



Overview

Collaboration is the act of working together to accomplish shared objectives. The NRCS Iowa Partners for Conservation awards (IPC) are competitive 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.

Informational Workshop

An 4-hour workshop will be held on or about January 4, 2019. Contact Judy Martinson at Judy.Martinson@ia.usda.gov for additional information.

IPC At-a-Glance:

- *Authorized through the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, Public Law 76, N/A Stat. N/A, 16 U.S.C. 590 a-f*
- *Funding source: Conservation Technical Assistance, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, Soils and Water Conservation, and the Soil Survey*
- **2019 Funding Available:** Up to \$5 million

Emphasis will be placed on projects that:

- Provide direct technical assistance to agricultural producers through NRCS Field Offices.
- Build technical capacity of NRCS employees, partner field conservation employees, third-party vendors and non-affiliated private company employees.
- Build the capacity of local watershed groups to develop and implement effective projects.
- Leverage non-Federal and non-government resources to achieve positive natural resources conservation outcomes.
- Provide county-level and one-on-one outreach to farmers and landowners on USDA conservation programs and services in the highlighted (shaded) counties shown in Figure 1 of the NFO.

Iowa NRCS

IPC

Iowa Partners for Conservation



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

Benefits

IPC encourages collaboration in addressing some of Iowa's most pressing natural resource concerns. NRCS identifies potential projects for leveraging NRCS and partner resources that often result in production and operational benefits. Working together, NRCS and Partners build conservation technical capacity and develop and implement effective project outcomes.

Overview

Successful IPC proposals will address at least one of the following:

1. Build soil health on cropland
2. Improve environmental and economic performance of grasslands woodlands, and wildlife areas
3. Support the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy
4. Build capacity to better manage and maintain watershed infrastructure

Eligibility

Eligible applicants include: State governments, County governments, City or township governments, Public and State controlled institutions of higher education, Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized), Nonprofits, Private institutions of higher education.

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

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

NRCS recognizes the need to provide special consideration to historically underserved agricultural producers and forest landowners and strives to ensure that they benefit from innovative technologies and approaches. The IPC encourages projects that include participation of historically underserved veteran farmers and ranchers, beginning farmers and ranchers, and those with limited resources.

For additional information contact
Judy.Martinson@ia.usda.gov

State Emphasis

The IPC emphasizes Iowa-based projects that build technical capacity and leverage non-Federal and non-government resources to achieve positive conservation outcomes. Projects may be farm-based, multi-county, small watershed, or Statewide in scope. Collaborative projects that provide on-the-ground support for Iowa NRCS Field Offices are highly encouraged. Research proposals will not be funded.

Application Process

An IPC funding notice is announced on www.grants.gov for single or multi-year projects, not to exceed five years. The Opportunity Number is USDA-NRCS-IA-19-01. The opportunity can be found easily through the basic search criteria by using the opportunity number, or by searching the CFDA of 10.902. It can also be found by filtering for All Department of Agriculture.

Awards will be awarded through a competitive process. Projects must be Iowa-based in scope.

Proposals may be submitted to NRCS at any time between December 06, 2018 and 5:00 p.m. CST on February 4, 2019.

Proposals in the possession of NRCS may, if eligible, receive consideration throughout FY 2019. Funding decisions will be made by the NRCS Iowa State Conservationist, with consideration given to program funding availability.

* Proposals that fail to comply with the criteria and format will not be considered for funding.

Proposal Guidelines

The IPC application process requires submission of the required federal application documents and a completed FY2019 IPC Request for Proposal Template. The Iowa NRCS format must be used to complete the application. An Adobe form is provided on the Iowa NRCS website at [https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/ia/people/partners/request+for+proposals+\(rfp\)/](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/ia/people/partners/request+for+proposals+(rfp)). See the NFO and the Iowa website listed above for additional information.

SAM Registration

For your SAM.gov registration, you must submit a notarized letter appointing the authorized Entity Administrator. Read the updated FAQs to learn more at <https://www.gsa.gov/about-us/organization/federal-acquisition-service/office-of-systems-management/integrated-award-environment-iae/sam-update-updated-july-11-2018>.

Effective June 2017, you must either upgrade to an Internet Explorer version of IE11 or higher, or access SAM with another supported browser type (Chrome, Firefox, Safari, etc.)

More Information

Once funds for IPC become available, a funding notice is posted on the federal e-Grants portal, www.grants.gov. The funding notice will specify the information required from applicants. Complete applications must be submitted through www.grants.gov.

[https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/ia/people/partners/request+for+proposals+\(rfp\)/](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/ia/people/partners/request+for+proposals+(rfp)/)

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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