



## Forest Service & National Association of State Foresters (NASF) 2022 State Urban Forest Resilience Grant Program (SUFR)

### Request for Proposals (RFP)

Proposals due to [submission portal](#) by **April 15, 2022 5pm EDT**

#### INTRODUCTION

The USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry (U&CF) Program restores, sustains, and manages more than 140 million acres of urban and community forest lands for the benefit of communities in the United States. Healthy urban & community forests are essential to the economic, environmental, physical and mental well-being of our population. Proposals are encouraged that complement existing regional and national initiatives, such as [Trillion Trees](#), [Healthy Trees](#), [Healthy Lives](#), and responds to the Administration's goals around the [Justice40 Initiative](#), [social justice](#) and [climate adaptation](#). Resources and mapping tools are included in the application portal to inform disparities to urban communities and landscapes. Increasingly, our urban and community forests are facing threats such as insects, diseases, extreme weather events and other hazards. Proposals should align with [State Urban Forest Action Plans](#).

Proposals can include up to 20 percent of project cost for administrative costs; final determination will be made by Forest Service and NASF SUFR review panel. States may submit more than one proposal, and more than one project may be funded per state.

#### GRANT CATEGORY

##### **Emerald Ash Borer Urban Forestry Reforestation Projects-- \$4,000,000 (APPROPRIATIONS PENDING)**

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 reduce the impact of climate change.

**FY 2022 Congressional Directive-- Emerald Ash Borer Urban Reforestation--HR 117:** *"The Committee continues to urge the Forest Service to address the catastrophic losses to urban forests 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 **\$4,000,000 (APPROPRIATIONS PENDING)** 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. The Committee encourages the Forest Service to prioritize regional, multi-organizational collaborations in urban communities most severely impacted by invasive species like the Emerald Ash Borer."*

Projects that involve planting trees should account for tree establishment and maintenance over the span of the project in their proposals and budgets as appropriate. To the extent possible, planting activities should align and advance urban forest master plans or other cohesive urban forestry-related plans.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Proposals must meet the **Urban and Community Forestry Program Authorities** as designated by Congress in the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act, (Section 9 PDF, pp. 19-24) [State & Private Cooperative Forestry Handbook of Programs, and Federal Grant Rules](#), and align with the [National Ten Year Urban and Community Forestry Action Plan \(2016-2026\)](#).

- **All applicants MUST contact their Forest Service Regional Coordinators** for guidance and to address any program questions before applying. Please click on the link to find your Forest Service Urban Forestry Program Manager: [Forest Service Urban Forestry Regional Program Managers](#).
- **Eligibility Requirements:** States and state partners working through their state forestry agency are eligible to submit proposals for projects on both **public and private lands** (*see note below regarding private lands projects*). Submission by the State Forester or the Forest Service Regional Program Coordinators/Staff (mandatory) will be taken as an indication of his/her/their support. **PLEASE NOTE:** Projects can take place on private lands **ONLY WITH** clearly documented evidence (e.g., easement, written agreement, MOU), that details collaboration with local entities/landowners and that demonstrates continued public benefit to the urban forest for years to come. Existing or planned agreements must be attached to the proposal at the time of submission and final versions sent to the respective Regional UCF Program Coordinator for approval in advance of planting. The Forest Service Regional Coordinator will decide if proposed projects are eligible.
- **Proposal Narrative:** Submit up to a 3-page project narrative describing the project scope, methodology, timeline, and alignment with Congressional priorities described above. Document project partners and their roles, and attach supporting materials (i.e., equity maps, canopy data, inventories, UF master/management plans, letters of support). Narratives should address all project evaluation criteria identified below and indicate whether the project can be scaled up or down based on funding.
- **Timeline:** The expected award date is between June and September 2022. Projects must be completed within 3 years of award, and measurable progress must be reported by March 31, 2023.
- **Proposal Budget:** A detailed budget (*See attached [Budget Template](#)*) reflecting budget items by object class, match type and source is required. Administrative assistance requires 1:1 match and should not exceed 20 percent of the total project cost; the final amount of administrative assistance funding will be determined by the FS and NASF SUFR Review Panel. Federal funds may be spent on reforestation and necessary supporting activities (e.g., community outreach/engagement, planting plans, and after care required for tree establishment). Ash tree removal and treatment can be counted as match.
- **Reporting Requirements:** Initial progress report demonstrating measurable progress will be required within 6-months of award (due **March 31, 2023**). At project completion, recipients will be expected to submit a final report describing the project outcomes and any deliverables for congressional directive reporting requirement (*See attached [FS 1500-23 Optional Progress Report Form](#)*).

- **Available Funding:** **\$4,000,000 will be available (APPROPRIATIONS PENDING)** for Emerald Ash Borer Urban Forest Reforestation Proposals. Awards will range from \$100,000 - \$500,000.
- **Matching Requirements:** All grant funds **MUST** be matched at least equally, **dollar for dollar**. Non-federal match may include in-kind donations, volunteer assistance, and private and public (non-federal) monetary contributions. While other Federal dollars or technical support may contribute to the project, they may not be used to match the Urban and Community Federal grant program dollars.
- **[Resources & Tools](#)**
- **[Evaluation Criteria: Possible 100 points](#)**
  - Significance of Problem-- Science & Social (30 points)
  - Proposed Approach (25 points)
  - Capability & Capacity Building (20 points)
  - Key Personnel (15 points)
  - Budget & Cost-Effectiveness (10 points)
- **[Budget Template](#)**
- **[FS 1500-23 Optional Progress Report Form](#)**

Click on this link [2022 State Urban Forest Resilience Grant Program Application \(SUFR\)](#) to complete the grant proposal application form. Once the application is completed and submitted, applicant will receive notice of successful submission.

***\* PLEASE NOTE: Files and documents uploaded to the Grant Portal MUST be standard Adobe .pdf documents. Please read the [FAQ section](#) for more details about creating, converting and uploading .pdf files. If you encounter issues with uploading your Adobe .pdf document, contact [technical assistance](#) for help and guidance.***

***For grant program assistance and questions, contact:***

**USDA Forest Service Contact:**

Quin Holifield

National Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager

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**NASF Urban Committee Contact:**

Keith Wood

National Association of State Foresters, UCF Committee

[kwood@stateforesters.org](mailto:kwood@stateforesters.org)

***For technical assistance with the Grant Portal and for help uploading .pdf files, contact:***

Darryl Outlaw or Daniel Drummond

University of Georgia IT Support

[contact@sref.info](mailto:contact@sref.info)