



BLAIR COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

www.blairconservationdistrict.org

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2017 Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Program **Deadline: May 26, 2017**

March 28, 2017

From: James Eckenrode
Watershed Specialist

To: Blair County Municipalities and other Eligible Organizations

Dear Officials:

The Blair County Conservation District would like to announce the opening of a 2nd Round for our 2017 Dirt, Gravel & Low Volume Road grants. The deadline to submit a **Dirt, Gravel & Low Volume Road application is May 26, 2017**. Any applications received after this date will not be considered for funding. To be eligible for program funds, the road must be open to public travel for a minimum of two (2) consecutive weeks annually.

Program Funds available to Blair County

\$49,000 to be spent on Dirt and Gravel Road projects

\$60,000 to be spent on Low Volume Road projects

Program:

The purpose of this program is to fund safe, efficient and environmentally sound maintenance of dirt and gravel roads as well as low volume roads, which are sealed or paved, that have been identified as a source of pollution (be it dust, sediment or polluted stormwater) to our streams.

Primary focuses will be on maintenance that addresses road base repairs, road surface stabilization using driving surface aggregate (DSA), drainage improvement/ stabilization, road bank stabilization, culvert installation/ replacement, pipe outlet protection, and re-vegetating disturbed areas. This is NOT a road paving program!

Continued on back.



- Resource Conservation since 1966 -



Additionally, applications for Low Volume Road projects (those on paved roads) must certify that the road has traffic counts of ≤ 500 vehicles per day. A copy of the Traffic Count Validation Form along with instructions can be found on the District webpage under the Government/ Dirt & Gravel Roads tab.

Eligibility:

To be eligible to receive program funds, at least one (1) person who is in charge of the development and/ or implementation of the project must have attended (or been re-certified) in Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) within the past five (5) years.

Interested in this great opportunity but have not participated before, plan for the next funding round by attending the required **FREE** Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance training, several have been scheduled for 2017.

To learn more about the Program and upcoming trainings visit the Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies webpage (Education and Training/ ESM Course) for more details. Also, a \$50 stipend is available per day, per attendee for expenses incurred in attending the training.

Additionally, projects should be able to be completed within a one (1) year timeframe. There are no limitations to the number of applications that eligible participants may submit. Please keep in mind that all applications are ranked using the same criteria. Some of the items that are considered in the ranking system are; past project maintenance, in-kind contributions, recent funding, and environmental benefits of the project.

It is **strongly encouraged that you contact the District prior to submitting an application** to discuss your project more in depth. If possible it is preferred to meet on-site to discuss the proposed work. This helps both the District and the applicant by having better applications submitted, which in turn gets better projects on the ground. Attached is a copy of the 2017 application for your use. It is also helpful to include location map, photographs, latitude & longitude, and any other documents or materials that might help us in evaluating the project.

Additionally when preparing your budget, please remember that the threshold for prevailing wage is \$25,000. This includes all project related costs. It is the responsibility of the grant recipient to determine if prevailing wage is applicable to their project.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Conservation District office at (814) 696-0877 extension 5.