



National Association of
Conservation Districts

NACD

Technical Assistance Grants

Discussion



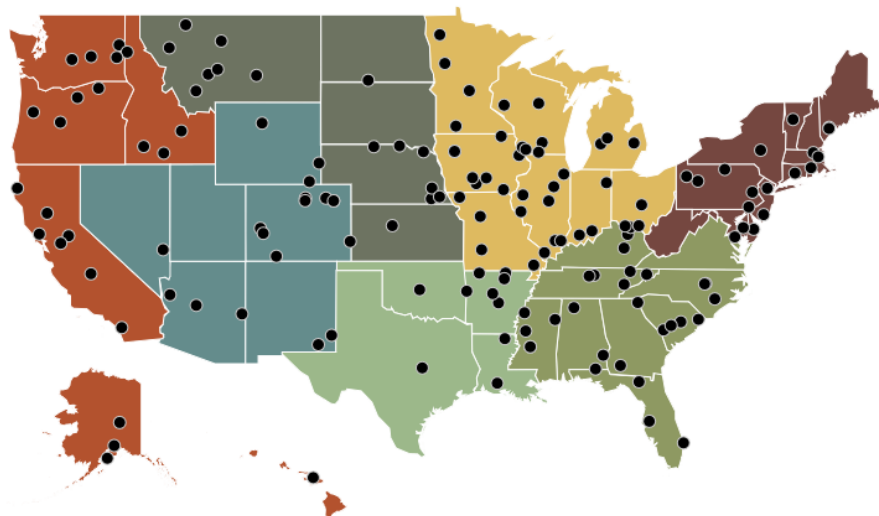
For our Discussion

- Look at the last two years and our current status
- Consider how the funding was used to date and what's been accomplished so far
- Where do we make improvements?
 - What worked well in your state?
 - What kept districts/RCD/Associations from applying?
 - What would make it work better?
 - Patches to the current system
 - Try something new



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TA2018 (Round 1)



Grant Recipients – 2018

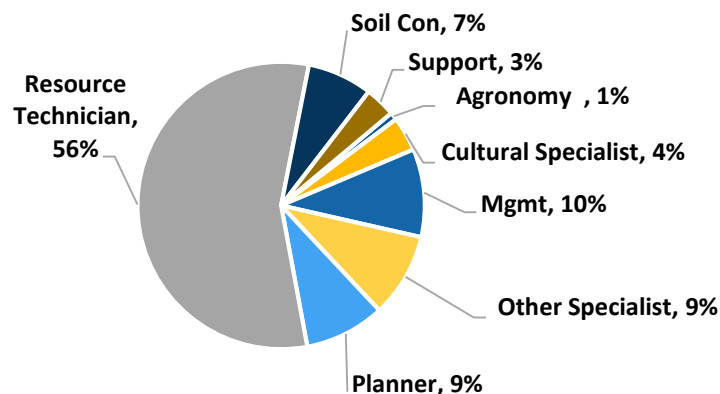
To Date:

Last reports covered April – June 2019

- Over \$7 million spent
- Grantees reported spending \$2.7 million in match (28%)
- Over 230 staff distributed across 300 districts – 63% Full Time

- Announced Fall 2017
- Funds distributed to 157 grantees in 2018
 - \$7.54 million EQIP
 - \$1.46 million COTA
 - Requires grantees to supply 20% match

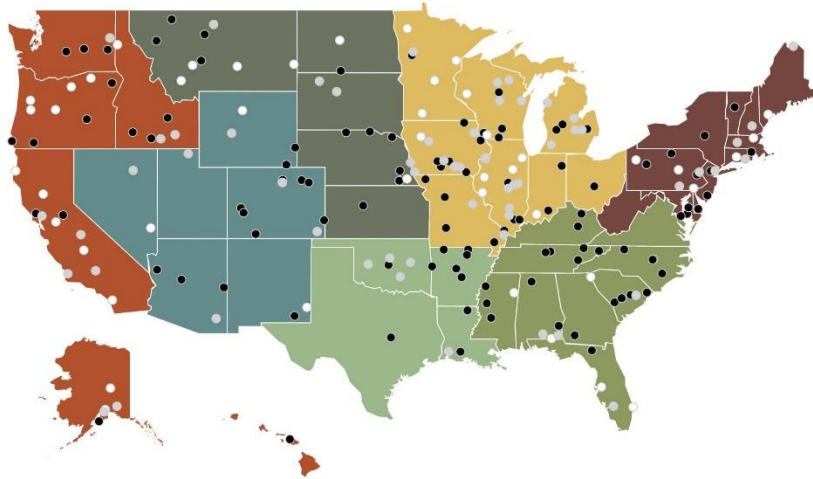
NACD Technical Grant 2018 Grant Supported Staff Titles





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TA2019 (Round 2)

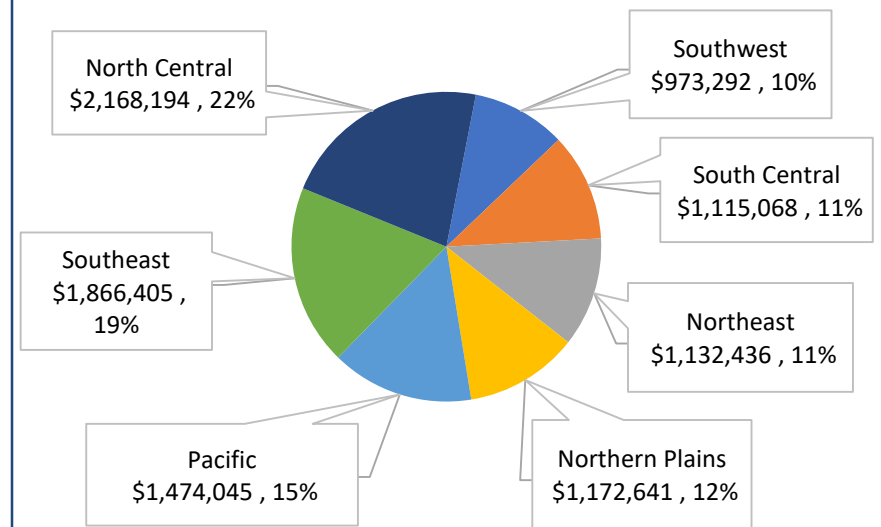


Grant Recipients – 2018 and 2019

- 112 of the grantees also received a TA2018 grant
- Requires grantees to supply 20% match

- Funds distributed to 168 grantees in 2019
 - \$3.70 million EQIP
 - \$3.05 million CSP
 - \$3.15 million COTA

TA2019 Grants Distribution by NACD Region

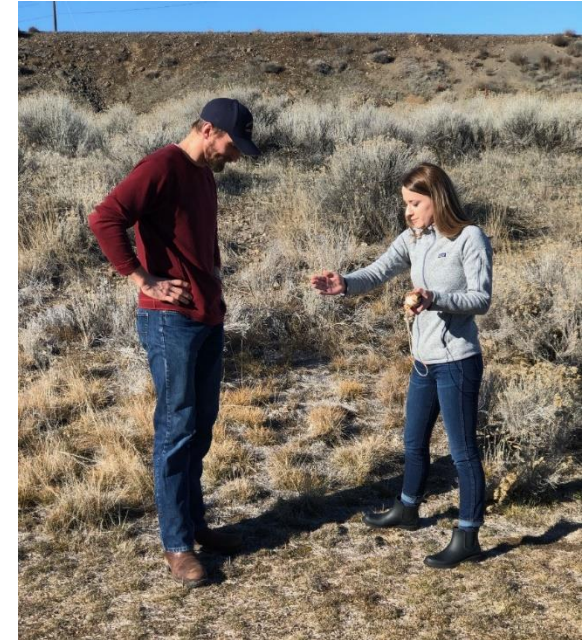




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TA2018 (Round 1) Status

- Over 40% of the grants are now closed
 - 94% of the grantees are in reporting compliance
 - 40% of grantees are not on track to close their grants by December 1, based on June 2019 reporting
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- Grant-Supported Staff has worked over 260,000 hours – 125 FTE
- Assisted with over 15,000 EQIP Agreements
 - About 10% with Historical Underserved Populations
- Completed over 6,800 COTA Plans



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TA2018 (Round 1) Accomplishments

Northern Plains

Pacific

Southwest

South Central

North Central

Southeast

Northeast

– *Vermont Association of Conservation Districts*

- The **Cartographic/Land Treatment Planning Technician** works on elements of Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans
- A **Program Assistant** assists with the processing of EQIP applications
- A **Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) Contracting Technician** assists in the development and design of CAP 106 (Forest Management Plan) applications and contracts

- *Morris County Soil Conservation District, NJ*

- Hired an **Ag. Conservation Specialist** to assist NRCS
- manages EQIP contracts, responds to Requests for Assistance, CREP contract inspections and report writing and Highly Erodible Land Determinations



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TA2018 (Round 1) Accomplishments

Northern Plains

Pacific

Southwest

South Central

North Central

Southeast

– *Blount County Conservation District, TN*

- hired a **Watershed Coordinator** to assist multiple county and municipality entities in developing stormwater protocols and other watershed-based improvement projects.
- Also developed environmental education curricula for various school groups
- Tasks completed include outreach to potential EQIP applicants as well as the development of an ecological planting plan for a 16 acre outdoor learning area at a local elementary school

- *Fleming County Conservation District, KY*

- Hired an **Technician** to work on EQIP contracts across multiple counties
- Work consisted on farm visits, talking with the landowners, talking with NRCS personnel about what was possibly keeping the landowner from accomplishing the contract goals



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TA2018 (Round 1) Accomplishments

Northern Plains

Pacific

Southwest

South Central

North Central

– *Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District, IA*

- hired a **Soil Technician**
- helping our federal Soil Conservationist do EQIP rankings and contacting producers and estimating for pending applications.
- laid out terrace projects and went out to the field to certify completion of projects

- *Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District, IN*

- Hired a local grower as a **Conservation Programs Specialist** to assist cooperators to follow up on applied practices and promoted other conservation practices
- The Specialist has provided strategies on soil health, cover crops and no till practices to the other growers.
- His contacts have given the opportunity for increased Amish outreach leading to dialog with these historically underserved producers promoting available programs.



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TA2018 (Round 1) Accomplishments

Northern Plains

Pacific

Southwest

South Central

– Arkansas RC&D Council

- Hired a **EQIP Program Analyst** to provide a much-needed analytical assessment of EQIP contracts filed with the State NRCS office for the purpose of more effective allocations of funds

- Sebastian and Crawford Soil and Water Conservation Districts, AR

- Hired a **Urban Assistant** to assist with the production of various partnered gardens and evolve into an urban conservation program
- Developed gardens that help the underserved people of the counties with the production of fresh produce
- Spotlighted the help available thru NRCS with the EQIP programs to help with their urban operations

- Texas State Soil & Water Board

- Hired five **Technicians** to assist local conservationists with their work load.
- helping NRCS develop and implement conservation plans and practices, manage workload at the office, and participate in local landowner educational programs and local work group meetings



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TA2018 (Round 1) Accomplishments

Northern Plains

Pacific

Southwest

- *Triangle/Chino Winds Natural Resource Conservation District, AZ*
 - Hired a full time **Archeologist** as a cultural resource specialist
 - Were able to address backlogged cultural resource clearances and expand to other cultural resource concerns.
- *Big Thompson Conservation District, CO*
 - Hiring a staff **Forester** has created additional programs for landowners and enhance our visibility.
 - Contractors have been able to utilize the materials coming off of the forest mitigation projects for retail firewood, fencing, dimensional lumber and bedding
 - This investment from NACD along with USDA and NRCS, of \$75,000 has a leveraged total economic impact of nearly \$7,000,000 into the local economy
- *Nevada Association of Conservation Districts*
 - Using retired NRCS staff as **Contractors**
 - Assisting seven Nevada CDs to complete Resource Needs Assessments (RNA)



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TA2018 (Round 1) Accomplishments

Northern Plains

Pacific

- *Amador Resource Conservation District, CA*

- **Staff Forester** is shared across multiple counties.
- Addressed an 18 to 24 month backlog of over 80 landowners requesting assistance.
- First ever district employee
- By the end of TA2018, they were able to leverage TA2019 with other funding to hire a second employee

- *Humboldt County Resource Conservation District, CA*

- Tried to hire an engineer, not successful, requested proposals for a **Contract Engineer**
- Hired a local engineering firm for site visits, survey work, designs, construction management and inspections



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TA2018 (Round 1) Accomplishments

Northern Plains

- Blackfeet Natural Resource Conservation District, MT

- Hired a **Planner** to collect data for analysis of conservation projects on and off the reservation to increase participation on the reservation
- Created and surveyed members on agricultural and water planning issues to gauge public input

- North Dakota Conservation District Employees Association

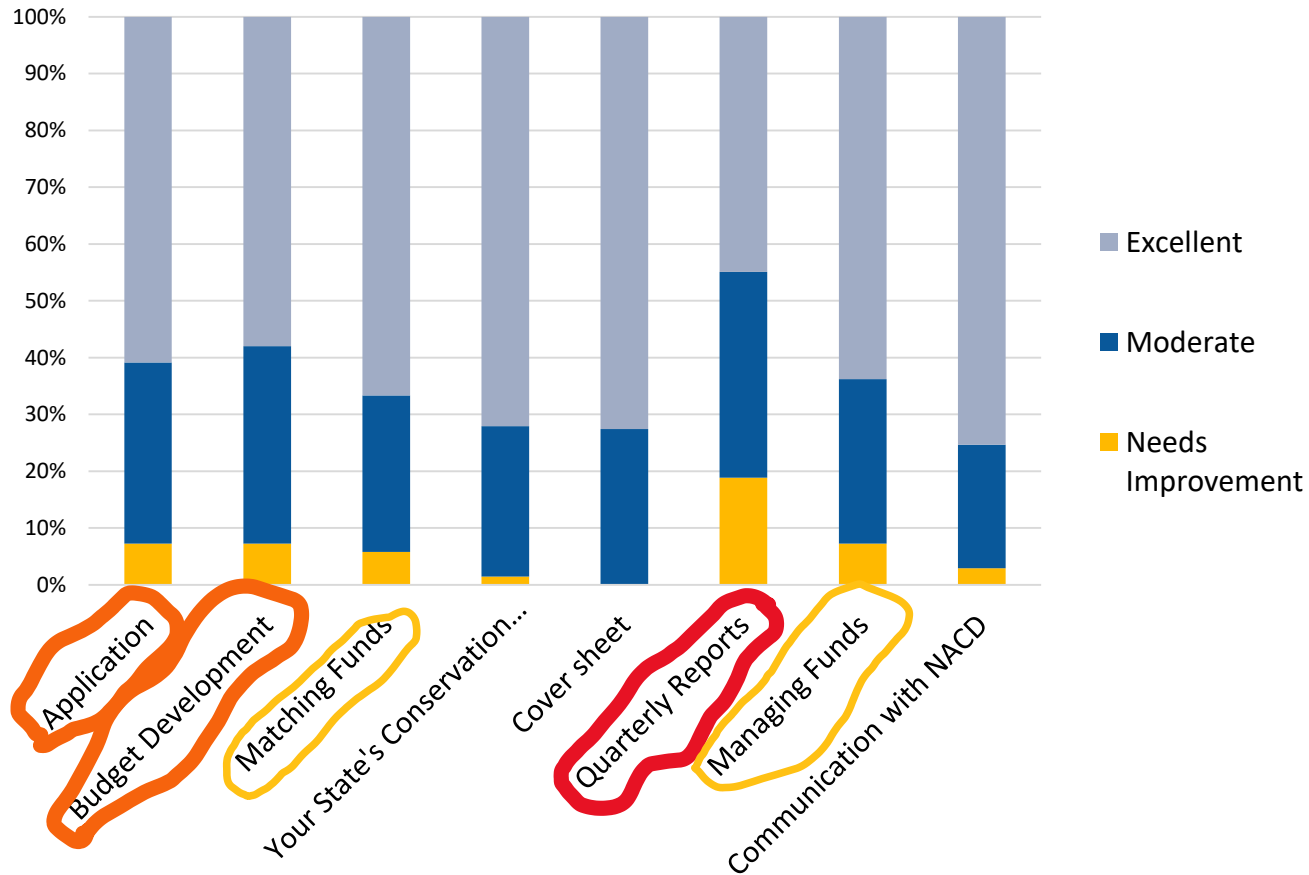
- Hired a part time **District Manager**
- **Grant** is being utilized to provide training in areas of Farm Bill Conservation Programs
- Development of a conservation deliverable tracking system that streamlines employee progress for reporting



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Feedback from closed TA2018 Grantees

Grantee Satisfaction





➤ Where do we make improvements?

- What worked well in your state?
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 - Patches to the current system
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