

STATE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

POLICY

SADC GRANTS TO COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES FOR DEVELOPING COMPREHENSIVE FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLANS

I. Purpose

To establish the requirements for a State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) cost share grant for the preparation or update of a County or Municipal Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan pursuant to N.J.A.C 2:76-17 and N.J.A.C. 2:76-17A. Pending amendments to these rules propose requiring county and municipal Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plans be updated at least every ten (10) years to maintain eligibility for the Planning Incentive Grant (PIG) program.

II. Authority

N.J.A.C. 2:76-17
N.J.A.C. 2:76-17A

N.J.S.A. 4:1C-43.1

III. Policy

To be eligible for SADC funding, all County and Municipal Plans must conform with the SADC approved Guidelines for Developing County or Municipal Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plans.

Grant Parameters

1. A maximum \$30,000 reimbursement will be provided to each county and \$20,000 to each municipality producing a Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan approved by the SADC.
2. The grant will provide cost share funding not to exceed 50% of the eligible costs of developing the Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan as described below.
3. The grant will be based on an approved work program with component task responsibilities and deadlines clearly established as part of a grant agreement, after an initial consultation meeting with SADC staff.
4. One interim progress report is required as per approved work program.

5. The planning process must include at least two public meetings by the County Agriculture Development Board (CADB) or Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC); one early to gather input and another to review the draft Plan.
6. Evidence of county and municipal coordination must be provided. AACs shall distribute the draft Plan to the CADB for comment prior to approval. Counties must distribute their draft Plan to all municipal Planning Boards and AACs in municipalities where proposed Agricultural Development Areas (ADA) are present.
7. Draft Plans must be submitted for SADC staff review prior to adoption.
8. All SADC approved plans must be adopted by the CADB or AAC and the County or Municipal Planning Board, as appropriate. Municipal plans must be adopted as elements of the municipal master plan.
9. All digital map products produced in conjunction with the Plan must be provided to the SADC in standard Geographic Information System format.

Eligible Costs

1. Grant funds may be used for both county or municipal staff or consultant services; however, a log of hours spent by each person in developing specific components must be provided on a time and materials basis.
2. Eligible material costs will be limited to direct production costs (e.g., printing, paper, etc.) and will not include purchase of equipment.
3. Labor costs will not include fringe benefits.
4. Costs will be eligible for reimbursement for Plans adopted after July 25, 2019 and before December 31, 2029.

County Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan Requirements (see Guidelines dated July 25, 2019)

1. County's Agricultural Land Base
2. County's Agricultural Industry - Overview
3. Land Use Planning Context
4. County's Farmland Preservation Program - Overview
5. Future Farmland Preservation Program
6. Agricultural Economic Development
7. Natural Resource Conservation
8. Agricultural Industry Sustainability, Retention and Promotion

Municipal Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan Requirements (see Guidelines dated July 25, 2019)

1. Municipality's Agricultural Land Base
2. Municipality's Agricultural Industry- Overview
3. Land Use Planning Context
4. Municipality's Farmland Preservation Program- Overview
5. Future Farmland Preservation Program

6. Agricultural Economic Development
7. Natural Resource Conservation
8. Agricultural Industry Sustainability, Retention, and Promotion