



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry
Fiscal Year 2022 Community Wildfire Defense Grant
Notice of Funding Opportunity Instructions
West**

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Overview and Submission Dates for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022

- Applications are being requested for the FY2022 Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG)
- This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is for projects that will be carried out within the footprint of the **Western States and Territories** (Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Territory of American Samoa, Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Territory of Guam, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands). For Tribes and other regions of the United States, please see appropriate NOFO for specific instructions.
- Search for the following grant Opportunity Number in [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) and follow the included instructions:

USDA-FS-2022-CWDG-CWSF

- **SUBMIT ALL APPLICATIONS BY 11:59pm, EASTERN TIME ZONE, OCTOBER 7, 2022**

Purpose of the Community Wildfire Defense Grant

The purpose of the Community Wildfire Defense Grant is to assist at-risk local communities and Indian Tribes with planning for and mitigating against the risk created by wildfire. This program is authorized in Public Law 117-58, “An Act to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes,” commonly referred to as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Specifically, the CWDG is provided for in Title VIII, Section 40803 of that Act. There are two primary project types for which the grant



provides funding: The development and revising of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP), and the implementation of projects described in a CWPP that is less than ten years old. The Act prioritizes at-risk communities that are in an area identified as having high or very high wildfire hazard potential, are low-income, and/or have been impacted by a severe disaster. More details on these three priorities can be found in this NOFO.

The CWDG helps communities in the wildland urban interface (WUI) implement the three goals of the [National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy](#) (Cohesive Strategy):

- **Restore and Maintain Landscapes:** Landscapes across all jurisdictions are resilient to fire-related disturbances, in accordance with management objectives.
- **Create Fire Adapted Communities:** Human populations and infrastructure can withstand a wildfire without loss of life and property.
- **Improve Wildfire Response:** All jurisdictions participate in making and implementing safe, effective, efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions.

Key Points

- **Who Can Apply:** Entities eligible to apply for funding under the CWDG include:
 - a. Units of local governments representing communities located in an area with a risk of wildfires,
 - b. Indian Tribes (please apply through either the Indian Tribes/Alaska Native Corporations specific notice or the applicable regional notice),
 - c. Non-profit organizations including homeowner associations that assist such communities,
 - d. State forestry agencies (including U.S. territories and interests), and
 - e. Alaska Native Corporations (please apply through either the Indian Tribes/Alaska Native Corporations specific notice or the applicable regional notice).

For-profit entities are not eligible to apply for this funding opportunity.

- **Eligible Lands:** Eligible applicants may apply for grant funding for a project proposal to be conducted on lands with the following ownership types, as long as the project proposal directly reduces wildfire risk to a community:
 - a. Private lands
 - b. Local government
 - c. Homeowner associations
 - d. State government
 - e. Tribal/Alaska native corporation (includes Trust lands)

Lands administered by the federal government are not eligible for this funding opportunity with the exception of lands held in trust for Native American Tribes and individuals (hereinafter Trust lands).

- **State Forest Action Plans and the Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy:** Projects should further the priorities, e.g., goal, strategy, and/or priority landscape in the most recent State Forest Action Plans as well as the relevant regional cohesive wildland fire management strategy document.
- **Executive Order 13985: Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government:** We prioritize applications that show a clear benefit to underserved people and the communities where they reside or the forest areas that they value. Where this is the case, this should be described in the "Project Narrative Form." Underserved communities are also eligible to request a waiver of match requirements.
- **Minimum and Maximum Funding Levels:**
 - a. There is no *minimum* Federal funding limit for projects under CWDG.



- b. The *maximum* amount of Federal funding awarded to any one community or Tribe via this competitive process is:
- \$250,000 for the creation or updating of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and
 - \$10 million for a project described within a Community Wildfire Protection Plan less than 10 years old.
- c. For planning purposes, the Federal funding allocated through the CWDG competitive process is expected to be approximately \$160 million annually for the next five years.
- **Required Matching Funds:** The CWDG program has differing levels of match dependent upon the proposal for which is being applied. For proposals to develop or update a CWPP, the required match is 10%. For proposals to implement projects described within a CWPP, the required match is 25%. Matching funds must be derived entirely from non-Federal sources (unless expressly authorized in law by the other federal program). The match must be met by eligible and allowable costs and is subject to match provisions in grant regulations ([Code of Federal Regulations Title 2 Part 200.306](#) and [Subpart E for Cost Principles](#)). Match must meet all the same requirements as the Federal share and be documented sufficiently to support financial tracking and accountability. **Communities meeting the definition of underserved may request a waiver of match;** no other waiver requests are allowable under this program.
 - **Lead Agency or Organization:** All applications must identify the lead agency or organization that will have primary responsibility for coordinating project work and reporting. The lead agency may pass funds to other partners performing work as relevant.
 - **Grant Timeframes:** Projects must be completed within five (5) years.
 - **For Proposals including multiple communities:** For separate projects in separate communities, separate applications within [cwdg.forestrygrants.org](#) need to be submitted for each community for purposes of determining eligibility, prioritization, and ranking. For an application consisting of a single project that spans multiple communities, the project can be applied for and described within the same application and narrative form.
 - **Scoring and Ranking of applications:** Applications will be scored by members of a regional review panel. Individual reviewer scores will be normalized. All regionally-scored applications will be compiled in a single nationally-ranked list, which will be used to distribute funding.
 - **Reporting:** Funded CWDG projects will be required to provide financial reports to the grant's administrator on a quarterly basis, and project performance reports on an annual basis. The annual performance report shall include a spatial data component. This requires both Forest Service grant monitors and CWDG grant recipients to coordinate in entering project information.
 - **Build America/Buy America:** The Build America, Buy America Act, enacted as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, established a domestic content procurement preference for all Federal financial assistance obligated for infrastructure projects after May 14, 2022. The Buy America preference requires that all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in infrastructure projects are produced in the United States. If a recipient proposes a waiver of the Buy America preference, they must identify the items for which a waiver will be sought in the application. Applicants should not proceed with the expectation that waivers will be granted.
 - **Floodplain Management Criteria:** If applicable and appropriate, a project located in a Special Flood Hazard Area must implement and meet the conditions contained within the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS).
 - **Labor Standards:** All laborers and mechanics employed by the applicant, subrecipients, contractors or subcontractors in the performance of construction, alteration, or repair work on an award or project in excess of \$2000 funded directly by or assisted in whole or in part by funds made available under this grant program shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar projects in the locality, as determined by the Secretary



of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code commonly referred to as the “Davis-Bacon Act” (DBA).

Applicants shall provide written assurance acknowledging the DBA requirements for the award or project and confirming that all laborers and mechanics performing construction, alteration, or repair work on projects in excess of \$2000 funded directly by or assisted in whole or in part by and through funding under the award are paid or will be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a character similar in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with Subchapter IV of Chapter 31 of Title 40, United States Code (Davis-Bacon Act).

Recipients of funding will also be required to undergo DBA compliance training and to maintain competency in DBA compliance. The U.S. Department of Labor offers free Prevailing Wage Seminars several times a year that meet this requirement, at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/government-contracts/construction/seminars/events>.

For additional guidance on how to comply with DBA provisions and clauses, see <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/government-contracts/construction> and <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/government-contracts/protections-for-workers-in-construction>.

Detailed Eligibility and Qualifying Proposal Types

All applicants are highly encouraged to coordinate with the State Forestry Agency (or equivalent) in proposal development. State Forester contact information is available on the [National Association of State Foresters website](#). The Forest Service State & Private Forestry staff are also available to facilitate and assist with this coordination, can provide liaison support for Tribes, and can assist with application submission if needed.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

- The following entities are eligible to submit a project proposal for funding:
 - Units of local governments representing communities located in an area with a risk of wildfires,
 - Indian Tribes (please apply through either the Indian Tribes/Alaska Native Corporations specific notice or the applicable regional notice),
 - Non-profit organizations such as homeowner associations that assist such communities,
 - State forestry agencies, and
 - Alaska Native Corporations (please apply through the either Indian Tribes/Alaska Native Corporations specific notice or the applicable regional notice).
- For-profit entities are not eligible to apply for a grant under this program.

For applications submitted by organizations that plan to work with multiple communities, it will be a requirement of the application to name each of the specific communities that the organization plans to assist. Those specified communities will each need to meet the same eligibility requirements as a community that would be applying on their own.

If a non-profit or other organization is contracted with a State forestry agency for Community Wildfire Defense Grants Program related work, they will not be eligible to apply for a grant under the program unless the grant can be separately managed with no conflict of interest concerns.

Location of Projects

An eligible applicant may apply for grant funding for a project proposal to be conducted on lands with the following ownership types provided the project proposal directly reduces wildfire risk to a community.

- Private
- Local government



- Homeowner associations
- State government
- Tribal/Alaska native corporation (includes Trust lands)

Lands administered by the federal government are not eligible for this funding opportunity with the exception of Trust lands.

Project Objectives

A project proposal must advance objectives and priorities identified in a community wildfire protection plan that is not more than 10 years old.

A project proposal must be designed to achieve one or more of the following objectives:

- a. Assist a community with planning to address management of wildfire risk.
- b. Assist a community with mitigation measures or actions to reduce wildfire risk.

Projects to be Given Priority

Applicants will have the responsibility to indicate on the application if they meet any or all of the three priorities. The applicant will also need to provide supporting documentation or a link to such documentation for each priority that is checked. Priority will be given to project proposals that:

- Are located in an area identified as having a high or very high wildfire hazard potential;
- Benefit a low-income community; or
- Are located in a community impacted by a severe disaster within the previous 10 years.

General Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for grant funding, a project proposal must meet the following criteria:

1. Projects must be for a qualifying activity
2. Meets the cost-share match or waiver requirement
 - a. The cost-share match can be in the form of a cash or in-kind contribution.
 - b. A cash match cannot utilize other federal funding.
3. The maximum grant amount is:
 - a. \$250,000 to develop or revise/update a CWPP
 - b. \$10,000,000 to carry out projects described in a CWPP
4. Funds cannot be used on lands administered by the federal government with the exception of Trust lands.
5. The grant term is for a total maximum of five (5) years.
6. Communities that request funding for mitigation projects or the development/ update of a CWPP must verify if they currently have in place an ordinance or regulation that requires that roofs for new building construction as well as the reroofing or replacement of a roof on existing buildings adheres to standards that are similar to, or more stringent than the roof construction standards established by the National Fire Protection Association or applicable model building code established by the International Code Council.
(Note: It is not a requirement to have a roofing ordinance for grant eligibility)
7. Communities that request funding for mitigation projects must:
 - a. meet the definition of an “at-risk community” as defined, and
 - b. be following a CWPP, Tribal hazard mitigation plan, or FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan with a wildfire component that is not older than 10 years, or
 - c. have a CWPP or FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan in place by the application deadline, and at the time of obligation of grant funds for mitigation projects, and
 - d. have the project(s) requested for funding described in the CWPP or similar plan.

PROJECT PROPOSAL TYPES

Applications may be submitted to fund the following types of project proposals:

Planning:



Local and Tribal governments are encouraged to conduct planning and exercises to assist their communities with wildfire preparedness, response, and adaptation efforts. One of the fundamental building blocks in creating a fire adapted community is the development, adoption and continuous use of a well-prepared Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). In some cases, a community may choose to utilize a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan or Tribal hazard mitigation plan with a wildfire component that meets the same objectives of a CWPP. A well-prepared CWPP or similar plan should address issues such as wildfire response, hazard mitigation, community preparedness (which includes smoke readiness), structure protection, or a combination of these issues, and will greatly assist a local government body in planning and prioritizing project work.

Specific CWPP development guidance, as well as any more stringent requirements of the relevant state government, may be obtained by contacting your state forestry agency.

In addition to the development of a CWPP or similar plan, local governments should also consider how tools such as zoning, building codes and land use planning may be used to effect change in how and where homes and businesses are constructed and located so that wildfire risk is reduced, and firefighter safety is improved if protective actions are required. In developing any planning tools, and determining risk both now and into the future, a community should consider the most recent climate data available for the planning area involved, as appropriate. In support of the Biden-Harris Administration’s [National Initiative to Advance Building Codes](#), launched in June 2022 by the National Climate Task Force to accelerate adoption of modern building codes to improve resiliency, create good-paying jobs, and lower energy bills, communities who develop and adopt modern NFPA, ICC, or similar building codes will receive access to funding reserved for communities with code requirements for any future CWDG applications.

Finally, communities are encouraged to continuously refer to their CWPPs or similar plans, keep them updated, and conduct tests and exercises to ensure that recommended practices and objectives are being achieved.

Examples of Planning Projects	
Eligible Projects	Ineligible Projects
Creation of a CWPP or development of a wildfire section for a hazard mitigation plan.	GIS and database systems unless they support a CWPP, wildfire risk reduction planning or fuels mitigation initiative or project
Update of an existing CWPP/hazard mitigation plan (Existing plan must be over five (5) years old.)	Creation and/or update of Forest Stewardship Plans
Contract support to assist a community with developing building codes, zoning ordinances or land use planning.	Economic development projects
Direct staff funding support to assist a community with developing building codes, zoning ordinances or land use planning.	Small business start-up funding
Tabletop or functional exercises to test effectiveness of community wildfire planning.	Research and development projects
Plan and address public health and safety effects of smoke and mitigation from	



Examples of Planning Projects	
Eligible Projects	Ineligible Projects
wildfire and projects that use prescribed fire (“Smoke Ready” efforts)	
Direct staff support for community wildfire mitigation leadership/coordination	
Training in the use of proven effective mitigation practices, such as the Forest Service’s mitigation best practices	
Direct staff support to assist in creation of a local or regional mitigation partnership	

Table 1 - Eligible Planning Projects

Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Education/Outreach:

Local and Tribal governments can provide leadership to result in reduced wildfire risk to their communities by coordinating, developing, and distributing educational programs. These programs and outreach may be delivered in association with states, insurance companies, non-governmental organizations, and other partners. Educational and outreach projects must raise awareness of what is the main cause of wildfires, what the risks are, and what actions they can take to reduce that risk.

Projects should lead to actions such as the use or establishment of one or more fire program elements such as fire safety codes, implementation of Firewise USA® practices, establishing local fire safe councils, and fuels treatments within fire-prone communities.

Projects should be concise and clearly demonstrate deliverables and measures of success of wildfire prevention/mitigation education and outreach activities.

Wildfire Prevention/Education/Outreach	
Eligible	Ineligible
Firewise USA® or similar programs outreach to communities and property owners	Printing of paper-based materials without an organized outreach/education program
Fire education presentation such as Project Learning Tree	
Property inspections and/or assessments	
Training to conduct property inspections and/or assessments	
Implementation of WUI Structure / Parcel / Community Fire Hazard Mitigation Methodology (HMM) for community hazard reduction	
Adoption, implementation, enforcement, and training of National Fire Protection Association, International Code Council, or similar codes	

**Table 2 - Eligible Prevention/Education/Outreach Projects****Reduce Hazardous Fuels / Restore Fire-adapted Ecosystems:**

Fuel reduction projects and vegetation treatments have been identified as an effective means of mitigating wildfire hazards. Recipients shall facilitate and implement mitigating fuel treatments in, or adjacent to communities to reduce the threat of wildfire to such communities.

Effective fuels mitigation treatments can be implemented across jurisdictional boundaries, on adjoining private lands, or within the respective communities. Communities may consider fuel treatments that extend out from community boundaries by 1.5 miles. Projects of this type include fuel breaks, thinning, pruning, landscape modifications, etc. The overall purpose is to modify or break up the fuels in such a way as to lessen wildfire risk and its threat to the public, provide for firefighter safety, and reduce damage to property. Such treatments may have additional desirable outcomes, such as providing sustainable environmental, social and economic benefits.

Project proposals must consider all elements required to implement treatments on the ground, which includes acquiring the necessary permits and consultations needed to complete plans and assessments, as well as treatment prescriptions and measures of success. Projects should also consider any necessary maintenance treatments especially in those areas of the country where woody vegetation regrows rapidly.

Examples of Hazardous Fuels Reduction/ Restoration Projects	
Eligible	Ineligible
Defensible space around homes, businesses, and other structures	Capital improvements including construction/infrastructure (building remodel, bridges, road construction, water development)
Development, creation, and/or maintenance of fuel breaks and fire breaks, including shaded fuel breaks	Home hardening, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roof upgrades or replacements • Fire resistant siding • Metal gutters and vents
Fuels reduction beyond defensible space adjacent to at-risk communities.	Fire suppression training (unless course is a requirement for prescribed fire qualifications)
Removal of standing woody vegetation by cutting, piling and burning.	Fire suppression equipment and apparatus
Removal of standing woody vegetation by cutting and chipping.	Drones
Removal of standing woody vegetation using a mechanical mulcher or masticator type equipment mounted on mobile equipment.	
Reduction of hazardous fuels through the application of prescribed fire.	
Vegetation management (pruning, mowing, chemical treatment, grazing), including rights-of-ways for roads.	



Examples of Hazardous Fuels Reduction/ Restoration Projects	
Eligible	Ineligible
Maintenance of fuels projects. Up to two (2) maintenance treatment allowed per project during the grant term.	
Monitoring components of projects for effectiveness (must have established baseline)	
Prescribed fire training, including training on smoke management associated with prescribed fires	
Design and installation of dry hydrants and cisterns	
<p>Purchase of mechanical equipment that meets, or does not exceed the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brush/wood chippers that are towable or mountable to a skid steer, compact track loader or tractor with a maximum chipping capacity of no more than 15 inches. • Self-propelled forestry mulchers up to a maximum 200 horsepower. • Forestry mulcher attachments designed for skid steers, compact track loaders, excavators or crawler dozers. • Heavy duty brush mowers that can be utilized for maintaining road rights-of-ways and fire breaks. • Trailers necessary to transport equipment that is determined eligible in this section, including box-type trailers to store and transport prescribed fire equipment. 	
Purchase of equipment for brush/fuel disposal, such as air curtain burner/trench burner	



Examples of Hazardous Fuels Reduction/ Restoration Projects	
Eligible	Ineligible
<p>Purchase of the following equipment and supplies to support the use of prescribed fire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal protection equipment, including fire shelters and N95 filtering face respirators • Drip torches • Wildland hand tools • Backpack blowers • Chainsaws • Portable wildfire pumps • Wildland hose • Portable folding water tanks • Cache of air filtration units for use by the public 	

Table 3 - Eligible Hazardous Fuels Reduction/Restoration Projects

Cost Share Match Requirements and Waivers

Matching Requirements

Cost-share is required for all applications funded under the CWDG Program. The cost share rates for this program are:

- not less than 10 percent for a grant awarded to develop or revise a CWPP; and
- not less than 25 percent for a grant awarded to carry out projects described in a CWPP that is not more than 10 years old.

This means Federal funding is available for up to 90 percent of eligible costs for developing or revising CWPPs and 75 percent for projects described in a CWPP. The non-Federal cost-share may consist of cash, donated or third-party in-kind services, materials, or any combination thereof. Cash and third-party in-kind matches must consist of eligible costs (i.e., same eligibility as the Federal share).

- Cash match is from the applicant's budget, such as personnel salary, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, and supplies, or cash provided by another party. Source of cash match cannot be derived from another Federal award or grant.
- In-Kind match is a non-cash contribution of value. A non-Federal entity's in-kind match must meet the following criteria:
 - Are verifiable from the non-Federal entity's records (See Appendix K for examples);
 - Are not included as contributions for any other Federal award;
 - Are necessary and reasonable for accomplishment of project or program objectives;
 - Are allowable under subpart E of 2 CFR 200;
 - Are not paid by the Federal Government under another Federal award, except where the Federal statute authorizing a program specifically provides that Federal funds made available for such program can be applied to matching or cost sharing requirements of other Federal programs;



- Are provided for in the approved budget when required by the Federal awarding agency; and
- Conform to other provisions of 2 CFR 200, as applicable.

Applicants cannot apply other Federal award funds toward the CWDG non-Federal cost share unless the other Federal statutory authority allows the funds to be used to meet cost-share requirements. Ultimately, the recipient is responsible for ensuring that it contributes the proper cost share to its actual project costs. If actual total project costs exceed the projected total project costs stated in the Federal award, the recipient will not receive any additional Federal funding and will be responsible for contributing additional funds above the required cost match. If actual total project costs are less than the projected total project costs stated in the Federal award, the recipient will be responsible for contributing a cost match calculated as a percentage of those actual project costs.

Cost-Share Waiver

The Forest Service may waive the cost-sharing requirement for a project that serves an underserved community. In considering a waiver for the cost-sharing requirement, please include in your waiver request sufficient supporting documentation to demonstrate that the community meets the threshold of vulnerable with a score 0.75 or above on the CDC Social Vulnerability Index, as compared to the nation, or meets the low-income descriptions we provide. To determine if your project qualifies for this cost-sharing requirement, please use CDC's Social Vulnerability Index for 2018, with tracts compared to the nation.

Pacific Island Cost-Share

Projects within the six Pacific Islands (Territory of American Samoa, Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Territory of Guam, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands) do not require matching funds for proposals requesting \$500,000 or less as governed by statute. A waiver request is not necessary for Pacific Island proposals that fall within this requested amount.



Scoring Criteria for Community Wildfire Adaptation Grants (100 points total)

Clearly and concisely address each of these criteria in the Project Narrative Form:

1. Project Description (10 points)

The application should clearly define the scope of the project, what the project proposes to accomplish, why it is important, and how it links to the Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and relevant State Forest Action Plan.

2. Budget (10 points)

	Grant	Match	TOTAL
	Funds Requested	Non-Federal Funds	Total Project Cost
Personnel/Labor:			
Fringe Benefits:			
Travel:			
Equipment:			
Supplies:			
Contractual:			
Other:			
Indirect Costs:			
TOTAL:			

The budget narrative must describe how the grant funds will be spent with specific detail for each grant expenditure. It must describe how expenditures are applicable and relevant to the goals and objectives of the project. A project proposal must also show how the applicant will meet matching requirements or qualify for a waiver.

3. Accomplishments (10 points)

A proposal must clearly define how a project will be accomplished, timelines and milestones, as well as measures and metrics. Examples include:

- a. How the selected objectives will lead to measurable outcomes for community wildfire risk reduction.
- b. How the applicant will measure progress towards those outcomes (such as, acres treated to reduce hazardous fuels, change in fire regime).
- c. The proposed metrics for measuring progress, which must be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely.

4. Collaboration (10 points)

The application should clearly define collaborative elements including support from partners, agencies, landowners, and communities. A project proposal must identify partners that will be actively engaged in carrying out the project and add value to project planning and implementation. Collaboration may be qualitative in nature, and the contribution of a partner may be more than the number of partners.

5. Landscape Impacts (10 points)

The application should clearly define the scale of the project including relationships with past, present, or future projects that, when combined, offer more benefits than when taken individually. The overall landscape that the project influences, in addition to the defined project area, should be clearly



described, as well as the land ownerships within the area. Specify areas targeted for planning or mitigation. Clearly describe each proposed activity and include details on where they will be occurring. Include the approximate number of structures that will benefit from the proposed action.

6. Project Sustainability (10 points)

The application should clearly define how or if the project will sustain itself after the grant period is over. Any steps or plans that will be carried out to continue the project benefits beyond the life of the grant should be described.

7. Low Income Community (10 points)

The application should clearly demonstrate and document whether the project benefits a low-income community.

8. Affected by a Severe Disaster (10 points)

The application should clearly demonstrate and document whether the project benefits a community that has been impacted by a severe disaster within the previous ten (10) years, and clearly exhibit how the severe disaster increased wildfire risk and/or hazard, and was of a scale and scope to have had landscape impacts (please see full definition later in this NOFO).

9. Area of Wildfire Hazard Potential (20 points)

The application should clearly demonstrate and document whether the project is located in an area identified as having high or very high wildfire hazard potential as defined by a local, state, Tribal, regional, or national wildfire hazard potential assessment.

Criteria Scoring Rubric: This rubric is for the review team members to reference while scoring the applications.

Criteria Scoring Rubric			
Criteria	High Score	Medium Score	Low Score
1. Project Description	7-10 points Clearly defined purpose and goals. Paints clear picture of what project is trying to achieve and how it will be accomplished. Links to Cohesive Strategy and/or State Forest Action Plan goals and strategies. Proposal includes the updating, adoption and/or development of current building codes that reduce susceptibility to wildfire exposure.	3-6 points Project described in general, but misses one or two elements that would clarify goal and intent. Outlines project well but does not clearly address risk or hazard. Mentions Cohesive Strategy or State Forest Action plan only cursory.	0-2 points Weak description of purpose of project or how it will protect community. Unclear on how it will be accomplished. No linkage to Cohesive Strategy or State Forest Action Plan.
2. Budget	7-10 points	3-6 points	0-2 points



Criteria Scoring Rubric			
Criteria	High Score	Medium Score	Low Score
	Budget is complete, easy to understand, and budget items are clearly labeled. Narrative provides clear and concise explanation of each budget line item and its function within the project.	Budget items are present and detailed, but one or more budget line items lacks explanation and function within project description.	Major errors in budget calculations. Expenditures and budget line-item functions are unclear. Poorly written.
3. Accomplishments	7-10 points Compelling, clear and concise description of qualitative and quantitative outcomes. Measures are specific, achievable and clear.	3-6 points Description of how outcomes will achieve one or more objectives of grant. Outcomes are commensurate with budget.	0-2 points Weak description, or lack of clarity for measures. Outcomes are not commensurate with budget.
4. Collaboration	7-10 points Demonstrates strong collaboration with, and commitment by, partners. High coordination with other entities. Cross boundary collaboration	3-6 points Limited to moderate coordination with partners. Demonstrates some, but not strong, commitment by partners.	0-2 points A simple assertion, or very little or no meaningful collaboration. Little to no coordination with neighboring entities or complementary programs
5. Landscape Impacts	7-10 points Clearly demonstrates forethought given to project location, orientation and/or scope/magnitude of positive impact on a landscape and/or community beyond the defined project area.	3-6 points Landscape level activities or community reach are described in general or other nearby projects are listed, but it is not clear how or why the project complements directly at a landscape or community level.	0-2 points Narrative not clearly written; key descriptions of landscape community level activities, and overall project impact are absent.
6. Project Sustainability	7-10 points Application well-written and clearly shows that items described have been planned in advance and/or have had past success. Describes who is responsible for maintenance, duration, and if any processes or long-term plans are in place to support the project after grant funding is expended. Proposal includes	3-6 points Missing key details or specificity of how project will be maintained beyond life of grant, but is otherwise well written, detailed, and descriptive.	0-2 points Omits multiple details on how project will be sustained, and/or is poorly detailed and unclear. No mention of how project will provide benefit beyond the life of the grant



Criteria Scoring Rubric			
Criteria	High Score	Medium Score	Low Score
	the updating, adoption and/or development of current building codes that reduce susceptibility to wildfire exposure.		
7. Low income community	10 points All, or part of a project area is located in a low-income community as defined.	not applicable	0 points All of a project is located outside the footprint of a low-income community, as defined, or is not documented
8. Impacted by Severe Disaster	10 points All, or part of a project area has been impacted by a severe disaster, as defined, and is documented	not applicable	0 points None of project area has been impacted by a severe disaster, as defined, or is not properly documented
9. High/Very high wildfire hazard potential	20 points All, or part of project is located within an area of high or very high wildfire hazard potential, and is properly documented	not applicable	0 points Project is located outside any area with high or very high wildfire hazard potential, or is not documented properly

Preparing an Application

Application materials can be found by searching for this funding opportunity through Grants.gov. Search for grant Opportunity Number **USDA-FS-2022-CWDG-CWSF**. These materials and reference documents can also be found through the CWSF webpage at westernforesters.org. **Applications will be submitted through cwdg.forestrygrants.org**. The appropriate state or Forest Service contact can assist you with this application process.

Prior to preparing an application, carefully read this document to ensure eligibility requirements, purposes, match requirements, and what the review panel will be looking for during scoring and ranking. Applicants should also be familiar with the relevant [State's Forest Action Plan\(s\)](#) as well as the [Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy](#). ***It is highly recommended to work with the appropriate state contact (see list in this NOFO) early on in the application process for guidance.***

Complete application packages include the following (complete all forms in your Workspace at Grants.gov):



While western applicants are not required to complete their System Award Management (SAM) www.sam.gov registration or renewal and SF-424/SF-424A in order to submit a proposal, this documentation is ultimately required in order to be awarded funding. Applicants must be prepared to provide all necessary documentation if selected for funding. It is strongly advised to initiate the process of acquiring/renewing a SAM.gov registration as early as possible as this process can take some time, which could result in delayed delivery of funding or moving down to the next project on the ranked list.

Completed application packages are due by 11:59pm, Eastern Time Zone, October 7th, 2022.



Application Instructions

Clearly and concisely respond to each section in the application. For the longer sections, we encourage you to include sub-headings, line spacing, and/or other formatting for ease of reading (rather than fill every line with words). A pdf application form is available at westernforesters.org and may be used to prepare your application prior to inputting the information into the cwdg.forestrygrants.org portal. It is advised to pre-prepare your application before copying the final into the grant portal.

- **Applicant Information:** Enter the name of the organization applying for Federal funding and the name and contact information for the project or program, i.e., who would be the lead for implementing the project if funded. This will be the same information in the proposal cooperator section unless a state forestry agency or non-profit has agreed to be the one implementing the project. In that case, the applicant information section should indicate the contact information for the state forestry agency or non-profit organization and the proposal cooperator should indicate the community contact information.
- **Project Title:** Provide a uniquely descriptive title for this project. Use this full title consistently on all submission communications until an official application number is assigned by the Western Region S&PF.
 - **Identification Keyword:** Along the top of the application, you must insert a shortform version of your project title into the keyword box. Your application will not show a complete status if this field is left blank.
- **GIS Coordinates of Project Area:** Include either a reference point with acreage, or boundary points for the project in lat/long entered in the following format: 39.000, -104.300. A “Reference Point” displays a single marker with name on the map and can be used for indicating a general region without specifying exact boundaries. An “Area” defines a region with a boundary defined by straight lines. At least three points are needed to define an area. For projects such as fuel treatments, provide sufficient points to define the area. For CWPP development, please include a description of the planning area and type (e.g. municipality boundary, fire response district, township, etc.). Coordinate data must be in WGS84 datum.
- **Brief Project Overview and Purpose:** Provide a brief purpose statement or synopsis for the project.
- **Grant Component Type:** Specify the option that best describes the project for which you are applying. Due to differing requirements for match and funding limits, specify only one per application and do not combine CWPP development proposals with project implementation proposals.
- **At-risk community:** Specify “yes” or “no” and provide a link to the source used showing the community is at risk. This is a fundamental eligibility requirement, so if you specify “no” you are not eligible for funding under this opportunity. Please verify with state forestry agency or equivalent prior to applying. Documentation and verification will be required. This may be accomplished by entering a link to the verification source in the application. If you need to provide an alternative form of documentation, please contact your state or federal point of contact listed within this NOFO. Documentation must support one of the below options for at-risk community eligibility.
- **An at-risk community is defined as an area that is comprised of:**
 - Option 1: An interface community as defined in the notice entitled “Wildland Urban Interface Communities Within the Vicinity of Federal Lands That Are at High Risk From Wildfire,” issued by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with title IV of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (114 Stat. 1009) (66 Fed. Reg. 753, January 4, 2001);**
 - OR**
 - Option 2: A group of homes and other structures with basic infrastructure and services (i.e., utilities, collectively maintained transportation routes, etc.) at risk from wildfire as recognized by a state, regional, or national wildfire risk assessment, in which herbaceous or woody fuel conditions in and adjacent to the community are conducive to a wildland fire disturbance event which threatens human life or values-at-risk.**



- **Roofing Code/Ordinance:** Specify “yes” or “no”. A roofing ordinance is not a requirement for this program but may dictate the available source of funds.
- **Project Description (10 points):** Provide a comprehensive but succinct overview of the proposed project that includes basic details of who is doing what, where, and why this is important. Provide linkages to the tenets of the Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and the State Forest Action Plan. Specify if benefits to traditionally underserved or marginalized audiences are a component of the work.
- **Applicant Budget:** Provide dollar figures (rounded to nearest dollar) for each cost proposed for each relevant budget category. This information should match your SF-424A which you must fill out if selected in order to receiving funding.
 - **Personnel:** Expenses for personnel and staff salary
 - **Fringe Benefits:** Fringe benefits should be based upon actual known costs or established formula. Fringe benefits are for the personnel listed in the above category, and only for the percentage of time devoted to project.
 - **Equipment:** Non-expendable items with a single-item value >\$5,000 to be purchased. Applicants should analyze the cost benefits of purchasing versus leasing equipment, especially high-cost items. Rented or leased equipment costs go in the “Contractual” category.
 - **Supplies:** Expenses for supplies <\$5,000
 - **Contractual:** Expenses for product or services to be paid to a consultant, contractor or lease/rental
 - **Other:** any other eligible costs not captured in the categories above
 - **Indirect Costs:** Indirect costs must be tied to an established rate. Recipients must utilize either their approved overhead rate or the standard de-minimus rate for budget calculations.
- **Project Budget Explanation (10 points):** Provide any additional remarks needed to clarify and justify your budget request. Clearly explain how the budget will be spent by line item, sources of match, and how expenditures are applicable and relevant to the goals and objectives of the project.
- **Measurable Outcomes:** Measurable Outcomes Table: Provide the Planned output amounts, as relevant, for both the number and type of activities, as well as planned costs associated with those activities.
- **Accomplishments (10 points):** Clearly define how the project will be accomplished, including describing the planned activities in the previous table, as well as identifying measurable outcomes and timelines (are the proposed activities clear and achievable, goals defined, outcomes measurable, # of acres treated, # of education/outreach programs, planning/assessment efforts clearly described, etc.)
- **Collaboration (10 points):** Identify partners that have demonstrated a commitment and add value towards planning and carrying out the project, and describe what these partners and collaborators contribute. Demonstrate residual positive benefits, as a result of collaboration, related to capacity, skills, knowledge, infrastructure, or a replicable approach.
- **Landscape Impact (10 points):** Clearly define the scale of the project, including relationships with past, present, or future projects that, when combined, offer more benefits than when taken individually. Describe overall landscape that the project influences.
- **Project Sustainability (10 points):** Clearly define how, or if, the project will sustain itself after the grant period is over. Describe any plans or steps that will be taken to continue the project benefits beyond the life of the grant.
- **Low Income Community (10 points):** Specify either “yes” or “no”. This is a priority for funding, so if you indicate “no” you are still eligible for funding but will not score as high. Please verify with the appropriate



state contact prior to applying. Documentation and verification will be required. This may be accomplished by entering a link to the verification source in the application. If you need to provide an alternative form of documentation, please contact your state or federal point of contact listed within this NOFO. For purposes of this program, a low-income community is defined as a community where the relevant counties (i.e., the counties in which the community is located) has a median household income of less than 80% of the median household income of the relevant state(s). Documentation may be accomplished by either entering a link to the verification source in the application narrative, or by submitting/uploading documentation as an attachment in grants.gov.

- **Impacted by a severe disaster (10 points):** Specify “yes” or “no”. This is a priority for funding, so if you indicate “no” you are still eligible for funding but will not score as high. Please verify with the appropriate state contact prior to applying. Documentation and verification will be required. This may be accomplished by entering a link to the verification source in the application. If you need to provide an alternative form of documentation, please contact your state or federal point of contact listed within this NOFO. ***Impacted by a severe disaster means any event declared, designated, or recognized by a government authority as having caused damage, loss, or destruction to an extent and scale that an unusual or abnormal increase in wildfire risk or hazard potential to a community has occurred. Examples may include Federal, State, Tribal, or county disaster declarations or declared emergencies, events declared by the USDA Farm Services Agency, communities impacted by a FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant, or widespread insect and disease mortality.***
- **High or Very High Wildfire Hazard Potential (20 points):** Specify “yes” or “no” box. This is a priority for funding, so if you indicate “no” you are still eligible for funding but will not score as high. Please verify with the appropriate state contact prior to applying. Documentation and verification will be required. This may be accomplished by entering a link to the verification source in the application. If you need to provide an alternative form of documentation, please contact your state or federal point of contact listed within this NOFO. ***High or very high wildfire hazard potential means the project is located within an area identified as having high or very high wildfire hazard potential as defined by a local, state, Tribal, regional, or national wildfire hazard potential assessment.***

Project Evaluation and Selection

The competitive process is intended to support projects that will make substantial contributions to reducing wildfire risk to communities, and advance priorities identified in a State Forest Action Plan and the Cohesive Strategy.

A regional CWDG review panel will be responsible for reviewing/scoring all CWDG grants using the established scoring criteria and process. Panel members will collaboratively review, evaluate, and prioritize project applications for each application assigned to them. Scoring comments will be made public once the scoring process has closed.

Once all submitted grant applications have been reviewed and scored by each regional competitive grant committee and the Tribal grant committee, they will be normalized.

The results will then be provided to the USDA Forest Service Washington Office where they will be combined into one nationally ranked list. The number of projects selected on that list will be determined by available funding. Projects not awarded funding will not automatically be considered for funding the following year; they will be required to submit a new application under the appropriate opportunity number.

Contacts for Further Information

Applicants are strongly encouraged to reach out to the relevant State Forester and Forest Service Cooperative



Fire Specialist during application development to ensure the project aligns with program purpose and eligibility and receive input to strengthen your application.

US Forest Service FAM Washington Office Program Contact for CWDG:

- Sheila Walker, 360-956-2298, Sheila.Walker2@usda.gov
- Brad Simpkins, 603-312-8326, brad.simpkins@usda.gov
- Tim Melchert, 208-387-5887, timothy.melchert@usda.gov

Contacts by State and Territory:

Alaska: Sarah Saarloos; sarah.saarloos@alaska.gov, 907-301-0971

Arizona: John Richardson; jrichardson@dffm.az.gov, 602-771-1420

California: accessga@usda.gov; 773-299-4831

Colorado: Daniel Beveridge; daniel.beveridge@colostate.edu, 970-491-8755

Hawaii: Michael Walker; Michael.j.walker@hawaii.gov, 808-348-5834

Idaho: Tyre Holfeltz; tholfeltz@idl.idaho.gov, 208-666-8653

Kansas: Mark Neely; mneely@ksu.edu, 785-532-3314

Montana: Erik Warrington; ewarrington@mt.gov, 406-542-4303

Nebraska: John Erixson; jerixson2@unl.edu, 402-472-6601

Nevada: Barry Stone; barry.stone@forestry.nv.gov, 775-684-2511

New Mexico: Vernon Muller; vernonj.muller@state.nm.us, 505-476-3337 or Robert Brown; robert.brown@state.nm.us, 505-660-5705

North Dakota: Ryan Melin; ryan.melin@ndsu.edu, 701-328-9985

Oregon: Ron Graham; ron.graham@odf.oregon.gov, 503-945-7271 or Jenna Trentadue; jenna.a.trentadue@odf.oregon.gov, 503-945-7444

South Dakota: Monty Bollock; monty.bollock@state.sd.us, 605-381-7263

Utah: Julie Murphy; juliemurphy@utah.gov, 385-228-6439

Washington: Guy Gifford; guy.gifford@dnr.wa.gov, 509-990-6218

Wyoming: Aaron Lumley; aaron.lumley@wyo.gov, 307-777-5659

Territory of American Samoa: accessga@usda.gov; 773-299-4831

Republic of Palau: accessga@usda.gov; 773-299-4831

Federated States of Micronesia: accessga@usda.gov; 773-299-4831

Territory of Guam: Christine Fejeran; Christine.fejeran@doag.guam.gov, 671-300-7976/5/7

Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands: accessga@usda.gov; 773-299-4831

Republic of the Marshall Islands: accessga@usda.gov; 773-299-4831



Appendix I. Instructions for Submitting Applications through [CWDG.Forestrygrants.org](https://cwdg.forestrygrants.org)

Submit all applications for this funding opportunity through cwdg.forestrygrants.org. Guidance documents can be found by searching for grant Opportunity Number **USDA-FS-2022-CWDG-CWSF** on Grants.gov or visiting westernforesters.org under the grants tab. Applicants submit your application to cwdg.forestrygrants.org by 11:59 pm, Eastern Time Zone, **October 7, 2022**. You will need to get a link from your state or federal point of contact to input and submit your application so it is not advised that you wait until the last minute. The following section provides guidance on how to submit applications through cwdg.forestrygrants.org.

1. Contact the State or Federal Contact listed above

These points of contact can assist you in readying your application and ensuring the application abides by all elements of the guidance. They will provide you a unique link to your application. Please keep this link confidential only among those working together on the application. If you provide others with the link, they are able to make changes to your application.

2. Filling Out and Saving Your Application

You may opt to use the fillable pdf application available on westernforesters.org to ready your application prior to inputting it into the grant portal. Use the unique link provided to you by your state or federal point of contact to begin filling out the application in the grant portal. Hit the update button after completing each section to save it. You can return to the proposal you are working on by saving the link. It is suggested you save or print your completed application for your records prior to submitting. Once you hit submit the link will no longer work and you may not make changes to your application. All applications and scoring comments become part of the public record and will be viewable after the final award list is complete unless your application was found to not meet the eligibility requirements. You will be notified if this is the case.

If you are working with a state forestry agency or non-profit who will be implementing the project, please be sure their information is indicated in the applicant information section and the community contact information is indicated in the proposal cooperator section. The state forestry agency or non-profit must have agreed to this in advance of submission. If you are both the community contact and the one implementing the project both of these sections are the same.

3. Final Submission and Confirmation

After initial submission, the state or federal contact will ensure all required fields are complete and verify the cooperator/applicant information matches the implementation entity agreed to among those parties. All complete applications will be put forward into the scoring process. The only exceptions being if your application is incomplete or you have input the state forestry agency or non-profit in the applicant information field, but did not pre-coordinate with that entity. You will be contacted if these fields are in error or your application is incomplete. Again, please do not wait until the last minute to begin the application process to ensure all issues are dealt with timely enough to meet the application deadline of **October 7 at 11:59pm, Eastern Time Zone**.

You should receive a confirmation email after this final submission. If you do not receive one, please reach out to your state or federal contact or email info@westernforesters.org with your state, organization name, and the title and keyword of your project.

Applicant Support: For additional support, please contact your state or federal point of contact listed above. Questions may also be submitted to info@westernforesters.org. Fillable pdf applications, webinar recordings, and other resources may be found at westernforesters.org.



Appendix II. Community Wildfire Defense Grant Application Requirements

Checklist

This is as an aide for applicants submitting CWDG applications through cwdg.forestrygrants.org and is not an exhaustive list of grant requirements.

We prioritize applications that show a clear benefit to underserved/historically marginalized people and the communities where they reside or the forest areas that they value. Where this is the case, this should be described in the “Project Narrative Form.” This supports [Executive Order 13985: Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government](#).

Requirements:

- Applicant is a unit of local government, nonprofit organization (501c3), Indian Tribe, State Forestry Agency (includes US territories and interests), or Alaska Native Corporation.
- Applicant organization must have an active [System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#) registration, and Grants.gov account at time of award.
- Project is focused on reducing wildfire risk to an at-risk community.
- Project is located on non-federal lands (with exception of Trust lands).
- Project is not listed in the “Ineligible” column on pages 5 thru 9.
- Required match is met for requested federal funds (10% for CWPP development/revision; 25% for project implementation) unless an underserved community grant waiver is requested or the requirements of the Pacific Island match waiver are met.
- Submit all forms in cwdg.forestrygrants.org by 11:59pm, Eastern Time Zone, October 7, 2022.

Forms Required if Awarded:

- SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance
 - SF-424A Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs
 - Screenshot that shows ACTIVE registration in SAM.gov
 - DBA written assurance (required for construction)
-