



Background:

In the wake of the East Palestine train derailment, Norfolk Southern Railway granted funds to Lawrence and Beaver Counties to benefit the residents and businesses of those counties. From those funds, the Lawrence County Conservation District was granted \$105,000.00 by the County Commissioners. We have established this mini-grant program to distribute the funds to residents and businesses in Lawrence County.

Overview:

Mini grants of up to \$5,000.00 will be available to help fund programs and projects in Lawrence County, Pennsylvania that support the Clean Water and Healthy Soil mission of the Conservation District or reimburse expenses that are directly related to the derailment and burn off of hazardous chemicals. Project examples are included in the Eligible Projects and Expenses section below. The grant program is open to all residents and businesses in Lawrence County but will be open early to residents in the Southwestern portion of the County. These municipalities include **North Beaver, Little Beaver, and Taylor Townships, and New Beaver, Enon Valley, Wampum, SNPJ, and Bessemer Boroughs**. Grants will be paid on a reimbursement basis and will require receipts and project photos (if applicable) to be submitted for payment. Projects or expenditures must be made within one year of the grant award or the grant award will be void and the funds re-allocated. **Residents and businesses of the above municipalities may submit applications beginning October 1, 2023. All others may submit applications beginning December 1, 2023.** The grant will be open until December 31, 2025 or until funds are exhausted.

Eligible Applicants:

The Lawrence County Conservation District's (LCCD's) Mini-Grant Program is open to all Lawrence County, Pennsylvania residents and businesses.

Eligible Projects and Expenses:

Projects and expenses will be paid on a reimbursement basis and **can include but are not limited to the following:**

Clean Water Projects - Stream or watershed cleanups, storm drain stenciling, water quality monitoring, rain gardens, rain barrels, green roofs, walls, or alleys, stream buffer plantings, stream bank restoration/stabilization, agricultural best management practices, stream fencing and crossings, grassed waterways, and reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses related to water



and well testing as a result of the train derailment.

Healthy Soil Projects – Tree plantings, native meadows, pollinator gardens, invasive plant species removals, urban agriculture, community gardens, composting, no till, regenerative, or sustainable agriculture, lawn conversion, nature play spaces, and reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses related to soil testing as a result of the train derailment.

Environmental Education – workshops and events promoting Agricultural, Forestry, Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution mitigation best management practices, stormwater management, and Agricultural best management practices. Community outreach programs related to clean water, soil health, sustainable agriculture etc.

If your project or expense is not specifically listed, please reach out to the Conservation District for guidance.

Review Process:

Applications will be reviewed by the LCCD staff and Board of Directors. Follow-up questions will be directed to the contact person on the application. Grants will be awarded monthly at the LCCD Board meetings until December 31, 2025 or until the funds are exhausted.

The LCCD reserves judgement as to the eligibility of any grant submission. Partial funding may be granted.

Application Information and Instructions:

Please complete the accompanying mini-grant application and submit to Mary Burris, District Manager, at mburris@lawrenceccd.org or by mail to the Lawrence County Conservation District, 430 Court Street, New Castle, PA 16101. **Please write “Mini- Grant Application” in the subject line or on the envelope.** Applications received by email will be acknowledged by email. If you submit via US mail, you may want to follow up with a phone call, 724 656-1908 to ensure your application was received. Questions may be directed to Mary Burris at 724 656-1908.

