



## National Association of Conservation Districts Pacific Region Investments

*Alaska, American Samoa, California, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, Palau, Washington*

Every year, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) makes considerable investments in its membership across the country to further the work of locally-led conservation. Below is a compilation of some of the most recent areas of investment NACD has made specifically in the Pacific Region states and territories.

Learn more about each of these programs online at [NACDnet.org](http://NACDnet.org), or by contacting your Pacific Region Representative **Ariel Rivers**, [ariel-rivers@nacdnet.org](mailto:ariel-rivers@nacdnet.org)

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### **EDUCATION**

#### **Conservation Planning Boot Camp**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Planning Boot Camp (CPBC) is a three-week, intensive training course for technical employees, occurring monthly between March and September in Lincoln, Nebraska. CPBC covers current conservation planning policy, procedures and guidelines as outlined in the National Planning Procedures Handbook. District participants are trained in and out of the classroom – right alongside NRCS field staff – in the skills necessary for developing and implementing comprehensive conservation plans. ***Each year, NACD covers travel costs (e.g. transportation, lodging, meals, laundry) for 75 qualified conservation district employees from throughout the country to attend.***

NACD invests an estimated \$4,000 per trainee to attend the program; in 2017-2019, the total investment equaled **\$88,000** for the Pacific.

#### **22 participants from the Pacific attended sessions in 2017, 2018 and 2019**

**Alaska** – 2 attendees

**Idaho** – 1 attendee

**Guam** – 1 attendee

**Oregon** – 3 attendees

**Hawaii** – 8 attendees

**Washington** – 5 attendees

**California** – 2 attendees

To learn more and apply for this program, visit [NACDnet.org/Conservation-Planning-Boot-Camp/](http://NACDnet.org/Conservation-Planning-Boot-Camp/)

#### **NACD Soil Health Champions Network**

NACD created the Soil Health Champions Network in 2015 to promote soil health education and outreach among farmers, ranchers and forestland owners and to increase the nation's acreage managed with soil health practices. Today, the Network includes more than 240 landowners and operators who implement conservation practices and champion the benefits of soil health within their communities. Soil Health Champions have working relationships with their local conservation districts and USDA Service Centers, and as leaders and early adopters of conservation practices, help to promote these valuable practices throughout their communities.

#### **The Pacific states are a proud home to 15 Soil Health Champions**

**Alaska** – 1 champion

**Idaho** – 4 champions

**California** – 1 champion

**Oregon** – 2 champions

**Hawaii** – 1 champion

**Washington** – 6 champions

To learn more about the program, catch up on Network news, and read profiles on each Soil Health Champion, see [NACDnet.org/Soil-Health-Champions-Network/](http://NACDnet.org/Soil-Health-Champions-Network/)

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## **PARTNERSHIPS**

### **Urban Agriculture Conservation Grants**

NACD established the Urban Agriculture Conservation Grants Initiative in 2016 to help conservation districts and their partners provide much needed technical assistance for agricultural conservation in urban areas with limited access to fresh and healthy foods. Since then, NACD has awarded a total of \$5 million in grants to 102 conservation districts between 2016 and 2020.

#### **Pacific states have received over \$1.8 million through NACD's Urban Agriculture Grants Initiative**

**Alaska** – 2 grants for \$99,856

**California** – 13 grants for \$618,101

**Idaho** – 4 grants for \$176,335

**Oregon** – 1 grant for \$32,000

**Washington** – 19 grants for \$927,356

NACD also conducts monthly Urban Agriculture and Community webinars and provides multiple resources for conducting agricultural and conservation activities in unique urban environments. See more online at [NACDnet.org/Urban-and-Community/](http://NACDnet.org/Urban-and-Community/)

### **Technical Assistance Grants**

NACD has secured three cooperative agreements with NRCS to further enhance conservation district technical assistance across the nation by helping districts hire additional employees through our Technical Assistance Grant program. Together, the agreements have provided \$34 million to conservation districts.

Successful grantees are selected based on the district's application, state-wide priority needs according to the state conservation partnership, the ability of districts to provide a 20 percent match, and the projected impact of the employees' activities.

#### **Pacific states and territories have received over \$8.4 million in technical assistance grants**

**Alaska** – \$745,216

**California** – \$3,387,766

**Guam** – \$300,295

**Hawaii** – \$265,200

**Idaho** – \$699,157

**Oregon** – \$1,121,064

**Washington** – \$1,959,185

These grants have greatly increased district capacity, with many successes at the local level. Learn more and read success stories at [NACDnet.org/Technical-Assistance-Grants/](http://NACDnet.org/Technical-Assistance-Grants/)

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## **Other Investments**

Not all of NACD's investments are quantifiable. Below is a list of many other areas in which NACD invests staff time:

- **Partnerships** – NACD invests staff time to support many partner activities, including the National Conservation Planning Partnership together with NRCS, NCDEA, NASCA and NARC&DC. NACD maintains many other federal, public and private partnerships for the benefit of districts.
- **Advocacy for Natural Resources Conservation** – providing information, representation and tools to assist members and inform legislators and the public through several efforts and the Resource Policy Groups (RPGs). Current advocacy includes the 2018 Farm Bill, NRCS staffing shortages, and continued efforts with the National Horse & Burro Rangeland Management Coalition.
- **Educational Opportunities** – multiple webinars throughout the month focus on soil health, urban agriculture and urban conservation; Stewardship and Educational materials and resources available online; a "Members Only" website with supplemental materials and resources for conservation districts and state associations.
- **Multi-media resources** – *The Resource*, the eResource, Conservation Clips, Facebook, Twitter, NACD app for cell phones or other electronic devices, etc. All require a free subscription.

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