



# Merit-Based Funding

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Southeast Region

# Direct Assistance Program

- Flexible Uses
  - District administration
  - Travel
  - Technical assistance
  - Conservation programs
- \$391,714
  - State General Fund
  - 76 conservation districts
  - Average \$5154 .13 per district



# Program Support

- State budget constraints
- Legislative support
- Demonstrate
  - Accountability
  - Results



# Current Direct Assistance Application

- Weighted 12 Factor Application
- Quantitative Scoring System

1. Statutory requirements
2. On-the-ground conservation
3. Conservation education
4. Grant/cooperative funding
5. Building space/equipment provided
6. Watershed meetings
7. District employees
8. Revenue-generating projects
9. Meetings, seminars, conferences attended
10. Meetings with a quorum
11. Memberships
12. District annual meeting

# Current Direct Assistance Application

FACTOR #1 MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR TIER I - \$2000 GRANT (No points awarded)	RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES	
Minimum Standards (a) - (g) were established by the State Conservation Board to certify districts' eligibility to receive Direct Assistance (DA) Grant Funds. These minimum standards are established as requirements in the Colorado Soil Conservation Act. Minimum Standard (i) is an accountability requirement to report on expenditures of allotted funds for the prior fiscal year - July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007.	Indicate by entering an <b>X</b> in YES or NO column if items (a) - (h) have been completed or available, (if applicable) for Calendar Year 2006 and item (i) is completed in section below.	
	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
(a) Complete & submit on-line District Fact Sheet as part of annual report (CRS 35-70-103(6)(i))	X	
(b) Complete & submit Long Range Program (CRS 35-70-108(1)(k))	X	
(c) Complete & submit Annual Plan of Work (CRS 35-70-108(1)(k))	X	
(d) Complete & submit General Budget (CRS 29-1-103(1))	X	
(e) Complete & submit Audit (CRS 35-70-108(1)(l))	X	
(f) Complete Board of Supervisor Elections (CRS 35-70-107(1)(a)(l))	X	
(g) Have & use District Seal (CRS 35-70-108(1)(j))	X	
(h) Complete & submit current District Bylaws (CRS 35-70-107(2))	X	
(i) Expenditure Report completed below	X	
<b>PRIOR FISCAL YEAR (7/1/2006 - 6/30/2007) EXPENDITURES OF DIRECT ASSISTANCE FUNDS</b>		
(Estimate May and June if necessary)		
Enter name of person who completed this report in box to the right:		
Total Direct Assistance Funds Received by District in Fiscal Year 2007	\$5,326.97	
1. Travel expenses by members of the District Board of Supervisors	\$750.27	
2. Expense of secretarial, clerical, and technical assistance	\$634.59	
3. Office expenses and information/education activities	\$3,683.19	
4. District election expenses		
5. Other project expenses - Please specify below.	\$258.92	
Rangeland Drought Recovery \$258.92- District Portion		
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$5,326.97</b>	
Projected Balance of Direct Assistance Funds on-hand at end of fiscal year. (June 30, 2007)	\$0.00	

# Current Direct Assistance Application

<b>FACTOR #3 EDUCATION/OUTREACH SERVICES &amp; PROJECTS - Priority A</b>								
List any district educational/outreach projects completed in calendar year 2006 that meet requirements defined in application instructions. Twenty (20) numbered spaces are provided. However, if district completed more than 20 projects in 2006, number additional projects & include them in blank spaces following #20. Text will wrap to fit into each cell as it is entered. EACH project will be rated from 0 to 5 - maximum of 12.5 points per project..								
	(a) Describe Education/Outreach Services & Projects	(b) Project Date(s)	(c) Target Audience	(d) Hours worked by		(e) Lead - L Partner - P	(f) Partnership Agencies	(g) Resulting Outcome
				District Employees	Supervisors			
1	CONSERVATION EDUCATION SPECIALIST - We have supported this position for 16 year. Originally the position was used as a tool to teach area students about conservation and agriculture, but over the years it has also developed into a tool for us to reach cooperators in our community. We share this position with the four other districts in our watershed.	January 1 to December 31, 2006 - Continuing	EVERYONE	416	52	Lead	Rio Grade Watershed; Costilla CD; Rio Grande CD; Conejos CD; Mosca-Hooper CD; NRCS;	Through this position we have been able to make in excess of 10,000 contacts during the 2006 fiscal year. This number includes all age groups, from headstart to the senior citizen clubs. Our district and watershed feel that the best conservation practices comes from a thorough understanding and ongoing communication with our young people, our cooperators, our community and our partners.
2	BOOTH AT THE SOUTHERN COLORADO AG CONFERENCE - Set up Display showing activities of the Center Conservation District; handed out information on upcoming events and had sign up sheets for anyone interested in running for the conservation board in the upcoming election. Answered questions on conservation in general including programs and funding available.	1/30/06 to 2/3/06	Agriculture Producers	46.5	9	Lead	Rio Grade Watershed; Costilla CD; Rio Grande CD; Conejos CD; Mosca-Hooper CD; NRCS; Monte Vista Coop; Fire Departments; Forest Service;	The booth was display for the entire conference (4 days), promotional handouts were distributed including note pads, pens, litter bags. Drawings were held for prizes that were donated or promotional items (i.e. hats, fleece throws) from Center CD. We estimated we made approximately 400 contacts per day.

# Distribution of Funds



# Considerations

- Rewards Stretching
- Rewards Duplication
- Rewards Quantity vs. Quality of Activities
- Lengthy
- Time Consuming
- Contentious



# New Merit-Based System

- Goals
  - Demonstrate accountability & results
  - Consolidate district reports
  - Evaluate quality of overall program vs. quantity of individual activities
  - Reduce length and time
- Based on District Annual Plan of Work

# New Annual Plan of Work

District Name:								
Plan Year:	2011 Annual Plan of Work							
Natural Resource Issue #1:								
Why is this issue a concern?:								
What do you want to accomplish? (3 Year Goal):								
How are you going to do it?  2010 Activities	Who is going to do it?				When	Funding Sources and Amounts		Results/Accomplishments Define & quantify specific benefits & results from the project.
	District			Partners		Budgeted	Actual	
	Individual	Planned Hours	Actual Hours					
Objective A								
1								
2								
3								
Objective B								
1								
2								
3								
Objective C								
1								
2								
3								
Objective D								
1								
2								
3								

# New Annual Plan of Work

District Name:								
Plan Year:		2011 Annual Plan of Work						
Conservation Education								
What are you going to do?  2010 Activities	Who is going to do it?				When	Funding Sources and Amounts		Results/Accomplishments Define & quantify specific benefits & results from the project.
	District			Partners		Budgeted	Actual	
	Individual	Planned Hours	Actual Hours					
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								

# New Evaluation System

1. Does the conservation district demonstrate its prominence in its community through its general activities?

Exceptional  Well  Average  Below Average  Needs Improvement

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Does the conservation district offer educational programs for its landowners?

Exceptional  Well  Average  Below Average  Needs Improvement

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Does the conservation district offer educational programs for youth?

Exceptional  Well  Average  Below Average  Needs Improvement

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Does the conservation district leverage its funds in a way that brings available federal, state, local and private dollars to private lands conservation?

Exceptional  Well  Average  Below Average  Needs Improvement

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Does the conservation district collaborate in local partnerships to further conservation efforts?

Exceptional  Well  Average  Below Average  Needs Improvement

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# New Evaluation System

6. Does the conservation district have effective supervisor involvement/leadership and appropriate staff to administer district business and/or offer technical assistance for its landowners?

Exceptional  Well  Average  Below Average  Needs Improvement

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Does the conservation district provide input forums for stakeholders to develop its conservation priorities?

Exceptional  Well  Average  Below Average  Needs Improvement

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Does the conservation district effectively implement its annual plan of work?

Exceptional  Well  Average  Below Average  Needs Improvement

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Does the conservation district hold an annual meeting that is well attended by its cooperators and provide a program to educate/inform those attending about accomplishments and conservation issues?

Exceptional  Well  Average  Below Average  Needs Improvement

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Does the Conservation District coordinate/implement on-the-ground conservation projects that make demonstrable changes to Soil, Air, Water, Plants or Wildlife?

Exceptional  Well  Average  Below Average  Needs Improvement

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Considerations

- Timeline
- Transparency
- Training

# Questions

