



Virginia Conservation
Assistance Program

Presented by Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts



National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant Opportunity

NFWF funding has been provided to increase accessibility to VCAP within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. This funding is cost-share and is able to be stacked with other funding sources.

NFWF Funding can be used in several ways:

Design Fees

- Interested participants can receive up to \$250 for a single practice in order to develop designs for projects.
- Design fees can only be paid directly to a contractor, designer, or landscaper using the [Assignment of Payment Form](#).
- In order to be eligible for design fees, applicants and districts must complete the following:
 - Interested applicants must have a site visit with a district employee or affiliated partner organization.
 - The applicant and staffer must complete the [Site Assessment Checklist](#) available on the VASWCD Website and the Assignment of Payment Form
 - The district will submit the Site Assessment Checklist, an invoice requesting design fees to be paid from the installer/contractor, the Assignment of Payment Form, and the Payment Request Checklist to the Steering Committee for review and approval.
- Once approved by the Steering Committee, the VASWCD will issue payment to the district; the district will issue the requested fees to the installer/contractor.
- Districts will issue a 1099-NEC to the contractor/installer before January 31st of the following calendar year.
- Applicants are limited to one request for design fees per practice.
- Design Fees are considered part of cost share and will be counted towards the total eligible costs/total cost share.

Stacking Funds

- Community-facing projects in any are of Virginia are eligible for stacking up to 100% of costs of the project.

- Community-facing projects must demonstrate a plan to advertise VCAP, either through available temporary signage or more permanent signage. VCAP does not reimburse the cost of signage.
- Districts will submit a [Form 7-Cost Share Adjustment Form](#) with the additional funding requested.
- The application will be reviewed using standard procedures and must meet all of the requirements and specifications outlined in the current VCAP Manual.
- This can be paired with the Assignment of Payment Form (to direct funds to a contractor/installer) and with the Start-Up Payment Program (for enrolled districts).

Stacking Funds for Low-Income Areas

- Individuals requesting practice installation within [Low-Income Areas as designated by EJScreen are](#) eligible for stacking up to 100% of costs of the project.
- Areas must be designated as 70th Percentile or above using the National Low-Income Percentiles.
- Districts will submit a Form 7-Cost Share Adjustment Form with the additional funding requested.
- The application will be reviewed using standard procedures and must meet all of the requirements and specifications outlined in the current VCAP Manual.

Stacking for Low-Income Applicants outside of EJScreen Priority Areas

- Individuals requesting practice installation outside of the Low-Income Areas as designated by EJScreen can voluntarily provide income data to request additional funding.
 - A. Income Verification: VASWCD and the local district will verify income for those participants requesting more than 80% cost-share. Income will be verified through the following process:
 - i. A copy of their most recent IRS federal tax filing, W-2 form, 1099 form, Social Security income statement, or statement that they did not earn enough income to file taxes (statement should include the minimum funding amount needed to require to file taxes).
- Eligible individuals must demonstrate their household income is below 2x the federal poverty rate.

Poverty Thresholds for 2022 by Size of Family and Number of Related Children Under 18 Years

(In dollars)

Size of family unit		
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	Weighted average thresholds	2x Federal Poverty
One person (unrelated individual):	14,880	29,760
Under 65 years.....	15,230	30,460
65 years and over.....	14,040	28,080
Two people:	18,900	37,800
Householder under 65 years.....	19,690	39,380
Householder 65 years and over.....	17,710	35,420
Three people.....	23,280	46,560
Four people.....	29,950	59,900
Five people.....	35,510	71,020
Six people.....	40,160	80,320
Seven people.....	45,690	91,380
Eight people.....	51,010	102,020
Nine people or more.....	60,300	120,600

EJ Screen Technical Documentation and Definitions

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2023. EJScreen Technical Documentation.
<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-06/ejscreen-tech-doc-version-2-2.pdf>

Low-Income Definition from EJ Screen

Low-income is defined as a household whose income is less than or equal to twice the poverty level. For example, a household of four with a reported \$40,000 total annual income is lower than twice the poverty threshold of \$52,992 (\$26,496 is the poverty threshold defined by the U.S. Census Bureau for 2020). This household will fall into the category of “low income” in EJSscreen. The poverty level is updated by the U.S. Census Bureau annually and varies by family size and composition. The poverty level is a national number and the same across all geographic regions. To accommodate differences in the varying costs of living across the United States and other factors, EJSscreen uses twice the poverty level to capture low income households especially in high cost areas.

The rationale for using twice the poverty threshold rather than just the poverty threshold includes the following considerations:

- The effects of income on baseline health and probably on other aspects of susceptibility are not limited to those below the poverty thresholds.
- Many studies in various fields use 2x poverty.
- When using twice the poverty threshold, the number or percent low income happens to roughly equal the number or percent people of color in the United States.

How does EJSscreen determine percent low income?

The ACS low income information is captured in the table Ratio of Income to Poverty Level in the Past 12 Months (ACS Table ID: C17002).