

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Producer-Led Watershed
Protection Grant Program



PLWPG FAQ

Q

Are grants available each year?

A

Yes, the application period for Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grants (PLWPG) **opens at the beginning of July each year**. The application period **closes mid-September**. Successful applicants are notified of their award (maximum of \$40,000 award per group) within 60 days of the application closing date.

PLWPG FAQ

Q

Can we get assistance when starting a producer-led group?

A

Yes, DATCP staff can meet with farmers and other group stakeholders to explain how the program works, give application tips, and share information about other successful farmer-led groups. They can also connect you to leaders of other established farmer-led groups. New groups can attend other group's field days and **may also invite farmers from other groups to come and speak with them about the lessons they have learned along the way.**

PLWPG FAQ

Q

How are applications ranked?

A

Applications are evaluated for their ability to improve water quality in a watershed project area and are based on a combination of: Need, Workplan, Anticipated Outcomes, Organizational Capacity, Budget, and Communications. **There are two ranking criteria;** one for new groups (less than two years established) and established groups (established for at least two years). Criteria are outlined in the Request for Proposals.

PLWPG FAQ

Q

Is match required to apply for a grant?

A

A 1:1 match is required for PLWPGs. Match must relate to the work of your producer-led group and within the watershed that the work is being completed.

Example: Total requested funds of \$40,000 requires a \$40,000 match. Of the required 1:1 match, 50% cash match is required (\$20,000 in this example), the remaining amount (\$20,000) may be in-kind match.

PLWPG FAQ

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What is the difference between cash match and in-kind match?

A

Cash match is the direct project expense the group provides as your contribution to the project. This may include: grants from other funding sources, cash donations from sponsors, or a farmer's expenses (excluding time) to implement matching acres of a conservation practice. **In-kind match** is materials, services, space and utilities, equipment and technical assistance provided by your group or donated by a project partner for the project. This may include: time spent at a rate of \$25/hour including put towards grant activities, contributions such as donated facility rentals for events, printed materials for projects, etc. For a more comprehensive list of match examples, contact the Program Manager.

PLWPG FAQ

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Can we request up-front funds for our grant?

A

No. Producer-Led grants are reimbursement-based grants. Recipients must provide proof of funds spent before reimbursement occurs.

PLWPG FAQ

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Can we purchase equipment with grants?

A

No, equipment purchases are not allowed, however, grant funds may be used to cover the cost of renting equipment from either a local county land conservation department or another farmer.

PLWPG FAQ

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Can we pay for staff with grants?

A

Groups may request up to 25% of their total request for administrative costs, which includes staff time. The rate for staff time is currently capped at \$25/hour. County staff time that is already covered by DATCP SWRM staffing grants may not be paid for with PLWPGs.

PLWPG FAQ

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How often can we submit reimbursement requests?

A

Reimbursement requests can be submitted at any time once the grant contract begins, however, we encourage groups to submit reimbursement requests no more than two times per year.

PLWPG FAQ

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Do we have to report on conservation practices installed by the farmers in our group?

A

Yes, a requirement of accepting a PLWPG is agreeing to submit a final report which includes the Conservation Tracking Sheet. This helps DATCP track the outcomes and progress of the PLWPG Program and share those successes with the public.