

New grants would expand reach of conservation messages

New funding is available from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to support conservation outreach and education efforts designed for non-native English-speaking communities.

Bridging Conservation is a grant program funded by a one-time \$250,000 state general fund appropriation. Grants can be used for a wide range of activities such as translating conservation materials, providing live interpretation at workshops and events, and staff time spent on related initiatives.

“With this grant program, we hope to support awardees in creating lasting conservation impacts by helping to build community knowledge, leadership and self-sustaining conservation practices,” said Mandy Duong, BWSR organizational development and DEI coordinator. “By providing education and outreach to non-native English-speaking communities, we can reach and connect with Minnesotans who traditionally may not have access to the conservation work that BWSR supports.”

BWSR opened a Request for Proposals for the program on Feb. 4. Grant requests must range between \$15,000 and \$45,000; no awardee match is required. Grant-related work can begin in June 2026 and must conclude in December 2027. Eligible applicants include soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, cities, counties, townships, joint powers organizations, nonprofit organizations, Tribal Governments and public schools.

Minnesota includes significant populations of non-English speaking communities. [U.S. Census Bureau data](#) show that 13% of Minnesota

DLAIM NTAWV QHA TXUG KEV PAAB

KEV PAAB CUAM NYAJ TXAS LUS TXHAWB KHU COV NRAAS TAJ IB TXWM NYOB NTAWD

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

SU HAWVIA QHEB CU V NTAWV TSO NPE:

- Teais ib xyoo rhaum twg los tau, yuav saib zyuas rauq sib ntauas tshus lub hli

COV TSEEM CEEB

- Khu tej aav kom ruaj khov kho; tshob qawj yooj yim
- Lim tej dlej seem kom moog ruaj tej tus dlej los chaw twb muaj dlej lawm
- Tiv thav dlej nyob hu qaab aav
- Ua kom zoo zos tej chaw ruaj cov tsaj qus nyob thaj tsaam ntawd, tshaj plaw ruaj cov qaab xas moov paaj ntawd ntawm ib lub paaj moog ruaj hwm lub kom paaj ntoo tshaj tuj hlub

QAUV MUAJ LE:

- Npooj tu thaj tsaam aav, tseb moog, hab cov cov nroj tsuag yeem ib txwm muaj nyob ntawd
- Khu kom zoo zos tej nroj tsuag twb yeej muaj nyob ntawd lawm nruaj

MUAJ KEV PAAB CUAM NYAJ TXAS LUS TXHAWB COV TSWY YIM LUS TSIM HAB KHU COV NRAAS TAJ IB TXWM ZOO

Tej nroj tsuag ib txwm nyob ntawm thaj tsaam ntawd paab bhwab tau ntau yaam zoo xws lerus cov dlej nyob ntawd, cov aav, hab cov kev bhwab moov paaj ntoo ntawm ib lub paaj moog ruaj hwm lub paaj kom paaj ntoo tshaj tuj hlub. Muaj kev paab cuam nyaj lus bhwab kom cog tej hom nroj tsuag yeej ib txwm nyob ntawm thaj tsaam Dakota County tag tw thaj dlej npoo hab cov dlej nyob hu qaab aav, kom aav tshob qawj yooj yim, los yog tam tau ib qhov chaw ruaj cov tsaj qus ib txwm nyob ntawd. Tis taag le ntawb xwb, cov nyaj tsa paab cuam ntawd paab bhwab tau cov tswy yim lus khu kom zoo zos tej nroj tsuag twb nyob ntawd lawm kom tam tau ib qhov chaw zoo ruaj cov muaj hwm yaam tsaj. Cov chaw xaw khu cov nraas taj kom zoo le ib txwm nyob ntawd yuav tsum tshob yog tsawg tshaj ib nraas acre.

Cov nyaj tsawg lus paab bhwab cov tsawg yim lus khu kom zoo zos tej nroj tsuag twb nyob ntawd lawm kom tam tau ib qhov chaw zoo ruaj cov muaj hwm yaam tsaj. Dakota County ntawm lub kom tam tsawg bhwab cov tsawg yim lus khu kom zoo zos tej nroj tsuag twb nyob ntawd lawm kom tam tau ib qhov chaw zoo ruaj cov muaj hwm yaam tsaj. Cov chaw xaw khu cov nraas taj kom zoo le ib txwm nyob ntawd yuav tsum tshob yog tsawg tshaj ib nraas acre.

Cov nyaj tsawg lus paab bhwab cov tsawg yim lus khu kom zoo zos tej nroj tsuag twb nyob ntawd lawm kom tam tau ib qhov chaw zoo ruaj cov muaj hwm yaam tsaj. Dakota County ntawm lub kom tam tsawg bhwab cov tsawg yim lus khu kom zoo zos tej nroj tsuag twb nyob ntawd lawm kom tam tau ib qhov chaw zoo ruaj cov muaj hwm yaam tsaj. Cov chaw xaw khu cov nraas taj kom zoo le ib txwm nyob ntawd yuav tsum tshob yog tsawg tshaj ib nraas acre.

Source: U.S. Environmental Legacy Fund

Dakota County leveraged a Groundwater Protection Accelerated Implementation Grant from the Minnesota Department of Health to publish fact sheets in Hmong (excerpt above) and Spanish on the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District's webpage. BWSR's new Bridging Conservation Program will support similar efforts by offering grants for conservation-related outreach and education to non-native English-speaking communities in Minnesota. Graphic courtesy Dakota County SWCD

households speak a language other than English at home. The most common, Spanish, is the language 4.5% of Minnesota households primarily speak at home.

“Minnesota is home to a number of immigrant farmers who would benefit from soil health resources and materials that are culturally and linguistically accessible in order to

further conservation delivery,” Duong said. “Beyond soil health, we are also looking for opportunities to work with non-native English-speaking communities on pollinator protection, habitat restoration efforts and improved water quality.”

BWSR staff members write and produce Snapshots, a monthly newsletter highlighting the work of the agency and its partners.