

## Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission 2009 SWCD Program Assistance Grants

### **Purpose**

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission is making available Program Assistance Grants (PAG) to Ohio SWCDs experiencing a local funding crisis, or historically low, stagnant or declining funding. These grants provide a safety net for districts with a sudden reduction in local funding, impacts from USDA office closures, and assist SWCDs experiencing a steady slow decline, or a long-term level-funding pattern. PAG funds provide assistance with staffing, administrative costs, and for costs associated with program evaluation and strategic planning.

### **Funding**

This year the OSWCC will set aside from state matching funds, up to \$300, 000 (pending final budget allocations) for the PAG program. Applications will be accepted each year from May 1 to June 5<sup>th</sup>. Grants may be awarded from \$2000 to a maximum of \$35,000 . A District may receive PAG funding no more than 4 times within a 7-year period and cannot exceed \$105,000 combined. All funds not distributed through the PAG program will be redistributed to all 88 SWCDs through the current fiscal state match formula.

### **Eligibility**

To be eligible a district must experience one or more of the following:

- 40 –100 % reduction in local appropriations.
- Budget reductions requiring a high percentage of employee reduction.
- Partnership office closing and loss of shared space and equipment.
- Long-term declining or stagnant local appropriations.

*\* Eligibility criteria may change from year to year to insure flexibility.*

### **Qualifying Expenditures**

Funds from this program may be spent on activities to alleviate and correct the financial hardship such as:

- Salaries, rent, utilities, computer systems and other office expenses
- Services to develop a new strategic plan and annual plan
- Training for board members and staff

## **Application Process**

Application forms are available from the division's web site at [www.dnr.state.oh.us/soilandwater](http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/soilandwater). Applications should be sent to OSWCC Executive Secretary David Hanselmann 2045 Morse Rd. Bldg. B-3 Columbus, Ohio 43229-6605.

## **Grant Selections and Award Schedule**

Grants will be reviewed and scored by a committee named by the OSWCC. Committee recommendations are subject to review and approval by the Commission and the division Chief. Successful applicants will receive awards as early as possible during the State Fiscal year. Some awards may require program deliverables in order to receive full funding. Subsequent annual awards may also be reviewed for successful completion of a previous PAG award and required performance measures, program deliverables and reporting requirements.

## **Reporting**

Quarterly activity and progress reports may be required and should be submitted to the Commission's Executive Secretary, David Hanselmann. These reports should include planning, outreach and fundraising activities and document how the grant funds were utilized.



