



Join our 2024 PIC Grant Review Committee!

The Partners in Conservation (PIC) Grants Program supports community projects that meet our mission of helping people care for land and water. A Grant Review Committee reviews the applications and selects those that strongly meet our grant program goals.

Our Board of Directors recently updated our goals:

1. Complement other EMSWCD program efforts in water quality, soil health, fish and wildlife habitat and sustainable agriculture.
2. Increase conservation benefits for communities and populations experiencing disparities in environmental health, environmental education, and natural amenities.
3. Build resilience to climate change in local communities, mitigate climate change impacts; build momentum for climate change action.
4. Establish school and community gardens and support sustainable and culturally appropriate agriculture practices.
5. Prepare residents for careers or education in natural resources, agriculture, nature education, or other nature-related fields by supporting mentorship, youth programs, and job skill development.

EMSWCD is recruiting people to review PIC 2024 Grants. Members will recommend approximately \$800,000 in grants to non-profits, local governments, schools and educational institutions, and Native American tribes for projects that take up to two years to complete. Projects or programs must show a clear public benefit and be located within the EMSWCD service area (all Multnomah County east of the Willamette River) or serve its residents.

The Board of Directors appoints the Partners in Conservation Grant Review Committee. We seek individuals from the community with diverse professional backgrounds, lived experience and relevant expertise to serve on the committee. The committee reviews all PIC grant applications and makes funding recommendations to the Board of Directors. The Board has final approval.

[Find out more](#)

Learn more about the grant program by reading about the [24 projects awarded funding](#) last year and see who was part of our 2023 Grant Review Committee [here](#).



Apply now!

Interested in reviewing grant applications? Read on to learn more and send an email to Grant Program Manager Heather Nelson Kent before **November 15, 2023**. Heather@emswcd.org or call 503-935-5370.

Grant Review Timeline and Committee Responsibilities

Grant Review Committee members attend a one-hour orientation meeting and will be assigned 15-20 applications to read and score between **mid-January to mid-February 2024**. Applications are shared with the Grant Review Committee via ZoomGrants, an online grant management software. If using ZoomGrants presents a barrier, review committee members can receive a printed version of the applications and a scoresheet. In the one-hour virtual orientation meeting, staff will go over the instructions about using ZoomGrants, review the scoring criteria, and answer questions.

Between **late February and early March**, each review committee member meets to develop funding recommendations from their set of applications. The committee will help select a preferred date/time and individually discuss preference/comfort regarding meeting in-person or remotely.

We estimate the time commitment to be 20-25 hours total for reading and scoring the applications and attending the two meetings. Stipends of up to \$250 are available for any review member.

Conflict of Interest

If you or your immediate family a staff member or board member of an organization plans to submit a 2024 PIC grant application, you may still be eligible to serve on the review committee. Any review committee member will be excused from reading, scoring or discussing those applications. The Grant Program Manager will work with committee members to identify any conflicts of interest in advance of assigning the applications for review.

Questions?

Contact Heather Nelson Kent, Grants Program Manager
Heather@emswcd.org or call 503-935-5370

Timeline and Key Dates

- Applications due: Dec. 14, 2023
- Grant Review Committee orientation: *tentative*, Jan. 11, 2024
- Grant reading period: January 11 to February 20, 2024
- Grant review committee meetings: Between February 21 and March 14, 2024 – specific dates/times TBD
- Recommendations due to Board: March 25, 2024