



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WILDFIRE CRISIS
strategy

FACT SHEET

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE DEFENSE GRANTS

FY 2023 APPLICATION INFORMATION



The 2023 application window is now open! Applications for Community Wildfire Defense Grants will be accepted through Oct. 31.

Community Wildfire Defense Grants (CWDG) help at-risk communities and Tribes plan for and reduce the risk of wildfire by awarding funds for creating/updating Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) and implementing community-based projects described in CWPPs that reduce wildfire risk and improve community resiliency in response to wildfires.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

A Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is posted in Grants.gov. Links and further information can also be found at www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/fire/grants.

Please note, applicants must be registered in SAM.gov. Registration is free. No-cost assistance - including emergency registration support - is available at www.aptac-us.org/contracting-assistance/.

Eligibility: 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), and state forestry agencies (including U.S. territories and interests) are eligible. Communities recently impacted by severe disaster, have lower-than-average incomes, or are in a high or very high-risk area may receive priority consideration.

The program is authorized and funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The initial round funded 100 projects for \$197 million in 2022. A list of funded projects can be found at: www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/fire/grants/funded-proposals.

Grants must be used to fund work that reduces risk of wildfire to people and property, such as:

- *Develop or update Community Wildfire Protection Plans to identify high risk areas.*
- *Implement projects in a Community Wildfire Protection Plan that is less than 10 years old.*
- *Development of wildfire-related building codes, zoning ordinances or land use planning.*
- *Train people to assess wildfire risk and implement mitigation measures.*
- *Perform outreach to community members through programs like [Firewise USA](http://FirewiseUSA.org).*

To assist in preparing your 2023 application, a dashboard has been created to help at-risk communities, Tribes, and supporting organizations and local governments assess eligibility and gain insight on how their application will be evaluated. Visit wildfirerisk.org/cwdg-tool to get started.

Office hours are every other Wednesday through Oct. 25, via Zoom. Prospective applicants can join these meetings to ask questions about the Notice of Funding Opportunity, application process, dashboard, and other topics. To sign up, visit www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/fire/grants (scroll to "CWDG office hours" to RSVP for an upcoming session).

Pre-recorded webinars are also available at the above link, under "Applicant Webinars."

Questions can also be directed to the grant contact for the state the project will be located in: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-08/Round2-CWDG-NOFO-Contacts.pdf>.