



# National Association of Conservation Districts

## FY25 FRIENDS OF NACD DISTRICT GRANTS PROGRAM

### Request for Proposals

#### **Program Background**

The [Friends of NACD program](#) enables individuals and organizations to support the nation's 3,000 conservation districts through cash donations to NACD. Included as a benefit to all Friends of NACD is the opportunity to support individual conservation districts through the Friends of NACD District Grants Program.

We thank our generous program sponsors who help support this program, including many individuals and the Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation. Donations received in NACD's 2025 fiscal year will support awards of **up to \$2,500 each**. These grants will be awarded at NACD's 2026 Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

#### **District and Project Eligibility**

Districts are encouraged to think creatively about how they can use the funds to conduct new activities or test novel approaches to their operations. Any conservation district meeting the following criteria is eligible to apply:

- District must have paid NACD dues at any level in the previous fiscal year (FY 2025). (NACD's fiscal year runs October 1 to September 30)
- District must submit a proposal and budget through the [online application form](#) by **November 30, 2025**.
- Projects must contribute to the [mission of NACD](#) while expanding the district's operations and capacity into new areas.
- Districts must be able to complete proposed activities within 13 months of notification of award (by March 1, 2027) and commit to providing quarterly updates to NACD.
- Applicants must not be a previous recipient of a Friends of NACD District Grant.

Funds may be used for any novel activities for the district, but no more than 10 percent of the grant funds may be used for administration of the grant. Project examples include:

- Outreach activities such as workshops or developing new training materials
- Resource assessments or small-scale studies of resource needs
- Opportunities to expand district fundraising, for example the purchase of seedlings for tree sales

See example projects from previous winners on the [Friends of NACD web page](#).

#### **Guidelines**

Districts must apply through [the online application form](#) prior to the **November 30, 2025**. Each application must provide basic information about the district, and answer questions related to district capacity and the proposed project. See the application questions at the end of this document. Expect at least one hour to complete all questions if you have your answers prepared.

*Updated August, 2025*

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## **Evaluation of Applicants**

All grant applications will be evaluated by members of NACD's District and Partner Relations Standing Committee. As a group, the Committee includes representatives from each of NACD's seven regions, in addition to agency partners, ensuring a diverse team to evaluate the grant applications.

Each relevant question will be assigned a numerical score. Subjective questions are ranked at the discretion of each member of the selection committee; the final score for each application will be an average of all judge scores. The applicants with the highest scores will be selected based on availability of funds.

## **Reporting and Project Deliverables**

Grantees must submit progress updates each quarter until funds are completely spent. If a grantee finishes all project activities before the end of the grant period they must submit their final report within 30 days of their last quarterly report. Grantees are encouraged to post project updates on social media that tag @NACDconserve, link to NACD's web page and use the hashtag #FriendsofNACD. Grantees are also encouraged to share updates for NACD's various publications, such as the weekly eResource newsletter.

For a final report, grantees must submit a report of grant activities and outcomes to be published on [NACD's blog](#), including how the grant expanded district capacity. Blogs must be between 300-800 words and include at least two pictures of project activities.

## **Project Timeline**

ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME
Open Application Period	Oct 1, 2025 – November 30, 2025
District & Partner Relations Committee Review of Applications	Dec 2025 – Jan 2026
NACD Award Notification and Announcement	Feb. 2026
Project Implementation	Feb. 2026 - March 2027
Quarterly Reports to NACD	April 15, 2026: Progress Report due covering Feb.-Mar. 31 July 15, 2026: Progress Report due, covering April 1-June 30 Oct. 15, 2026: Progress Report due, covering July 1-Sept. 30 Jan. 15, 2027: Progress Report due, covering Oct. 1-Dec. 31 April 15, 2027: Any final reporting due to close the grant, including final reporting activities

## **Contact:**

For additional information, contact staff member:

### **Jackson Moody**

Membership and Development Coordinator

202-595-9103

[jackson-moody@nacdnet.org](mailto:jackson-moody@nacdnet.org)

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## FRIENDS OF NACD DISTRICT GRANTS PROGRAM

### Copy of Application

Donations to [Friends of NACD](#) received in NACD's 2025 fiscal year will support awards of **up to \$2,500 each**. Successful applicants will be announced at [NACD's 2026 Annual Meeting](#) in San Antonio, Texas.

Districts are encouraged to think creatively about how they can use the funds to conduct new activities or test novel approaches to their operations.

Any conservation district or state association that meets the following criteria is eligible to apply:

- NACD dues were paid at any level in the previous fiscal year (FY 2025). NACD's fiscal year runs October 1 to September 30.
- Proposals and budgets must be submitted through the [online application form](#) by **November 30, 2025 (11:59 PM, pacific time)**.
- Projects must contribute to the [mission of NACD](#) while expanding the district's operations and capacity into new areas.
- Proposed activities must be completed within 13 months of notification of award (by March 1, 2027) and commit to providing quarterly updates to NACD.
- Previous recipients of Friends of NACD District Grants are not eligible.

Funds may be used for any novel activities for the district, but no more than 10 percent of the grant funds may be used for administration of the grant. Project examples include:

- Outreach activities such as workshops or developing new training materials
- Resource assessments or small-scale studies of resource needs
- Opportunities to expand district fundraising, for example the purchase of seedlings for tree sales

See example projects from previous winners on the [Friends of NACD web page](#).

#### **Brief Application Instructions:**

1. ***Read the full Request for Proposals (RFP) and Frequently Asked Questions, and familiarize yourself with reporting requirements prior to submitting your application.***
2. Complete this online application form. Push the **tab button on your keyboard** to easily move between each question.
3. Required questions are indicated with a star throughout the application form.
4. You may save a copy of this application at any time by selecting "**Save and Resume Later**" but you must save your link. **NACD staff will not be able to provide this to you at a later date.**
5. Incomplete applications will not be considered for funding.

Send any questions **well in advance of the application deadline** via email to Jackson Moody, NACD's Membership and Development Coordinator, [at Jackson-Moody@nacdnet.org](mailto:at Jackson-Moody@nacdnet.org).

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## Copy of Application Questions

*Districts must complete the [online application form](#) by  
Nov. 30, 2025 (11:59 PM pacific time)*

*\* Questions marked with a star are required, and you will not be able to proceed to the next question without providing an answer.*

### **Section One: Applicant Information:**

**1. Name of Applicant Organization \***

*Name of state/territory association or conservation district applying for grant.*

**2. Type of Applicant (multiple choice) \***

*Applicants must have paid membership dues to NACD in fiscal year 2025 (Oct. 1, 2024 – Sept. 30, 2025)*

- ☐ State Association
- ☐ Conservation District
- ☐ Other

**3. NACD Region of Applicant \***

*If you are unfamiliar with NACD's Regions, please see our district directory:*

[nacdnet.org/general-resources/conservation-district-directory/](https://nacdnet.org/general-resources/conservation-district-directory/)

- ☐ North Central
- ☐ Northeast
- ☐ Northern Plains
- ☐ Pacific
- ☐ South Central
- ☐ Southeast
- ☐ Southwest

**4. Name of Primary Contact Person \***

*This person will be responsible for all reporting activities.*

**5. Email of Primary Contact Person \***

**6. Phone Number of Primary Contact Person \***

**7. Include the name of a second contact person (optional)**

**8. Email address of second contact person (optional)**

**9. Address of Organization \***

**10. Applicant Website**

**11. Applicant Social Media**

*Please include any links to social media accounts (Instagram, Facebook, YouTube). By submitting these links, you authorize NACD to tag or link to these accounts in any promotional activities.*

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## **Section Two: Applicant Capacity**

*These questions will help the selection committee understand your ability to successfully complete proposed activities, as well as the likelihood that the grant will help expand your activities.*

**1. Number of Full Time Employee (FTE) Equivalent Individuals Employed by Organization \***

*Please indicate the applicant's number of full or part-time employees in FTE equivalents. One full-time employee works 2,080 hours in a calendar year and represents 1 FTE.*

**2. Date of Last NACD Dues Payment \***

**3. Dollar Value of Last NACD Dues Payment \***

**4. Have you previously received an NACD Grant? (Select all that apply) \***

- ☐ No, we have not received any other grants from NACD
- ☐ Yes, NACD Technical Assistance Grant
- ☐ Yes, NACD Urban and Community Conservation Grant
- ☐ Yes, Friends of NACD Grant
- ☐ Yes, we applied for a grant but were not selected

**5. Please submit a brief (100 word) paragraph regarding applicant organization's annual budget \***

*For example, comment on total annual budget, funding sources and long-term district need.*

## **Section Three: Project Information**

**1. Project Name \***

**2. Please provide a very brief, one sentence description of your project – 50 words or less \***

*For example: In partnership with schools, youth programs, gardening groups, and food advocates, the Bureau County Soil and Water Conservation District will install and maintain a food forest to expand perennial cropping systems and enhance local food resources in our community.*

*See other examples on the Friends of NACD District Grants Program web page:*

<https://www.nacdnet.org/friends>

**3. Detailed Project Description – 500 word limit \***

*Please provide up to 500 additional words describing the project in detail, including information on specific resource concerns addressed by the proposed project.*

**4. Project Outcomes – 200 word limit \***

*Please provide the expected outcomes of the project in detail, including any potential conservation related outcomes. For example: "Provide seed packets to 30 individuals" or "Recycle 50 chemical containers."*

**5. How will these funds expand your district's operations, reach, or otherwise allow you to conduct new activities? - 200 word limit \***

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**6. How will these funds contribute to professional development of your employee(s)? – 200 word limit \***

*For example, will the project help develop new outreach skills like interacting with new audiences, or increase individual project management capacity?*

**7. How many people do you anticipate reaching through this project? \***

*Enter an estimated number.*

**8. Do any of these people represent previously unreached communities or groups? – 200 word limit \***

*For example, beginning farmers, K-12 students, speakers of other languages, etc. If yes, please describe briefly.*

**9. List any new partner organizations you hope to engage through this project - 200 word limit\***

**10. Project Promotion and Outreach – 200 word limit \***

*Describe how you will share and promote the project with current and future partners, other districts, government officials, the general public, and/or others. Be specific about the platforms and timeline you will use to promote this project.*

**11. How will these funds support your organization's long-term strategy? – 200 word limit\***

**12. When this grant concludes, what do you anticipate will be your next steps for the project? How do you plan to fund the ongoing implementation of this project? - 500 word limit\***

**13. If you have any additional supporting documents to include with your proposal, please include them here (for example, site surveys, maps, photos, letters of support, etc.).**

*This question is not required, but for most projects it is helpful to have additional context or supporting information. Please make sure you name the file with the two-letter state abbreviation and district name.*

## **Section Five: Budget**

Use this section to provide your total budget request, as well as any justifications for specific costs. NACD will provide up to \$2,500 for these grants. No match is required.

**1. How much are you requesting for this project? \***

*Provide a dollar value. NACD will award up to \$2,500 for each grant through the Friends of NACD District Grant Program.*

**2. What do you plan to use the funds for? (multiple choice)\***

*Check all that apply and provide details in the budget justification.*

- ☐ Supplies and Equipment
- ☐ Outreach Materials (Printing, brochures, banners, etc.)
- ☐ Travel (Mileage to complete project activities, etc.)
- ☐ Administrative
- ☐ Other (Explain in budget detail question)

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### 3. Budget Detail – 200 word limit\*

*Provide some details about your proposed budget and what amount will go to each category you listed above. Be specific about certain expenses when possible. We understand that budget allocation may change during implementation, but it is very helpful when evaluating your project to see your expected expenses*