

**Grant Program Requirements:  
Soil Health Delivery FY25**

**Eligible Activities**

Funding may be used broadly for financial assistance and technical support activities needed to promote and facilitate the enhanced adoption of soil health practices and systems to achieve water quality, drinking water, climate, or associated benefits consistent with [Minnesota Statutes, section 103F.06](#).

Funding for the following core soil health practices are eligible statewide:

- Alley Cropping
- Conservation Cover
- Contour Buffer Strips
- Cover Crop
- Critical Area Planting
- Field Border
- Filter Strip
- Forest Farming
- Forest Stand Improvement
- Pasture and Hay Planting
- Prescribed Grazing
- Residue and Tillage Management (No Till)
- Riparian Forest Buffer
- Silvopasture
- Tree/Shrub Establishment
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation

Eligible practices are NOT limited to those above. In addition, local priority, or other supporting soil health practices may be eligible but grantees need identify those activities in the work plan process.

**Ineligible Activities**

Funds may not be used for the purchase of equipment that will be used to establish, improve, or accelerate soil health. Examples of equipment include, but are not limited to, no till drills, air seeders, high boys, variable rate equipment, and retrofit projects to convert corn detasslers to high boys.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Soil Health Financial Assistance Grant provides cost-share for the purchase and retrofit of soil health equipment. Additional information can be found at [Soil Health Financial Assistance Program Grants | Minnesota Department of Agriculture](#).

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture's AgBMP Loan program is a water quality program that provides low-interest loans to farmers, rural landowners, and agriculture supply businesses. Soil Health equipment purchases that address water quality concerns are eligible. Additional information can be found at [Agriculture Best Management Practices \(BMP\) Loan Program | Minnesota Department of Agriculture \(state.mn.us\)](#)

**District Financial Assistance Policy**

If contracts will be awarded to landowners for project implementation a local SWCD financial assistance policy must be described in the work plan, or the policy referenced and attached within eLINK. Financial Assistance Policies should describe local program information such as payment rates, contract terms, and inspection schedules.

**Financial Assistance**

Grantees may provide financial assistance based on a percentage of installation cost, flat-rate, or incentive payments.

Grantee will follow requirements found within the Fiscal Year 2025 [Grants Administration Manual](#) Chapter: Implementing Contracts with Land Occupiers

**Contracts**

Conservation practice or financial assistance contracts between grant recipients and landowners are required when funds are used to provide financial assistance to install practices. When used, these contracts must, at a

minimum: provide financial assistance information and expectations; identify the responsibility for operation and maintenance, including maintenance or control of the contributing watershed; include a technical and financial plan for failures; allow for inspections by the grantee of the practice; be in effect for a period corresponding to the expected life of the project; and may be required to include replacement provisions and pro-rated pollution effectiveness replacement. For practices installed on public land, operation and maintenance plans may be identified as part of capital infrastructure maintenance. All contracts are recommended to be reviewed by the grantee's legal counsel.

### **Tennessee Warning Notice**

Local governments must give individuals notice when collecting private or confidential information from them. This is referred to as a "Tennessee warning notice". The purpose of the notice is to enable people to make informed decisions about whether to give information about themselves to the government (see Minnesota Statutes, section 13.04, subdivision 2). If Private Data is collected and disseminated as part of a BWSR Grant, BWSR will take the position that a Tennessee warning notice was provided by the LGU to all necessary individuals.

- Local Governments and grant recipients should ask the individual(s) to sign and date a Tennessee warning notice and give the individual(s) a copy as a best practice. However, notices do not need to be in writing.
- Local Governments and grant recipients should limit the private data collected or disseminated to only the data that is necessary to administer a program.
- Local Governments may also want to request assistance from their legal counsel.

### **Project and Practice Assurances**

Grantee will follow requirements found within the Fiscal Year 2025 [Grants Administration Manual](#) Chapter: Project and Practice Assurances

### **Operation, Maintenance, and Inspections of Practices**

Grantee will follow requirements found within the Fiscal Year 2025 [Grants Administration Manual](#) Chapter: Operation, Maintenance, and Inspection of Practices

### **Technical Quality Assurance**

Grantee will follow requirements found within the Fiscal Year 2025 [Grants Administration Manual](#) Chapter: Technical Quality Assurance

### **Vegetation Requirements**

Grantee will follow requirements found within the Fiscal Year 2025 [Grants Administration Manual](#) Chapter: Vegetation Requirements for BWSR Funded Projects

### **Additional Requirements**

When practicable, grant recipients shall prominently display on their website the legacy logo. Grant recipients must display on their website either a link to their project from the Legislative Coordinating Commission Legacy Site (<http://legacy.leg.mn>) or a clean water project summary that includes a description of the grant activities, including expenditure of grant funds and measurable outcomes.

When practicable, grant recipients must display a sign with the Legacy Logo at the project site or other public location identifying the project was built with assistance from Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. When practicable, grant recipients must display the Legacy Logo on printed and other media funded with money from the Clean Water Fund. The logo and specifications can be found at <http://www.legacy.leg.mn/legacy-logo>.

For questions regarding Grants Administration Manual requirements, grantees should consult their assigned Board Conservationist.