

# USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program

## Key EWP Recover Program Points

EWP **cannot** reimburse for any work that is accomplished prior to having an executed (signed) grant agreement between the Sponsor and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

1. EWP requires that NRCS work with a **Sponsor**.
  - Sponsors include legal subdivisions of the State, such as a city, county, general improvement district, conservation district, or any Native American tribe or tribal organization.
  - NRCS **cannot** work directly with landowners.
2. Sponsors must submit a signed, written request for EWP assistance **within 60 days of the watershed event**.
  - Assistance request **must include** the language provided in the VT Sample EWP Assistance Request Letter.
3. EWP projects must reduce the threat to life and property; be economically, environmentally, and socially defensible; and be sound from a technical standpoint.
  - **Property is defined as any artificial structure permanently affixed to the land** such as, but not limited to:
    - Buildings
      - Private
      - Public
    - Culverts
    - Bridges
    - Town Roads
    - Utilities
    - Dams
  - EWP can be used to protect property that is in imminent danger of being damaged or destroyed if there was another watershed event.
    - **Imminent threat** means the property would be damaged or destroyed should another watershed event (storm/flood) occur.
  - Cost of EWP repair **cannot** exceed value of property being protected.
  - EWP **cannot** be used to:
    - Repair Damaged Property
    - Rebuild Destroyed Property
    - Protect Federal Lands
    - Protect Federal Aid Roads
    - Protect Land; Crop, Pasture, Lawns, etc.
    - Inundation Damage
      - Water damage to and inside the building.
      - Sediment and debris removal from lawns unless the debris poses an imminent threat.
4. EWP is a grant program.
  - EWP requires an Agreement between NRCS and Sponsor.
  - NRCS **cannot** enter into an agreement until EWP funds have been received.
  - NRCS **cannot** reimburse for any work accomplished prior to having an executed (signed) grant agreement.
  - Typically cost share is 75% USDA, 25% Sponsor.