



Technical Training Acceleration Grants



Question and Answer

January 11, 2018

Who is eligible to apply? Eligible applicants include Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) or Technical Services Areas (TSAs) who have coordinated with the Area Technical Training Teams to determine training topics and have obtained a letter of support from the Area Technical Training Team.

What are the funding priorities? Funding priority is given to proposals seeking to deliver technical training on topics that are identified as a high need at either the area or statewide level, especially those topics which lead to increased Job Approval Authority.

What is the role of Area Technical Training Teams? Area Technical Training Teams gather input from the SWCDs and TSAs in the area, prioritize suggested trainings and decide which topics will be included in the proposal. The Area Technical Training Teams work with SWCDs and TSAs to determine the applicant and fiscal agent, and assist in proposal development, including writing a letter of support.

What training topics are eligible? Ag Filter Strips, Agronomy Technical Note 31, Critical Area Planting, Sediment Basins, Side Inlet, Filter Strip 393, Basic Surveying, Advanced Surveying, Basic Hydrology, Forestry, Native Vegetation, Hydrology Watershed Tools or other topics identified as a priority by Area Technical Training Teams. Topics are subject to review and approval by BWSR in order to coordinate efforts across area boundaries and statewide.

What activities are eligible? Curriculum development, classroom training delivery, facility rental, training materials, and travel reimbursement for trainers. Contracting with an outside vendor to provide training is allowable.

What are the selection criteria? All complete applications submitted by the deadline will be reviewed by BWSR staff. Application approval is based on the following:

- Proposed training addressed locally identified technical training needs
- Documented support of the Area Technical Training Team
- The trainer is qualified to delivery training and is proficient in the subject matter
- Priority is given to applicants submitting requests for funds related to the delivery of technical training topics that will lead to increased or enhanced Job Approval Authority (JAA) for SWCD and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff.

Is a match required? No, local match is not required for this grant.

Are funds distributed 50/40/10 like standard Clean Water Fund Grant agreements? No. Eligible expenditures are reimbursed after the execution of the grant agreement and submittal of reports.

Who do I contact if I have questions? Contact Megan Lennon, Megan.Lennon@state.mn.us.