

# Nebraska Conservation Collaboration Grants Agreements



## Benefits

NRCS Conservation Collaboration Grants Agreements encourages collaboration in addressing some of Nebraska's most pressing natural resource concerns. Projects often result in production and operational benefits.

NRCS identifies potential projects for leveraging NRCS and partner resources to build conservation technical capacity to develop and implement effective project outcomes.

## Overview

Applicants may compete for grant/agreement awards for projects lasting between 1-3 years. Nebraska NRCS anticipates up to \$1.5 million will be available in total this year, with each individual award bound by minimum funding of \$50,000 and a maximum of \$1,000,000.

There is no funding match requirement for these grants/agreements, but it is favorable. Proposals will be evaluated in part on the relative contribution of non-federal resources to the project.

The purpose of Conservation Collaboration Grants is to leverage NRCS and partner resources to:

- Improve soil health.
- Improve water quality.
- Provide 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.

Emphasis will be placed on projects that:

- Build technical capacity to implement Farm Bill Conservation Programs.
- Build technical capacity of NRCS and partner field conservation employees.
- Build the capacity of local partners to develop and implement effective projects.
- Leverage non-federal and non-government resources to achieve positive natural resources conservation outcomes.

## Eligibility

Eligible applicants include: state governments, county governments, city or township governments, special district governments, public and state controlled institutions of higher education, Native American Tribal governments (federally recognized), nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education, private institutions of higher education.



## Conservation Collaboration Grants

The NRCS Conservation Collaboration Grants or Agreements (CCGA) are competitive grants or agreements that leverage NRCS and partner resources to address local natural resource concerns.

NRCS encourages collaboration and development of state and community-level conservation leadership.

Funding for these grants are available through the following USDA conservation programs: Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Conservation Technical Assistance, Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Nebraska

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No matching funds are required for this grant; however, applicants with matching funds will receive additional points in the ranking process. Any combination of cash and in-kind funding can be used as a non-federal match. The grantee is also responsible for providing the technical assistance required to successfully complete the project. The NRCS will provide technical oversight for each project receiving an award.

## New and Beginning, Historically Underserved, Military Veteran Farmers, Ranchers, and Forest Landowners

The NRCS recognizes the need to provide special consideration to historically under-served agricultural producers and forest landowners and strives to ensure they benefit from innovative technologies and approaches.

The CCGA ranking process offers an incentive to encourage the participation of historically underserved, veteran farmers and ranchers, beginning farmers and ranchers, and those with limited resources.

## Application Process

The CCGA funding notice is announced on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) for single- or multi-year projects, not-to-exceed three years. Grants will be awarded through a state competitive grants process. Projects must be Nebraska-based in scope. The natural resource concerns eligible for funding through CCGA will be identified in the funding announcement and may change annually to focus on new and emerging, high priority natural resource issues.

Complete application packages must be submitted to [NRCSNEBProposals@nrcs.usda.gov](mailto:NRCSNEBProposals@nrcs.usda.gov) and received no later than 4:00 pm Central Standard Time on April 30, 2020. Proposals in the possession of NRCS will be scored as they are received and, if eligible, added to a ranking list of projects for funding consideration throughout FY2020. Funding decisions will be made by the NRCS Nebraska State Conservationist, with consideration given to the ranking list and program funding availability.

## Proposal Guidelines

The CCGA application is limited to eight pages. Follow the guidelines regarding the length of each section. Proposals over eight pages, not including letters of support and federally required forms, will be rejected. Proposals must be New Times Roman, 12 font, and be single spaced. Proposals must contain the following sections:

1. Summary: 250 words maximum (1/2 page).
2. Introduction: One (1) page maximum.
3. Needs Assessment: One (1) page maximum.
4. Program Objectives: One (1) page maximum.
5. Methods: Two (2) page maximum plus Deliverables Table.
6. Budget: One (1) page maximum.
7. Evaluation: 250 words maximum (1/2 page).

## More Information

A notice of available funding is posted on the federal e-Grants portal, [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). The Opportunity Number is USDANRCSMULTI-CCG-20-GEN0010740. The funding notice specifies the information required from applicants. Complete applications must be submitted to [NRCSNEBProposals@nrcs.usda.gov](mailto:NRCSNEBProposals@nrcs.usda.gov).

Questions may be directed to Neil Dominy, Assistant Conservationist for Partnerships and Initiatives for NRCS Nebraska at [neil.dominy@usda.gov](mailto:neil.dominy@usda.gov) and (402) 437-4113.

