

## Planning Assistance to States

### Authority and Scope

Section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974 (WRDA), as amended, provides authority for the Corps of Engineers to assist individual states, local governments, Indian tribes, and other non-Federal entities in the preparation of comprehensive plans for the development, use, and conservation of water and related land resources.

### Funding

The Planning Assistance to States (Section 22) Program is funded annually by Congress. Federal allotments for each state or tribe from the nationwide appropriation are limited to \$500,000 annually, but typically are much less. Individual studies, of which there may be more than one per state or tribe per year, generally cost from \$20,000 to \$150,000, but can be more. Studies are cost shared with 50 percent of the costs furnished by a local sponsor and 50 percent by the Corps. Generally, the sponsor's funds cannot come from a Federal source, but there are exceptions to this rule (e.g. BIA funds can be used by a Tribe). Implementation of any recommendations is the responsibility of the local sponsor. Section 208, of the WRDA 1992 amendment, included the provision to allow the acceptance of "in-kind" services from study sponsors for an amount up to or equal to their 50 percent cost share.

### Program Development

Typical studies are planning level of detail; they do not include detailed design for project construction. Most studies become the basis for state, local, and Tribal planning decisions. Although the studies are planning level products, they do provide communities with the technical data and analysis needed to either prepare plans and specifications for implementation or request implementation funds. Implementation of any improvements would be the responsibility of the local government.

### Typical Studies

The program can encompass many types of studies dealing with water resources issues. Studies conducted in recent years include water supply, water quality, water conservation, hydropower development, flood control, environmental restoration, erosion, and navigation.

### **How to Request Assistance**

The first step in the process is to express your interest in the Section 22 Program by providing a written request to the Corps' program coordinator. This request should contain a brief description of the problems and concerns. A meeting will then be scheduled to explore your concerns in more detail and to initiate the preparation of a plan of study (POS) and cost estimate. Once all parties agree on the POS and costs, a Letter of Agreement would be signed between the local sponsor and the Corps. The study would be initiated upon receipt of the funding. Early coordination the Corps' program manager is encouraged to meet your needs as soon as possible. Since new Federal funds usually become available in November, a good time to discuss potential studies with the program manager would be several months before this (e.g. March to June).

### [Additional Information](#)

For more information please contact Beth Coffey at (206) 764-6747 or email her at [Frances.E.Coffey@usace.army.mil](mailto:Frances.E.Coffey@usace.army.mil)

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