



National Association of Conservation Districts

Fiscal Year 2024 Congressional Appropriations Requests

NACD supports increased funding for several important conservation programs administered by federal agencies, including:

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS):

Full authorized funding for farm bill conservation programs: Farm bill conservation programs provide critical resources and tools to help local producers and land managers adopt effective conservation practices in all parts of the country. Conservation districts play a key role in the successful administration of these programs. NACD calls on Congress to maintain full mandatory funding for farm bill conservation programs in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024.

At least \$1.2 billion for Conservation Operations: This account provides funding for NRCS to administer critical conservation services, including:

- **Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA):** Nearly 90 percent of the funding within Conservation Operations is dedicated to CTA, which allows NRCS to hire local staff to facilitate conservation planning and support the implementation of voluntary conservation across the United States. Additional funding for CTA is critical to supporting NRCS staffing needs and providing resources for conservation districts and other local partners to help producers assess, implement, and monitor conservation practices in all parts of the country.
- **Soil Surveys, Snow Surveys, Water Supply Forecasting, and Plant Materials Centers:** Provide important information and tools to help producers monitor and manage their land more effectively

At least \$200 million for the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Operations Program: This program provides technical and financial assistance to states, tribes, and local governments, including conservation districts, to plan and implement locally led watershed projects that reduce flooding, improve water quality, protect local ecosystems, and enhance resilience. Conservation districts play an important role in the administration of this program.

At least \$75 million for the Watershed Rehabilitation Program: This program helps rural communities strengthen and rehabilitate aging infrastructure, including dams and water storage facilities. The program generates about \$2 billion worth of water quality and erosion control benefits each year. Conservation districts across the country have stepped up to sponsor these projects, which often require significant financial commitments and long-term technical assistance.

USDA's National Forest Service (FS):

At least \$300 million for State and Private Forestry Programs: These programs are administered by the FS in collaboration with states, tribes, local communities, and conservation districts to protect and manage forests. The program provides technical and financial assistance to land managers to sustain our nation's forests and grasslands, protect communities from wildfires, and restore fire-adapted ecosystems.

At least \$30 million for the Forest Stewardship Program: The program works in partnership with state forestry agencies, cooperative extensions, and conservation districts to provide private landowners with the information and tools they need to manage their forests and woodlands more effectively.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):

At least \$200 million for the Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program: This program awards grants to states, territories, and tribes to mitigate nonpoint sources of water pollution, such as agricultural runoff, abandoned mine drainage, and soil erosion. Conservation districts across the country serve as partners on projects supported by Section 319 grants to increase the utilization of agricultural best management practices and enhance water quality.



About NACD

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) represents a nationwide network of 3,000 conservation districts, working with millions of landowners and farmers to manage and protect private and public working lands in the United States. Districts are local units of government that help put locally-led, voluntary, and incentive-based conservation programs into action.

Contact

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