

Historically Underserved Farmer-to-Farmer Outreach Grants

Frequency Asked Questions DRAFT

As of February 27, 2023

General Questions & Eligibility

1. Who do I contact with questions?

Contact Chloe Hundelt, NACD Grants Specialist, with any questions.

Email: chloe-hundelt@nacdnet.org

Phone: 202-595-9052

2. Will there be an applicant webinar for this program?

NACD will host a webinar on March 7, 2023 at 2pm EST to discuss the grant opportunity and respond to questions. This webinar will be recorded and posted on the program [homepage](#). A second webinar will be hosted on March 21, 2023 at 2pm EST to provide interested parties another opportunity to ask questions live. The registration links for both webinars can be found here:

- [Register for webinar on March 7](#)
- [Register for webinar on March 21](#)

3. What types of organizations are eligible applicants?

Applications may be submitted by one of the following entities:

- Conservation Districts
- Conservation Districts' respective state associations or state agencies (e.g., State Departments of Natural Resources, State Departments of Agriculture), so long as a Conservation District is engaged at the local level
- Resource Conservation & Development Councils
- Tribal governments or organizations

While applications must be submitted by one of the eligible entities listed above, local partnerships are strongly encouraged. The strength of such collaborations will be evaluated and considered when selecting projects for award.

4. What regions are eligible to receive grant funds?

Eligible geographies include HUCs 12, 13, and a portion of 03. These areas are contained within the states of CO, NM, TX, AL, MS, GA, and FL.

5. What if I am not in a region covered by NACD?

NACD is one of four partners administering competitive grant programs on behalf of the EPA. If you are not located in a region covered by NACD's grant funding but are interested in applying for this program, please find information about the grant programs in the other regions [here](#).

Please note that each partner will have different application timelines, evaluation procedures, and requirements.

6. How are historically underserved farmers or producers defined?

Subawardees must work directly with Native American and/or historically underserved producers. The definition for historically underserved producers can be found at USDA's website: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getting-assistance/underserved-farmers-ranchers>.

7. How do I apply for funding?

Applications must be submitted through the online form, pre-proposal link [here](#).

Funding & Budgeting

8. How much funding is available for the RFA?

NACD expects to award up to \$2.7 million in grants.

9. Is there a dollar limit that a proposal can request?

Grant requests should range between \$75,000 and \$250,000.

10. What can the funding be used for?

Funding may be used to conduct outreach, provide technical assistance, implement projects, and disseminate results/best practices to a broader audience. It may also be used for financial assistance, cost-share to landowners, and/or direct payments to implementation partners for on-the-ground outcomes.

Please refer to section 2.7 of the RFA for more information on eligible and ineligible use of funds.

11. Can we charge indirect costs to these grants?

Yes. If your organization has a federally negotiated indirect cost rate (NICRA), you may use that rate. Modified total direct costs (MTDC), onto which you apply your indirect rate, must be calculated based on the parameters outlined in your NICRA.

If your organization does not have a current NICRA, you may use the 10% de minimis rate, as outlined in 2 CFR 200.414(f). MTDC for the de minimis rate includes: all direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and up to the first \$25,000 of each subaward or contract. MTDC excludes equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care, rental costs, tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships, participant support costs and the portion of each subaward or contract in excess of \$25,000 (45 CFR 75.2 "Modified Total Direct Cost").

12. Can we charge pre-award costs to these grants?

Recipients may incur eligible and allowable pre-award costs up to 90 days after selection and prior to final award at their own risk without NACD approval. Pre-award costs must comply with

2 CFR 200.458 and 2 CFR 1500.8. NACD's goal is to allow selected applicants to begin planning, outreach, marketing, etc. Costs must be within scope of and allocable to the selected project.

13. What is the requirement for matching funds?

Match is not required; however, the ability to provide match or leverage will be considered when evaluating and selecting projects.

Application Process

14. When are pre-applications due?

Pre-applications are due on April 21, 2023.

15. Why are you requesting pre-applications?

This phase allows NACD to understand the demand for this grant program and facilitate a match-making process that encourages new or strengthened partnerships. NACD will circulate pre-applications to various partners with the goals of:

- Supporting local partnerships and outreach by marketing potential projects
- Identifying potential opportunities for co-investments or match

16. What happens after I submit my application?

Pre-applications are due to NACD on April 21, 2023. NACD will review applications for completeness and to ensure eligibility and circulate applications to potential partners and other entities. Final applications will be due on June 9, 2023. NACD expects to select and notify successful awardees late Summer 2023.

Evaluation & Award

17. How will applications be evaluated?

Pre-applications will not be formally evaluated (e.g., rated, ranked, or scored); however, NACD will review pre-applications for completeness and to ensure they do not include ineligible activities.

Final applications will be evaluated based on technical impacts (45%), social impacts (45%), and cost effectiveness of the budget (10%).

Please refer to section 4.2 of the RFA for more information on the evaluation criteria for full applications.