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## Regional Conservation Partnership Program



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## RCPP

- Authorized under the 2014 Farm Bill
- Establishes a single partnership program by combining authorities of 4 existing programs. i.e. Ag Water Enhancement Program (AWEP), Chesapeake Bay WS Program (CBWI), Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI), Great Lakes Basin Prog for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control (GRBP)



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## Contributing Programs

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
- Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP)



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## RCPP Annual Funding

- \$100 million per year 2014 – 2018
- Plus 7% of covered programs funding or acres (EQIP, ACEP, CSP, HFRP).



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## RCPP Features

- Coordination between NRCS and partners
- RCPP requires a minimum of a 1:1 match of funds from partners.
- Assistance to producers and landowners



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## RCPP Benefits

- Increase the restoration and sustainable use of soil, water, wildlife and related natural resources
- Regional or watershed scales
- Help producers install and maintain conservation activities
- Leverage USDA funding



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## RCPP Projects may focus on:

- Water Quality and Quantity
- Erosion
- Wildlife Habitat
- Drought and Flood Control
- Other Regional Priorities



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## RCPP Project Selections are:

- Competitive
- Merit based
- Leverage partner funding
- Address regionally important resources



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## Eligible RCPP Partners

- Agricultural or silvicultural producer associations
- Farmer cooperatives or other groups of producers
- State or local governments
- American Indian tribes
- Municipal water treatment entities
- Water and irrigation districts
- Conservation-driven nongovernmental organizations
- Institutions of higher education



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## RCPP Administration

- Conservation program contracts or easement agreements
- Under the framework of a partnership agreement.



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## Eligible RCPP Participants

- Eligible producers and landowners
- Agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland



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## RCPP Funding

- Funding is allocated to projects in three categories
- CCA – Critical Conservation Areas – the Sec of Ag has selected 8 geographic areas. These receive 35% of the funding.



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## RCPP Funding Continued

- National - For nationwide and multistate projects. These receive 40 percent of funding
- State - For projects in a single state. These receive 25 percent of funding.



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## RCPP 2014-2015

- \$370 million available funding
- 115 agreements
- 600 pre-proposals were submitted for funding. 200 were asked to submit full proposals.



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# Questions



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For more information:  
[www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov)

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