



## CIG Authority

CIG was authorized as part of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) [16 U.S.C. 3839aa-8] under Section 1240H of the Food Security Act of 1985, as added by Section 2509 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-246).

CIG projects must involve EQIP eligible producers.

Grant funds that are provided to a producer or entity to carry out structural, vegetative or management practices count toward each producers or entities EQIP payment limitation.

## CIG Objective

- ◆ Stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies that leverage the Federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection, in conjunction with agricultural and forest production.
- ◆ CIG must lead to the transfer of technologies, management systems, and innovative approaches into NRCS technical manuals, guides, references, conservation practices or to the private sector.
- ◆ The program does not fund research projects.

## CIG History

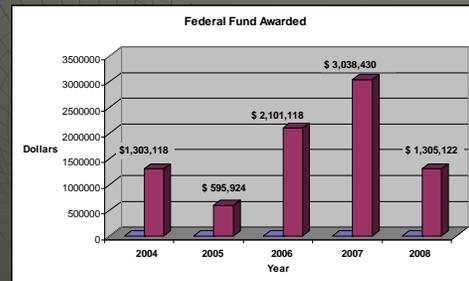
- ◆ 2004: Introduction of National CIG
- ◆ 2005: National CIG - letter of review process was added. A State component of CIG was added (piloted in 12 States)
- ◆ 2006: Interest in the State Component of CIG increased to 22 States
- ◆ 2007 & 2008: National CIG - Improvements made to application process, added additional criteria to the letter of review, and improved grant evaluation process
- ◆ 2009: CIG - Emphasis on ESA requirements. National CIG - Added a new funding category (grant leveraging category). State CIG - Oregon offers its first State CIG

## CIG History

National CIG Awarded in Oregon:

2004	2 grants awarded; \$1,303,118 Total
2005	9 applications 2 grants awarded; \$595,924 Total
2006	15 Applications 7 grants awarded; \$2,146,118 Total
2007	17 Applications 8 grants awarded; \$3,038,430 Total
2008	16 Applications 3 grants awarded; \$528,833 Total

## Total National CIG Funds Awarded by Year





National CIG

The amount available for this program in FY 2009 will be approximately \$20 million.

The anticipated funding breakdown for each category is:

- National Natural Resource Concerns: Up to \$5 million
- National Technology: Up to \$6 million
- National Grant Leveraging: Up to \$4 million
- Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Up to \$5 million

These categories also include applications that focus on Market Based Approaches.

Maximum award amount can not exceed \$2 million

CIG will fund single or multi year projects, not to exceed 3 years.

State CIG

The amount available for this program in FY 2009 will be approximately \$500,000.

The funding category offered will be the Natural Resources Category, which include an additional subcategory comprised of state priority issues.

Individual grants can not exceed \$75,000.

CIG will fund single or multi year projects, not to exceed 3 years.

Matching funds

Applicants must provide non-Federal match funds for at least 50 percent of the project cost. Up to half of the applicant's matching funds (up to 25 percent of the total project cost) may be from in-kind contributions.

In addition, an exception regarding matching funds is made for projects funded out of the set-aside for applications from Beginning Farmers or Ranchers, Socially Disadvantaged Farmers or Ranchers, or community-based organizations comprised of or representing these entities. Up to three-fourths of the required matching funds for such projects (up to 37.5 percent of the total project cost) may derive from in-kind contributions.

Definitions

Beginning Farmer and Rancher

- ◆ Has not operated a farm or ranch or who has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 consecutive years. And will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm or ranch.

Definitions

Socially Disadvantaged Farmer and Rancher (SDA)

- ◆ A farmer or rancher who has been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as a member of a group without regard to their individual qualities.
- ◆ Those groups include: African American, American Indian or Alaskan natives, Hispanics, and Asians or Pacific Islanders.

(Section 3501(e)(2) of the Food, Agricultural, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 USC 2279(e)(2))

## Eligibility

- ◆ CIG applicants must be a federally recognized Indian Tribe, State, or local units of government, non-governmental organizations, or individuals.
- ◆ Must involve landowners who meet the EQIP eligibility requirement, either direct or indirect.
- ◆ Leads to NRCS technical manuals, guides and references or adoption in the private sector

## Restrictions

CIG funds may not be used for:

- Costs above the amount of funds authorized for the project.
- Cost incurred prior to the effective date of the grant.
- Cost which lie outside the scope of the approved project.
- Entertainment costs.
- Compensation of injuries or damage to person(s) or property.
- Renovation or refurbishment of research or related spaces
- Purchase of fixed equipment in research or related spaces.
- Planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition
- Construction of buildings or facilities

## Additional Requirements

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and NRCS regulations that implement NEPA require that an environmental review be prepared for actions where the Agency has discretion and control. Financial assistance under the CIG program requires compliance with these regulations. Applicants are required to provide environmental information pertaining to their project to help NRCS determine the appropriate documentation required to comply with NEPA and NRCS regulations.

Applicants may consult with NRCS Environmental Liaison concerning the scope of what should be addressed in the application.

If selected the applicant will be required to prepare and/or pay for the preparation of the appropriate NEPA document (e.g., Environmental Assessment and/or Environmental Impact Statement if required for NEPA compliance). Grant funding cannot be approved until the environmental review requirements demonstrating compliance with NEPA are met.

## Additional Requirements

### National CIG ONLY

Applicants are required to send a copy of their proposal to the appropriate State Conservationist(s).

State Conservationist(s) must review the proposals for potential duplication of efforts, ethical concerns, and consistency with overall EQIP objectives and develop a letter of review.

State Conservationist(s) has two weeks after the CIG deadline to submit the letter(s) of review to National Headquarters.

## National CIG Application

[www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cig](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cig)  
or  
<http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov>

The application period deadline is March 20, 2009.

CIG awards are announced by June 30, 2009

All agreements are expected to be awarded by September 30, 2009

### State CIG Application

For FY 2009:

- ◆ Anticipated announcement for the State CIG composition will be in March.
- ◆ The CIG State component will use the same requirements and procedures established for the national CIG. This will be outlined in the Announcement for Program Funding (APF).
- ◆ Category offered under the state CIG will be the Natural Resource Concerns with subcategories of: water resources, soil resources, atmospheric resources, grazing lands, forest health, and wildlife habitat. An additional subcategory of state priority Issues will be offered.

This category also include applications that focus on Market Based Approaches.

## State Priority Issues

- ♦ Innovative approaches to Integrated Pest Management, including variable rates and timing of pesticide applications; regionally specific guidelines that reflect climate, soil, etc.; and biotechnological opportunities that reflect regional conditions
- ♦ New/unique methods for water use monitoring, soil profile water measurement and water budgeting
- ♦ New methods/technologies to reduce water use on dairy operations
- ♦ Methods or approaches for encouraging landowner adoption of practices that benefit at-risk species to list species under the Endangered Species Act
- ♦ Development of techniques and methods to improve forest establishment and reduce tree mortality
- ♦ Development of methods and/or technologies to improve energy efficiencies on agricultural land;
- ♦ Bio-based energy opportunities;
- ♦ Energy audit of activities related to natural resource concerns (soil, water, air, plants, and animals) on agricultural lands

## State Priority Issues

- ♦ Use of new technologies for cellulosic ethanol production
- ♦ Demonstration of conservation practices and systems that are effective for organic crops and livestock/poultry production;
- ♦ Market based methods to promote use of agriculture waste to make it a marketable product, including group collection methods and market/product identification;
- ♦ Identify and develop mechanisms to provide market and/or incentive-based approaches to maintain or improve wildlife habitat on private land;
- ♦ Ways to encourage economically viable markets for secondary forest products to improve forest stand condition;
- ♦ Development of production techniques and markets for alternative crops that have multiple uses (oil seed crops can be used for fuel, cosmetics, food, industry, etc).

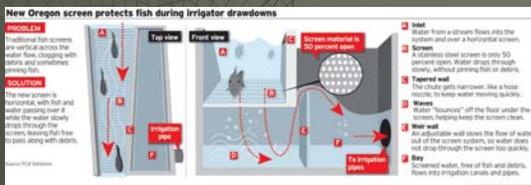
## What kind of projects qualify for CIG?

- ♦ Not Research projects!  
It is a vehicle to promote the development and adoption of innovative approaches and technologies.
- ♦ It can target on-the-ground conservation, including pilot projects and field demonstrations.
- ♦ The innovative approach or technology must address a natural resource conservation concern or concerns

## Examples of National CIG Awards

- ♦ Thermophillic Anaerobic Digestion Process
- ♦ Market incentives for conservation
- ♦ Management strategies and methods
- ♦ Agriculture Chemical Recovery
- ♦ Farmers Screen Project
- ♦ Demonstration and evaluation projects

## Save crops, fish and money all at once? Farmers design an answer



## Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)

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**For More Information:**

[www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cig](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cig)  
or  
<http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov>