

Merit-Based Funding

Scott Shirola
Conservation Specialist
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 8.
- 2. On-the-ground conservation
- 3. Conservation education
- 4. Grant/cooperative funding
- 5. Building space/equipment provided
- 6. Watershed meetings
- 7. District employees

- Revenue-generating projects
- 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)	RESPONSIBILIT	IES 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 X 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.		
	YES	NO	
(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))	Х		
(c) Complete & submit Annual Plan of Work (CRS 35-70-108(1)(k))	Х		
(d) Complete & submit General Budget (CRS 29-1-103(1))	Х		
(e) Complete & submit Audit (CRS 35-70-108(1)(I))	Х		
(f) Complete Board of Supervisor Elections (CRS 35-70-107(1)(a)(l))	Х		
(g) Have & use District Seal (CRS 35-70-108(1)(j))	Х		
(h) Complete & submit current District Bylaws (CRS 35-70-107(2))	Х		
(i) Expenditure Report completed below	Х		
PRIOR FISCAL YEAR (7/1/2006 - 6/ 30/2007) EXPENDITURES OF DIRECT ASSISTANCE FUNDS			
(Estimate May and June if necessary) Enter name of person who completed this report in box to the right:			
Enter hame 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	
Travel expenses by members of the District Board of Supervisors	\$750.27		
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 Drough t Recovery \$258.92- District Portion			
TOTAL EXPENSES	Į.	\$5,326.97	
Projected Balance of Direct Assistance Funds on-hand at end of fiscal year. (June 30, 2007)		\$0.00	

Current Direct Assistance Application

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 (b) Project (c) Target (d) Hours worked by (e) Partnership Agencies (Describe project provided to district landowners, communities, general public; include purpose in 50 words or less. Describe project provided to district landowners, communities, general public; include purpose in 50 words or less. 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. EXEMPTIONS 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. EVERYONE 416 52 Lead Rio Grade Watershed; Costilla CD; Rio Grande CD; Conejos CD; Mosca-Hooper CD; NRCS; CORJON								-		
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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							
1	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?		Who is go	ing to do i	t?		Funding Sourc	es and Amounts	Results/Accomplishments
	now are you going to do it:	С	District		Partners	When	Dudantad	Actual	Define & quantify specific benefits & results from the project.
	2010 Activities	Individual	Planned Hours	Actual Hours	railleis		Budgeted	Actual	results from the project.
Obje	ctive A								
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New Annual Plan of Work

	District Name:								
	Plan Year:	2011 Annual Plan of Work							
				Cr	onservation Ed	ducation			
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What are you going to do?		D	istrict		Destaura		5		Results/Accomplishments Define & quantify specific benefits &
	2010 Activities	Individual	Planned Hours	Actual Hours	Partners		Budgeted	Actual	results from the project.
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New Evaluation System

1.	Does the conservation district demonstrate its prominence in its community through its general activities?
	Exceptional WellAverageBelow Average Needs Improvement
	Comments:
2.	Does the conservation district offer educational programs for its landowners?
	Exceptional WellAverageBelow Average Needs Improvement
	Comments:
3.	Does the conservation district offer educational programs for youth?
	Exceptional WellAverageBelow 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 WellAverageBelow Average Needs Improvement
	Comments:
5.	Does the conservation district collaborate in local partnerships to further conservation efforts?
3.	Exceptional WellAverage 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 WellAverageBelow Average Needs Improvement
	Comments:
7.	Does the conservation district provide input forums for stakeholders to develop its conservation
	priorities?
	ExceptionalWellAverageBelow Average Needs Improvement
	Comments:
8.	Does the conservation district effectively implement its annual plan of work?
	Exceptional WellAverageBelow 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 WellAverageBelow 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 WellAverageBelow Average Needs Improvement
	Comments:



Considerations

- Timeline
- Transparency
- Training



Questions

