NRCS/OWEB Technical Assistance
Overview & Guidance

Program Goals

The goal of this grant program is to provide funding for Technical Assistance to help implement local Inflation Reduction Act programs. The Inflation Reduction Act has generated more need for technical assistance than the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can provide to landowners. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) in partnership with NRCS seeks to award funding to partners to provide technical assistance for local conservation efforts.

Program Structure

Eligible Applicants: Oregon-based Tribes, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, or Watershed Councils.

Available Funding: $743,110; individual requests over $50,000 will be granted if funds allow.

Grant Term: 2-year lifespan

Review Process: NRCS staff, facilitated by OWEB, will review the applications and make funding recommendations. Evaluation of grant applications is based on OWEB Technical Assistance Grants evaluation criteria. Within that evaluation framework, grant applications will also be assessed to ensure alignment with the following expectations:

- Application describes a clear need that cannot be filled with current NRCS staff capacity.

- Proposal demonstrates communication and coordination between the applicant and NRCS staff.

- Staff are qualified to accomplish the proposed activities or have a reasonable plan in place to train staff to accomplish the proposed activities.

Grant Application Instructions

Applicants should carefully review all guidance and information (including iButtons) in the online grant application. This review will help applicants confirm that all questions are answered completely based on the guidelines included in the application and that all required uploads are provided before the application is submitted.

1. Applications must be developed in collaboration with local NRCS Office staff. This grant is specifically to address the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) workload. Local NRCS staff will provide information on technical assistance needs, which will help applicants develop applications.

2. Complete all Application Sections including the budget, timeline, and metrics form.

3. Include the required uploads (NRCS Metrics Form and letter of concurrence from local NRCS District Conservationist).

4. **Note: this grant offering will no longer support administrative assistance; only technical assistance requests will be funded.**

5. **Note: Materials/Supplies and Equipment are no longer eligible budget categories.** For additional information about budget development, refer to OWEB's GoBig document.

6. OWEB strongly recommends that applicants submit their grant applications at least 24 hours prior to the application deadline. OWEB's online grant applications include a verification step that will flag missing and incomplete information in the application. Verifying and submitting your grant application at least 24 hours in advance allows time for applicants to correct errors that are found during verification. **All applications must be successfully submitted through OWEB's Online Grant Application System by 5 pm on the application deadline. No exceptions will be made.**

Application Deadline

Applications must be received by <mark>5 pm Pacific time on April 30, 2024.</mark>

Additional Resources for Applicants

- For additional information about applying for OWEB grants, see OWEB's Online Application Guidance.

- For information about grant budgets, getting access to OWEB's Grant Management System, understanding insurance requirements, or using OWEB's online applications, see the video resources at https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/manage-grant/Pages/videos-training.aspx.

- For questions please contact:
  Heidi Hartman
  OWEB Federal Program Specialist
  971-707-0226
  heidi.hartman@oweb.oregon.gov

  Heather Medina Sauceda
  NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations
  541-974-5268
  heather.medina@usda.gov