

The purpose of Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) is to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies. CIG projects are expected to lead to the transfer of conservation technologies, management systems, and innovative approaches (such as market-based systems) into NRCS technical manuals or guides, or to the private sector. CIG does not fund research projects. Instead, it is a vehicle to stimulate the development and adoption of conservation approaches or technologies that have been studied sufficiently to indicate a high likelihood of success and to be candidates for eventual technology transfer. CIG funds projects targeting innovative on-the-ground conservation, including pilot projects and field demonstrations. NRCS in Rhode Island will accept applications for single or multi-year projects, not to exceed three years, submitted from eligible entities, including Federally-recognized Indian Tribes, State and local governments, and non-governmental organizations and individuals. Applications will only be considered for projects within Rhode Island. Complete applications will be evaluated by a technical peer review panel and scored based on the Criteria for Proposal Evaluation identified in the grant announcement. Rhode Island NRCS anticipates that the amount available for support of this program in FY 2009 will be approximately \$165,000, with individual grants not to exceed \$75,000. Funds will be awarded through a statewide competitive grants process. Two categories will be offered for Rhode Island CIG: Natural Resource Concerns and Technology.