



# Applying for NRCS Programs

A Step-by-Step Guide for Producers in the Baltimore and Washington DC area



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## Site Visit

The first step in applying for financial assistance is to contact your local NRCS field office to schedule a site visit to your farm or property to discuss your conservation options with our Conservation Planners and Technicians.

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## Establish Records with Farm Service Agency

Your NRCS Conservation Planner will work with you and the Farm Service Agency to establish and farm and tract number for your property. This is a required step in developing a Conservation Plan and applying for Federal Financial Assistance.

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## Develop a Conservation Plan

Based on discussions during your site visit, our field staff will work with you to develop a Conservation Plan that outlines your goals for conservation work on your property and identifies potential financial assistance options and opportunities.

Continued



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## Submit Your Application

Your application can be turned in any time, however annual funding cycle deadlines for Maryland and DC are usually set in December or January each year. These dates vary from year to year. Check with your local field office for updated due dates.



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## Submit Eligibility Documentation

Work with your Conservation Planner and Farm Service Agency to submit eligibility documentation, including direct deposit information and proof of land ownership or permission from a landowner if the applicant is not the owner of the property. Applicants are strongly encouraged to start this process as soon as their application has been submitted.



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## Preapproval and Contracting

All NRCS financial programs are competitive applications and funding is not guaranteed until a contract is signed. If your contract is preapproved for funding you will be notified by your field office and they will work with you to finalize your contract and submit for final approval. Contracts are typically signed between April and August depending on the program and fund pools; these dates often vary. Reach out to your field office for updates and deadlines.

To learn more, find us online at  
[www.md.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.md.nrcs.usda.gov)





## NRCS Program FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions for  
Urban Producers Applying for  
EQIP and AMA

### **I do not own my land, am I eligible to apply?**

It is required that all applicants are able to show proof of control of land for the lifespan of the practice they are applying for. This can be done through a deed, lease or the landowner can sign a Landowner Concurrence form during eligibility that permits the applicant to proceed with installation. Practices with a one year lifespan are exempt from this rule.

### **When can I expect my payment for my project?**

Work with your Conservation Planner and Farm Service Agency to submit eligibility documentation, including direct deposit information and proof of land ownership or permission from a landowner if the applicant is not the owner of the property. Applicants are strongly encouraged to start this process as soon as their application has been submitted.

### **Who is eligible to apply?**

Individuals, businesses and non-profits are eligible to apply but must meet Adjusted Gross Income eligibility requirements. Government agencies and entities are not eligible. Producers can apply on private land and on state, federal or other government owned land if it is operated or managed by a nonprofit, business or individual.

### **Am I eligible for a higher payment rate?**

Applicants will self-determine on their application if they are a Historically Underserved Producer which includes: Beginning Farmer, Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource and Veteran Farmers. Historically Underserved farmers are eligible for a higher payment rate which differ for each practice.

