NRCS Farm Bill Technical Assistance Grant Program

Overview & Guidance

Program Goals

The goal of this grant program is to provide funding for Technical Assistance to help implement local Farm Bill conservation programs. The Farm Bill has generated more need for technical assistance than the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can provide to producers. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) in partnership with NRCS seeks to award funding to partners to provide technical assistance for local conservation efforts.

Program Structure

Eligible Applicants: Oregon-based Tribes, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Watershed Councils, and Not-for-Profit Organizations.

Available Funding: $253,479.50

Match Requirement: 5%

Grant Term: 1-year lifespan

Review Process: NRCS and OWEB staff will review the applications and make funding recommendations. Evaluation of grant applications is based on the OWEB Technical Assistance Grants evaluation criteria. Within that evaluation framework, grant applications will also be assessed to ensure alignment with the following expectations:

- Application describes a clear need that cannot be filled with current NRCS staff capacity.
- Proposal demonstrates communication and coordination between the applicant and NRCS staff.
- Staff are qualified to accomplish the proposed activities or have a reasonable plan in place to train staff to accomplish the proposed activities.

Grant Application Instructions

Applicants should carefully review all guidance and information (including iButtons) in the online grant application. This review will help applicants confirm that all questions are answered completely based on the guidelines included in the application and that all required uploads are provided before the application is submitted.

1. Applications must be developed in collaboration with the local NRCS Office District Conservationist. Local NRCS staff will provide information on technical assistance needs, which will help applicants shape the application scope of work.
2. Complete all Application Sections including the budget, timeline, and metrics form.
3. **Required Uploads:** Include the NRCS Metrics Form and letter of concurrence from a local NRCS District Conservationist.
4. **Note: this grant offering does not support administrative assistance; only technical assistance requests will be funded.**
5. **Note the following budget changes:**
    - **Equipment is not an eligible budget category.**
    - Costs for **Materials/Supplies** can be an eligible expense but must be directly related to NRCS planning and practice certification work and approved by the local NRCS District Conservationist.

- **Travel and Training** are eligible costs if they directly relate to the NRCS Farm Bill TA work. Training must be approved by the local NRCS District Conservationist in order to be an eligible cost. The preference is for grantees to utilize NRCS vehicles whenever possible when performing grant-related work.
- For additional information about budget development, refer to OWEB's GoBIG document.

6. Please note that Administrative Section in the online application is required by OWEB and is not affiliated with the NRCS Farm Bill TA grant program.
7. OWEB strongly recommends that applicants submit their grant applications at least 24 hours prior to the application deadline. OWEB's online grant applications include a verification step that will flag missing and incomplete information in the application. Verifying and submitting your grant application at least 24 hours in advance allows time for applicants to correct errors that are found during verification. **All applications must be successfully submitted through OWEB's Online Grant Application System by 5 pm on the application deadline. No exceptions will be made.**

Application Deadline

Applications must be received by **5 pm Pacific time on September 21, 2026.**

Additional Resources for Applicants

- Technical Assistance Evaluation Criteria Diagram.
- For information about grant budgets, getting access to OWEB's Grant Management System, understanding insurance requirements, or using OWEB's online applications, see the video resources.

Questions? Please contact:

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