



United States Department of Agriculture



**Western Regional Partnership
Call on Infrastructure Investment and
Jobs Act
February 9, 2022**



USDA-NRCS Watershed Programs

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State Watershed Engineer

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

USDA-NRCS Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Funding

Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations - (WFPO)

- \$500m to remain available until expended

Watershed Rehabilitation Program - (Rehab)

- \$118m to remain available until expended

Emergency Watershed Protection Program - (EWPP)

- \$300m to remain available until expended

Total \$918Million



USDA-NRCS Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Funding

Priorities

- New projects with new sponsors
- Limited resource area (LRA) and historically underserved (HU) communities
- Tribal Communities
- Construction for backlog Rehab projects
- Disaster Recovery (current and future disasters)





HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED addresses the needs of:

- **Socially disadvantaged**

A socially disadvantaged group is a group whose members have been subject to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities.

Socially disadvantaged groups consist of the following:

American Indians or Alaskan Natives
Asians
Blacks or African Americans
Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders
Hispanics.

For an entity, at least 50 percent ownership in the farm business must be held by socially disadvantaged individuals

Watershed Local Sponsors



Eligible Sponsors

- State
- Political Subdivision of State
- Qualified Indian Tribe or Tribal Organization
- Unit of local government
- *All sponsors must have a legal interest in or responsibility for the areas threatened*

Sponsor Responsibilities

- Assist in leading locally led planning effort
- Share of project costs as determined by NRCS as cash or in-kind services
- Real property rights, water rights, and regulatory permits
- Provide for required O&M as determined necessary by NRCS



Watershed Operations Program

IIJA Funding

Fiscal Year 2022

➤ \$500 million in discretionary funds

Priorities Include

- Limited Resource Communities
- Historically Underserved and Socially Disadvantaged
- Tribal Communities
- New Sponsors (Those not currently working on a project)



Watershed Operations Program

Purpose and Need

General Purposes

- Preventing damage from erosion, floodwater, and sediment
- Furthering the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water
- Furthering the conservation and proper utilization of land



Watershed Operations Program

Financial Assistance

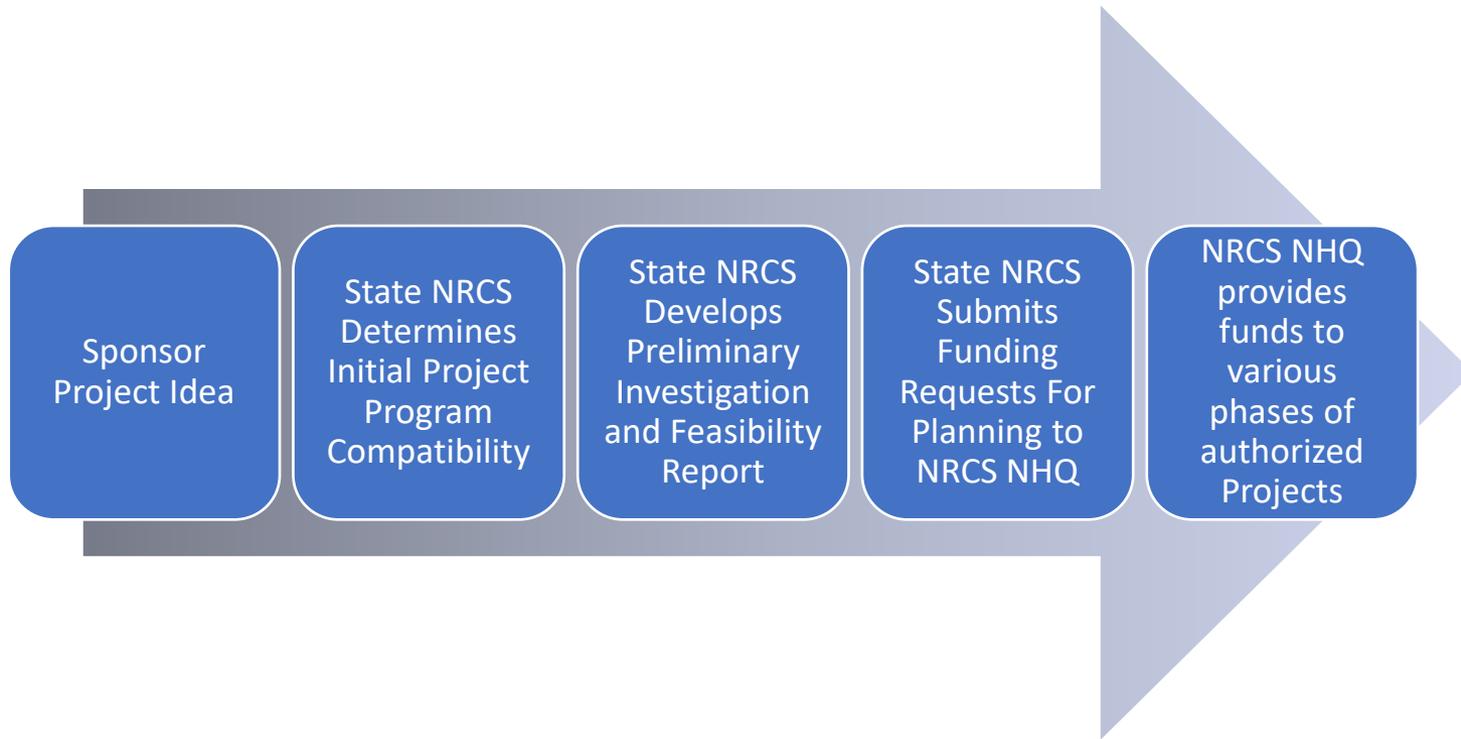
Purpose	Engineering Technical Assistance	Installation Construction	Real Property Rights
Flood Prevention	100%	100%	0%
Watershed Protection	100%	Variable	9%

Purpose	Engineering Technical Assistance	Installation Construction	Real Property Rights
Agricultural Water Management (Drainage, Irrigation, Ground Water Recharge, Agricultural Water Supply Structure, Water Conservation, Water Quality)	Up to 100%	Up to 75%	0%
- Water Quality Management - Municipal & Industrial Water Supply	Up to 100% 0%	TBD No more than 50%	0% 0%
Groundwater Recharge	100%	Up to 75%	0%
Rehabilitation	100%	65%	0%
This table is an excerpt from the National Watershed Manual Figure 500-E2, it should not be used to establish program cost sharing amounts by Purpose.			



Watershed Operations Program

Working with your State NRCS Staff





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A wide-angle photograph of a lush, green landscape. In the foreground, there is a grassy field with some patches of bare earth. In the middle ground, a calm body of water, possibly a reservoir or pond, is visible. A concrete structure, likely a dam or spillway, is partially submerged in the water. The background is filled with dense, green trees and rolling hills under a bright sky with some clouds. Three people are standing on the grassy bank in the lower right corner, looking towards the water.

Watershed Rehabilitation Program (Rehab)

Program Information for Sponsors and Partners

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

Watershed Rehabilitation Program

IIJA Funding

Fiscal Year 2022

➤ \$118 million in discretionary funds

Priorities Include

- Backlog - Construction
- Limited Resource Areas – Planning and Design
- Historically Underserved and Socially Disadvantaged
- Tribal Communities
- New Sponsors (Those not currently working on a project)



Project Eligibility

- Originally constructed through a NRCS Watershed Program
 - PL 83-566
 - PL 78-534
 - Pilot Watershed Program
 - Resource Conservation and Development
- No longer meet current safety and performance standards including dams past their evaluated life
- Operation and maintenance must be current

Rehabilitation Cost Share

Purpose	Project Cost	Engineering/ Technical Assistance	Real Property Rights
Rehabilitation	65% not to exceed 100% of construction cost	No more than 100 percent	0



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Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP)



Introduction for Sponsors and Partners

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

Emergency Watershed Protection Program

IIJA Funding

Fiscal Year 2022

➤ \$300 million in discretionary funds

Priorities Include

- Communities recovering from wildfires, floods, tropical storms, tornadoes, and other natural disasters.
- Current and future disaster recovery projects.
- Floodplain Easements in Limited Resource Areas



Introduction to the EWP Program

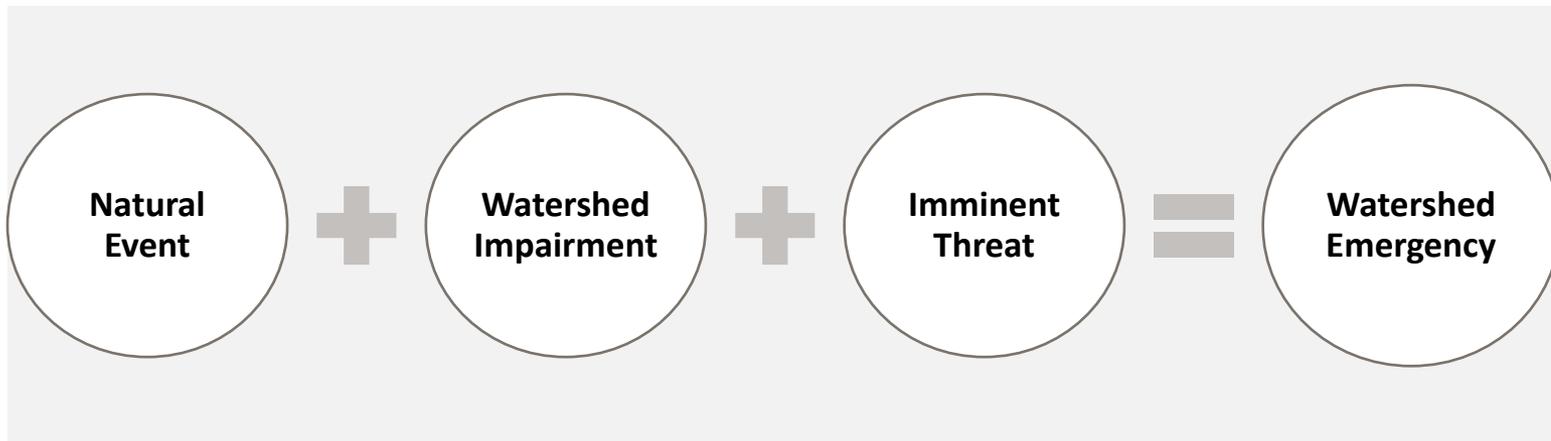


Natural Occurrences

- Floods
- Fires
- Windstorms
- Ice storms
- Hurricanes/ Typhoons
- Tornadoes
- Earthquakes
- Volcanic actions
- Slides
- Drought



Program Eligibility



<p>Property EWP Program Can Be Used to Protect:</p>	}	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent structures • Houses & Buildings • Roads & Utilities • Dams & Flood Control
<p>EWP Program Cannot Be Used to Protect Only:</p>	}	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standing Timber • Orchards • Agronomic crops (other USDA programs are available for Ag Land)

Preview

A natural disaster causes a watershed impairment

Sponsor formally requests assistance

NRCS documents eligible damages and estimates costs

Sponsor and NRCS enter formal agreement to carryout emergency work

EWP Example



EWP Example



How to Contact NRCS

Local NRCS Contact

- <https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>

State EWP Program Manager

- <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/ewpp/>

NRCS State Conservationist

- <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/states/>





Contact Us

www.nrcs.usda.gov

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
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Programs

- Farm Bill
- Landscape Initiatives
- Financial Assistance
- Technical Assistance
- Easements
- Landscape Planning
 - Emergency Watershed Protection Program
 - Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program
 - Watershed Surveys and Planning
 - Watershed Rehabilitation
- Alphabetical Listing & Archive

Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program State Points of Contact

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NRCS > Programs > Landscape Planning > Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program