accepted from state or local governments, Tribes, NGOs, and Individuals.
- Needs to benefit producers who are EQIP Eligible
- Applicants can use both cash and in-kind services as matching funds for CIG. Funding is at least a 1:1 match from non-federal source.



Conservation Innovation Grants

CIG Eligibility:

- **DUNS / SAM requirement**
 - All entities need to have a DUNS and register with SAM (won't be awarded until you have DUNS and valid SAM)



Conservation Innovation Grants

CIG Application:

Step 1: go to NRCS CIG Website

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/cig/>

- Announcement for Program Funding
- Application Forms
- Samples for Project Description
- Samples for Budgets
- FAQ
- Webinar Presentation for Potential Applicants
- Program Contact



Conservation Innovation Grants

CIG Application:



Applicants



Grantees



Success Stories



Project Search
Tool

Additional Resources

[2015 CIG Awards](#) (PDF, 135 KB)

[CIG Fact Sheet](#) (PDF, 281 KB)

[CIG Congressional Report](#)(PDF, 916 KB)

[Top 10 CIG Stories](#) (PDF, 1.3 MB)



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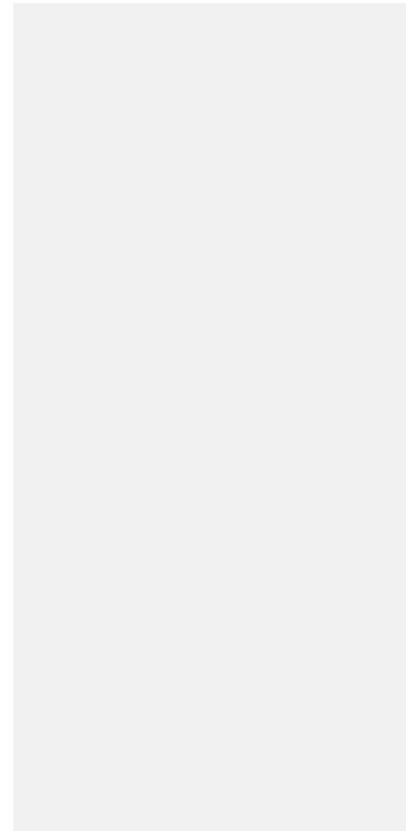
Conservation Innovation Grants



CIG Application:

Step 2:

Applications are submitted to www.grants.gov and a PDF copy emailed to nrcscig@wdc.usda.gov and a copy emailed to the Wisconsin State Conservationist



Conservation Innovation Grants

CIIG Application:

- Scope can be at a watershed level or as large as multi-state in size
- \$2 Million maximum from CIIG, remember the 1:1 match



Conservation Innovation Grants

CIG Expectations:

- Applicants can use both cash and in-kind services as matching funds for CIG. Funding is at least a 1:1 match.
- Must provide your own Technical Assistance
- Reports due to National
- Monitoring is done by the national technical contact, not at the state or local level



Conservation Innovation Grants

Recap: Looking for something to benefit NRCS, its employees, and the agricultural producers.

Examples: Web based tools, smart phone apps, new food marketing tools, water monitoring techniques



Conservation Innovation Grants

Further Information:

- <https://usdanrcs.adobeconnect.com/p1jpikx0dl4>

- **National Program Contact:**

nrcscig@wdc.usda.gov



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