

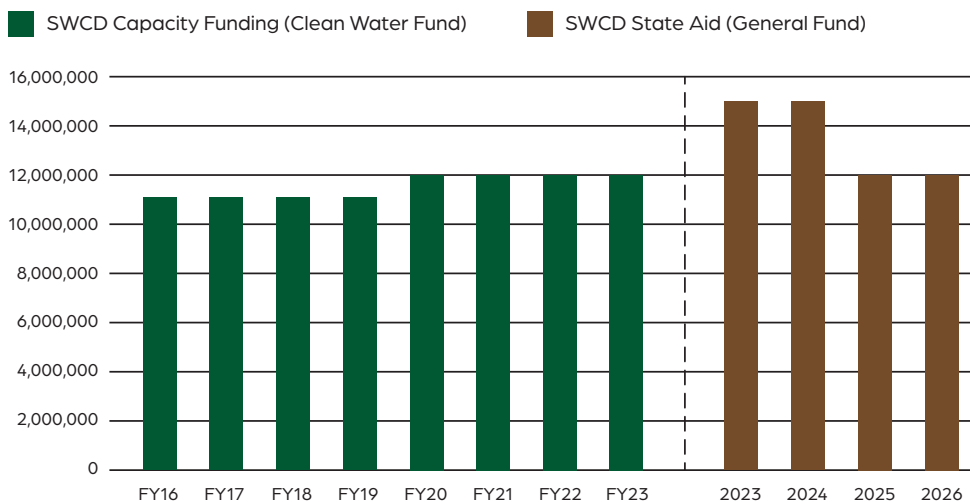
# Increase SWCD Aid to support state conservation goals

Last year, lawmakers approved permanent funding for soil and water conservation district capacity, known as SWCD Aid, through the general fund. In the current biennium, the state appropriated \$15 million per year in SWCD Aid.

This was an important step in improving the ability of all SWCDs to deliver the services essential for performing our statutory duties through stable, predictable funding, and a long-term investment in SWCDs as partners in achieving the state's soil health and water quality goals.

Starting in 2025 and in all future years, SWCD Aid will be reduced to \$12 million per year. This funding level does not match the demands put on districts for implementing conservation practices, serving constituents and delivering on statutory obligations.

## FUNDING LEVELS HAVE NOT KEPT PACE WITH SWCD ROLES



### ACT NOW

**Fund SWCD Aid at \$16 million per year** for 2025 and beyond to help Minnesota maintain its pace of progress toward clean water and healthy soil goals.

## SWCDs HELP CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES ACROSS MINNESOTA

SWCDs provide value to our state's conservation through technical assistance, funding and educational services for private landowners. They are a primary source of conservation information, support and program management for landowners and other local units of government. SWCDs are the technical experts and "boots on the ground" who understand their specific communities' needs and help landowners navigate conservation programs from start to finish. As water quality and soil health issues are prioritized in Minnesota, SWCDs' roles have expanded and now include helping landowners navigate regulations that are increasing in complexity.