



# Memo

**To:** Center for Nonprofit Corporation  
D & R Greenway Land Trust  
Friends of Hopewell Open Space  
Hunterdon Land Trust  
The Land Conservancy of New Jersey  
Monmouth Conservation Foundation  
Montgomery Friends of Open Space  
The Nature Conservancy

New Jersey Conservation Foundation  
Lamington Conservancy  
Phillipsburg Riverview Organization  
Ridge & Valley Conservancy  
South Jersey Land Trust  
County Agriculture Development Boards  
Municipal Agriculture Advisory Committees

**From:** Susan E. Payne, Executive Director 

**Date:** September 18, 2023

**Re:** 2025 Fiscal Year Nonprofit Grant Application

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Enclosed is a copy of the Notice of Availability of Grant Funds and Application Deadline for the FY2025 Farmland Preservation, Nonprofit Acquisition Grant program. We have requested this notice be published in the New Jersey Register on or before **December 4, 2023**.

**Applications may be submitted for individual farms up until the June 15, 2024 deadline**, although we would encourage all participants to submit applications earlier if possible. Early submissions will allow State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) staff to proceed with evaluations, site visits and funding need estimates earlier for future appropriation requests.

We anticipate awarding grants based on need after evaluating the individual farm applications submitted and past grant expenditure performance (if applicable). As with other Nonprofit rounds, if you are submitting more than one individual farm application the SADC must prioritize them in order of quality score order pursuant to N.J.A.C. 2:76-12.2 (b). Please let us know if your agency's application prioritization is different than the quality score.

In order to provide maximum flexibility to nonprofits submitting more than one individual application, please group individual farm applications in two tiers.

## 1. Tier 1

The individual applications that have a quality score (as determined by N.J.A.C. 2:76-6.16) greater than or equal to 70% of the county average quality score as determined in the County Planning Incentive Grant (PIG) program (enclosed). The nonprofit may process these applications in any order. With this spending structure, nonprofits have the ability to pursue any approved application provided the application meets the quality score requirement.

## 2. Tier 2

Individual applications that do not meet the above quality score requirement would be processed in rank order. Prior to moving down the list of farms in this tier, the nonprofit must demonstrate that the higher-ranked applications within its Tier 2 list are not active at that time, and detail that efforts made to preserve all applications in Tier 1 did not result in an active application.

Please note that all farmland preservation applications must meet the minimum eligibility criteria set forth in N.J.A.C. 2:76-6.20. Please make sure that you have thoroughly reviewed all applications and that the applications are in compliance with N.J.A.C. 2:76-6.20 prior to submitting the application to the SADC.

To help ensure that landowners clearly understand the provisions of the Deed of Easement, the SADC has instituted the use of guidance documents. To date we have created four guidance documents that must be reviewed with and acknowledged by the landowner. They pertain to Exception Areas, Division of Premises, Nonagricultural Uses and Special Occasion Events. These guidance documents can be found in the application or at [www.state.nj.us/agriculture/sadc/publications/guidance.html](http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/sadc/publications/guidance.html). Please take the time to review these in detail with landowners and include a copy of the signed documents in your application returned to the SADC.

**The application for an individual farm can be found at:**

<https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/farmpreserve/programs/nonprofit.html>

As per N.J.A.C. 2:76-13.3 the SADC Regional Acquisition Coordinator assigned will need to coordinate a site visit for all applications in their region after submission, but before SADC preliminary approval. Please let us know if you have any questions or would like a pre-application conference with SADC staff prior to application submission.

If you have any questions regarding the process, please do not hesitate to contact your SADC Regional Acquisition Coordinator:

Hunterdon County & Program Manager..... Stefanie Miller at [Stefanie.Miller@ag.nj.gov](mailto:Stefanie.Miller@ag.nj.gov)

Atlantic, Burlington Camden, Cape May, ..... Cindy Roberts at [Cindy.Roberts@ag.nj.gov](mailto:Cindy.Roberts@ag.nj.gov)  
Cumberland & Gloucester

Bergen, Mercer, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, .....David Zaback at [David.Zaback@ag.nj.gov](mailto:David.Zaback@ag.nj.gov)  
Somerset, Sussex, & Warren

Monmouth, Ocean & Salem Counties ..... Katie Mazzella at [Katie.Mazzella@ag.nj.gov](mailto:Katie.Mazzella@ag.nj.gov)

Enclosures

cc: Regional Acquisition Coordinators

[https://sonj.sharepoint.com/sites/AG/SADC/Program Management/NonProfit/2025 Round/2025 Round Notice Memo to Nonprofits.docx](https://sonj.sharepoint.com/sites/AG/SADC/Program%20Management/NonProfit/2025%20Round/2025%20Round%20Notice%20Memo%20to%20Nonprofits.docx)

SADC County PIG "Eligible" Farm Standard Effective 1.01.24 - 12.31.24							
	2020 Average Quality Score	2021 Average Quality Score	2022 Average Quality Score	2023 Average Quality Score	2023 70% of Average Quality Score	2024 Average Quality Score	2024 70% of Average Quality Score
Atlantic	****	****	****	****	****	****	****
Bergen	****	****	****	****	****	****	****
Burlington	68.5	67.82	67.8	67.02	47.71	65.96	46
Camden	****	****	51.29	51.3	35.00	51.29	36
Cape May	59.89	59.89	65.72	<<<<<	<<<<<	<<<<<	46
Cumberland	60.93	60.85	60.43	61.73	43.00	62.10	43
Gloucester	65.29	65.21	66.63	64.19	44.00	64.49	45
Hunterdon	64.85	64.9	64.12	65.92	46.00	66.27	46
Mercer	70.48	68.96	66.13	64.74	45.00	64.74	45
Middlesex	64.29	66.04	62.36	<<<<<	43.00	53.47	37
Monmouth	70.83	71.47	68.62	64.77	45.00	69.92	49
Morris	63.24	62.85	62.16	<<<<<	<<<<<	<<<<<	43
Ocean	65.89	65.89	<<<<<	<<<<<	46.00	60.07	42
Passaic	****	****	****	****	****	****	****
Salem	70.19	69.78	69.61	67.87	47.00	68.57	48
Somerset	73.7	73.7	67.72	61.25	42.00	61.25	43
Sussex	46.91	46.91	<<<<<	<<<<<	<<<<<	<<<<<	32
Warren	64.15	63.42	63.43	68.03	47.00	64.91	45

\*\* all numbers are rounded down to the nearest whole number

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 2:76-17.2, an "eligible farm" means a targeted farm that qualifies for grant funding by achieving an individual rank score that is equal to or greater than 70 percent of the county's average quality score of all farms granted preliminary approval by the SADC through the county planning incentive grant program within the previous three funding cycles, as determined by the SADC.

N.J.A.C. 2:76-17.9 (a) and 17.2 (County Planning Incentive Grant Program)

These standards are effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024

- <<<<< to decrease processing time, the SADC utilize the average quality scores adopted in *2021 or 2022*
- N.J.A.C. 2:76-17.9 -7: any farm not meeting this standard may seek a waiver

Pursuant to Resolution FY2020R6(5) Farms that meet the following criteria will be delegated to the Executive Director for approval, subject to availability of funding:

- > All "Priority" farms have been selected; and
- > Meets the County's 70% average quality score; or
- > Is over 60% of the County's average farm size and has a density score of at least 8 points and all "Alternate" farms have been selected; or
- > Is a unique and valuable agricultural resource to the surrounding community where development poses a threat to existing investment in preservation, and it has a reasonable opportunity to remain agriculturally viable.