

# 319 Nonpoint Source Grants



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Section 319 of the Clean Water Act is administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and establishes a grant program to assist in nonpoint source pollution mitigation efforts. States, territories and tribes receive grants that support a variety of water quality activities, including:

- technical assistance
- financial assistance
- education & training
- technology transfer
- demonstration projects
- monitoring

### Types of Nonpoint Source Pollution

Nonpoint source pollution is caused by rainwater or snowmelt runoff which picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, eventually depositing them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters and underground sources of drinking water. Types of nonpoint source pollutants include:

- Fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides from agricultural and residential areas
- Urban runoff containing pollutants from construction sites, parking lots and streets
- Sediment and physical destruction of streambeds and streambanks
- Salt from irrigation practices and acid drainage from abandoned mines
- Bacteria and nutrients from livestock, pet waste and faulty septic systems

### 319 Funding Distribution

EPA 319 funds are provided to designated state and tribal agencies to implement approved nonpoint source management programs. Each year, EPA awards 319 funds to states in accordance with a state-by-state allocation formula developed in consultation with states.

States then distribute funds to conservation districts and local governments to implement critical water quality management programs. Activities include: increasing the utilization of agricultural best management practices (BMPs) such as buffer strips, conservation tillage and nutrient management; and implementation of low impact development and stormwater management practices to protect urban water quality. The program provides flexibility to address concerns outside the scope of most traditional USDA conservation programs.

### NACD supports increased funding for the 319 grant program in the Fiscal Year 2011 Interior Appropriations Bill.

| 319 Nonpoint Source Grants (dollars in thousands) | FY 2009 Final | FY 2010 Final | FY 2011 President's Budget | FY 2011 NACD Recommendation |
|---|---------------|---------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Enacted Budget Authority Annual Appropriations    | \$200,857     | \$200,857     | \$200,857                  | \$227,715                   |

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