

Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program

Natural Resources Conservation Service



Overview

The Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP) provides State and tribal governments with funding to expand or improve habitat in existing public access programs.

How It Works

The 2018 Farm Bill authorizes \$50 million for VPA-HIP. State and tribal governments may submit proposals for VPA-HIP grants from NRCS. State agencies and tribes then provide funding to participating private landowners through new or expanded public access programs that enhance public access to private lands for wildlife-dependent recreation, such as hunting, fishing, or hiking.

Who is Eligible?

Only States and tribal governments are eligible to apply for VPA-HIP grants. Private forest, farm, or ranch lands may be eligible for assistance under these State or tribal grants.

Allowable grant amounts to a state are reduced by 25 percent if the opening dates for migratory bird hunting are not consistent for residents and non-residents. This requirement does not apply to American Indian tribe grantees.

How to Apply

NRCS will publish a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NFO) to the Federal Government's grants portal ([grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)) when information on the funding availability is ready. The NFO will detail the program purpose and priorities, eligibility criteria, and the application forms and instructions needed to apply for VPA-HIP.

More Information

For more information, email VPA@usda.gov or visit nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill or farmers.gov.

Find your local USDA Service Center at farmers.gov/service-locator.



**Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service**

