

10 Minute Supervisor Trainings



September 2020

ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS

The purpose of the grant program is to reduce agricultural non-point source pollution reaching surface or groundwater. This program exists to be able to address specific, local environmental issues with which the local conservation district is able to assist and administer. Environmental grants may provide funding to implement many different environmental programs, best management practices or conservation education programs. The intent is for the local districts to develop creative methods that can address local, unique environmental issues, educate local citizens on conservation methods, and to utilize/demonstrate management practices that may assist local operators in fulfilling their Agricultural Water Quality Plans.

Eligible projects can include dead animal disposal, purchase of tree seedlings, soil and/or manure testing & recycling and pick up of white goods or tires to name a few. Many conservation districts develop strong working relationships with local government entities and organizations to increase the project delivery successfulness such. Grant partnerships can include fiscal courts, fish & wildlife, forestry, cooperative extension and other civic groups. Specific grant restrictions exclude funding of equipment, food, prize money, vegetable seeds, pesticides, and local cost share program practices that are already available through state cost share.

Conservation districts are the only designated applicants eligible for Environmental Grants. Each conservation district annually has the opportunity to apply for program funds to support a local outreach program or resource concern. The maximum funding amount for the grant is \$7,500 and can be applied to deliver a single project or broken down to fund a couple small projects not to exceed the \$7,500 annual cap.

HOW TO APPLY

GRANT PROPOSAL—Board should discuss in detail the proposal for purpose, cost, benefits, partners, resource concern and targeted audience.

APPLICATION—Environmental grant applications are no longer associated with state cost share applications (an updated copy is available on Division of Conservation website). Fully complete the environmental grant application including the budget, conservation district information and grant proposal. Environmental grants are a 75/25 cost share and require the district to contribute 25% either in monetary or in kind contributions. Contribution matches must be detailed and included on application budget. Board must approve and chairperson sign application prior to submittal deadline which is usually November or December.

WHERE TO SUBMIT—Fully completed applications need be electronically submitted to conservation@ky.gov . In subject line of email put your county, environmental grant proposal & P. Akers, by the specified deadline. Late applications will not be considered for funding after the announced application deadline.

FUNDING—Funds are limited to \$7,500 per funding year. One proposal can be submitted for the full \$7,500 or multiple proposals that will total no more than \$7,500. Once proposal are reviewed, the approved list is sent out to districts and direct deposit made into district accounts shortly thereafter.

COMPLIANCE—Program requires a quarterly progress report that need include number of participants, program accomplishments and funds used to date. Reports have to be filed electronically to conservation@ky.gov and in subject line put your county, what quarter and D. Hargis in subject line. Quarterly reports are required for duration of grant implementation, however if program funds are not utilized during the program year then a request for extension need be made to carry the program into another year.

Environmental grants are a great resource for conservation districts to grow their local programs, increase public awareness and protect the environment. You are encouraged to recognize resource concerns in your county and think outside the box on how your district can address those concerns with funds from the environmental grant program.