



## National Association of Conservation Districts NACD's North Central Region Investments

*Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin*  
*Updated December 2020*

Every year 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 eight North Central Region states.

Learn more about each of these programs online at [NACDnet.org](http://NACDnet.org), or by contacting your North Central Region Representative: Beth Mason, [beth-mason@nacdnet.org](mailto:beth-mason@nacdnet.org)

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### Conservation Planning Boot Camp

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Planning Boot Camp is a three-week, intensive training course for technical employees that covers current conservation planning policy, procedures and guidelines as outlined in the [National Planning Procedures Handbook](#). During the March through September trainings, conservation district employees can participate in and out of the classroom – right alongside NRCS field staff – to develop the skills necessary for developing and implementing the same comprehensive conservation plans produced by NRCS staff.

Each year, NACD reimburses travel costs associated with this training, which is held in Lincoln, Neb., for 75 qualified conservation district employees from across the country to. Expenses include transportation, lodging, meals, laundry, etc.

Due to COVID-19 (coronavirus), Conservation Planning Boot Camp has been canceled for 2020 and 2021.

#### Conservation District Participation from 2016 – 2019

State	Number of Participants
Iowa	7
Illinois	13
Indiana	4
Michigan	15
Minnesota	12
Missouri	9
Ohio	8
Wisconsin	6
North Central Totals	74
National Totals	220

## Urban Agriculture Conservation Grants

The NACD Urban Agriculture Conservation (UAC) Grant Initiative is designed to enhance districts' urban agriculture conservation technical assistance activities in developed and developing areas of both urban and rural communities.

Grantees have successfully partnered with many organizations to support community farming and gardening programs, expanded outreach capacities to current and underrepresented clients, planned operations to extend growing seasons through the use of hoop houses and other practices, remediated poor-yielding agricultural sites, and contributed to a multitude of other natural resource conservation efforts.

Through these grants, conservation districts increased their capacity related to urban technical assistance and small-scale conservation, while addressing community needs in both rural and urban contexts.

Grant Year	Funding	Projects	States	North Central Grants
2016	~ \$2 million	42	25	9 (IN, MI, MN, MO, OH)
2017	~ \$1 million	19	14	2 (IA, MI)
2019	~ \$1 million	20	14	3 (MI, MN, OH)
2020	~ \$1 million	21	13	5 (IN, MI, MO, OH)

Until 2020, grant recipients could not apply for a second UAC grant.

### Final Reports

2016: <https://www.nacdnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/UAC-2016-Final-Report.pdf>

2017: <https://www.nacdnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/NACD-Urban-Grant-2-Summary-Report-Final.pdf>

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## Technical Assistance Grants

In 2017, NACD entered into the first of a series of cooperative agreements with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to provide funding to further enhance conservation district technical assistance across the nation. The agreement specified that the funds would be awarded to conservation districts to hire staff where additional capacity is needed to improve customer service and reduce workload pressure. At NACD's 2020 Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., the National Conservation Partnership (NCP) renewed the [Memorandum of Agreement](#) that provides the basis for the Technical Assistance (TA) Grant Program.

### Nationally

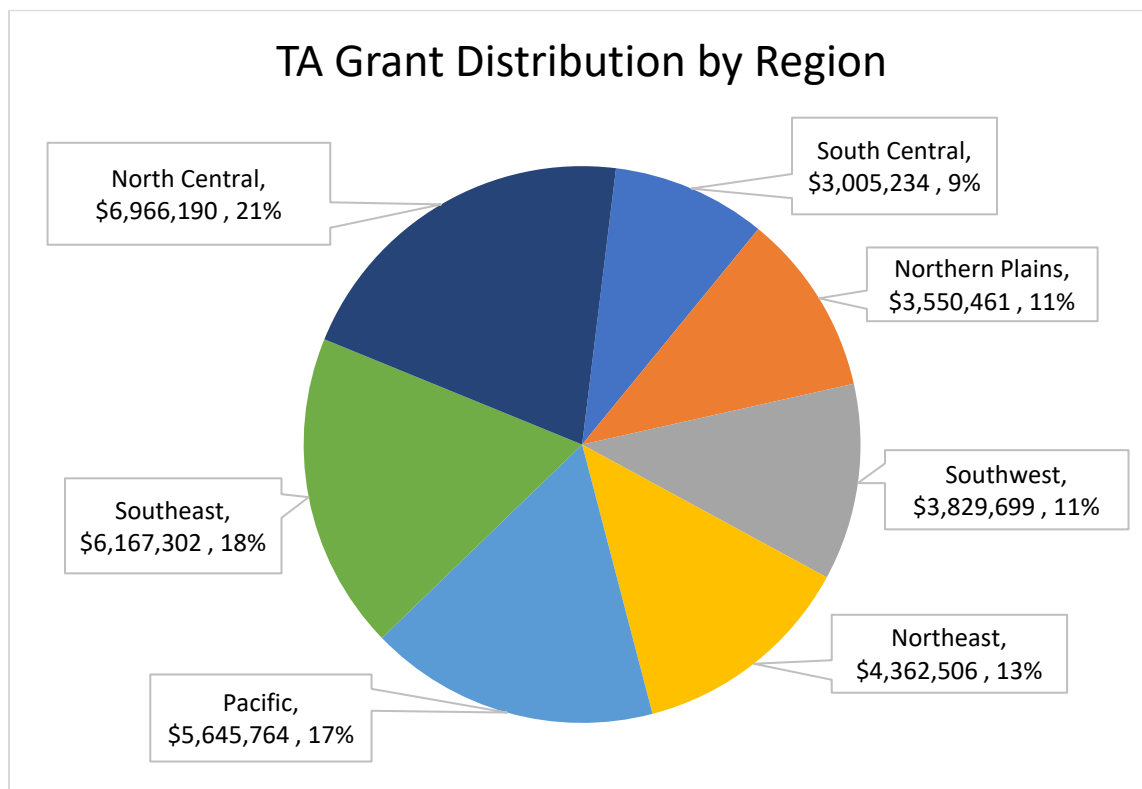
Grant Year	Funding Levels	Staffing Levels
2018	\$9 million	~ 150 full-time & 90 part-time
2019	> \$10 million	~ 140 full-time & 100 part-time
2020	> \$15 million	~ 400 full-time & part-time
2021	> \$15 million	~ 400 full-time & part-time

Some positions were filled by contractors and some covered multiple districts

**Regionally**

State	2018	2019	2020	Total
Iowa	\$263,584	\$490,393	\$512,365	\$1,266,341
Illinois	\$298,198	\$315,211	\$433,220	\$1,046,629
Indiana	\$78,464	\$60,650	\$463,584	\$602,698
Michigan	\$132,573	\$490,337	\$759,754	\$1,382,664
Minnesota	\$358,383	\$226,430	\$404,430	\$989,243
Missouri	\$104,436	\$107,961	\$105,445	\$317,842
Ohio	\$77,250	\$77,370	\$112,330	\$266,950
Wisconsin	\$350,681	\$326,743	\$416,399	\$1,093,823
North Central	\$1,663,570	\$2,095,094	\$3,207,526	\$6,966,190

### TA Grant Distribution by Region



### NACD Soil Health Champions Network

NACD created the [Soil Health Champions Network](#) in 2015 to promote soil health education and outreach among American farmers, ranchers and forestland owners and to get more acres managed with soil health practices. Today, the Network is comprised of more than 300 landowners and operators across the country who are implementing conservation practices on their land and championing the benefits of soil health within their communities. Soil Health Champions have working relationships with their local conservation districts and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) service centers and are often community leaders and early adopters of conservation practices.

The North Central Region has approximately one-fifth of the network’s membership. Below are the members in each North Central state. Do you see anyone that is missing? If so, visit the [NACD website](#) or

contact Beth Mason at [beth-mason@nacdnet.org](mailto:beth-mason@nacdnet.org) for more information on how to become a member. You can also visit the NACD website for [more soil health resources](#) and download the [Recruitment Package](#).

<b>Iowa</b>		
Jack Boyer Brian and Mitchell Hora	Dennis Carney Levi Lyle	Donald Elsbernd Jeff Olson

<b>Illinois</b>		
Dan Diaz	Marcus Maier	Brad Zimmerman

<b>Indiana</b>		
Todd Armstrong Matt Harsh Mike Shuter	Tim and Stacha Gochenour David Ransbottom Gordon and Jeff Smiley	Tyler Gough Rodney Rulon Mike Starkey

<b>Michigan</b>		
Blaine Baker	Larry Lee	Scott and Peg Schultz

<b>Minnesota</b>		
Jerry and Nancy Ackermann Lori Cox Mark Ditlevson Tim Little Brian Pfarr	Kurt Beckstrom Charles Cunningham Carmen Fernholz Ed McNamara Darwin Roberts	Ryan Benedict Ian Cunningham Tom Klug Luke Peterson

<b>Missouri</b>		
Bruce Bartlett Jon Dana David Haubein Linus Rothermich	Allen Below Tim Forkner John McDowell Jerry Schnelle	Ryan Britt Rex and Amy Hamilton Kenny Reichert Ron and Michael Willis

<b>Ohio</b>		
Joe and Mike Beam Dan Lane Joe Streit	David Brandt David Quallen	Keith Dennis Ron Snyder

<b>Wisconsin</b>		
Josef Bragger	Jack and Patricia Herricks	

## Other Investments

Not all of NACD's investments are quantifiable. Below is a list of many other areas of investment.

- Advocacy for Natural Resources Conservation – NACD works directly with Congress and the Administration to educate decision makers of the benefits and needs of locally-led conservation and the work of conservation districts. These efforts are informed by NACD's annual grassroots policy creation process. Advocacy efforts focus on the Farm Bill, NRCS Staffing Shortages, federal funding for conservation, modernizing the Endangered Species Act, implementing the Clean Water Act, and the National Horse and Burro Rangeland Management Coalition.
- National Partnership Opportunities – NACD provides national leadership and partnerships with other national conservation-focused agencies, nonprofit organizations and for-profit organizations.
- Educational Opportunities – NACD holds webinars focused on soil health, urban agriculture and urban conservation; provides Stewardship and Educational materials and resources online; hosts a "Members Only" website with supplemental materials and resources for conservation districts and state associations.
- News and Multi-media resources – NACD provides and manages many communications outlets, including The Resource, the eResource, Daily Roundup, Conservation Clips, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram and an NACD app for smart phones or other electronic devices. [All subscriptions are free.](#)