



Natural Resources Conservation Service
220 Davidson Ave, 4th Floor
Somerset, NJ 08873

Telephone: 732-537-6040
Fax: 732-537-6095
Web site: <http://www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov>

Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)

The Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) was set up by Congress to respond to emergencies created by natural disasters. It is designed to relieve imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural occurrences. All projects undertaken must be sponsored by a political subdivision of the State, such as a city, county, general improvement district, or conservation district. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is responsible for administering the program.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is financial assistance available?

NRCS may bear up to 75 percent of the construction cost of emergency measures. The remaining 25 percent must come from local sources and can be in the form of cash or in-kind services. When the local sponsor provides design and contracting services, an additional credit is provided increasing the NRCS share of the construction costs.

What are the criteria for assistance?

All EWP work must reduce threats to life and property. Furthermore, it must be economically and environmentally defensible and sound from an engineering standpoint. All work must represent the least expensive alternative. EWP funds cannot be used to reimburse for work begun before an assistance agreement is signed.

Who is eligible?

Public and private landowners are eligible for assistance but must be represented by a project sponsor. The project sponsor must be a public agency of state, county, or city government, or a special district.

What does the sponsor have to do?

Sponsors are responsible for providing landrights to do repair work and securing the necessary permits. Sponsors are also responsible for furnishing the local cost share and for accomplishing the installation of work. The work is generally done under a grant agreement using local design and contracting services.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



Natural Resources Conservation Service
220 Davidson Ave, 4th Floor
Somerset, NJ 08873

Telephone: 732-537-6040
Fax: 732-537-6095
Web site: <http://www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov>

What kind of work can be done?

EWP work is not limited to any one set of prescribed measures. A case by case investigation of the needed work is made by NRCS. EWP work can include: removing debris from stream channels, road culverts, and bridges; reshaping and protecting eroded banks; correcting damaged drainage facilities; repairing levees and structures; reseeding damaged areas; and purchasing floodplain easements.

What can't EWP do?

EWP funds cannot be used to solve problems that existed before the disaster or to improve the level of protection above that which existed prior to the disaster. EWP cannot fund operation and maintenance work, or repair private or public transportation facilities or utilities, and EWP funds cannot be used to install measures not essential to the reduction of hazards. In addition, EWP funds cannot be used to perform work on measures installed by another federal agency, nor can EWP funds be used to repair coastal erosion to beaches, dunes, and shorelines.

How do Sponsors get assistance?

To request assistance, Sponsors may call a local NRCS service center or make an application directly to the State Conservationist at the address above. The sponsor's application should be in the form of a letter signed by an official of the sponsoring organization. The letter should include information on the nature, location, and scope of the problem for which assistance is requested. Information is available from NRCS offices to explain the eligibility requirements for the EWP program. Applications for assistance may also be sent to your [local USDA Service Center](#).

Hackettstown Service Center	Phone 908 852-2576 FAX 908 852-4666
Frenchtown Service Center	Phone 908 782 4614 FAX 908 782-0501
Freehold Service Center	Phone 732 462-0075 FAX 732 462-5274
Columbus Service Center	Phone 609 267-1639 FAX 609 267-3007
Vineland	Phone 856 205-1225 FAX 856 205-0691
Woodstown	Phone 856 769-1126 FAX 856 769-0718

CURRENT FUNDING STATUS AS OF 10/31/12: Limited funds are available for urgent and life threatening situations. Additional funding must await supplemental appropriations by the US Congress.