CWDG Training for State and Federal Program Managers

(Updated 08/03/2022)

Today's Agenda

- CWDG Program Overview

- CWDG Application Eligibility

- Scoring Criteria and Prioritization Factors

- CWDG Application

- CWDG Application Systems

- Grants and Agreements

- CWDG Program Information on Low-Income and Underserved Communities

CWDG Program Overview

Authorizing Legislation

Infrastructure, Investment and Jobs Act, Section 40803(f) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture, through the USDA Forest Service, to establish a program, which shall be separate from the program established under section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133), under which the Secretary of Agriculture, in cooperation with the States, shall award grants to at-risk communities, including Indian Tribes —

- (A) to develop or revise a community wildfire protection plan; and
- (B) to carry out projects described in a community wildfire protection plan that is not more than 10 years old.

Program Purpose

- The CWDG is intended to 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

Program Administration

- Grants are offered on a competitive basis through Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) posted on www.Grants.gov

  - One NOFO per each of the three regional state forestry organizations (West, Northeast/Midwest, and Southeast)

  - One NOFO for Tribes

- Applications submitted either to grants.gov, or cwdg.forestrygrants.org, depending on location of applicant

  - www.Grants.gov for (NE/ MW and South)

  - https://cwdg.forestrygrants.org/ (West)

  - Tribes may utilize either www.Grants.gov or https://cwdg.forestrygrants.org/

Program Administration (continued)

- A grant review panel will be convened in each of the state forestry organization regions to review, score, and rank grant applications received within their respective state forestry organization regions

- USDA Forest Service (USFS) will organize a grant review panel to review, score, and rank the grant applications received from Tribes

- A specific training will be provided to Review Panel Members

Eligible Applicants

- Entities eligible to apply for funding under the CWDG include:

  - Units of local governments representing communities located in an area with a risk of wildfires

  - Indian Tribes

  - Alaska Native Corporations

  - Non-profit organizations including homeowner associations that assist such communities

  - State forestry agencies (including U.S. territories and interests)

- For-profit entities are not eligible to apply for CWDG

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:

  - Private lands

  - Local government

  - Homeowner associations

  - State government

  - Tribal/Alaska native corporation (includes Trust lands)

- Federal lands are not eligible for this funding opportunity, with the exception of federal Tribal trust lands

Eligibility and Priority Elements

- Eligibility
  - At-risk Community

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

- Executive Order 13985: Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government

Funding

- Minimum and Maximum Funding Levels

  - There is no *minimum* Federal funding limit for projects under CWDG

  - The *maximum* amount of Federal funding awarded to any one community or Tribal entity:

    - $250,000 for creating or updating a Community Wildfire Protection Plan

    - $10 million for a project described within a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP can be no more than 10 years old).

Funding (continued)

- Required Matching Funds:
  - Proposals to develop or update a CWPP, required match is 10%
  - Proposals to implement projects described in a CWPP, required match is 25%
  - Underserved communities are eligible to request a match waiver

Grant Application and Scoring Process Elements

- **Lead Agency or Organization:**
  - All applications must identify the lead agency or organization
  - The lead agency may pass funds to other partners performing work as relevant.

- **Scoring and Ranking of applications:** Applications will be scored by members of one of four (4) review panels

- **Grant Timeframes:** Projects must be completed within five (5) years

- **Reporting:**
  - Quarterly Financial reports
  - Annual Project Performance reports
  - Performance report shall include a spatial data component

Multiple Community Applications

There may be two types of "Multiple Community" Applications

- **Separate Projects in separate Communities:**
    - For separate projects in separate communities, a single application (424, 424A) within grants.gov may be submitted
    - However, a separate narrative form and included budget will need to be filled out for each community for purposes of determining eligibility, prioritization, and ranking of the separate projects

- **Single Projects in multiple communities:**
    - 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

States' Participation in Managing CWDG

- CWDG total funding: Infrastructure Law provides $200M per year for five years (after off-the-tops, there is $160M available per year)

- States have choice on how much program participation to engage in:

  - "Fully Opt-in": state fully manages the program, including overall administration and handling of sub-grants to communities and non-profits within their state

  - "Partially Opt-In": state provides technical assistance to communities, but Forest Service region manages awards within that state

  - "Fully Opt-out": state has no part in program management and regional Forest Service staff work directly with applicants within that state

- States are not "locked-in" to a decision; they may change annually

- Funds are multi-year and don't need to be spent in a single year

States' Funding Amounts by Participation Level

- Fully Opt-out : $0 base funding
- Partially Opt-in: $50,000 base funding
- Fully Opt-in: sliding scale of base funding from $50,001-$400,000 depending on the needs of the state. If opting in, states specify the amount within this range they require
- Match for base funding to states is 10%

Anticipated State Actions: Partially Opt-in ($50K Base)

- Technical assistance to communities to determine eligibility
- Education and outreach to promote CWDG
- Assisting communities/partners with preparing applications
- Efforts associated with updating which communities are considered "at risk"
- Costs associated with reviewing, ranking, scoring, and prioritizing applications as part of a regional or national review process
- Guidance to communities on CWPP development
- Attendance at meetings and/or trainings where a benefit to the program can be shown

Anticipated State Actions: Fully Opt-in

- Everything in "Partially Opt-in" list plus the following items

- Overall administration and oversight of sub-grants and/or pass-through grants, including monitoring for compliance with all applicable federal rules and regulations

- Preparing for and responding to audits

- Program related performance, accomplishment, and data collection, including subsequent management of information in a management and reporting system

Ineligible Activities for States' Base Funding

- Administration of other Federal programs, such as Volunteer Fire Assistance and/or State Fire Assistance or FEMA grants
- Payment of staff when performing non-CWDG related activities, such as fire suppression, prevention, etc.
- Performing CWDG-related work in communities after it has been determined they are non-eligible for funding

CWDG Application Eligibility

Applicant Eligibility

- Eligibility
  - At-risk Community
  - Two options listed in NOFOs to determine if community is an "at-risk community"
- The following entities are eligible to submit a project proposal for funding:
  - Units of local governments representing communities located in an area with at risk of wildfires
  - Indian Tribes
  - Alaska Native Corporations
  - Non-profit organizations such as homeowner associations that assist communities,
  - State forestry agencies
- For-profit entities are not eligible to apply for a grant under this program.
- Other considerations
  - Applying for multiple communities
  - Grant management by non-profits or other organizations

Priority Projects

- Priority will be given to project proposals that:
  - Are located in an area identified as having high or very high wildfire hazard potential, and/or
  - Benefit a low-income community, and/or
  - Are located in a community impacted by a severe disaster within the previous 10 years
- Supporting documentation or link to documentation must be provided

Location of Projects

- Private land

- Local government

- Homeowner associations

- State government

- Tribal lands and Alaska Native Corporation (includes Trust lands)

Project Objectives

- Projects must advance objectives and priorities identified in a CWPP not more than 10 years old

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

  - Assist a community with planning to address management of wildfire risk

  - Assist a community with mitigation measures or actions to reduce wildfire risk

Project Types

- Planning

- Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Education/Outreach

- Hazardous Fuels Reduction / Fire-adapted Ecosystems Restoration

Eligible "Planning" Project Examples

- Creation of a CWPP or development of a wildfire section for a hazard mitigation plan

- Update of an existing CWPP/hazard mitigation plan (existing plan must be not more than 10 years old)

- Contract support to assist a community with developing building codes, zoning ordinances, or land use planning

- Direct staff funding support to assist a community with developing building codes, zoning ordinances, or land use planning

- Tabletop or functional exercises to test effectiveness of community wildfire planning

Eligible "Planning" Project Examples (continued)

- Plan and address public health and safety effects of smoke and mitigation from 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 or to support a local or regional mitigation partnership

Ineligible "Planning" Project Examples

- GIS and database systems unless in support of a CWPP, wildfire risk reduction planning or fuels mitigation initiative or project

- Creation and/or update of Forest Stewardship Plans

- Economic development projects

- Small business start-up funding

- Research and development projects

Eligible "Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Education/Outreach" Project Examples

- Firewise USA© or similar programs outreach to communities and property owners

- Fire education presentations 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

- Training for Traditional Ecological Knowledge of fire, Cultural Burning, Identification and protection of culturally significant plants, sacred site protection

Ineligible "Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Education/Outreach" Project Example

- Printing of paper-based materials without an organized outreach/education program

Eligible "Hazardous Fuels Reduction / Fire-adapted Ecosystems Restoration" Project Examples

- Defensible space around homes, businesses, and other structures

- Development, creation, and/or maintenance of fuel breaks and fire breaks, including shaded fuel breaks

- Fuels reduction beyond defensible space adjacent to at-risk communities

- Removal of standing woody vegetation by cutting, piling and burning

- Removal of standing woody vegetation by cutting and chipping

Eligible "Hazardous Fuels Reduction / Fire-adapted Ecosystems Restoration" Project Examples (continued)

- 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

- Maintenance of fuels projects. Up to two (2) maintenance treatments allowed per project during the grant term

Eligible "Hazardous Fuels Reduction / Fire-adapted Ecosystems Restoration" Project Examples (continued)

- 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

- Purchase of equipment for brush/fuel disposal, such as air curtain burner/trench burner

Eligible "Hazardous Fuels Reduction / Fire-adapted Ecosystems Restoration" Project Examples (continued)

- Purchase of mechanical equipment that meets, or does not exceed, the following requirements:

  - 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

Eligible "Hazardous Fuels Reduction / Fire-adapted Ecosystems Restoration" Project Examples (continued)

- Purchase of the following equipment and supplies to support the use of prescribed fire:
  - 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 at-risk individuals in the public

<u>In</u>eligible "Hazardous Fuels Reduction / Fire-adapted Ecosystems Restoration" Project Examples

- Capital improvements including construction/infrastructure (building remodel, bridges, road construction, water development)

- Home hardening, including but not limited to:
  - Roof upgrades or replacements
  - Fire resistant siding
  - Metal gutters and vents

- Fire suppression training (unless course is a requirement for prescribed fire qualifications)

- Fire suppression equipment and apparatus

- Drones

Scoring Criteria and Prioritization Factors

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

7-10 points	3-6 points	0-2 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	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	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.

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:			

7-10 points	3-6 points	0-2 points
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.

Budget narrative must describe in detail how the grant funds will be spent for each grant expenditure, how expenditures are applicable and relevant to project goals and objectives, and how applicant will meet matching requirements or qualify for a waiver

Accomplishments (10 points)

- A proposal must define how a project will be accomplished, timelines, milestones, measures, and metrics

- A proposal must articulate how objectives will lead to measurable outcomes for community wildfire risk reduction, and how progress will be measured towards outcomes

- Progress metrics must be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely

7-10 points	3-6 points	0-2 points
Compelling, clear and concise description of qualitative and quantitative outcomes. Measures are specific, achievable and clear.	Description of how outcomes will achieve one or more objectives of grant. Outcomes are commensurate with budget	Weak description, or lack of clarity for measures. Outcomes are not commensurate with budget.

Collaboration (10 points)

- A proposal should 1) define collaborative elements, including support from partners, agencies, landowners, and communities, and 2) identify partners that will be actively engaged in 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

7-10 points	3-6 points	0-2 points
Demonstrates strong collaboration with, and commitment by, partners. High coordination with other entities. Cross boundary collaboration	Limited to moderate coordination with partners. Demonstrates some, but not strong, commitment by partners.	A simple assertion, or very little or no meaningful collaboration. Little to no coordination with neighboring entities or complementary programs

Landscape Impacts (10 points)

- A proposal should articulate:

  - The scale of the project, including relationships with past, present, or future projects that, when combined, offer more benefits than when taken individually

  - The defined project area and the overall landscape that the project influences

  - The land ownerships within the area, specifying the areas targeted for planning or mitigation

  - Each proposed activity with details on where each activity will occur included

  - The approximate number of structures that will benefit from the proposed actions

7-10 points	3-6 points	0-2 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.	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.	Narrative not clearly written; key descriptions of landscape community level activities, and overall project impact are absent.

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

7-10 points	3-6 points	0-2 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 the updating, adoption and/or development of current building codes that reduce susceptibility to wildfire exposure.	Missing key details or specificity of how project will be maintained beyond life of grant, but is otherwise well written, detailed, and descriptive.	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

Low-Income Community(10 points)

- A proposal should demonstrate and document whether the project benefits a low-income community

10 points	not applicable	0 points
All, or part of a project area is located in a low-income community as defined.		All of a project is located outside the footprint of a low-income community, as defined, or is not documented

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)

10 points	not applicable	0 points
All, or part of a project area has been impacted by a severe disaster in the past 10 years, as defined, and is documented		None of project area has been impacted by a severe disaster, as defined, or is not properly documented

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

20 points	not applicable	0 points
All, or part of project is located within an area of high or very high wildfire hazard potential, and is properly documented		Project is located outside any area with high or very high wildfire hazard potential, or is not documented properly

Additional Information

- Specific training for review panel members will be developed

- This training will be required prior for panel members prior to the review and scoring process

- Verification process will be handled separately from review process to confirm:

  - At-risk

  - Low-income

  - High or very high wildfire hazard potential

  - Impacted by severe disaster

- Standardized training on the verification process will also be developed

CWDG Application

Submitting Applications

- Tribal Entities, Southern Region, Northeast-Midwest Region
  - Submit applications to Grants.gov
    - Tribes NOFO: USDA-FS-2022-CWDG-TRIBES
    - Southern NOFO: USDA-FS-2022-CWDG-SGSF
    - Northeast/Midwest NOFO: USDA-FS-2022-CWDG-NEMW
  - Only authorized Grants.gov workspace representatives for the applying entity are eligible to submit applications through Grants.gov

- Western Region
  - Submit applications to cwdg.forestrygrants.org.
    - West NOFO: USDA-FS-2022-CWDG-CWSF
  - Usernames and Passwords will be provided to State Foresters and their delegated representatives by the Council of Western State Foresters prior to the application portal opening

- Tribal entities may submit applications via any NOFO

GIS Coordinates

- Please include enough coordinates/description to be able to represent the general area of the impact of the project for which you are applying

- For point-based projects, please include a reference point and description

- For fuel treatments, please include enough coordinates to ascertain a general boundary of the area being treated. If unsure of boundaries, please include a reference point and the planned acreage to be treated under the description.

- For CWPP development, please include a description of the planning area and type (municipality boundary, fire response district, township, etc.)

    GIS Coordinates: Ref. Point Name:
    Lat/Long:
    Description:
    Area Name:
    Boundary Lat/Longs:
    Description:

Measurable Outcomes

- Provide the output amount for at least one of the quantitative accomplishment measures listed on the next two pages

- You may also list additional specific measurable results that show how the Federal investment will lead to outcomes on the landscape

- *In the narrative section, describe less quantifiable return on investments.*

Measurable Outcomes (continued)

	Number of Activities		Cost	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
CWPP				
Development of New CWPPs				
Updates of CWPPs				
Planning				
Training in mitigation practices				
Tabletop or functional exercises, testing or evaluating plan effectiveness				
Planning development, including building codes, zoning ordinances, land use planning, public health and safety, mitigation, prescribed fire and smoke ready efforts				
Creating local/regional mitigation partnership or collaborative groups				

Measurable Outcomes (continued)

	Number of Activities		Cost	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Education/Outreach				
Firewise or similar programs outreach to communities and property owners				
Fire education presentations				
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				
Reduce Hazardous Fuels / Restore Fire-adapted Ecosystems				
Hazardous Fuels Reduction or Mitigation Projects, including maintenance				
Total # of acres treated to reduce hazardous fuels (direct grant only)				
Monitoring components of projects for effectiveness				
Prescribed fire training, including smoke management				
Design and installation of dry hydrants and cisterns				
Purchase and maintenance of equipment				

CWDG Application Systems

Western Region:

cwdg.forestrygrants.org

CSS Admin

CSS Admin

CSS Admin

CSS Admin

Admin Section and Applicant Section

Project Information

		Project Information	
2	Name of Project:		
	Community Name(s):		
	County(ies):		
	Congressional District:		
		GIS Coordinates (choose one)	
	Reference Point Name:		
	Lat/Long:		
	Description:		
	Area Name:		
	Boundary Lat/Longs:		
	Description:		

Brief Project Overview and Purpose

Brief Project Overview and Purpose (0 points):
Provide a brief overview and purpose statement for the project, addressing the overall intent of this program to assist communities with planning and mitigating their risk against wildfire.

	Brief Project Overview and Purpose (3000 characters including spaces)	
3		

Grant Component Type

Grant Component (0 points)
Respond with the grant component type that applies to the application: (please select only one per application)
1.) Creating or Updating a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) that is more than five (5) years old.
2.) Project described in a CWPP that is less than ten (10) years old.

	Grant Component Type (3000 characters including spaces)	
4	4	

At-Risk Community

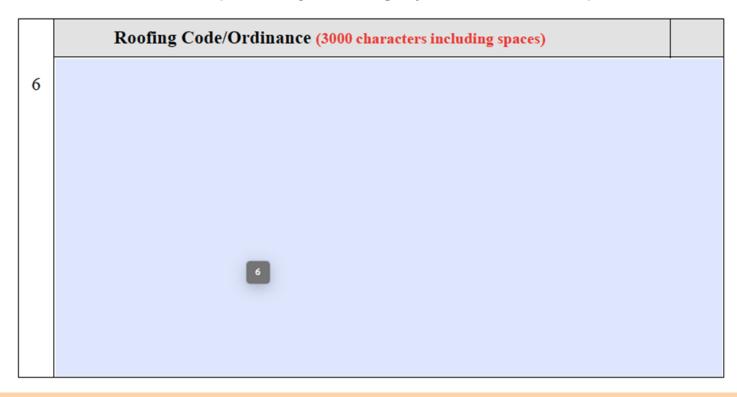Is your community considered at-risk? (0 points)
Please respond yes or no if the community is considered "at-risk" (please refer to the definition within the NOFO). Provide a link to the verification source.

5	At-Risk Community (3000 characters including spaces)	
	5	

Roofing Code/ Ordinance

Roofing Code/Ordinance (0 points)

Do you currently have, or will you adopt prior to grant award, 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 (this is not a requirement for eligibility but determines source of funds).

	Roofing Code/Ordinance (3000 characters including spaces)	
6		

Grant Waiver

Grant Waiver (0 points)

Are you planning on applying for a grant match waiver based on the project serving an underserved community? Please respond yes or no.

	Grant Waiver (1000 characters including spaces)	
7	7	

Project Description

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. Explain how the project is described in a CWPP (if applicable). 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.
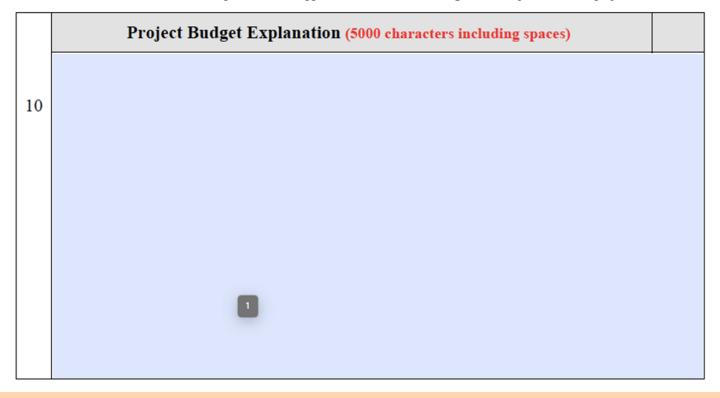
	Project Description (9000 characters including spaces)	
8		

Applicant Budget

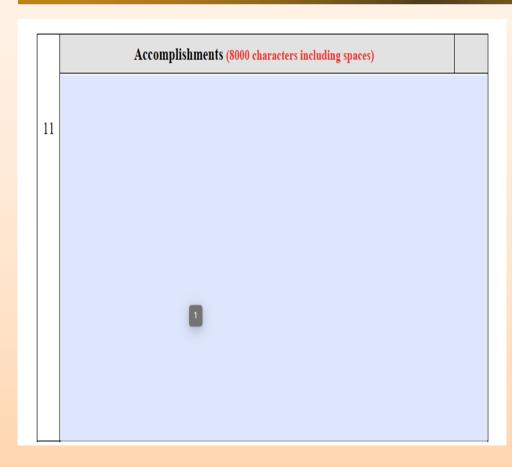|		Grant Funds Requested	Match		Total Project Cost
	Applicant Budget				
			Applicant	Non-Federal Contributors	
9	Personnel/Labor:				
	Fringe Benefits:				
	Travel:				
	Equipment:				
	Supplies:				
	Contractual:				
	Other:				
	Indirect Costs:				
	TOTAL:				

Project Budget Explanation

Project Budget Explanation (10 points)

Provide any additional remarks needed to clarify 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.

10	**Project Budget Explanation** (5000 characters including spaces)	

Accomplishments

Accomplishments (8000 characters including spaces)

11

Accomplishments (10 points)
Clearly define how the project will be accomplished, including at least one of the quantitative accomplishment measures provided in the measurable outcomes table from the NOFO guidance. Identify 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.). Describe any applicable less quantifiable return on investments.
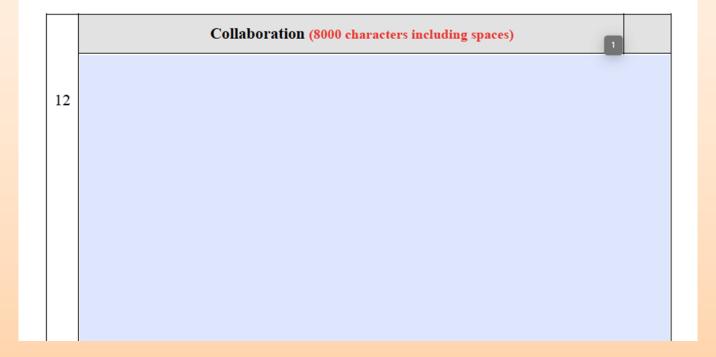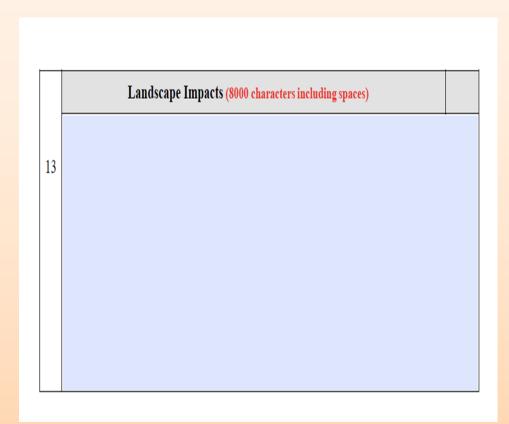
Collaboration

Collaboration(10 points)
1.) Identify partners that have demonstrated a commitment and add value towards planning and carrying out the project.
2.)Describe what these partners and collaborators contribute.
3.)Demonstrate residual positive benefits, as a result of collaboration, related to capacity, skills, knowledge, infrastructure, or a replicable approach, among others.
Collaboration may be qualitative in nature, and the contribution of the partners may be more important than the number of partners involved.

	Collaboration (8000 characters including spaces)	1
12		

Landscape Impacts

Landscape Impacts (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

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.

	Project Sustainability (8000 characters including	
14		

Low-Income Community

Low-Income Community (3000 characters including

15

Landscape Impacts (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.

Severe Disaster Impact

Has this community been impacted by a severe disaster? (10 points)
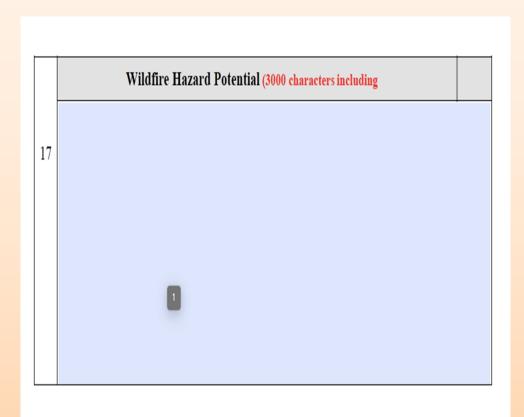Has this community been impacted by a severe disaster within the previous 10 years?
Please respond yes or no. Provide a link to the verification source.

	Severe Disaster Impact (3000 characters including	
16		

Wildfire Hazard Potential

Wildfire Hazard Potential (3000 characters including

17

Does the project location have wildfire hazard potential? (20 points)
Please respond yes or no, if this project is located within an area identified as having high or very high wildfire hazard potential as defined by a state, regional, tribal, territorial or national wildfire hazard potential assessment? Provide a link to the verification source.

Grants & Agreements

Grants & Agreements

- Budget details

- Cost share/match

- Equipment

- Buy American

- Davis-Bacon wages for construction

- Roads

- Subawards – requirements and reporting

- Sam.gov and risk

Grants & Agreements Access Branch Support

Goal:

- Provide pre and post award technical and administrative assistance to external partners

- Develop tools, resources and programs to improve access to Forest Service funding opportunities for traditionally underrepresented communities

Grants & Agreements Access Branch Support

Team:

- Melissa Aulisio, Branch Chief

- Heather Rivera, Grants Management Specialist Trainee

- Aaron Stout, Program Analyst

- Vi Ta, Program Analyst

- Robin Taylor Davenport, Grants Management Specialist Trainee

Contact:

- Access Mailbox: accessga@usda.gov

- Booking site for external partners: consultation site

Grants & Agreements Access Branch Support

SAM

- Registration & Validation: due to the recent delay of validating applicants' information, it is recommended that you **register very early on to avoid delays**. Refer to SAM registration checklist: https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration

- GSA offered a webinar today 8/3 1PM EDT; it will be recorded. You can also subscribe for future webinars: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/entity-validation-stakeholder-forum-tickets-388797412527?utm_medium=email&utm_source=GovDelivery. Remember to subscribe to SAM.gov and visit their homepage frequently for up to date alerts and announcements

- Validation FAQs: https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0058422&sys_kb_id=7bb8810ddba05990060d5425f3961912&spa=1

CWDG Program Information on Low Income and Underserved Communities Priority

National Tools

- OMB approval just finalized on 8/2

- Updated tools will be posted on CWDG website

- Tools will include citations and sample language applicants can use

- Available tools will include:

  - At-risk (Eligibility)

  - High/very high wildfire hazard (Scoring Priority)

  - Low income (Scoring Priority)

Low-Income Definition

Definition that will be utilized for CWDG program:

- 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).

- Approved definition is listed in each NOFO

- Tools and information will also be available on the CWDG website

Underserved Communities Definition

Definition that will be utilized for CWDG program to determine eligibility for cost-share waiver:

- A 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.

- As reference, Executive Order 13985: "Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government": The term "underserved communities" refers to populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life

Equity Definition

- Executive Order 13985: "Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government": The term "equity" means the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment, such as Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.

National Tools

- Council of Environmental Quality Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool: https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5

- Environmental Protection Agency EJScreen, Environmental Justice Mapping and Screening Tool: https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen

- Centers for Disease Control, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry Social Vulnerability Index Information: https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/documentation/SVI_documentation_2018.html

- USDA Economic Research Service County Typology Codes: https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/county-typology-codes/

- Wildfire Risk to Communities data sets/tools are being adopted and will be available for use with CWDG

- **Updated and approved tools will be posted on CWDG website**

Questions?