2014 Healthy Soils Mini-Grant Program

ODNR/Division of Soil and Water Resources

IN COOPERATION WITH THE

Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission

Program Purpose

To provide small grants to county Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) for projects focusing on soil health education in the local community. This program was initiated to promote soil healthy initiatives and to develop model education projects that can be replicated in other counties.

Grant Information

$20,000 has been allocated for this program in this state fiscal year. Only SWCDs may apply for the mini-grants, although collaboration with other agencies or groups such as Farm Bureau, NRCS, commodity groups, and fertilizer dealers is strongly encouraged. The maximum amount that can be applied for $1,000.

Eligible Projects

Preference will be given to projects that:

- ✓ Develop model projects addressing soil health management and issues, e.g. no-till/reduced tillage, proper grazing management, benefits of cover crops and crop rotations
- ✓ Demonstrate diversity in partnerships such as local farm organizations, health departments, civic and community groups
- ✓ Leverage funding and support from outside sources
- ✓ Strengthen the education leadership role of SWCDs
- ✓ Actively involve local leaders, elected officials, and other decision makers

Examples of fundable projects:

- ✓ Soil health seminars
- ✓ Cover crop and crop rotation demonstration projects or awareness campaigns
- ✓ Soil testing initiatives
- ✓ Community events emphasizing soil health management
- ✓ Backyard composting workshops
- ✓ Public events promoting best practices for ensuring healthy soils
- ✓ Farm tours and field days

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Fundable Expenses

Fundable expenses include items that enhance the educational value of the project or provide for the implementation of the program or activity. A few examples of fundable expenses include soil health outreach materials, educational tools such as resource materials and models, printing and mailing costs, workshop/seminar expenses, guest speaker fees, and transportation expenses for tours. Please be specific on how the grant monies will be spent. While funds may be used in a variety of ways, **funds may not be used to pay for personnel costs, food, participant prizes or incentives (such as t-shirts or tote bags), or capital improvements such as construction projects.**

Application Procedures

To apply, complete the attached Mini-Grant Application. Applications may be replicated on the computer, but should follow the same formal as the printed form. **Applications must be postmarked no later than October 31, 2013** and should be sent to:

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