



# Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)

## Fact Sheet

*USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service offers voluntary Farm Bill programs that benefit both agricultural producers and the environment.*

### What Is CIG?

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) are competitive grants that drive public and private sector innovation in resource conservation. CIG projects inspire creative problem-solving—helping to boost production on farms, ranches, and private forests through improvements in water quality, soil health, and wildlife habitat.

CIG is supported by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), which increased funding for farm bill conservation programs, like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), which funds CIG. OBBBA strengthens the ability of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to support farmers, ranchers, and partners in tackling conservation challenges at the landscape scale.

There are two national annual Conservation Innovation Grants funding opportunities:

#### CIG Classic

CIG Classic is a national competition for projects that support the development and piloting of new tools, practices and technologies to further natural resource conservation on private lands.

#### CIG On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials

CIG On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials is a national competition for projects that support more widespread adoption and evaluation of innovative conservation approaches in partnership with agricultural producers. On-Farm Trials awardees provide technical assistance and incentive payments to producers to help compensate for risks associated with implementation of new conservation practices, systems and approaches. Awardees also evaluate the environmental, financial and social impacts of implementing innovative approaches.

The Soil Health Demo Trial is a priority within the On-Farm Trials competition, which focuses exclusively on implementation of conservation practices and systems that improve soil health.

### Who Is Eligible?

**CIG Classic** applications are accepted from state and local governments, federally recognized American Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations, and individuals in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Caribbean Area (Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands), and the Pacific Islands Area (Guam, American Samoa, Pacific Islands Area).

**CIG On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials** applications are accepted from state and local governments, federally recognized American Indian tribes, and non-governmental organizations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Caribbean Area (Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands), and the Pacific Islands Area (Guam, American Samoa, Pacific Islands Area).



#### More Information

For more information or to find your local USDA Service Center, visit [nrcs.usda.gov](https://nrcs.usda.gov) or scan the QR code.



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CIG funds innovative, on-the-ground conservation projects, including pilot projects and field demonstrations. Proposed projects must fit the description of innovative conservation projects or activities as described in the funding notice.

## How to Apply

### National CIG Classic and CIG On-Farm Trials

National CIG projects are awarded through a nationwide competitive grants process, typically once per year. Projects can be watershed-based, regional, multi-state, or nationwide in scope.

The natural resource concerns eligible for funding through CIG are identified in the funding announcement and may change annually to focus on new and emerging, high-priority natural resource concerns.

CIG Classic funds are for single- or multi-year projects, not to exceed three years. CIG On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials funds are for multi-year projects that are three to five years in duration.

When a competition opens, information on the opportunity and instructions for how to apply will be posted on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) and on the [NRCS website](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov).



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