

FY 2027 Congressional Appropriations Requests

National Association of Conservation Districts



National Association of Conservation Districts

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

USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS):

\$1.05 billion for Conservation Operations: This account provides funding for NRCS to administer critical conservation services, including:

- Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA): Nearly all Conservation Operations funding supports CTA, which facilitates conservation planning and provides technical support to producers across the country to voluntarily implement conservation practices.
 - Increasing funding for CTA is critical to support NRCS staffing challenges and provide resources for conservation districts and other local partners to help producers assess, implement, and monitor conservation practices.
- Soil Surveys, Snow Surveys, Water Supply Forecasting, and Plant Materials Centers: These provide important information and tools to help producers monitor and manage their land more effectively.

"Farmer First" Conservation: Often, farmers seeking help with natural resources are only interested in receiving technical assistance. CTA provides the ability for NRCS and conservation districts to provide support for farmers in the development of a conservation plan that meets their needs while maintaining farmer independence from financial assistance. This assistance places emphasis on "farmer first" needs and is critical in building trust to address natural resource conservation issues that may otherwise go unmanaged.

\$200 million for the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Operations Program: Provides technical and financial assistance to states, local governments, and tribes 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.

\$75 million for the Watershed Rehabilitation 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 many of these projects, which often require significant financial commitments and long-term technical assistance.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):

\$200 million for the Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management 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 watershed health and water quality.



USDA's National Forest Service (USFS)

\$350 million for State and Private Forestry Programs: Administered by the USFS 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.

\$30 million for the Forest Stewardship Program: 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.

Contact Us

509 Capitol Court, NE
Washington, DC 20002

NACD GA Director Libby Wawro

libby-wawro@nacdnet.org
202-595-9156

info@nacdnet.org

nacdnet.org



@nacdconserve