

Appendix 5 - Funding Sources

Federal

Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP)

Entity: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to implement agricultural water enhancement activities on agricultural land to conserve surface and ground water and improve water quality. Eligible entities or organizations form multi-year partnership agreements with NRCS to promote ground and surface water conservation.

Eligibility: Individual producers are not eligible. Eligible partners include: Federally recognized Indian Tribes, States, units of local government, agricultural or silvicultural associations or other groups of such producers and other nongovernmental organization with experience working with agricultural producers. Agricultural land must be in AWEP approved project areas.

Funding limitations: Financial assistance changes every fiscal year depending upon appropriations and agency priorities.

Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP)

Entity: National Oceanic Atmospheric Association (NOAA)

This program is intended to provide financial assistance to purchase significant coastal and estuarine lands, or conservation easements on such lands, from willing sellers. Lands or conservation easements acquired under this program are to be protected in perpetuity due to their importance for their ecological, conservation, recreational, historical or aesthetic values.

Eligibility: Participants must be in a state that has developed a CELCP plan for NOAA approval. The Texas CELCP plan was approved in 2010. An eligible public entity such as local governments, state or federal agencies, institutions of higher education, or other authority such as park districts must submit the project proposal. Projects must complement working waterfront needs and advance the goals, objectives or implementation of local coastal management plans in addition to the state's CELCP plan.

Funding limitations: The program funds up to \$3M per project, which is matched 1:1 with non-federal funds from the public entity participant. The budget for projects under this program may vary annually contingent on the fiscal year budget. NOAA maintains a contingency list of projects in the case that a project falls through or additional funds become available. Projects unable to be funded for a particular fiscal year will remain on the list until it is superseded.

Community Development Block Grants

Entity: States and local jurisdictions

This program is intended to address one or more of the following: benefit low- and moderate-income persons, prevention or elimination of slums or blight, or address community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community for which other funding is not available.

Eligibility: Business, Community/Watershed Group, Nonprofit Groups, Educational Institution, Private Landowner, Water and Wastewater Utilities, Local Government, State/Territorial Agency

Funding limitations: Program uses formula allocations to determine grant amount to the state and local jurisdiction which allocate funds to community projects. A match is not required for this program. Funding is based on appropriations for the fiscal year.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Entity: Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

Provides financial assistance to agricultural landowners in establishing approved conservation practices. The goals of the CRP program are to reduce water runoff and sedimentation, protect groundwater and help improve conditions of lakes, rivers, ponds and streams.

Eligibility: Agricultural landowners

Funding limitations: Eligible participants can receive annual rental payments based on the agriculture rental value of the land and cost-share assistance for up to 50 percent of the participant's costs in establishing approved conservation practices.

Environmental Education (EE) Grants

Entity: EPA

Under the Environmental Education Grants Program, EPA seeks grant proposals from eligible applicants to support environmental education projects that promote environmental awareness and stewardship and help provide people with the skills to take responsible actions to protect the environment. This grant program provides financial support for projects that design, demonstrate, and/or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques.

Eligibility: Applicants must represent one of the following types of organizations to be eligible for an environmental education grant: local education agency, state education or environmental agency, college or university, non-profit organization as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, noncommercial educational broadcasting entity, tribal education agency (which includes schools and community colleges controlled by an Indian tribe, band, or nation). Applicant organizations must be located in the United States or territories and the majority of the educational activities must take place in the United States; or in the United States and Canada or Mexico; or in the U.S. Territories.

Funding limitations: EPA has distributed between \$2 and \$3.5 million in grant funding per year, supporting more than 3,600 grants.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program

Entity: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Financial and technical assistance is provided to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns and for opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. Funds may also be used to help develop conservation plans which are required to obtain financial assistance. This program also aims to help producers meet Federal, State, Tribal and local environment regulations.

Eligibility: Owners of land in agricultural or forest production or persons who are engaged in livestock, agricultural or forest production on eligible land and that have a natural resource concern on the land may participate in EQIP. Limited resource farmers/ranchers, beginning farmers/ranchers, and socially disadvantaged producers and tribes may be eligible for higher practice payment rates for the implementation of conservation practices and conservations plans.

Funding limitations: Financial assistance payments are based on a portion of the average cost associated with practice implementation. Financial assistance is awarded through contracts up to a maximum term of ten years in length. Participants are limited to a \$300,000 total payment for all contracts within any six-year period. Projects deemed to have special environmental significance by the NRCS may be eligible to receive a maximum of \$450,000.

Target Watersheds Grant Program

Entity: River Network and EPA

Program is intended to provide financial and technical assistance for projects designed to strengthen the participant's organization. The program will provide local organizations, tribal and local governments with skills and techniques to protect their urban waterways and promote more vibrant, economically sustainable communities. The EPA's purpose is to encourage successful community-based approaches to protect and restore the nation's watersheds.

Eligibility: Funding will be provided for projects designed to strengthen an organization's capacity-building and ability to carry out programs to protect human health and the environment.

Funding limitations: Funding will range from \$30,000-70,000.

WaterSMART: Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP)

Entity: Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Policy and Administration

The objective of this FOA is to invite States, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, local governmental entities, non-profit organizations, existing watershed groups, and local and special districts (e.g., irrigation and water districts, county soil conservation districts) to submit proposals for Phase I activities to establish or further develop a watershed group. Funding provided under this FOA may be used to develop a mission statement, project concepts, and/or a restoration plan.

Eligibility: Task A—Establishment of a Watershed Group: States, Indian tribes, local and special districts (e.g., irrigation and water districts, etc.), local governmental entities, interstate organizations, and non-profit organizations. To be eligible, applicants must also meet all of the requirements listed in Sec. III.A, Eligible Applicants. Task B—Further Development of an Existing Watershed Group: In order to be eligible to receive an award to fund activities under Task B, the applicant must be an eligible entity as described immediately above for Task A, and must be either be: (1) An existing "watershed group," (i.e., a grassroots, non-regulatory legal entity that otherwise meets the definition of a watershed group as described in Section I.B., Objective of Funding Opportunity Announcement; or (2) a participant in an existing watershed group. See also Sec. III.A, Eligible Applicants.

Funding limitations: Up to \$100,000 in Federal funds may be awarded to an applicant per award, with no more than \$50,000 awarded in each year of the project, under this FOA. The period of performance shall not exceed two years.

Water and Environmental Programs

Entity: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Program provides financial assistance for drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste and storm drainage facilities in rural areas and cities and towns of 10,000 or less. Technical assistance and training is also available to assist rural communities with their water, wastewater, and solid waste problems.

Eligibility: Public bodies, non-profit organizations and recognized Indian Tribes

Funding limitations: Financial assistance is provided in various ways including direct or guaranteed loans, grants, technical assistance, research and educational materials. Different amounts of assistance exist depending on the project type and financial tool the participant is seeking.

Wetlands Reserve Program

Entity: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Provides technical and financial support to landowners with their wetland restoration efforts. The programs aims to offer landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property.

Eligibility: Lands that are eligible under this program include: wetlands farmed under natural conditions, farmed wetlands; prior converted cropland; farmed wetland pasture; certain lands that have the potential to become a wetland as a result of flooding; rangeland, pasture, or forest production lands where the hydrology has been significantly degraded and can be restored; riparian areas which link protected wetlands; lands adjacent to protected wetlands that contribute significantly to wetland functions and values; and wetlands previously restored under a local, State, or Federal Program that need long-term protection.

Funding limitations: Depends on fiscal year appropriations and agreement terms with NRCS.

State

Beach Maintenance Reimbursement Fund Program

Entity: Texas General Land Office

The program aims to share the responsibility of maintaining public beaches between the Land Office and local governments.

Eligibility: The Land Office provides support to cities or counties bordering the seaward shoreline of the Gulf of Mexico and are qualified local governments with state financial assistance for the purpose of cleaning and maintaining public beaches

Funding limitations: Funds are reimbursed based on actual expenses. Seventy-five percent of the funds are allocated based on proportionate share of participant expenditure during the previous two fiscal years preceding application. Twenty-five percent is allocated based on the proportionate share of linear footage of gulf beach cleaned or maintained.

Boating Access Grants

Entity: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)

The Boating Access Grant Program provides 75% matching fund grant assistance to construct new, or renovate existing, public boat ramps that provide public access to public waters for recreational boating.

Eligibility: Local government sponsors must make an application, provide the land, provide access to the proposed boat ramp, supply 25% of the development costs, and accept operation and maintenance responsibilities for a minimum 25-year period. The grant funds dredging, stump removal, and aquatic weed control when activity can be shown to clear lanes to make water body more accessible primarily for recreational motorboats as opposed to general navigation. Retaining walls to protect integrity of boat ramps and associated parking lots (limited to 200 feet on either side of constructed facilities). Engineering (planning and design), and environmental clearance and permit costs

Funding limitations: This grant program provides 75% matching grant funds for the construction of public boat ramp facilities throughout Texas.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)

Entity: State of Texas

This program provides low-interest loans that can be used for planning, design, and construction of wastewater treatment facilities, wastewater recycling and reuse facilities, collection systems, storm water pollution control, nonpoint source pollution control, and estuary management projects.

Eligibility: The program is open to a range of borrowers including municipalities, communities of all sizes, farmers, homeowners, small businesses, and nonprofit organizations. Project eligibility varies

according to each state's program and priorities. Loans for wastewater treatment plant projects are only given to political subdivisions with the authority to own and operate a wastewater system.

Funding limitations: The program offers fixed and variable rate loans at subsidized interest rates. The maximum repayment period for a CWSRF loan is 30 years from the completion of project construction. Mainstream funds offer a net long-term fixed interest rate of 1.30% below market rate for equivalency loans (project adheres to federal requirements) and 0.95% for non-equivalency (project adheres to state requirements) loans. Disadvantaged community funds may be offered to eligible communities with principal forgiveness of 30%, 50%, or 70% based upon the adjusted annual median household income and the household cost factor.

Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP)

Entity: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation & Enforcement and Texas General Land Office

Eligible projects must target one of the following: conservation, protection or restoration of coastal areas, including wetlands, mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, or natural resources, planning assistance and the administrative costs of complying with this section, implementation of a federally approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan, and mitigation of the impact of development along the Outer Continental Shelf through funding of onshore infrastructure projects and public service needs.

Eligibility: State, federal agencies, along with universities (public or private), county and local governments, other state subdivisions and non-profit organizations.

Funding limitations: Funds for this program may only be granted to the 18 Texas coastal counties of Orange, Jefferson, Chambers, Harris, Galveston, Brazoria Matagorda, Jackson, Calhoun, Refugio, San Patricio, Nueces, Kleberg, Willacy, and Cameron. After review process and approval, the Land Office will contract with vendors or sub-grantees to perform projects. Project expenses are reimbursed after they are incurred. Funding advancements may be allowed only under special conditions.

Economically Distressed Areas Program

Entity: Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)

Program provides financial assistance for water and wastewater services in economically distressed areas where present facilities are inadequate to meet residents' minimal needs. The program also includes measures to prevent future substandard development.

Eligibility: Projects must be located in an area that was established as a residential subdivision as of June 1, 2005, has an inadequate water supply or sewer services to meet minimal residential needs and a lack of financial resources to provide water supply or sewer services to satisfy those needs. All political subdivisions, including cities, counties, water districts, and nonprofit water supply corporations, are eligible to apply for funds. The applicant, or its designee, must be capable of maintaining and operating the completed system.

Funding limitations: Financial support is in the form of grant or combination of a grant and a loan. The program does not fund ongoing operation and maintenance expenses, nor does it fund new development.

Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)

Entity: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)

The program offers project cost-sharing for projects that positively impact the valuable riparian areas and watershed in Texas. Projects showing the greatest benefit to targeted watersheds will receive priority as do projects offering long-term protection, long-term monitoring and greater than the required minimum landowner contribution.

Eligibility: Eligible parties include private, non-federal landowners wishing to enact good conservation practices on their lands in targeted ecoregions. Targeted ecoregions may change from year to year.

Funding limitations: Contracts will require a minimum of 25% landowner contribution (in-kind labor, materials, monetary, etc.).

Recreation Grant Program-Boating Access Grant

Entity: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)

This program provides financial assistance in the construction of public boat ramp facilities throughout Texas.

Eligibility: Local government sponsors must make an application, provide the land, provide access to the proposed boat ramp and accept operation and maintenance responsibilities for a minimum 25-year period.

Funding limitations: Local government sponsor must provide 25% of the development costs. The grant program provides 75% matching grant funds of the construction costs.

Recreation Grant Program-Boat Sewage Pumpout Grant

Entity: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)

This grant program offers financial assistance for the construction and/or renovation, operation, and maintenance of pump out and portable toilet dump stations.

Eligibility: Private marinas and local governments are qualified for this grant.

Funding limitations: Funds for this program are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis and can constitute up to 75% of all approved project costs. Participants may charge a maximum fee of \$5.00 to cover use and maintenance costs.

Regional Water Supply and Wastewater Facilities Planning Program

Entity: Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)

The program provides funds for studies and analyses to evaluate and determine the most feasible alternatives to meet regional water supply and wastewater facility needs, estimate the costs associated with implementing feasible regional water supply and wastewater facility alternatives, and identify institutional arrangements to provide regional water supply and wastewater services for areas in Texas. All proposed solutions must be consistent with applicable regional or statewide plans and relevant laws and regulations. A water conservation plan must be included in the proposed plan.

Eligibility: Political subdivisions, such as cities, counties, districts or authorities created under the Texas Constitution with the legal authority to plan, develop, and operate regional facilities are eligible applicants. Additional applicants include any interstate compact commission to which the State is a party and any nonprofit water supply corporation created and operating under Texas Civil Statutes Article 1434a.

Funding limitations: Funds are in the form of grants. Applicants must provide evidence of local matching funds on or before the date specified for negotiation and execution of a contract. Funds are generally limited to 50% of the total cost of the project, except that the board may supply up to 75% of the total cost to political subdivisions under certain conditions. Funds will be released only as reimbursement of costs actually incurred for approved activities. In-kind services may be substituted for any part of the local share if certain criteria are met.

TCEQ 319 Grant

Entity: TCEQ and Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)

This program is intended to fund activities that prevent or reduce nonpoint source pollution. Proposed projects should focus on agricultural and/or silvicultural nonpoint source pollution prevention and abatement activities within the boundaries of impaired or threatened watersheds. Specific activities that can be funded include development of nine-element watershed protection plans including the formation and facilitation of stakeholder groups, surface water quality monitoring, data analysis and modeling, implementation of nine-element watershed protection plans and the nonpoint source portion of total maximum daily load implementation plans, demonstration of innovative best management practices, technical assistance to landowners for conservation planning, public outreach/education, and monitoring activities to determine the effectiveness of specific pollution prevention methods.

Eligibility: All state agencies or political subdivisions of the State of Texas including cities, counties, school districts, state universities, nonprofit organizations, and special districts can apply for funding. Private organizations may participate in projects as partners or contractors but may not apply directly for funding.

Funding limitations: Grants are awarded annually and funds projects for up to three years.

Texas Clean Rivers Program

Entity: TCEQ

The program's main purpose is to develop partnerships to provide quality-assured data to the TCEQ for use in decision-making, identification and evaluation of water quality issues, promote cooperative watershed planning, recommend management strategies, inform and engage stakeholders and adapt to changing priorities.

Eligibility: Partnerships range from river authorities, other agencies, regional entities, local government, industry and citizens. TCEQ provides most of the funding for to conduct the monitoring, quality assurance, and data management functions of the program.

Funding limitations: Unknown

Texas Coastal Management Program

Entity: Texas General Land Office

This program funded by NOAA is designed to ensure long-term environmental and economic health of the Texas Coast. The program has funded a wide variety of coastal management activities but has also developed the following categories for use of these funds: coastal natural hazards response, critical areas enhancement, Public Access, Waterfront Revitalization and Ecotourism Development, Permit Streamlining/Assistance, Governmental Coordination, Local Government Planning Assistance, and Water Sediment Quantity and Quality Improvements.

Eligibility: State and Local

Funding limitations: For on-the-ground habitat protection, restoration and land acquisition projects, eligible entities can expect up to \$400,000 for individual large-scale projects and up to \$100,000 for small-scale projects. Local Match must be 40% of the total project cost for this cycle. Match may be in the form of a "cash" match or an "in-kind" match or a combination of both.

Texas Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Program

Entity: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)

The Texas Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Program (TFRLCP) was established by the Texas Legislature in 2005 with the purpose of conserving working lands with high values for water, fish and wildlife, and agricultural production; especially lands at risk of development. TFRLCP maintains and

enhances the ecological and agricultural productivity of these lands through Agricultural Conservation Easements.

Eligibility: State and Local

Funding limitations: Unknown