1. **What needs to be done before I start the CWDG application process?**

Register with SAM.gov. Applicants must register in sam.gov to apply for a grant through CWDG.forestrygrants.org. Organizations using the CWDG.forestrygrants.org portal must have an active registration with the System for Award Management (SAM), which will generate a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). **Creating a SAM registration may take several weeks or more to complete.** Therefore, ensure you apply for your SAM registration promptly. https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-2-register-with-sam.html

2. **How long does the application process take?**

If the applicant has an active SAM.gov registration and has already built a solid project narrative and detailed budget, the application process takes 7-10 business days.

3. **When can our agency apply?**

This is a 5-year Program. The next open 90-day period is expected to open in mid 2023. For Additional information, please see the CWDG Page at https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/fire/grants.

4. **What groups/agencies can apply?**

Please visit the attached link to see detailed information on eligibility requirements. https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/fire/grants

5. **If a Homeowners Association cannot handle funds, would a fiscal sponsor be able to be the lead applicant?**

Yes, provided the other entity meets the eligibility requirements to be able to serve as the Lead Agency or Organization for that application.

6. **Where is the tool kit for new applicants specific to CWDG located?**

The toolkit is in Grants.gov under related documents call the pre-award guide or follow this link https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-08/Pre-Award-Guide.pdf.

It is also available on the CWDG webpage through the following link: Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program.

7. **Character limits for written portions of application: Do limits apply to updated application narrative?**

The application process for Round 2 uses the CWDG.forestrygrants.org application portal, which does have character limits. However, applications submitted in Round

1 through grants.gov did not have character limits. Tribes in Round 1 had flexibility to decide which NOFO and application portal to use. There was not a difference for the review and scoring process, regardless of which system used for the application. The only difference was the character limits for the CWDG.forestrygrants.org application portal.

8. **Can a Fire Department apply for both CWPP develop and project implementation?**

There is no limitation to applying for both CWPP development/revision funds AND project funding. To apply for any project funding there needs to be an eligible CWPP (or hazard mitigation plan or equivalent tribal plan) in place as the foundation for that project implementation application. If there is an existing CWPP that is not more than 10 years old, applicants (including a fire departments) can apply for project funding for a community to implement projects described in the CWPP. If the CWPP is more than five years old applicants, including fire departments, can apply for funding to update the CWPP (for/with a community). If using a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP) as CWPP equivalent, it needs to have the following:

A. A stand-alone wildfire section as either a separate volume or chapter in the NHMP that contains the basic elements that would be found in a CWPP OR have a wildfire Base Map and Risk Assessment as part of the NHMP Wildfire Hazard Profile.

B. Wildfire risk and hazard mitigation Priorities and Action Plan incorporated into the goals, and actions of the NHMP's Mitigation Strategy.

C. Meet both CWPP and NHMP process and content requirements recommend having a state forestry agency staff review and sign a statement identifying those portions of the NHMP that serve as the community's CWPP.

9. **Do all subgrantees and subcontractors of a lead recipient also need to register in SAM.gov?**

Subgrantees are required to register in SAM.gov to obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI); however, only minimal information is required to do this. Grantees may not make a subaward to a subgrantee unless that subgrantee has obtained and provided to the grantee a UEI. Subcontractors are not required to register in SAM.gov; only prime contractors are required to register in SAM.gov.

10. **Can multiple grants be applied for? For example, is it possible to apply for both the $250,000 for CWPP rewrite and the up to $10,000,000 for a project on the Community Wildfire Defense Grant?**

    Yes, an applicant may apply for more than one grant. However, to apply for any project(s), it/they must already be listed in an existing CWPP that is not more than 10 years old. Applicants may apply for a grant to update an existing CWPP that is more than five years old in an amount not to exceed $250,000. An applicants may also apply for an amount not to exceed $10,000,000 to accomplish project(s) already described in the existing CWPP, if the CWPP is not more than 10 years old.

11. **One applicant would like to apply for non-contiguous projects within their service area in multiple communities. Is this possible provided they specify the communities they are applying for and each of those communities meets the eligibility threshold?**

    Yes. However, they need to apply in separate narratives so each can be scored individually. They may be combined into one award, but for application purposes they need to be separate if noncontiguous.

12. **Will the applicants be responsible for submitting reports or is it also the role of the state, if that state is opt-in?**

    For states that are a fully opt-in state, the state would be responsible for submitting the reports to the Forest Service from the various sub-awards being managed in the state.

13. **There are many Federal Laws/ Requirements that an Entity must meet. We plan on using subcontractors for all or almost all the work. Are we required to pass through all or some of the Federal Requirements such as age discrimination, civil rights act, whistleblower protection, etc., etc.? If it is some, then which ones?**

    If the organization plans to award subcontracts, the regulations in 2 CFR Part 200 do not flow down to the subcontractors; however, in 2 CFR Part 200 Appendix II, there are clauses to be included in subcontracts, particularly around competition and Davis Bacon Wages. If the organization plans to do subawards, the regulations in 2 CFR Part 200 do apply to subrecipients, and address age discrimination, civil rights act, whistleblower protection, etc.

Additional resources to learn more about the grant application process are listed below. Please visit the following links for more information:

CWDG application Information:

https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/fire/grants

1. **How detailed does the CWPP need to be?**

   If applying for a project that is described within a CWPP, the CWPP must contain sufficient detail so that a reviewer could easily determine where within the CWPP the project is described. This would include the ability to determine where within the community the project is proposed and what needs done. Another way to look at it, is could a reader of the CWPP develop a general scope of work and a rough budget.

2. **If part or only an exact location of a community is considered at-risk, but the rest of the community is not, would the entire community meet eligibility requirements**

   If the CWPP or project encompasses the entire community, and at least a portion of the area covered is considered at-risk, then it meets eligibility requirements. If the CWPP or project only encompasses part(s) of a community, then that specific part(s) of the community must meet the definition of "at-risk" on its own.

3. **Can our current non-CWPP be used instead of a CWPP?**

   The Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) establishes three requirements for CWPPs and if those requirements are met there would not be a need to create a separate CWPP. The requirements are:

   A. If the CWPP was developed collaboratively.
   B. If the CWPP identifies and prioritizes fuel treatment areas and methods.
   C. If the CWPP recommends measures to reduce structural ignitability.

   The full text of the HFRA is located online at: https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/COMPS-1123/pdf/COMPS-1123.pdf

   The applicant should ensure any project applied for is described within the current plan. The benefits of having a CWPP or equivalent WFPP are numerous. One of the most important benefits of the CWPP equivalency is the ability to establish a locally defined buffer zone for the WUI. Additionally, the improved coordination between fuels management and wildfire prevention programs should reduce duplication and increase support for both efforts due to the collaborative process.

4. **What is the cost to have a CWPP plan re-written for a small county?**

   Since conditions and specific needs vary widely for states and individual communities we do not have a good estimate of the average cost estimate to develop a CWPP for a small county.

5. **Would MOU be considered a CWPP?**

A CWPP should contain certain things, including where, what, and how to mitigate wildfire risks and hazards, and an MOU wouldn't typically go into that detail. Applicants can apply to CWDG to create a CWPP, and then apply in subsequent years to implement the projects. (This is a five-year program). See answer #3 for specific requirements.

6. **Would an "in progress CWPP" be eligible to allow the County to pursue a grant under the Implementation project category under the FY22 CWDG grant?**

Because the CWPP is "in progress" - therefore not yet completed – "in progress" projects identified in the CWPP cannot be considered.

7. **Can a CWPP partner apply for more than one project in the same application?**

Yes. If it is one project that spans multiple communities, it can be applied for in one narrative. If it is one community that has multiple projects, they can apply for them all together, and will be scored collectively, or they can apply for projects separately, and the projects will be scored individually. In the latter scenario, some projects may score higher than others, meaning some may be funded while others may not. If applicants choose to put everything in one narrative, we wouldn't be able to parse them apart for scoring and/or funding, and therefore if one part scored low or was deemed ineligible, the entire application would suffer.

8. **Can a CWPP be paired with a Firewise USA Action plan that contains specific projects or actionable items?**

There needs to be a solid tie to a CWPP that is no more than 10 years old. Communities that request funding for projects must have the projects described in a CWPP or similar plan AND that CWPP or FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan must be in place by the application deadline, and at the time of obligation of grant funds for projects.

9. **Does a higher education institution need to have a specified partnership in place with a community that has an existing CWPP in order to apply? And if so, does that preclude that community from submitting their own submission? Can communities be part of multiple proposals?**

The applications can only be to 1) prepare or update a CWPP for a specific community or 2) implement a project described in a CWPP that is no more than 10 years old. Communities shouldn't be part of separate applications requesting funding for the same things. If the higher education

institution is applying for this grant, it should be in conjunction with, or with the support of, a specific community. To be eligible to apply, that community must be considered "at risk" from wildfires.

1. **Is my agency/group eligible?**

   CWDG application information and eligibility: https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/fire/grants

2. **What projects are eligible?**

   CWDG application Information and eligibility: https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/fire/grants

3. **Can businesses or for-profit groups apply for the CWDG?**

   No. CWDG application Information and eligibility: https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/fire/grants

4. **Is a 501(c)12 eligible for CWDG?**

   501(c)12s are cooperatives and are considered non-profit, therefore they are eligible.

5. **Are only 501(c)12 nonprofits eligible or are other IRS designated nonprofits eligible to apply, such as 501(c)3, 501(c)6 or 501(c)7?**

   Eligibility is not limited to 501(c)12 entities; any IRS designated nonprofit is eligible.

6. **What land is eligible?**

   Eligible applicants may apply for grant funding for a project proposal to be conducted on lands with the following ownership types, if 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 except for federal Tribal trust lands

7. **How is the determination of an "Underserved Community" calculated?**
   For Round 2 there are two options for determining match waiver eligibility as an "underserved" community:

   1) Underserved will be determined using the new Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)

   2) Meet the "low income" definition for CWDG (which also provides additional points during the scoring process if that is applicable for your community).

There is a new on-line tool to assist applicants in determining both categories, and more information about the data sets used can be found at:

https://wildfirerisk.org/cwdg-tool

8. **Are FFRDCs/National Laboratories eligible to participate as a subrecipient?**

Entities eligible to apply for funding under the Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) Programs include:

A. Units of local governments representing communities located in an area with a risk of Wildfires, including Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations.
B. Non-profit organizations including homeowner associations that assist such communities.
C. State forestry agencies (including U.S. territories and interests).

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

9. **Is the Headwaters Economics/Wildfire Risk to Communities spreadsheet where CWDG obtains priority information, or can applicants create and use their own Census income map if linked to the source?**

If the Wildfire risk to Communities data seems to be flawed or is not accurate for a particular location, an applicant can use another data source and provide a citation and link to the data provided. The verification team would be able to use that information to verify accuracy and eligibility for CWDG priorities with the exception of low income, in which case this dataset is the only one allowed. The Wildfire Risk to Communities Dataset should provide a useful national tool that should be workable for many if not most communities. In terms of data sources used by Wildfire Risk to Communities; the documentation they provided for data sources utilized for income is The U.S. Department of Commerce, 2020 Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington D.C. https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs

10. **Are electric co-ops eligible?**

If they are registered as a non-profit, they are eligible for funding through CWDG.

11. **Do these projects have to be geographically contiguous?**

    If the project is being applied for on the same application narrative, then yes, they need to be geographically contiguous. If the projects are not geographically continuous, they need to be applied for on separate narratives.

12. **Will each of these communities also need to qualify for priority status in a category (e.g., low income, hazard, or recent disasters) for the application to claim priority status?**

    If they are non-contiguous projects, they will be scored individually, and the priority status will depend upon that specific community. If the project is connected, scored collectively, and any of the communities have a priority status, the entire project will receive those points.

13. **Is the hardening of existing water infrastructure (e.g., pump stations, water storage reservoirs/tanks) eligible under this grant?**

    Infrastructure projects - including water development- are ineligible for the funds. Eligible projects are outlined in the NOFOs. Links to the NOFOs can be found on the CWGD Webpage: https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/fire/grants

14. **Can homeowner activities be used as match? For example, if a community is requesting grant money for a chipping day, can homeowners document the hours they worked cutting and piling brush in preparation for the chipping day?**

    Homeowners cannot count the time spent working on their own property, as the homeowners would be considered beneficiaries and their time will not count as match. The work that the homeowners are doing is for their own benefit, not a public benefit. This is a different scenario than a group of volunteers getting together to cut and pile brush in a public space where the public at large or the community is the beneficiary.

15. **Are Privately Owned Communities with a 501c3 nonprofit organization that are surrounded by National Park eligible to apply?**

    Per Page 2 of the NOFO, under Key Points "Who Can Apply", Non-profit organizations, including homeowner associations that assist such communities, can apply.

1. **Are there equipment purchase/use restrictions?**

    The intent of CWDG funding is to support communities to carry our projects that have been described in their CWPP. If those projects require equipment as necessary to complete that project, equipment can be purchased (or rented or leased) to perform that needed work. It shouldn't just be a matter of requesting purchase of equipment that would then be used to conduct clearing work. The line clearing would need to be described in a CWPP and the application would need to list the community(s) in which the equipment would be used to perform that work. Equipment is an allowable expense if necessary for a project (within the limitations described in the NOFO) and the grant would need to describe the project and how it's reducing risk/hazard (and described in a CWPP), then why the equipment purchase is necessary to complete that project.

2. **If a piece of equipment purchased with non-federal funds and used as match for a CWDG grant, does it have to be tracked as though the equipment had been purchased with federal funds?**

    No, but equipment listed as match on a grant must be used for the grant-intended purpose(s) during the life of the grant.

3. **What are the constraints around equipment use? I Understand the equipment must be tracked until value diminishes below $5K, but can, as an example, a woodchipper purchased for CWDG projects be used in the community for other fuel reduction projects not associated with the CWDG? What about a chainsaw or fire shelter purchased under CWDG to support prescribed fire—can they be used to support other fire activity?**

    The award package for CWDG grants that include equipment purchases will include a "GRANT EQUIPMENT JUSTIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION STATEMENT" form. That language reads as follows:

    1. *Grantee Certification Statement*

        A. *This equipment purchase adheres to Cooperator's purchasing/acquisition guidelines and State Statutes (as applicable)*
        B. *Cooperator will maintain purchase and usage documentation to support grant accounting.*
        C. *Use of grant funded equipment for incident work: Only actual costs of operation may be reimbursed, but no replacement or acquisition costs may be included. See associated provision in the award document. Should the awardee want to make changes for*

*how they will utilize equipment
purchased with grants funding other
than what was included in the
purposes of the grant they will need
to request that change.*

4. **What equipment does a CWDG grant cover?**

There are two primary project types for which the Community Wildfire Defense Grant program provides funding, including funding for equipment, and are described in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO):

1. The development and revision of Community Wildfire Protection Plans.
2. The implementation of projects described in a Community Wildfire Protection Plan that is less than ten years old.

If a community has a written Community Wildfire Protection Plan that is no more than 10 years old that describes fuels reduction or hazard mitigation projects for which equipment would be required (i.e., chipper, etc.) then the grant could potentially pay for that piece of equipment. This grant does not cover equipment for the purpose of wildfire suppression.

The NOFO information may be located on the CWDG webpage https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/fire/grants

1. **Will permitting fees related to the CWDG be covered?**

   If the permit expense is necessary to facilitate carrying out the project, then it will be eligible. Only permit fees directly related to the CWDG project will be eligible.

2. **When will funds be released?**

   A proportional amount of the total funding will be made available each fiscal year from FY2022 to FY2026. Announcements about each new Round of CWDG are anticipated to be available in the early spring each year.

3. **If a Homeowners Association cannot handle funds, would a fiscal sponsor be able to be the lead applicant?**

   Yes, provided the other entity meets the eligibility requirements to be able to serve as the Lead Agency or Organization for that application, it would be acceptable.

4. **How should indirect rates be handled that will be taken off sub-awards in opt-in states?**

   This additional funding will be calculated in addition to the application and will be sent to the state with the sub-award. A state will not need to use base funding, nor will an applicant need to account for this when figuring their budget. When a project is awarded, we will add the state's indirect (NICRA or *de minimus*) on as additional.

5. **How will advanced funds be handled?**

   All Forest Service grants can be handled on either a reimbursable basis or advance payment basis. For states that opted out or partially opted-in, the Forest Service can do advances. For states that have opted-in but have applicants requesting advances, they should work with their regional Forest Service coop fire staff to determine best method for moving forward. In some cases that may mean the Forest Service handles those grants, while in other situations the Forest Service can advance funds to the state so that they then have them for the community. This will likely be decided on a state-by-state basis depending upon policies/ laws, etc. of that option state.

6. **Who will administer the funds?**

   This depends on whether they are in a state that has fully opted in to run the program, in which case it is the State. If it is in a State that has not fully opted-in to run CWDG, it will be the US Forest Service.

7. **In future Base Funding opportunities could a non-state entity take over the pass-through responsibilities for a state?**

   Yes, but the preference is that the funds go to the State and the State then sub-grants the base funding to the other entity.

1. **What documentation is needed to have the matching fees waiver?**

   During the application process, the applicant should indicate they are requesting the match waiver and provide documentation to demonstrate they meet the waiver requirement. The documentation will be verified during the application review process. The only waivers allowable under this program are those communities deemed underserved, Tribes, Pacific Island territories, and US Virgin Islands.

2. **If a county is identified as meeting the .75 threshold, do all communities in the county qualify for the match waiver?** For Round 1 of CWDG, the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) was used with a threshold of 0.75, and was determined at the community level. For Round 2, the CWDG program will be moving to the Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) for determining underserved (disadvantaged). This tool also uses a community level scale. County-wide analysis should only be used for projects that span that level of geography.

3. **Does an applicant need to submit a match waiver form for review before the application deadline? If not, what is the** best way to complete the budget without knowing if the match is waived?

   Applicants do not need to include a separate waiver form or show match on their budget table when submitting applications if they are claiming underserved. If they use the underserved tools provided, there should not be an issue regarding the application being declined.

4. **How does the applicant perform the low-income verification for cost-share waiver and what is the process for requesting this?**

   The applicant may use the tools on the Wildfire Risk to Communities website: https://wildfirerisk.org/cwdg-tool to determine if the community where the work is being performed is eligible for a match waiver. There is a specific section in the application for the applicant to request a waiver and provide supporting documentation that the applicant meets the requirements for a waiver.

5. **If a waiver isn't possible, can a Tribe use 638 funds for the match?**
Yes, a Tribe may use 638 funds as match for CWDG funds if a waiver is not possible. However, A blanket waiver has been approved for Indian Tribes.

6. **What is the underserved match waiver ability for projects spanning community boundaries?**
If a project spans a boundary of two communities, and one community meets the definition of underserved, but the other doesn't, it will depend on whether the project is truly connected and necessary to protect the underserved community. If it is, it will be handled like the three priorities, in that the entire project will receive the benefit. The important part is to explain how the part of the project in the community that doesn't meet the underserved definition benefits the underserved community.

7. **If a low-income community will be requesting a match waiver, do they still need to fill out match info in the application (in case they don't get the waiver)?**
No, they do not need to include the match if they meet the qualification for underserved (which includes low-income).

8. **For projects spanning multiple communities that are all within a single county, and that single county meets criteria for a match, is that sufficient?What if they are in different counties?**
If they are all in the same county and the entire county meets the match waiver criteria then yes that is sufficient.
If they are in different counties, then it depends on each county. There may be several types of scenarios.

   A. Same County and contiguous projects (see above).
   B. Different counties, contiguous project (This is a project that spans multiple communities but should be considered together because breaking apart the project would limit its effectiveness, such as a needed fuel break that spans several communities that may be in different counties, but if only part of the fuel break is completed it would not achieve the desired impact.). In this instance, since it is one contiguous project, the entire project is eligible for the waiver.
   C. Different counties, non-contiguous project. (Depending on the nature of the project, might really be

"separate projects" in separate counties, so would be best to have separate project narratives so they could be scored individually. However, for grant administration purposes they could be combined into a single award.) In this instance, since they are separate projects, eligibility would depend upon each county.

1. **The grant prioritized projects in areas where a natural disaster has occurred within the past 10 years. Does this mean that the grant does not provide funds for any post-fire disaster mitigation such as flooding?**

   The grant does not cover post-fire disaster mitigation projects that aren't intended to reduce wildfire risk/hazard. So, in the example of flood mitigation, this program would not be the right fit for that. In the definition of severe disaster, we talk about the need for the disaster to have resulted in increased wildfire risk/hazard. Below are a couple examples. In the NOFO section about Scoring Criteria, the information regarding severe disaster reads as follows:

   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). We also have a definition in the CWDG program guidance for severe disaster which reads: Severe disaster: Any event declared, designated, or recognized by a government authority as having caused damage, loss, or destruction to an

   extent 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 natural 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. Although CWDG incorporates severe disasters as one of the program priorities, CWDG is not intended to address all the impacts of all disasters. There are also programs and grants through FEMA that communities can utilize to address other impacts from disasters.

2. **How is community data at tract level determined when facing varied boundaries, multiple counties for one city, over 600 sq miles, multitude of tracts?**

   For projects that span multiple communities we have two scenarios: separate projects in separate communities, and a single project that spans multiple communities. For a single project that spans multiple communities or a large area (such as development of a county-wide CWPP), it is "connected", meaning it doesn't make sense to have some parts in and other parts out. Therefore, we will score the proposal as one community verses separate communities, and the way

we are handling that is if any of the communities within the footprint of the CWPP meet the threshold, it will pertain to the entire project. For separate projects in separate communities, where the projects can easily be disconnected or are not dependent upon one another, those will be looked at as each individual community/tract.

3. **Does the granting agency require the grantee's governing body to adopt a resolution or formal confirmation to authorize or to enter into the grant agreement?**

   The requirement for confirmation or a resolution is determined by the County laws or regulations. We, as a federal agency, cannot mandate you to seek approval from your board of supervisors or other governing body to enter into a grant agreement.

4. **When removing vegetation, no digging, will a NEPA be required?**

   Whether NEPA applies to any given project is best determined project by project. In most cases, whereas the project is taking place on non-federal lands by non-federal entities, and the decision-making for the project is not involving federal staff, it will not require NEPA. However, if there are any questions it is best to contact your

program manager on the specifics of any given proposal.

5. **Any additional clarification on NEPA? For those states with a separate but similar environmental compliance process (SEPA in Washington and CEQA in California), is there any guidance on whether this work will trigger those laws? Additionally, can an applicant pay for any needed CEQA/Heritage compliance for implementation work that they are proposing as part of their package?**

   Determining if a proposed project triggers state-specific environmental compliance laws is a question for that state. Funds can be used to pay for that work.

6. **Are states hiring grant-funded or time limited positions with Base Funding to increase capacity to manage CWDG?**

   Yes, several Opt-In states are or already have hired additional staff to manage CWDG.

7. **Can CWDG fund outreach and education?**

   If a community is applying for funds to develop a CWPP then their request should include the outreach and education necessary to gather interest and get stakeholders together to work on developing the CWPP. If an existing (but no more than 10 years old) CWPP describes outreach and education activities in the

community then the O&E activities would be a project and the community could include that in their project application.

**If your question has not been addressed above and you need further information or clarification, please follow the link below to send an email.

accessga@usda.gov or
sm.fs.usfs_cwdg@usda.gov

Additional Resources:

CWDG Web Tool

An easy-to-use, online dashboard provides data to include in your CWDG application:

https://wildfirerisk.org/cwdg-tool

Provides Immediate information about eligibility status

- Populates key criteria (wildfire risk, low-income, and severe disaster declarations)

- Cost-share waiver eligibility

- GIS coordinates

- Copy and paste options to easily populate your application

Additionally, other resources exist to support CWDG. For example, the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network has produced a "CWDG Primer: Preparing to Apply for Community Wildfire Defense: Grants" document/blog post, which synthesizes information about CWDG, and also has a nice flowchart/decision tree that many might find helpful. You can find that information at:

https://fireadaptednetwork.org/cwdg-primer/.

*Please note that some reference information dated 2022 may not be relevant for Round 2.

1. **Are the datasets available on the CWDG website the only sources for claiming eligibility and priority points?**

    The datasets linked on the CWDG website are one source for claiming eligibility or priority points. The Low-Income status must meet the definition provided in the NOFO. However, for the priorities of severe disaster and wildfire hazard a community may use another source to claim eligibility or priority, but they must list the source of this claim in their application.

1. **Is the roofing requirement needed in a fuels removal and vegetation management project? It does not include a roof ordinance specific to wildfire risk. While it's not a requirement, is it perhaps still a determining factor in whether an application is worthy of funding?**

   The lack of roofing ordinance will not impact scoring. The reason that question is asked is the CWDG was broken into two areas of funding, one that requires the ordinance and the other that doesn't. It is asked to determine which funds will be used.

1. **Is the CWDG only open to federally recognized Indian Tribes or Tribal Governments?**

   The grant is open to any Indian Tribe or Tribal Government. The Tribe does not have to be federally recognized. This also includes Alaska Native corporations.

2. **Where can Information on Tribal Cost Waiver be obtained?**

   We have worked with the Office of General Counsel and an Indian Tribal Match Waiver is now approved and in place.

3. **If a waiver isn't possible, can a Tribe use 638 funds for the match?**

   Yes, a Tribe may use 638 funds as match for CWDG funds if a waiver is not possible. However, this will not be necessary since a Tribal Match Waiver is now in place.

1. **When will the applicant webinars be available online?**
   Applicant webinars for Round 2 will be found on the CWDG page, with a link to register for each webinar. Additional information about webinar recordings can also be found on the **CWDG page:**

   https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/fire/grants

2. **Is there a U.S. Forest Service document with a summary of CWDG information for applicants (i.e., including key dates, website, etc.)?**
   The CWDG webpage contains the most current, pertinent information.

3. **Where is the tool kit for new applicants specific to CWDG located?**
   The toolkit is in grants.gov under related documents call the pre-award guide:
   https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-08/Pre-Award-Guide.pdf

4. **Where are project narrative forms for the Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program located?**
   For Round 2, all applicants will be using an on-line portal (cwdg.forestrygrants.org) in which the application will be filled out directly. NOFOs can be found by searching at grants.gov More information about accessing the NOFOs can be found on the CWDG page.

5. **Is there guidance for applicants to learn about guidelines for spending all the money within a certain timeframe, such as a situation where a subgrantee completes a project under budget, could**

the subgrant be modified to expend the rest of the funds?

The cleanest way to handle this scenario is to close the subgrant and de-obligate the remaining funds; the potential grantee could then apply for additional work in subsequent CWDG application cycles.

Additionally, an Award Administration Guide is under development and will be provided on the CWDG webpage when it is ready which may provide additional information. For any questions regarding timelines, budget, etc., an applicant should be working closely with their grant program manager.