



Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts

2022 Legislative Priorities

1996 to 2008:

\$1,150,000

General Fund Dollars

2008 to 2010:

\$1,000,000

General Fund Dollars

2011 to 2017:

\$975,000

General Fund Dollars

2018 to 2021:

\$907,300

**Tobacco Settlement
Dollars**

Direct Aid for Conservation Districts

1. This money is appropriated to the conservation districts to assist each of them in carrying their statutory authority and is distributed based on how the district complies with the oversight requirements of the Soil and Water Conservation Commission (audit requirements, reports, scheduling, etc.).
2. Direct Aid funds match local and federal funds in hiring needed technical and administrative staff to assist the citizens in each county to address conservation and environmental issues. Districts currently have a 75% federal grant available for technical assistance if they can provide the matching 25%. We have the federal funds to hire up to 50 technicians statewide but at this time only have hired 28 due to lack of district funding.
3. This money helps districts maintain office space in each county, especially those who no longer have a NRCS office in their county.
4. This allows districts to provide additional financial assistance to landowners to address conservation concerns and address other environmental concerns in their communities. (Fallen Animal Pickup, Metal Recycling, etc.)
5. This money rolls over several times in the local communities.
6. 30+ counties are administering the CAIP Program in cooperation with Agriculture Development Board and Kentucky Office of Ag Policy is encouraging more districts to help administer the program.
7. These funds help pay for required audits for conservation districts

REQUEST: \$1.2 Million per year for Direct Aid for Conservation Districts to leverage federal and local funds

Equipment Revolving Loan Program

The KY Division of Conservation administers the Equipment Revolving Loan Program, which has been in effect since 1948. During this time, over \$62 million has been loaned to more than 2,000 individuals and conservation districts.

REQUEST: To replenish the \$1.2 million that was swept from the account in 2019.



**For more information please visit our
website:**

WWW.KYConservation.com

Kentucky Soil Erosion & Water Quality State Cost Share Program



1. These funds are used to carry out practices to keep producers in compliance with their Ag Water Quality Plans. To reduce soil erosion, decrease nutrient runoff, and to make our streams cleaner. This affects everyone in the state.
2. They also provide financial assistance to landowners under the “Bad Actor Clause” of the Ag Water Quality Act to carry-out corrective measure to keep them in compliance with the Act.
3. Clean water is essential for todays farmers to supply food resources for future increasing populations.
4. This money is rolled over several times in the local communities and also as local contractors, seed and fertilizer suppliers, and supply providers are used to carry out these practices.
5. 2018: 1784 applications for \$13 million in requests.
6. From 1995-2013 a total of 44,104 applications were received and 14,187 were approved for funding of a total of \$124,039,833.31.

REQUEST: \$6 million per year for the Kentucky Soil Erosion & Water Quality State Cost Share Program.

PL-566 Watershed Dam Rehabilitation

The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (PL-566) authorizes the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to help organizations and units of government plan and implement watershed projects.

Requesting special funds to establish a Matching Watershed Dam Infrastructure Revolving Fund to match federal and local funds for the purpose of the rehabilitation of high hazard watershed dams across the Commonwealth.

REQUEST: \$5 million to leverage federal and local funds to establish a matching Watershed Dam Infrastructure Revolving Fund

**1995:
(Start of Program)
\$650,000
Restricted Fund Dollars
From KDA**

**1996:
\$ 1,150,000
Restricted & General
Fund Dollars**

**1997 to 2002:
\$11,150,000
Restricted, General &
Tobacco Settlement
Dollars**

**2003 to 2008:
\$9,550,000
Federal, Restricted &
Tobacco Settlement
Dollars**

**2009 to 2020:
Gradually Dropped To
\$2,500,000
Tobacco Settlement
Dollars**

