

WESTERN WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE GRANTS



STATE OF ALASKA

DIVISION OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION

October 2024



WHERE DOES THE FUNDING COME FROM?



USDA Forest Service awards Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) funding through a competitive process each year through the Council of Western State Foresters. Any eligible entity can apply but funding will be passed through by the Division of Forestry and Fire Protection (DOF). Key program areas include: fuels reduction, prevention and education, and planning projects.

The Wildland Urban Interface grant is an award of Federal financial assistance (CFDA # 10.664) and is subject to the OMB guidance in subparts A through F of 2 CFR Part 200 as adopted and supplemented by USDA in 2 CFR Part 400. Adoption by USDA of the OMB guidance in 2 CFR 400 gives regulatory effect to the OMB guidance in 2 CFR 200 where full text may be found. Electronic copies of the CFRs can be obtained at the following internet site:

www.ecfr.gov.

APPLICATION PROCESS OVERVIEW

- ✓ A maximum of \$300,000 per award. A 50/50 match is required.
- ✓ Application period is from September 13, 2024 – December 20, 2024. You must submit a draft application to the division contact emma.kramer@alaska.gov by October 25, 2023.
- ✓ Draft PDF applications can be developed from the link found on the DOF WUI webpage. A link will be sent out to the grant contact to input their grant in the WUI portal by DOF.
- ✓ DOF reviews and prioritizes applications for submittal. No more than 10 applications can be put forward from any western state. DOF is responsible for final submittal of grants.
- ✓ The WUI scoring committee screens all applications for funding consideration based off program scoring criteria. The Council of Western State Foresters then puts forward the awards to be considered.
- ✓ Notification of award is tentatively made during the spring/summer of the following year.

INELIGIBLE FOR WUI FUNDING

Repair, construction or purchase of buildings.

Land acquisition.

Home Hardening or other building improvements.

Preparedness and suppression capacity building. I.e. fire fighting equipment.

Maintenance on previously funded federal fuels projects.

Funds cannot be used on Federal lands.

APPLICATION SCORING CRITERIA :

45 POINT TOTAL

Budget line items clear and expenditures relevant to the project: 5 pts

Clearly defined landscape attributes : 5 pts

Project clearly described and includes challenges and issues addressed by project: 5 pts

Project collaboration : 5 pts

Planning linkages to existing projects clearly defined : 5 pts

Detailed project timeline : 5 pts

Details project activities : 10 pts

Project sustainability : 5 pts

COUNCIL OF WESTERN STATE FORESTERS INFORMATION

The Council of Western State Foresters (CWSF) oversees the WUI program. They are a member organization made up of fire management professionals representing each member state and Pacific Islands : Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, 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 Republic of the Marshall Islands.

ALLOCATION OF FUNDING

All applications are considered for funding based on application ordinal score. Applications are scored by the Western WUI Grant Scoring Committee; made up of state representatives from the 17 western states and territories. All western states and territories forestry agencies have the opportunity to have a representative to participate in scoring.

All applications are scored by 6 scoring committee members. Applications are ranked by using the average ordinal score. The lowest average ordinal score represents the best application. State priority is used to break any tie in ordinal ranking for the last application funded with available funding. Mean raw score is used to break a tie between states with the same priority.

POST GRANT AWARD INFORMATION

The Division will notify all applicants of their application funding/no funding status.

The process from award notification to final fully funded agreement can take 5-8 months. The award is passed through from the federal government, to the DOF, and then on to the applicant. Each application will report to the DOF. DOF will be responsible for reimbursing the application during the award period.

The agreement will be between the applicant and the DOF, though each project is still subject to federal 2 CFR regulations.

APPLICATION TIPS

- ✓ Follow directions completely and fill out each box.
- ✓ Character limits are enforced. Use clear and concise language.
- ✓ Clearly demonstrate ability to implement project if funded.
- ✓ Explain how the project meets the goals and criteria for the grant funding and how to maintain it in the future.
- ✓ Identify partners, funding sources, and responsibilities as indicated.
- ✓ This is a competitive grant; any mathematical errors, inappropriate match, or failing to adequately explain some facet of the project could mean the difference between being funded and not receiving funding.

APPLICATION TIPS CONT.

- ✓ Work with partners to design the project and prepare the grant together.
- ✓ Follow application guidance that is provided on the DOF WUI webpage.
- ✓ Read and re-read. Ask others to review and edit the application as well.
- ✓ “Score” your application as if you were on the committee. Ask others to do the same.
- ✓ Ask for help from the DOF grant coordinator contact.

FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT :

emma.kramer@alaska.gov



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