

## Working Groups—Financial Assistance

SITE VISIT (1a)	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (1b)
Initial visit with landowner / land user to assess resources & discuss resource concerns. Complete site visit form and submit to Regional Soil Health Specialist.	Follow-up with landowner / land user on options for planning & implementation of soil health practices. Complete technical assistance form and submit to Regional Soil Health Specialist.
<b>\$100.00</b> <i>Per visit (unique locations, not repeat to same one)</i>	<b>\$150.00</b> <i>One-time, for follow-up assistance after initial visit</i>
EDUCATIONAL EVENT (2a)	EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL (2b)
Host a soil health education event to promote urban and small farm soil health topics to general public and/or ICP staff. Events can include field days, on-farm demos, grower roundtables, etc.	Develop and administer educational programs or materials related to urban and small farm soil health. Materials can include soil health signage, fact sheets, videos, publications etc.
<b>\$ Cost Reimbursement</b> <i>Average cost ~\$1,000 Requires 25% match (non-federal employees)</i>	<b>\$ Cost Reimbursement</b> <i>Average cost ~\$200 Requires 25% match (non-federal employees)</i>

### Payments: site visits (1a) and technical assistance (2a)

- Finances for the Local Working Group must be kept separate from other funds
  - SWCDs typically manage finances; if an organization other than the SWCD manages the account, then please contact your USH Specialist
  - Local Working Group buy-in for how funds are spent going forward
- Once accrued, payment funds can be used for related local work. Examples:
  - Cost-shared or free soil tests
  - Cover crop seed give-aways
  - Demonstration garden / materials

### Reimbursements: educational events (2a) and educational materials (2b)

- Can include
  - Speaker fees / honorariums (includes payment to growers for hosting field days, tours, workshops)
  - Food costs
- Can't include
  - Cost-share for equipment / materials on private land (note that materials for the purposes of a demonstration / event could be eligible)

## **Working Groups – Financial Assistance**

### **Site Visits (1a):**

- Meet with grower / producer / land user / landowner
- Perform and record on-site observations and converse with grower about:
  - Farm / garden site history
  - Current conditions and production practices
- Identify and provide recommendations to address resource concerns
- Perform on-site soil health and other assessments
- Complete follow-up site visit form – share with grower, Soil Health Specialist

### **Technical Assistance (1b):**

- Follow up with grower / producer / land user / landowner after site visit to provide additional recommendations and options to address concerns and improve conservation practices. Technical support and resources will depend on individual situation, and may include:
  - Provide maps – Web Soil Survey results, GIS / Google Earth / Google Maps with areas of concern and practices to address identified
  - Provide technical NRCS-guided recommendations for specific practices, which may include: No / Reduced Till, Conservation Crop Rotation, Cover Crop, Mulching, Conservation Cover, Integrated Pest Management, Nutrient Management, Seasonal High Tunnels, Hedgerow Planting
- Support grower / producer / land user / landowner in the processes to implement practices

### **Educational Events (2a)- Examples:**

- Field days
- On-farm soil health demos
- Grower roundtables
- Grower-to-grower farm tours
- Equipment demonstrations and supplies

### **Educational Materials (2b) – Examples:**

- Signage on soil health practices
- Fact sheets
- Video production

### **Function as A Local Soil Health Working Group:**

- Composed of 3 organizations / individuals
- Participate in initial training from USH Specialist (on soil health, site visits, tech assistance)
- Meet at least 4 x per year
- Identify organization to handle finances
- Host 1 x event per year
- Produce 1 x material per year
- Perform site visits, tech. assistance, educational events, and materials (group may focus on one of these activities over others)

Forms are located on our USH Box Account: [Working Group Forms \(bit.ly/ush-working-groups\)](https://bit.ly/ush-working-groups)