

**INFORMATION ABOUT THE WATERSHED PROTECTION FUND (WSPF) PROGRAM**

The Iowa Watershed Protection Fund (WSPF) program was established in 1999 to accelerate watershed protection efforts in the state. The authorization for these funds is broader than for the Water Protection Fund (WPF) or Section 319 funding. Primary goals include building the capacity of local communities to sponsor watershed protection efforts, and providing resources to leverage other funding available at the federal and local level.

Project applications will be evaluated according to the strength of their watershed approach. In addition, cooperation of the SWCD, state agencies, local units of government, and private organizations to protect soil, water quality, and other natural resources, and provide flood reduction in the watershed will be evaluated.

Though implemented through Soil and Water Conservation Districts, applicants are encouraged to involve partners representing both public and private interests. Projects should focus on implementation and achievement of watershed objectives (they may also include components of assessment, monitoring or evaluation, GIS development, education and/or public information and outreach, if these elements clearly contribute to achieving the stated objectives).

Please use the budget forms provided in this packet and clearly indicate the amount of money being requested for each year. In addition:

- Projects that received WSPF funding in the previous year need to submit a work plan and budget for the coming year to be considered for subsequent funding.
- Proposals that include payments to landowners for structures or best management practices should be based on reasonable cost-share levels (rates higher than 75 percent will be reviewed with consideration for cost effectiveness and local buy-in).
- If matching funds are available from landowners, local government, or other sources, the type of match should be clearly indicated. Applicants are encouraged to offer a cash match which indicates local investment in and support of the project.
- If structures are to be constructed or rehabilitated, indicate the level of upland treatment that will be required to help protect and maintain them into the future.

For questions regarding the WSPF, please contact:

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