



Washington State
**Conservation
Commission**

State Cost Share Program

STEWARDSHIP FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The [Washington State Conservation Commission](#) (WSCC) provides cost share assistance to help you adopt best management practices for your land and natural resources. You can receive cost reimbursements to implement USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service-approved conservation [practices](#) through competitive funding programs like the [NRI](#), [Sustainable Farms and Fields](#), and [Shellfish](#) Programs. **Whidbey Island Conservation District (WICD)** helps administer local reimbursements of up to 75% for [historically underserved](#) applicants and 50% for others.



HOW IT WORKS

You will work with WICD Planners to complete several preliminary tools and worksheets in line with our [conservation planning](#) process. At the start of a funding biennial cycle, they will submit your application to WSCC for review, and, if selected for funding, will help guide you through the implementation and reimbursement process.

ASSESS YOUR ELIGIBILITY

APPLICANT

- Project will improve natural resource management
- Own land or landowner is willing to co-sign contract
- Must submit at least one written bid for contractors
- For work to be completed yourself, submit a project plan with estimates of costs, labor, and equipment
- You can complete project within funding biennium
- You have not terminated or failed to complete a prior WSCC contract
- You agree to maintain the project to NRCS standards for its designated lifetime

PROJECT COSTS

- WSCC Cost Share award limit is \$100,000 per applicant per fiscal year (Aug-July)
- Licensed and [verified](#) contractor charges
- Materials purchased (excluding tools and equipment) and equipment rental
- Employee Labor costs
- Applicant's own labor and labor provided at no cost (friends and family) at \$22 per hour
- Use of applicant's own equipment valued according to the [USDA Farm Service Agency](#).

State Cost Share Program How to Get Started

1. SITE VISIT & PLANNING

Start by using our [Request Assistance](#) form to begin your client intake interview process and schedule a site visit with a planner to assess your natural resource goals and concerns.



2. PRELIMINARY WORK

A WICD planner will work with you on the [9-step conservation planning](#) process to demonstrate the need and efficacy of implementing a conservation practice. A few follow-up visits may be needed to confirm and review your planning paperwork. This process occurs over several months, while you also solicit approved contractor bids and develop your plan of work.

3. WSCC REVIEW

If pre-work is completed by **April 1st** prior to a **funding period** (annual or biannual depending on fund pool), your planner will present your project to WICD staff for review and ranking. Approved projects will then be submitted to WSCC for statewide ranking and funding decisions.

4. NOTIFICATION

If awarded, a contract will be presented to you by your planner and explained in detail in person before signing. **Do not start work prior to contract certification by WICD Board Chair and completion of Cultural Resource Compliance process** (typically 2 months after you sign).



5. CONTRACT IMPLEMENTATION

Your planner will work with you to help you implement your contract stipulations and timeline **within the funding period** set by state fund pools. Your planner helps you ensure that your required documentation is updated, and that you track expenses accurately. You will be responsible for managing contractors and local permitting and inspections as needed. Once complete, your planner will inspect and certify the project meets NRCS standards and submit to WSCC.

HOW DOES REIMBURSEMENT WORK?

After certification, WICD will collect your final cost documentation and submit to WSCC for reimbursement. **You will be required to monitor and maintain the practice as laid out in your contract.**

Payments are based on the following:

- A yearly maximum of \$100,000
- Total financial assistance from all sources (i.e. grants, federal) shall not exceed 100% of the total project eligible expenses
- Partial payments may be possible for projects including multiple practices once an individual practice is completed, if the rest will be complete within 6 months

Ready to GET STARTED?

Contact us to get started with an orientation and intake interview

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