Dirt Gravel and Low Volume Road Program **WEBINAR** 4/25/24, 9am

Keeping Up with Spending Requirements

Sherri Law Roy Richardson Andy Mickey <u>CDGRS</u> Ken Corradini Steve Bloser

SCC



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Introduction

- Conservation districts receive DGR and LVR funds annually
- These funds must be spent within certain timeframes
- Purpose of webinar:
 - Explain the spending requirements and provides guidance on how to meet them.





Outline

- Quick review of spending basics
- Explain the 3 spending requirements
 - 2-year (total allocation)
 - 1-year (admin & edu)
 - End of Five-year agreement
- Tips for keeping up with spending requirements
- Budgeting and determining how much funding is available for new projects/expenses
- Update on 5-year spending





Outline

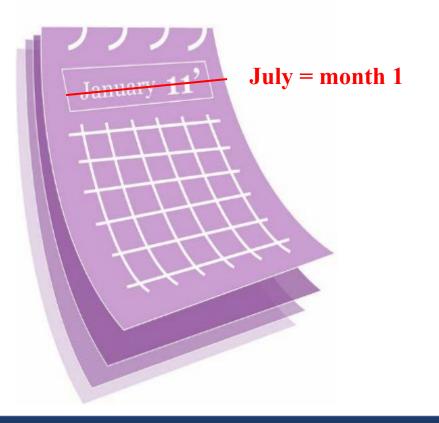
- Quick review of spending basics
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- The DGLVR Program follows the state fiscal year
 - July 1 June 30



Conservation districts enter into a 5-year agreement with the State Conservation Commission (SCC).

- Allows the CD to run the DGLVR Program locally and receive annual allocations with limited annual paperwork.
- Currently, we're in year 1 of the new Five-Year Agreement (2023-2028)

DIRT, GRAVEL AND LOW-VOLUME ROAD MAINTENANCE PROGRAM AGREEMENT

This Dirt, Gravel and Low-Volume Road Maintenance Program Agreement is entered into by and between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania ("Commonwealth"), through the Department of Agriculture ("Department") and the State Conservation Commission ("Commission"), with their principal offices located at 2301 N. Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110, and the

Conservation District, with its principal offices located at

_, PA _____ ("District")

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, section 9106 of the Vehicle Code (75 Pa.C.S. § 9106) has established the Dirt, Gravel and Low-Volume Road Maintenance Program to provide a dedicated and earmarked mechanism of funding the safe, efficient and environmentally sound maintenance and improvement of dirt, gravel and low-volume state and municipal roads ("Program");

WHEREAS, the State Legislature has directed that funds in the amount of \$28,000.000.00 shall be appropriated annually to the Commission and administered in a non-lapsing, non-transferable account restricted to maintenance and improvement of dirt, gravel and low-volume State and municipal roads;

WHEREAS, the Commission annually apportions these funds to county conservation districts based upon the apportionment criteria in subsection (c) of section 9106 of the Vehicle Code to fund projects at the county level that will fulfill the purpose of the Program; and

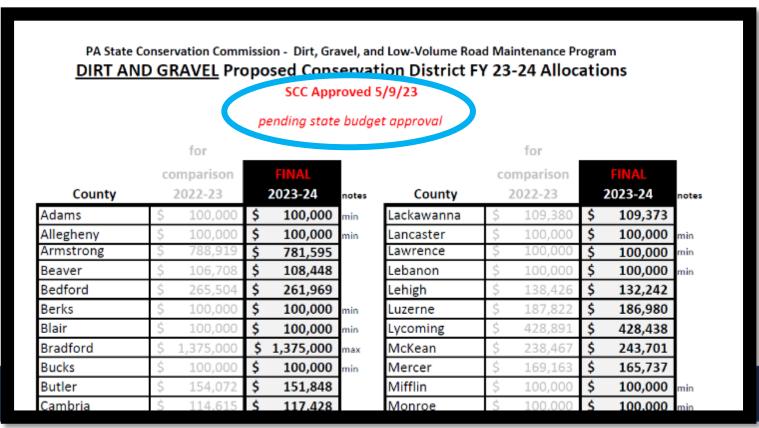
WHEREAS, the District wishes to conduct projects for the maintenance and improvement of dirt, gravel and low-volume roads within _____ County;

NOW THEREFORE, the parties hereto, intending to be legally bound, agree as follows:





- Annual allocations are typically determined in May each year, pending approval of the state budget 7/1
 - Could be June or July some years as needed





- CDs receive 2 separate allocations each year:
 - Dirt and Gravel Road funds (DGR) and Low Volume Road Funds (LVR)
 - Spending requirements are calculated and tracked separately for each allocation

_	Conservation Com ID GRAVEL	opos	sed Cons SCC App	ervat	ion District F		_					l ro		oved 5	• •				
	for					for					for	-	F10101				for		
	comparison		FINAL			comparison		FINAL		County	comparisor 2022-23	1	2023-24	notes	County		nparison 022-23	,	2023-
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Adams	\$ 100,000	\$	100,000	min	Lackawanna	\$ 109,380	\$	109,373		Allegheny	\$ 259,59	4 5	265,244		Lackawanna	ć	80,819	Ś	8
Allegheny	\$ 100,000	\$	100,000	min	Lancaster	\$ 100,000	\$	100,000	min	Armstrong	\$ 133.68	~ ~	132,808		Lancaster	÷	273.802	ć	27
Armstrong	\$ 788,919	\$	781,595	1	Lawrence	\$ 100,000	\$	100,000	min		\$ 97.17				-	7	97.943	2	- 27
Beaver	\$ 106,708	\$	108,448		Lebanon	\$ 100,000	\$	100,000	min	Beaver		· ·	97,979		Lawrence	2	011010	2	
Bedford	\$ 265,504	\$	261,969		Lehigh	\$ 138,426	\$	132,242		Bedford	\$ 184,11	1 \$	177,767		Lebanon	Ş	82,804	Ş	8
Berks	\$ 100,000	\$	100,000	min	Luzerne	\$ 187,822	\$	186,980		Berks	\$ 253,35	4 \$	258,731		Lehigh	Ş	128,436	\$	13
Blair	\$ 100,000	\$	100,000	min	Lycoming	\$ 428,891	\$	428,438		Blair	\$ 84,59	0 \$	84,808		Luzerne	\$	148,641	\$	15
Bradford	\$ 1.375.000	\$	1,375,000	4	McKean	\$ 238,467	Ś	243,701		Bradford	\$ 108,92	1 \$	109,973		Lycoming	\$	133,728	\$	13
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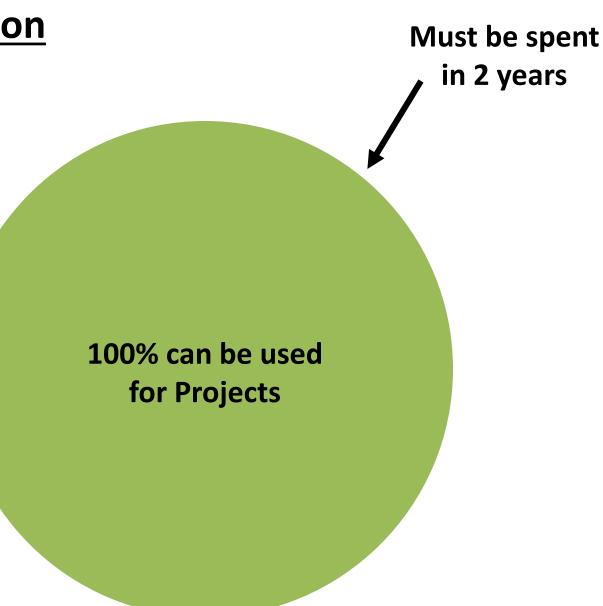


Chap 3. CD Role

3.4.2-7 CD Spending Categories

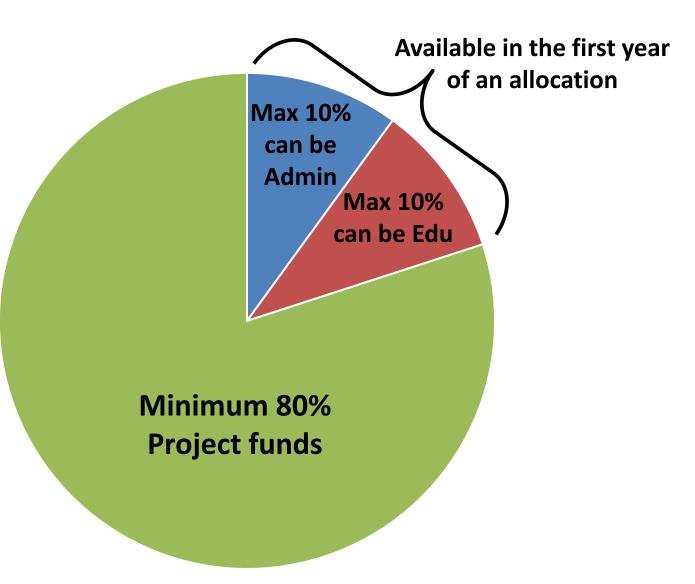
DGR (or LVR) Allocation

 Districts are required to spend their entire allocation within two years of state budget approval in order to be eligible for future allocations.



DGR (or LVR) Allocation

2. Admin and edu funds must be spent within one year.

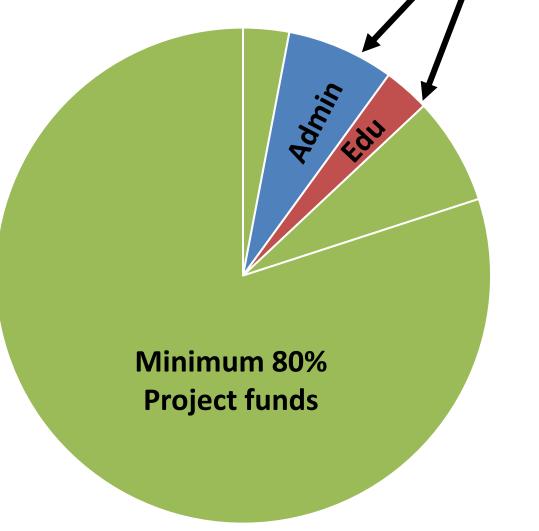


3.4.2-7 CD Spending Categories

DGR (or LVR) Allocation

Can use less than 10% of allocation for admin and 10% of allocation for edu

2. Admin and edu funds must be spent within one year.

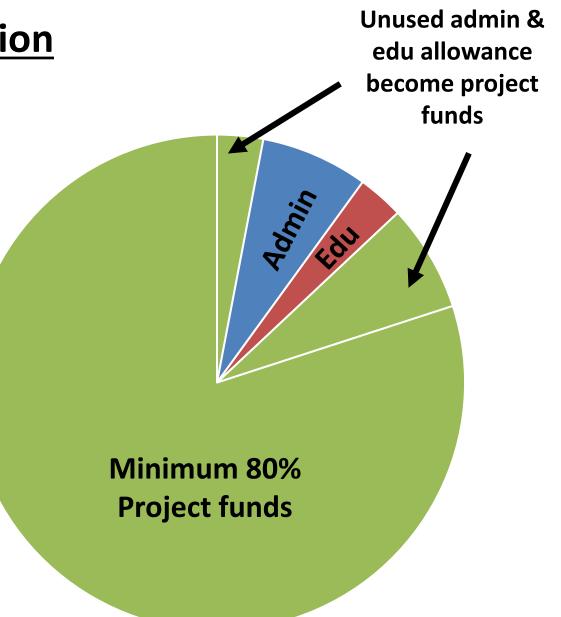


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DGR (or LVR) Allocation

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Chap 3. CD Role

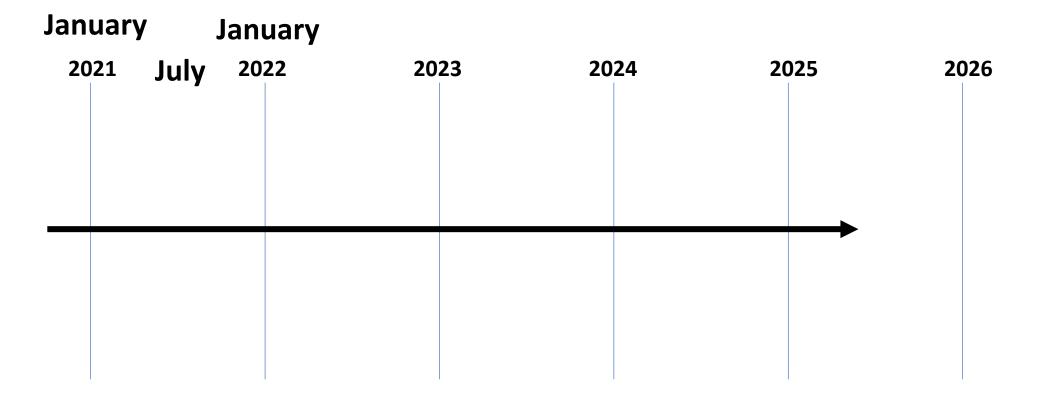
3.4.2-7 CD Spending Categories

DGR (or LVR) Allocation

All funds must be spent in 2 years



Minimum 80% Project funds • What does this look like in the real world?

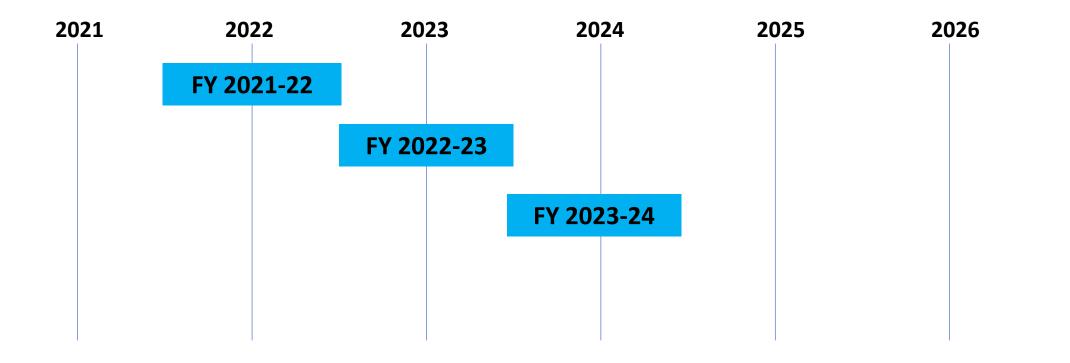




Spending Requirements

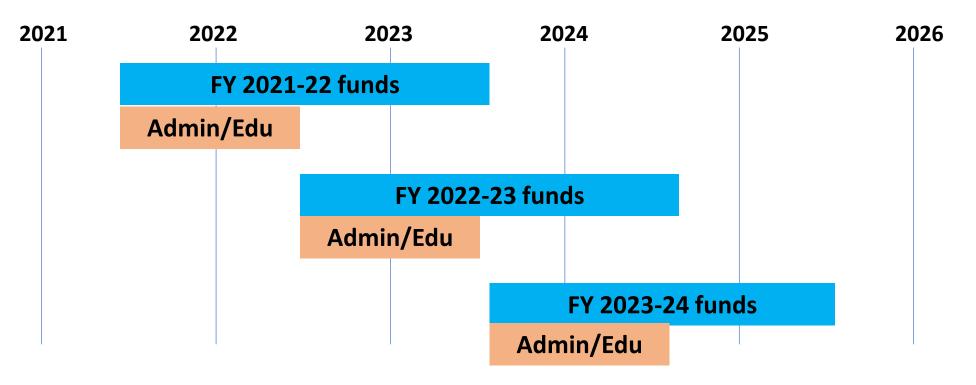


• PA Fiscal Year runs July 1 – June 30



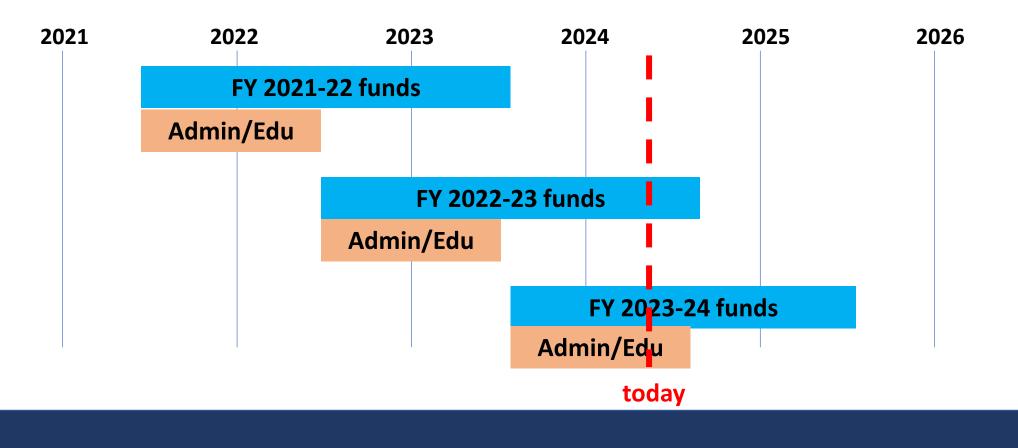


- Total allocation must be spent in 2 years
- Can spend funds on admin/edu expenses in 1st fiscal year



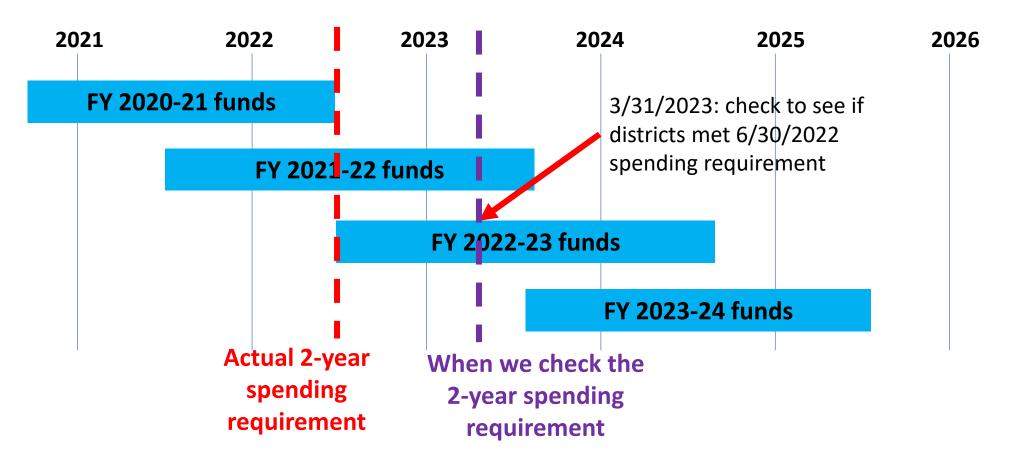


 Annual allocations + 2 year spending requirement = overlapping financial tracking





 SCC assesses 2-year spending requirements <u>9 months</u> after the requirement



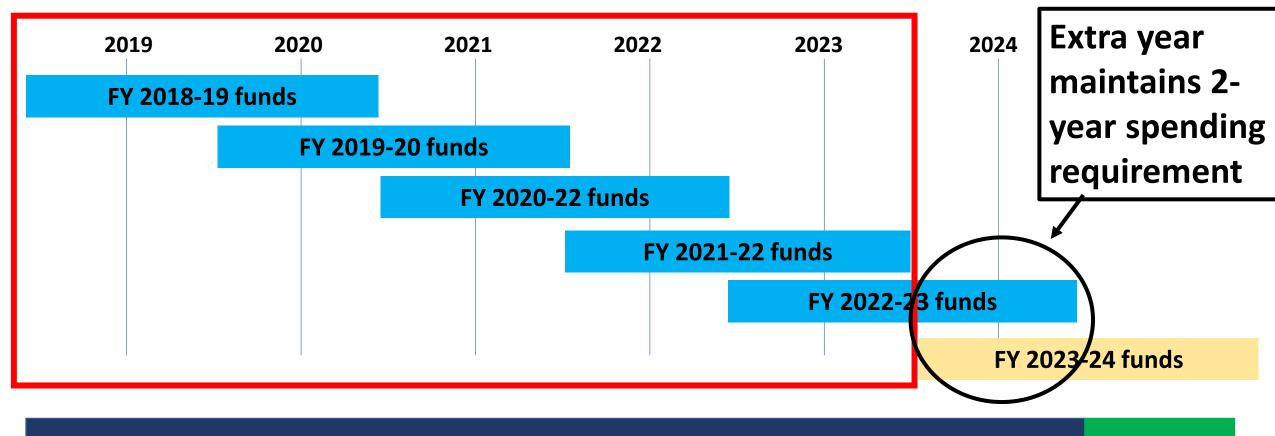
<u>3 spending requirements:</u>

- 1. Entire allocation must be spent within two years.
- 2. Admin and edu funds must be spent within one year.
- 3. All funds under a 5-year agreement must be spent by 12 months after the end of the agreement.
 - For the 2018-2023 agreement, funds must be spent by 6/30/2024.





- Five Year Agreement
 - Provides 6 years to spend 5 year's DGLVR allocations



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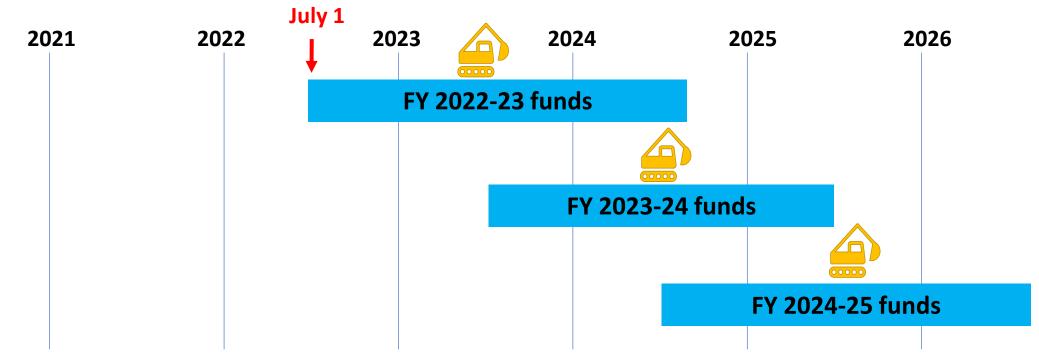




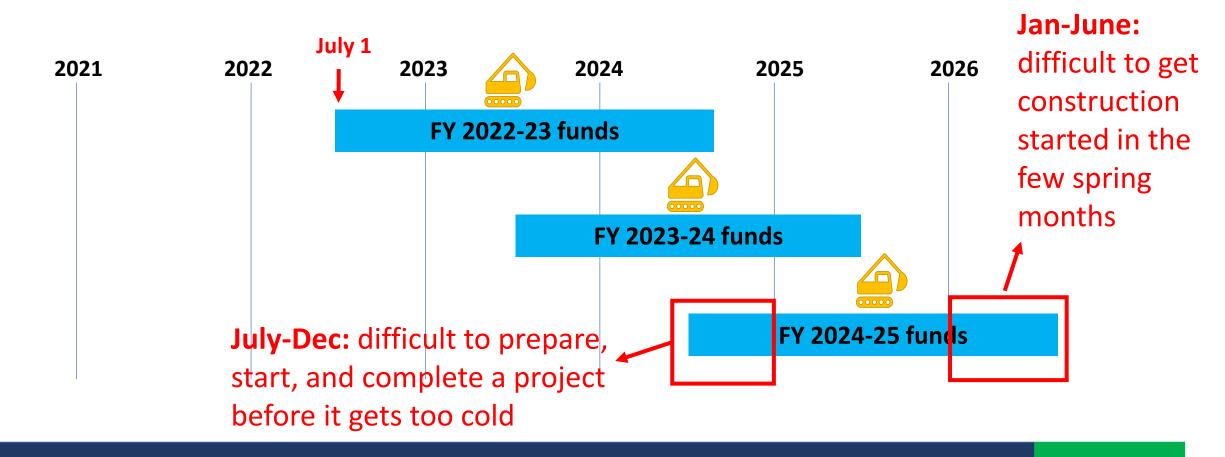


- How do districts get in trouble with spending requirements?
 - Timing

- Pennsylvania SCC State Conservation Commission
- Each 2-year spending period only spans <u>1 continuous</u> <u>construction season</u>



• How districts get in trouble with spending: Timing



Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission

- How districts get in trouble with spending
 - **<u>Relying on advances</u>** to meet spending requirements
 - It's better to rely on completing projects and only rely on advances as a last resort to meet spending

Spending Stat	us	Previous 5-Year Ag	Agreement		
Unreported Advance: \$	0.00	"Old Money" Balance: \$	105,752.95		
Inreported Replenishments: \$	0.00	Currently Spent: \$	407.88		
Current Balance: \$	162,660.75	Balance Remaining: \$	105,345.07		
Committed Remaining: \$	70,250.00	\$140k project has 50%	6 advanced		
Uncommitted Balance: \$	92,410.75	won't be complete by	the spend		
		requirement			

- How districts get in trouble with spending
 - **<u>Relying on advances</u>** to meet spending requirements
 - It's better to rely on completing projects and only rely on advances as a last resort to meet spending

There isn't	reement	Previous 5-Year Ag	ls	Spending State
enough fu	105,752.95	"Old Money" Balance: \$	0.00	Unreported Advance: \$
available t	407.88	Currently Spent: \$	0.00	eported Replenishments: \$
meet the	105,345.07	Balance Remaining: \$	162,660.75	Current Balance: \$
spending			70,250.00	Committed Remaining: \$
requireme			92,410.75	Uncommitted Balance: \$

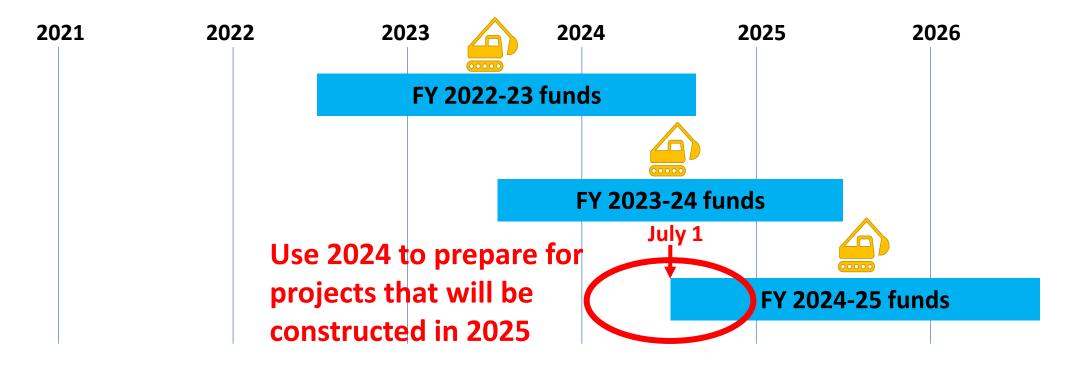


Pennsylvania SCC State Corservation Commission

- How districts get in trouble with spending
 - <u>Staff turnover</u>
 - Projects get delayed when new staff take over at the CD
 - Be cautious of the types of projects being funded
 - More on this later

- Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission
- How to keep up with spending requirements?
 - 1. Run an <u>annual</u> grant program

- Prepare projects the calendar year before they go to construction
- Be ready to contract projects with 2024-25 funds as soon as the 2024-25 FY starts
 - Work proactively, not reactively!





Things to do in 2024 to be able to construct projects in 2025 with FY 2024-25 funds:

- Education and outreach to potential applicants
- pre-app meetings
- application due date
- Revise applications as needed
- Rank applications / QAB meeting
- Revise applications as needed
- CD Board approval
- Create contract in GIS
- Have grant recipient sign contract





Things to do in 2024 to be able to construct projects in 2025 with FY 2024-25 funds:

- Education and outreach to potential applicants
- pre-app meetings
- application due date
- Revise applications as needed
- Rank applications / QAB meeting
- Revise applications as needed
- CD Board approval
- Create contract in GIS
- Have grant recipient sign contract

Can start these BEFORE 7/1



If you're interested in doing these steps before you receive the next allocation, reach out to Ken or SCC to discuss

<u>Sample Timeline</u>

- Summer/Fall 2023 Complete pre-application meetings
- Winter 2024 Accept applications
- Spring 2024 Rank project applications
- June/July 2024
 - Once new allocation amount is known, hold QAB meeting and recommend projects for funding
 - Approve projects at District Board meeting
 - Contract the new projects
- July 2024 October 2025 Complete Construction
- November/December 2025 Close out project including reimbursement to project participant



• <u>Sample Timeline – stream crossing</u>

- Summer/Fall 2023 Complete pre-application meetings
- Winter 2024 Accept applications
- Spring 2024 Rank project applications
- June/July 2024
 - Once new allocation amount is known, hold QAB meeting and recommend projects for funding
 - Approve projects at District Board meeting
 - Contract the new projects

Site assessment required before QAB recommends a stream crossing for funding (includes long pro, cross section, pebble count and any additional geomorphic

Have the <u>pre-design meeting immediately</u> <u>after contracting</u> so the engineer's assessment and design can begin

assessment)

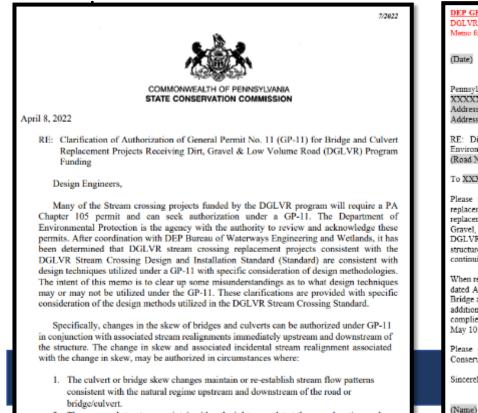




- Sample Timeline stream crossing (continued)
 - Late summer/early fall 2024 Review and revise the draft design

(Job Title)

• Oct/Nov 2024 - Submit the permit application w/GP-7 or GP-11 cover



2. The proposed structures maintain either the inlet or outlet at the same location as the

DEP GP-11 Permit Cover Letter: Optional cover letter when applying for a GP-11 that references the DGLVR Program, its Stream Crossing Design and Installation Standard, and the SCC GP-11 Clarification Memo for permit review (Date) Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection XXXXXX Regional Office Address Line 1 Address Line 2 RE: Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road Program Environmental Improvement Project General Permit No. 11 Submittal (Road Name), (Municipality), (County) To XXXXX. Please find attached a General Permit No. 11 (GP-11) application for a stream crossing replacement project located on (Road name) in (Municipality), (County). The stream crossing replacement project is being funded by the (XXXX) County Conservation District under the Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road (DGLVR) Program. Stream crossing replacements funded by the DGLVR Program focus on making environmental improvements by replacing undersized structures, and by requiring new structures to be installed in a manner that ensures stream continuity through the road. When reviewing this application, please consider the PA State Conservation Commission's memo dated April 8, 2021, "RE: Clarification of Authorization of General Permit No. 11 (GP-11) for Bridge and Culvert Replacement Projects Receiving DGLVR Program Assistance" (attached). In addition to meeting the requirements in this memo, this stream crossing replacement project complies with the DGLVR Program Stream Crossing Design and Installation Standard adopted May 10, 2022. Please contact the applicant and copy the design engineer and the <<XXXX>>> County Conservation District with any review comments and/or questions or concerns Sincerely,

DEP GP-7 Permit Cover Letter: Optional cover letter when applying for a DEP GP-7 that references the DGLVR Program and its Stream Crossing Design and Installation Standard. Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection XXXXXX Regional Office Address Line 1 Address Line 2 RE: Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road Program Environmental Improvement Project GP-7 Submittal (Road Name), (Municipality), (County) To XXXXX. Please find attached a General Permit No. 7 (GP-7) application for a stream crossing replacement project located on (Road name) in (Municipality), (County). The stream crossing replacement project is being funded by the (XXXX) County Conservation District under the Dirt, Gravel, and

Low Volume Road (DGLVR) Program. Stream crossing replacements funded by the DGLVR Program focus on making environmental improvements by replacing undersized structures, and by requiring new structures to be installed in a manner that ensures stream continuity through the road.

When reviewing this application, please consider this stream crossing replacement project complies with DGLVR Program Stream Crossing Design and Installation Standard adopted May 10.2022.

Please contact the applicant and copy the design engineer and the <<XXXX>> County Conservation District with any review comments and/or questions or concerns.

Sincerely.

(Name)

(Job Title)

XXXX County Conservation District



- <u>Sample Timeline stream crossing (continued)</u>
 - Winter 2024/25 review revised permit application before it's resubmitted (if applicable)
 - January/February 2025 Receive permit authorization
 - February/March 2025 Review bid documents & bid project construction (if applicable), order structure
 - Summer 2025 Construct the project







- How to stay on track with spending requirements
 - 1. Run an <u>annual</u> grant program
 - 2. Be up front with program participants about the required timelines
 - 3. Fund projects that can be completed in the allotted time
 - 4. Fund a variety of project types

Projects that can typically be done quickly:

- "traditional" drainage and road base improvements
 - New cross pipes
 - New turnouts
 - Raise an entrenched road to achieve sheet flow
 - Good crown and cross slope
 - Grade breaks
 - Address groundwater saturation with underdrain and French mattress
 - Driving Surface Aggregate











What might make a project take longer to complete?

- Any project with additional steps, typically:
 - Engineering
 - Permitting
 - Formal, competitive bidding (materials or hiring a construction contractor)
- Keep in mind, each of these steps may have some "back and forth"
 - Asking the engineer to update the design to meet DGLVR policy
 - Permit reviewers requiring changes to the permit application
 - No bidders or bids coming in to too high



What kind of projects often require additional steps?

- In-stream work
 - Stream crossing replacement
 - Stream bank stabilization
- Slide repairs
- Some storm water management practices
 - Storm sewer, infiltration, detention
- Sometimes, traditional drainage practices
 - Depends on site conditions and road owner preferences







Does this mean I should never fund these types of projects? (stream projects, landslides, engineered stormwater management, etc.)

No!

- It means, don't only fund these projects.
- Have discussions with Center and SCC to see what kind of projects are right for your situation.
- In general, fund a variety of types of projects:
 - Some might be done in less than 2 years
 - Some might be done in more than 2 years
 - If you budget correctly, you can complete a project that takes more than 2 years and still meet the 2-year spending requirement

- Pennsylvania SCC State Conservation Commission
- If the only applications you receive are for complex projects, consider additional outreach and education
 - Highlight the benefits of drainage projects
 - Share example pictures of drainage projects
 - Consider local policy to limit the number of complex projects (stream crossings, large slide repairs, etc.)
 - Reach out to Center and SCC for assistance



- Tips to speed up projects:
 - <u>Clear communication</u>
 - Discuss DGLVR requirements frequently with grant recipients and other project participants (engineer, permit reviewer, contractor)
 - In person, on the phone, in writing
 - pre-application meeting
 - pre-design meetings
 - Pre-bid site showing
 - Pre-construction meeting
 - Frequent construction inspections
 - Provide key info in writing (emails, tech bulletins, etc.)

Check out checklists for each of these meetings on the "Blank Forms" webpage! https://dirtandgravel.psu.edu/paprogram-resources/program-specificresources/blank-forms/





How to stay on track with spending requirements

- 1. Run an <u>annual</u> grant program
- 2. Be up front with program participants about the required timelines
- 3. Fund projects that can be completed in the allotted time
- 4. Fund a variety of project types
- 5. Make sure you know how much money you need to spend (use GIS)
- 6. Budget well so you don't have extra money leftover
- 7. If anything comes in underbudget, reallocate that funding ASAP

How to figure out spending requirements?

- GIS
 - 2-year spending is tracked in Annual Summary Report (ASR)
 - At the end of the 5-year agreement, don't look at the ASR for spending
 - Additional webinars will be held to provide more detail
- Call Ken or Sherri for assistance!

Photo from: https://www.iconfinder.com/icons/5399714/call_customer_handphone_happy_icon



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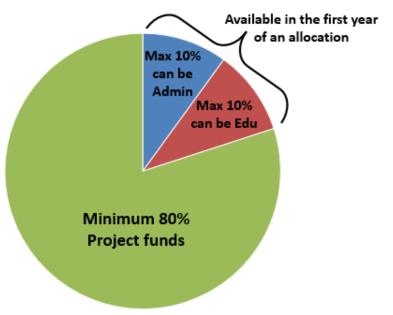


- How to budget DGLVR funds
 - annually
 - Because CDs receive new DGLVR funds every year
 - Because CDs have 1 year to spend admin/edu funds
 - Helps CDs stay on track to meet spending requirements





How to budget DGLVR funds



Total allocation = admin funds + edu funds + project funds

Project funds = total allocation – admin funds – edu funds



Project funds = total allocation – admin funds – edu funds

- 1. Figure out how much of your allocation you need for admin/edu expenses for the fiscal year
- 2. Subtract this from your allocation
- 3. The remaining amount should be allocated to projects
- 4. Don't forget to check the GIS and your DGR & LVR bank accounts to see if you have any other funds available for projects.
 - Unspent admin/edu
 - Projects that came in under budget
 - Interest
 - Other?

Should show the same balance at the end of each quarter!



Why does it matter if bank account and GIS balances match?

Account Ac	ctivity			
Post Date	Description	Debits	Credits	Balance
06/01/2023	Balance Last Statement			\$214,166.50
06/30/2023	INTEREST		\$422.47	\$214.588.97
06/30/2023	Balance This Statement			\$214,588.97

If they don't match, you don't know how much money you have 😕





GIS

What to do when bank account and GIS balances don't match?

- Update the GIS quarterly report income and expenses and click "save"
- View the Quarterly Report Quick Guide section on account balances
 - https://dirtandgravel.psu.edu/education-training/program-administration/
- Attend Financial Training
- Call Ken and the SCC

Control	Quick Reference Example: Ja	Quarterly Report e for Conservation Districts an-March 2024 quarter on 1: March 2024
Quarterly Report Select Quarter * Diff and Grave Low Volume Activity Report F IV S *	× → → → III & A & A & A * + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +	 Notes Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road (DGLVR) Program Quarterly Reports are due on Jan 15, Apr 15, July 15, Oct 15.
Program Interne SDC Advance: 5 SDC Replemanment: 5 SDC Replemanment: 5 Other: 5 Other: 5 Belance at District Starting Balance: 5 Expense Tool: 5 Ending Balance: 5	Program Expenses Administrative: § Education: § Projects: § Other: § Replendshments Potential (Claim: § Henrisburg Funds (Clau): § Hamisburg Funds (Phyl): § Amount Repuested: §	 Reports are completed in the DGLVR GIS Mapper: <u>https://dirtandgravel.psu.edu/general-resources/gis</u> Conservation district staff must complete one-on-on training with the GIS staff at the Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies (CDGRS) to obtain access and lo credentials to the DGLVR GIS Mapper. Each conservation district needs at least one us with full GIS training to edit DGLVR contracts.
Report Checklist Income & Expenses Accertly Report Follow along with the report checklist! In the upper left corner of this Quick Guide)	SCC Use Only	 Each district must have one user who is designated as the "manager" to submit quarterly reports. The same district staff member may have full G training and be designated as the "manager" use For assistance completing reports, contact CDGRS or SCC. Contact info is at the end of this guide.

Pennsylvania Sice Conservation Commission

The "Uncommitted Balance" in GIS is <u>NOT</u> automatically all available for new projects!

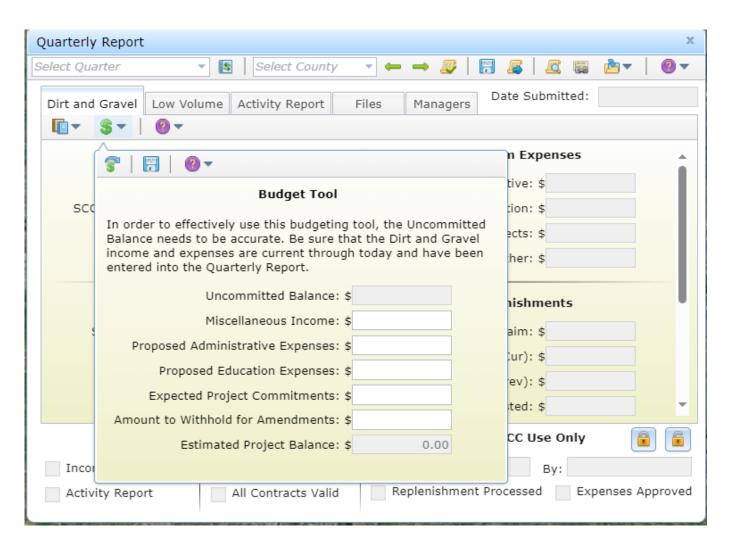
This number shows all funds available for any future expense, including:

- Admin
- Edu
- Amendments
- New projects



Quarterly Reports: Budget Tool

- Helps with simple budgeting
- Resets after each quarter but has a tool to import the previous quarter's values
- Important to <u>have the income</u> <u>and expenses current in the QR</u> in order for the budget to be accurate





- How to budget DGLVR funds
 - Use budgeting tool in quarterly report
 - Revisit regularly or at least once a year
 - Reach out to SCC for assistance
 - More detail in the DGLVR Financial Training

Register online here: <u>https://dirtandgravel.psu.edu/education-training/program-administration/financial-training-registration/</u>

- May 22 (Westmoreland County)
- July 24 (Centre County)
- October 17 (Luzerne County)
- December 4 (Venango County)

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- Pennsylvania State Corsevatori Commission
- All funding from agreement must be spent out by 6/30/2024
- Current CD Status as of 4/25/2024
 - Spent everything: 30 DGR, 32 LVR
 - <u>Committed everything</u>: 26 DGR, 24 LVR
 - Not committed: 8 DGR, 10 LVR

- Dirt and Gravel
 - Committed: \$3,236,708.49
 - Not Committed: \$183,916.76
- Low Volume
 - Committed: \$1,917,259.79
 - Not Committed: \$486,087.44
- Total that still needs to be spent
 - DGR: \$3,420,625.25
 - LVR: \$2,403,347.23
 - Total: \$5,823,972.48





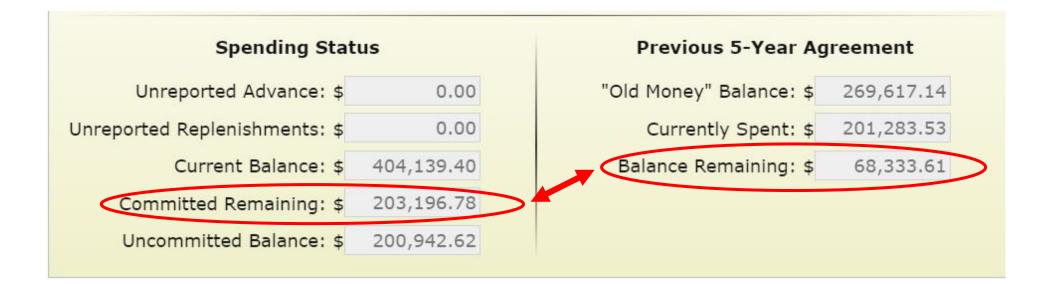
• If you are Green in both DGR and LVR, great job!

- You have a "balance remaining" of \$0
- You have spent all DGR and/or LVR funds from the previous 5-Year Agreement.

9,690.82
7,355.40
0.00

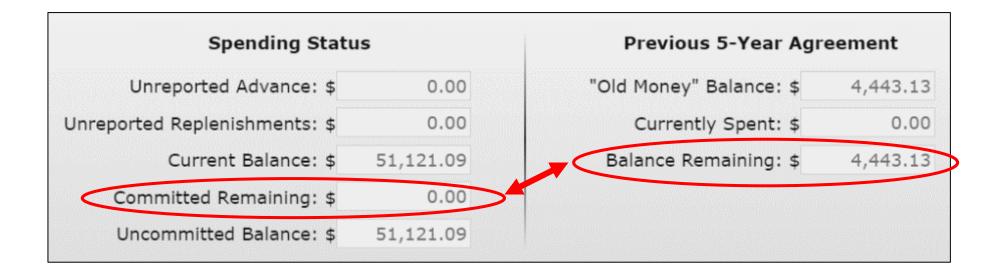


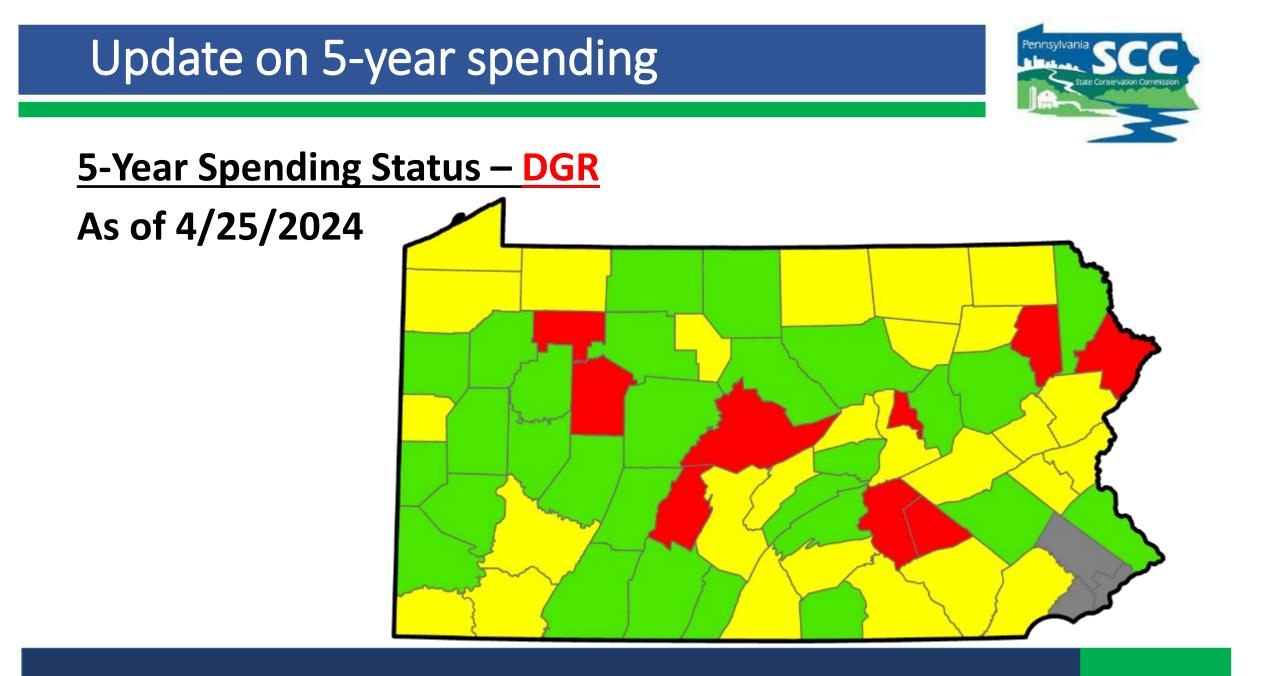
- If you are Yellow in DGR and/or LVR:
 - You have a "balance remaining" and it is <u>greater</u>
 <u>than</u> the committed remaining





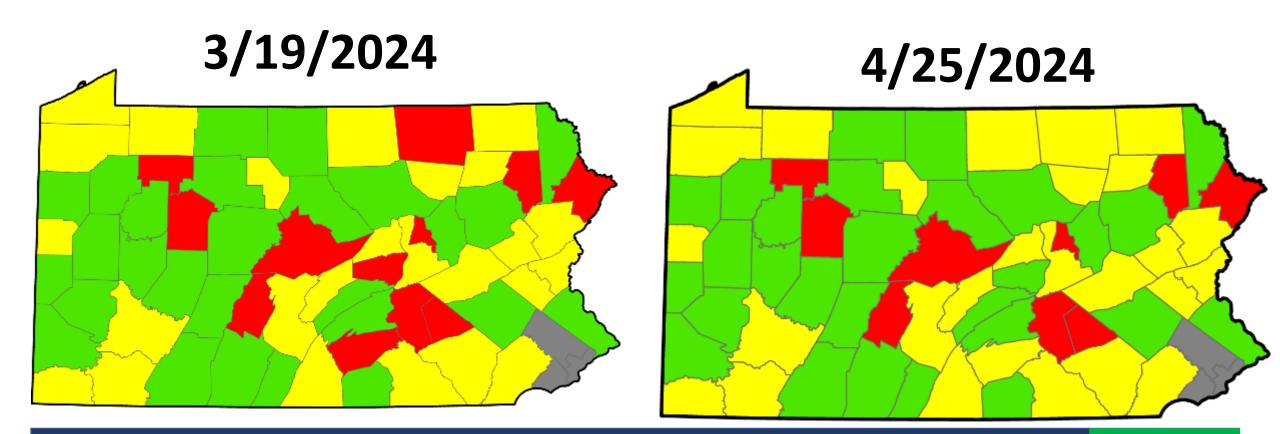
- If you are **Red** in DGR and/or LVR
 - You have a "balance remaining" and it is <u>greater</u>
 <u>than</u> the committed remaining

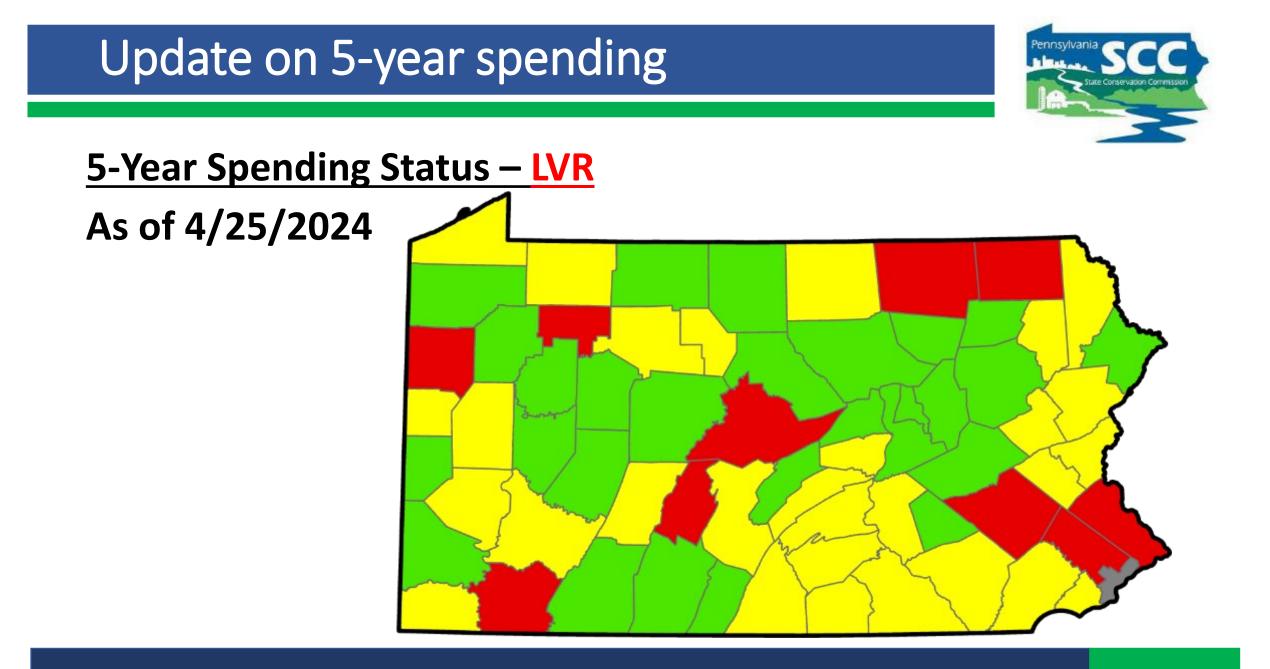






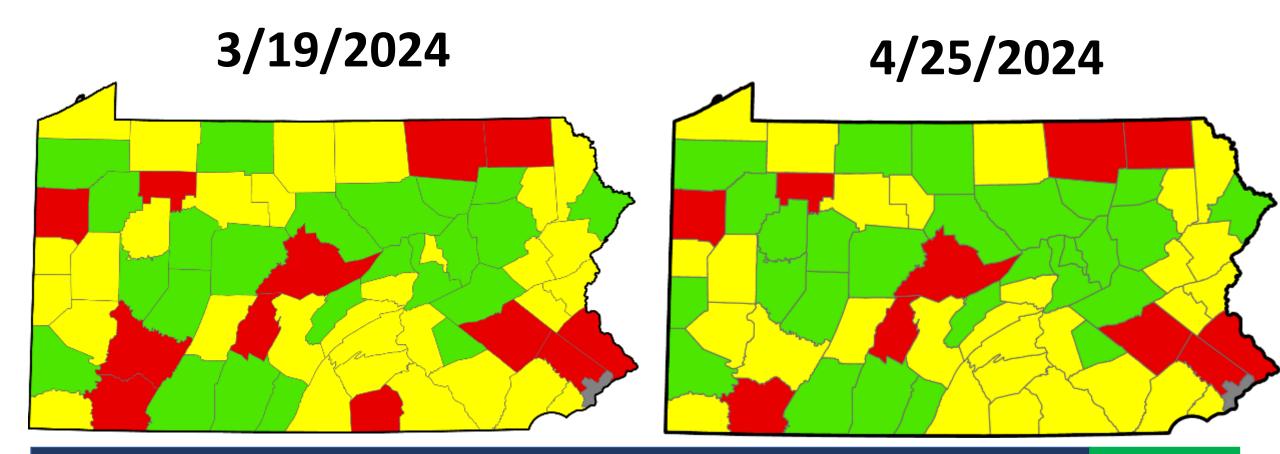
<u>5-Year Spending Status – DGR</u>







<u>5-Year Spending Status – LVR</u>



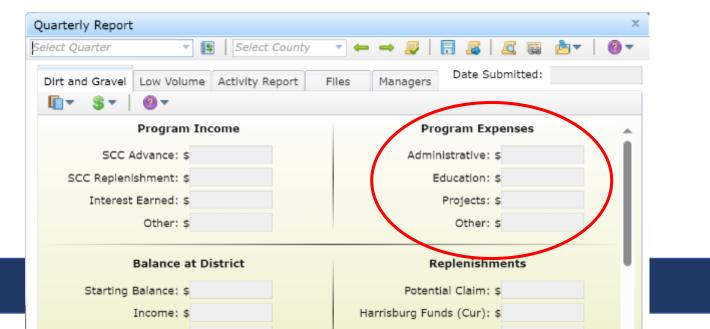
Pennsylvania SCC State Corservation Commission

- What do you consider "spent"?
 - For DGLVR Program: when DGLVR Funds leave your
 Program account
 - An admin/edu expense has been paid with Program funds and reported in quarterly report
 - A check has been written to the grant recipient and entered in GIS
 - Advances, partial payments, final payments



Question: How do I make sure my spending is counted towards the spending requirement?

Answer: Enter admin, edu, and project expenses in the GIS by <u>6/24/2024</u> (and don't forget to click save!)



Question:

What if my expenses won't be ready to enter in GIS by 6/24/2024?

Answer:

Contact Ken or the SCC to discuss a plan



Question:

What if I know I'm not going to meet my spending requirements?

Answer:

Reach out to Ken or the SCC to let us know.





Take Home:

<u>Think about Timing</u> (Run an annual program)

When funding complex projects:

- Consider limiting the number of them funded at once
- Consider spending deadlines and how long money may be "tied up" in a project