**CAWACO RC&D GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

The Cawaco Resource Conservation & Development Council exists to assist people and institutions to conserve, protect and develop the natural resources within its five county area.

Under the terms of its charter, Cawaco RC&D can distribute grants to qualified public entities or 501(c)(3) charities serving the people of Blount, Chilton, Jefferson, Shelby and Walker Counties of Alabama. The Council does not lend or grant money to individuals or for-profit institutions. All applying organizations must supply proof of tax-exempt status showing specific Internal Revenue Service qualification.

Cawaco RC&D facilitates two grant programs: **Educational and Challenge.**

The grant cycle begins July 1 and remains open through August 15. Late applications will not be considered.

Grant awards generally range between $1,000- $5,000, with consideration given to applicants whose project serves multiple counties and/or reaches the greatest population. Adequate information as to the necessity of the project, long range benefit, and the target audience is required. Amounts greater than $5,000.00 have been awarded to applicants whose project reaches multiple counties. Contact the Program Manager at 205.623.0457 for more information.

**Grant awards are awarded in three categories:**

* **Natural Resources:**
  + Rivers and Streams
  + Agriculture
  + Forestry
* **Conservation:**
  + Improvements and Retro-fits
  + Conservation of land or historic treasures
  + Wise development of natural resources
* **Development:**
  + Environmental Sustainability
  + First Responder Support

**Within these initiatives, there are currently three priorities:**

1. Natural Resources

2. First Responder Support

1. Other projects supporting our Mission

**Cawaco provides educational grant funds through its competitive educational grants program. Funds for this program are allocated to focus specifically on the following areas:**

1. Natural Resource Education
2. Job Development
3. Broad Public Education

*The Council does not encourage submissions from schools to support classroom activities that do not provide educational opportunities to the majority of the school.*

*Applications must be sent electronically as well as through US mail. All applicants are required to submit IRS tax verification. Supplemental materials added to proposals are not considered.*

**Funds are granted on a reimbursable basis**

**Cawaco does not fund the following:**

1. • Operational phases of established programs
2. • Endowment campaigns
3. • Religious organizations for religious purposes
4. • Individuals directly
5. • Development or public relations activities (e.g. literature, videos, etc.)
6. • Purchase of land
7. • Post-event or after-the-fact situations

***Please call the Program Manager, Patti Pennington 205.623.0457 to request a grant application form. Or email*** [***grantfunds@live.com***](mailto:grantfunds@live.com)

*Cawaco RC&D programs and activities are available without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.*