To improve the quality of life and economic well-being of our communities by enhancing our human and natural resources through education and involvement in response to the needs in our Region.

MID-SOUTH RC&D MISSION STATEMENT

Grant Policy & Procedures

(11/2/2026) DISCLAIMER: **REVISIONS WILL BE MADE TO THIS FY2027 Grant Policy & Procedures DOCUMENT FOR THE INCOMING FY2028 GRANT CYCLE IN JANUARY 2027.**

Who Can Apply:

- Applicants must be a current IRS recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, unit or sub-unit of government, or a school.
    - ***Nonprofit organizations MUST BE in good standing and certified for at least two years.**

Eligible Projects:

- Directly impacts one or more Counties in the Mid-South RC&D Council Region
- Addresses unmet needs in the Mid-South RC&D Council Region
- Makes economic impact in the communities.
- Aligns with the Mid-South RC&D Mission Statement
  ("To improve the quality of life and economic well-being of our communities by enhancing our human and natural resources through education and involvement in response to the needs in our Region.")
- Adheres to the approved project priorities as set forth by the Board of Directors of the Mid-South RC&D Council (See website for detailed information.) https://midsouthrcd.org/grants
  (Priorities change each year.)
    - Community Improvement & Economic Development
    - Workforce Development
    - Emergency Preparedness
    - Youth Programs
    - Adult Programs

Counties Served:
Autauga, Bullock, Butler, Elmore, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Montgomery

Grant Amount Request Range: $5,000 (minimum) - $25,000 (maximum)

Ineligible Use of Funds:

- Salaries/Operational/Administrative Costs
- Honorariums/Scholarships/Stipends
- Endowment campaigns
- Religious organizations for religious purposes
- Individuals directly
- Public relations activities (not for promotional/marketing purposes)
- Purchase of land/real property
- Post-event or after-the-fact situations
- Internal consumable Items:
    - Clothing
    - Backpacks
    - Food
    - Postage
    - Professional Headshots
    - Internet/Telephone Service
    - Gifts
    - Meeting Spaces
    - Office Supplies
    - Entertainment
    - Website Development
    - Personal Hygiene Items
    - Registration Fees
    - Hotels
- Travel/Trips/Transportation (except for school bus transportation for educational purposes)

Adoption Process & Grantee Requirements:

- The grant cycle is open from April 1 through June 30 of each year.
- Grant applications are reviewed by staff for completion and accuracy using the rubric.
- All grant applications are sent to the appropriate County Committees for review and ranking.
    - County Committee members are required to follow the scoring rubric when ranking applications to maintain compliance with IRS regulations.
- During the County Committee meeting, the rubric is tallied for ranking order in preparation for Board approval and submitted to staff at the County Committee meeting.
- Grant applications are approved at the Board of Directors meeting in August.

- Award notifications are announced in September.
- The mandatory orientation meeting for grantees takes place in September with the overview and execution of the Cooperative Agreement.
- All projects may begin no earlier than October 1 and not before a fully executed Cooperative Agreement has been signed.
- Grantees must complete and submit Quarterly Follow-up forms by the indicated deadlines.
- To close out the grant, grantees are required to follow the guidelines as set forth in their Cooperative Agreement
- If Grantees do not meet the guidelines of the Cooperative Agreement and cannot complete the grant, their funds will be reallocated by the Board of Directors.
- If the budget necessitates upgrades, a budget revision request must be submitted to the staff for written approval from the Executive Director.

Disqualifications:

- Grantees who failed to close out their previous project due to the lack of communication with staff, not following guidelines as set forth in the Cooperative Agreement, etc., must sit out for a minimum of two years before Mid-South RC&D will consider funding the organization again. This does not apply to grantees who surrender their grant funds for reasons beyond their control.
- Grantees who have received funding for the same project for two years must sit out one year before they can apply again.
- Applications must be filed with the correct RC&D Council. Any submissions received to the incorrect council will not be considered, and Mid-South RC&D will not accept applications for projects that impact counties outside our service region.
- **Late applications submitted after the due date will not be accepted.** Any items arriving at our office separate from the original on-line application submission will not be added to the application.
- Mid-South RC&D Council reserves the right to reject any incomplete proposals without review.

Questions:

Any questions pertaining to the Grant Policy & Procedures may be submitted by email to Krystal Ward, Program Manager, at klward@midsouthrcd.org or you can call (334) 356-1855.

The Mid-South RC&D Staff and Council members can be contacted prior to the grant deadline to provide clarification and answer any questions related to the application. However, it should be noted that they are not authorized to complete any section(s) of the application or attachments for you, nor on your behalf.

****The Mid-South RC&D Board reserves the right to review/approve exceptions to this policy on a case-by-case basis.**

Approved by the Board of Directors: February 12, 2026
Date of Approval

All policies and assistance from the Council are available without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. The Council is an equal opportunity provider and employer.