Alaska Community Forestry Program
2024 Grant Opportunities
Green Infrastructure Grants
Round II

Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry & Fire Protection
550 W. Seventh Ave., Suite 1450, Anchorage, AK 99501 / 907-269-8466 / http://forestry.alaska.gov/community/

1. Introduction

The USDA Forest Service (USFS) and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Fire Protection, Community Forestry Program (CFP), have Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) grant monies available to local governments, state agencies, tribal organizations, non-profits, and other non-federal entities for projects in disadvantaged or distressed Alaska communities.

Monies are available to upgrade existing green infrastructure or implement new green infrastructure projects. Project goals include reduced stormwater runoff, improved water quality, and increased community resilience to extreme weather events. These are 100% reimbursable grants and will be awarded on a competitive basis. No match funding is required. Grants will be awarded for up to 3 years. Applications must be received by September 27, 2024.

1.1 Background

When rainwater falls on impermeable surfaces in urban areas, it collects pollutants, contaminants, and debris. Traditional gray infrastructure (gutters, storm sewers, culverts) channel this surface runoff directly into nearby waterbodies. This ultimately leads to pollution, flooding, erosion, and decreased ecosystem services.

Conversely, when rainwater falls on natural areas, it is slowed and filtered by plant material, absorbed by root systems, and retained in the landscape. Green infrastructure seeks to mimic these natural processes, thereby reducing the impact of severe weather events, improving water quality, and reducing pollution. These projects will mimic natural systems to improve water quality and community resilience.

The USFS and CFP will provide grant monies to local governments, non-profits, and other non-federal entities to implement green infrastructure projects in Alaska.

Successful applicants will have knowledge of and commitment to implementing green infrastructure projects in their communities. Project goals will include treatment of stormwater runoff, increased resilience to extreme weather events, and filtration/removal of pollutants that would otherwise enter natural water bodies.

2. Requirements

2.1 Disadvantaged Community Requirement
Under USFS or state guidelines, projects funded through this opportunity must take place in communities that qualify as "disadvantaged" or "distressed" according to the U.S. Government Council of Environmental Quality Climate & Economic Justice (CEJST) Screening Tool or the Denali Commission 2020 Distressed Communities Report.

Explore the map - Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool (geoplatform.gov)

Denali Commission 2020 Distressed Communities Report

If your community is not listed as disadvantaged or distressed on the above websites, please check the AK Disadvantaged Communities website. This site combines the CEJST and Denali Commission sites with the more expansive Environmental Protection Agency Disadvantaged Communities map, and can also be used to identify eligible communities

     [AK Disadvantaged Communities (arcgis.com)](arcgis.com)

Virtually all Alaska communities off the road system are classified as disadvantaged. All federally recognized Tribes, including Alaska Native villages, are designated as disadvantaged although they may not be within census tracts that are designated as such.

If you are unsure if a project in your community falls within a disadvantaged or distressed area, please contact our office.

2.2 Eligibility Requirements

- Eligible groups include all **non-federal organizations, state agencies, local governments, cooperative weed management areas, soil and water conservation districts, registered non-profits, local communities, public and state-controlled institutions of higher education, Alaska Native organizations, federally recognized Tribes, Alaska Native Corporations and villages, and Tribal organizations as defined in 25 USC 5304 (l).**

- Eligible applicants may apply for funding for projects conducted on non-federal public lands, including state lands, university lands, borough lands, local government and municipal lands, Tribal/Alaska Native Corporation lands, and land held in trust for Native American Tribes and individuals (includes Trust lands).

- Projects or activities on private property are permitted upon meeting specific requirements. If you are considering a project on private property, please contact CFP for details.

- Awardees will be responsible for submitting a mid-project report and final report.

- Awardees will be required to provide a Universal Entity Identifier (UEI) system number. Instructions on how to find your organization's UEI, or register for a new UEI can be found at sam.gov/content/duns-uei

3. How can the grant be used?

Grant funds must be used to implement green infrastructure installments and improvements in Alaska.

- Minimum Grant Request: $30,000
- Maximum Grant Request: $100,000

3.1 Eligible Cost Examples

The following outlines eligible activities and costs for both grant expenditures and cost share contributions.

- **Rainwater Harvesting**
  - Rain Barrels
  - Rain Storage Tanks
  - Flow-through Planters

- **Bioretention & Infiltration**
  - Rain gardens and bioswales
  - Detention and retention ponds
  - Curb cuts
  - Dry wells

- **Tree Planting**
  - Tree planting, individual or groups
  - Tree trenches
  - Below-grade, silva cell type planter

- **Permeable Pavement**
  - Permeable pavers
  - Pervious pavements
  - Soil stabilizers
  - Infill paver (grass or gravel)
  - Grass reinforcing mesh

- **Green Roofs**
  - Materials and supplies for installation of green roofs (vegetation; growing media;
  - drainage/storage layer; insulation; waterproof membrane)

3.2 Ineligible Costs

- Activities not identified in the application and approved grant agreement (exceptions can be granted during the field season with approval from the CFP).

- Construction and capital improvements. Examples of ineligible construction costs include facilities, roads, new buildings, culverts, and boardwalks.

- Educational and research organizations proposing projects that do not show tangible, on-the ground benefit.

- Organizations seeking funding for litigation or advocacy.

- Organizations seeking general operating or programmatic support.

- Activities federal agencies are required to perform.

- Other items as determined by the grant review committee.

- Equipment purchase.

4. Grant Selection Criteria

Applications will be scored and evaluated by a grant review committee. Selection criteria will include project feasibility, demonstration of a well-organized plan and budget, anticipated benefits to ecosystem health, and location within an area of priority interest according to the 2020 Alaska State Forest Action Plan.

Grant applications that include partnerships between local governments and local or regional non-profits are encouraged.

5. Application Process

Complete the 4-page application. Proposals are **due no later than 11:59 p.m., on Friday, September 27, 2024**. Management of the grants will be conducted by the CFP. All completed proposals will be reviewed by a grant committee. The state and grantee will sign a grant agreement and funds will be paid to the grantee upon receipt of the final report.

5.1 Project Details and Activities

Please submit the following information as an attachment along with your application:

Details regarding impacts on nearby waterbodies, infrastructure design, and outreach plans. Be sure to include:
- Location of green infrastructure installation.
- Area of impact.
- Required permitting from government agencies.
- Description and design plans of infrastructure installment.
- Maintenance plan.

6. Target Dates

The following dates are targets for each step in the selection process. After the proposal submittal, these dates may require adjustment.

Proposals due:	**September 27, 2024**
Grant review committee reviews proposals:	**September 28 – October 25**
Projects selected:	**October 26 – November 8**
Project timelines and grant agreement finalized:	**November 9 – December 20**

7. Resources

- Environmental Protection Agency – What is green infrastructure?
  https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/what-green-infrastructure
- Fairbanks Green Infrastructure Resource Guide
  https://www.fairbankssoilwater.org/user-files/pdfs/GI_Manual_January2015.pdf
- Alaska Community Forestry Program
  http://forestry.alaska.gov/community/index

8. Contact

Mail or deliver proposal to:	**Email proposal to:**	**For additional information contact:**
Alaska Community Forestry Program	CommunityForestry@alaska.gov	Jim Renkert, Community Forestry Program Coordinator
550 W. 7th Ave. Ste 1450		Jim.Renkert@alaska.gov
Anchorage, AK 99501		907-269-8465
		OR
		Josh Hightower, Community Assistance Forester
		Josh.Hightower@alaska.gov
		907-269-8466