



USDA FOREST SERVICE & NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FORESTERS (NASF) STATE URBAN FOREST RESILIENCE GRANT PROGRAM

Greetings State Urban & Community Forestry Partners,

The USDA Forest Service & National Association of State Foresters (NASF) are pleased to announce the Request for Proposals for the 2021 State Urban Forest Resilience Grant Program (SUFR).

The purpose of this email is to provide notification and participation guidelines for project proposals, including eligibility criteria, submission requirements, performance timelines, and project match and reporting requirements.

In order to better serve the States and their stakeholders, a streamlined application process will now be completed electronically through an online web-based submission portal that will be made available on the USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry website. Proposals will be due to submission portal by **11:59 pm, March 31, 2021**.

Given the broad impacts of forest pest outbreaks in communities across the states, islands and territories, **state/island/territory forestry agencies are encouraged to submit proposals that address urban forest health readiness, response, and restoration needs and deliver visible results on the landscape.** Project proposals should clearly demonstrate a need for funding assistance and include outcomes that align with the priorities of the [FY 2021 Congressional Directive-- HR 116-448](#) *“Urban Reforestation.—The Committee recognizes there is a critical need to restore and improve urban forests due to catastrophic losses from Emerald Ash Borer while building resiliency through tree diversity and the protection of existing trees. Nearly eighty-one percent of Americans live in urban areas where trees are critical to human health and to reducing the impact of climate change. Of the funds provided within Urban and Community Forestry the Committee directs an additional \$2,000,000 to be used for reforestation, to include tree planting, in urban communities most severely impacted by the Emerald Ash Borer. This funding is to be in addition to funds otherwise provided to regions for the Urban and Community Forestry program.”*

There will be two (2) Categories for consideration for the 2021 SUFR Grant Program.

**(1) Emerald Ash Borer Urban Forestry Reforestation Projects -- \$2,000,000
(Awards will range from \$50,000 - \$250,000)**

Proposals should address the critical need to restore and improve urban forests due to catastrophic losses from Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), while building resiliency through reforestation, tree planting in urban communities where trees are critical to human health and to reducing the impact of climate change. Urban forests affected by EAB can be found at the [Emerald Ash Borer Information Network](#).

**(2) Other State Urban Forest Resilience Projects -- \$500,000
(Awards will range from \$50,000 - \$100,000)**

Proposals should address the management of our existing and future urban and community forests—urban forests resilient to impacts of invasive pathogens, pests and environmental stressors. There is an urgent need to restore and improve urban forests by building community resilience, with a focus on equity, environmental justice, climate change and public health initiatives.

Project proposals that clearly demonstrate a need for funding assistance and include outcomes that align with the Congressional priorities will receive priority consideration. Funding allocations to each FS region will be based on the total cost of projects selected from the region. In addition to the maximum cost limit, a 1:1 state cost share match is required. Additionally, project proposals that include multiple states or regions, and/or are scalable (up or down) are also encouraged in order to distribute available funds as broadly as possible across each region. Funded projects will be expected to implement and demonstrate visible progress within 6-months of award.

Technical support and general administrative support to facilitate the online application will be provided as needed. Proposals can include up to 20 percent of project cost for administrative costs.

Project Proposal, Submission and Reporting Requirements:

Eligibility Requirements:

States, islands, and territories are eligible to submit proposals for projects on public land.

Proposal Elements

A 3-page project narrative that describes the project scope and alignment with Congressional priorities described above, project partners, accomplishments, and a detailed budget (copy template from attached and include in proposal) showing budget items by object class, match type and source.

Project Submission and Award: Project proposals should be submitted via the online web portal **Project proposals must be received by 11:59 PM March 31, 2021.**

Proposals received will be reviewed by a panel of experts from the NASF regional organizations and UCF committee, and USFS UCF Program Managers, during the month of April 2021. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following Evaluation Criteria (100 points):

- 1) The Significance of the Problem (30 points)
- 2) Proposed Approach and Cooperative Linkages (25 points)
- 3) Institutional Capability and Capacity Building (20 points)
- 4) Key Personnel (15 points)
- 5) Budget and Cost-Effectiveness (10 points)

Grant awards will be announced in June 2021.

Reporting Requirements:

An initial progress report demonstrating measurable progress will be required within 6-months of award (projects do not have to be completed within 6- months). At project completion, recipients will be expected to submit a final report describing the project outcomes and any deliverables such as case studies, before and after photos, tools developed or applied, etc. for posting consideration to the [Vibrant Cities Lab](#) website.