Community Forestry Small Grants Program

The Connecticut Urban Forest Council, Inc. (CUFC) is a statewide non-profit organization composed of representatives from Connecticut environmental organizations, state agencies, universities, research institutions, corporations, professional and volunteer tree groups. Its purpose is to provide advice, assistance, education, information, and support to those interested in urban and community forestry. Our small grants program in 2021 will help existing organizations and municipalities address issues related to urban forest health. We expect to award 4 grants of up to $1,500. *Please note that a similar program with larger grants focusing on planning/execution of urban forestry projects addressing mitigation of global climate change impacts on underserved urban neighborhoods, supported by state funds, will be announced later in 2021.*

Priorities include (1) teaching about urban forestry and the tools used to manage urban trees and forests, and (2) increasing public awareness of opportunities to protect urban forestland and urban trees, emphasizing public benefits. Examples of grant subjects include tree planting, efforts to protect existing trees, development and distribution of plant stewardship material, implementation of an event that engages students with the outdoors, the investment in a door-to-door campaign to raise awareness and participation in storm recovery efforts or environmental restoration activities, or training of community stewards to monitor tree health in their neighborhoods or nearby parks, etc...

Grants to nonprofit organizations will be awarded to projects that directly benefit educational goals related to urban forests in Connecticut. Projects that serve neighborhoods or areas with low tree canopy coverage and limited resources, and/or that utilize partnerships to amplify the project's impacts are strongly encouraged. Please consider the scoring sheet in the Appendix when submitting a proposal, and keep in mind CoVID-19 health restrictions in plans for conducting your activities.

Grant administration and requirements

- Funds from awarded grants are usually paid upon submission of invoices to the CUFC. Partial need-based funding prior to obtaining receipts may be requested of the CUFC.
- Grant requests may not exceed $1,500
- Applicants must be able to commit to a 50% match, which can consist of funds from other donors or in-kind contributions (such as volunteer hours of labor).
- Applications must be submitted by inserting text in required sections marked by an asterisk (*) within this document. The completed document, along with accompanying files, may be sent directly via e-mail to Richard.Cowles@ct.gov
- Any printed materials produced by the grantee must acknowledge the U.S. Forest Service for having provided support.

Grant administration and requirements (continued)

- Successful applicants must agree to submit a narrative report on the status of the project and how the funds were used within 1 year of being awarded a grant.
- Successful projects will be announced on March 31, 2021.
- Submission deadline: Proposals must be submitted with this form no later than 4:30 p.m. on March 15, 2021.

Name of Organization*

Address of Organization*

Contact phone number*

E-mail*

Title for Proposal*

Executive summary (< 250 words)*

Requested dollar amount (<= $1,500)*

Time frame for conducting the work (completion no later than June 15, 2022)*

Proposal

Background*

Describe the situation that you are addressing, and why it is important. For example: “Inner city youth are not taught in their existing science courses about the environmental benefits that are provided by trees … "

Objectives*

Describe in one sentence what you plan to accomplish through work supported by this grant. For example: “To train high school students about the benefits that our trees provide to the community.”

Methods*

Provide specifics on how you will accomplish the objective. For example: “Groups of 9th through 12th graders at city schools will be brought to Bushnell Park and be given a tour of the trees in the park. Students will learn how to identify trees, measure trees with a dbh tape, and then also measure the area covered by the canopy for each tree. The health condition of each tree will be noted. Back in the classroom, we will explore with the students the relationship between trunk diameter and canopy area, and using existing on-line resources, calculate the environmental benefits provided to the city for each tree…"

Partners*

Please provide the names of other groups with whom you will be collaborating to achieve your objectives. Please also provide a letter of support from that group to confirm that they are willing to participate with your project.

Letters of support*

Please list the partners here, and provide via e-mail a letter of support from each group to confirm that they are willing to participate with your project.

Matching funds*

Describe how you will be matching the award, either through funds from a different source or from in-kind contributions.

Project location*

Budget*

Please provide an itemization of the goods or services paid for by this grant award, and the amounts for these items.

Appendix: Scoring sheet

Component of RFP addressed	Maximum points
Submission conforms to the Request for Proposal guidelines	5
Work plans are clearly described	10
Strong educational component demonstrated	10
Public awareness of tree benefits will increase	15
Number of community members participating	15
Provides benefits to underserved communities	15
Potential to create long-lasting benefit	10
Demonstrates effective partnership	10
Has realistic budget for supported activities	5
Considers CoVID-19 health restrictions	5