

Urban and Community Forestry Grant Webinar Q&A 2.14.2023

Question Asked	Answer Given
Webinar recording, Q&A Sheet, Slides	
CAL FIRE's Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program Grants Webpage	https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/grants/urban-and-community-forestry-grants
Sign up for the Urban and Community Forestry listserv for grant updates to your email:	https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001FcezdzOZJGw-5_vGFclS9zLhi6OpqaijWzgBlitU7RTiLH0C3xvDenrMU7KxQk1Fej8Zxb4U2c9bCyyutxBKMOcTsCbpmWgQjGMfL1hkDR5jQ%3D?u=1eab3f5545f6a6e4d33c94dcb&id=c330a569ca
Will a recording of the webinar, slides, and Q&A session be available for reference?	Yes. We will share the slides, webinar recording, and Q&A session with attendees and on our grants website for reference.
Application Timeline, Concept Proposals, Grant Guidelines	
At this time, have all UCF funds been withdrawn and no application period will be open for UCF grants this year?	We have a \$117 million for Green Schoolyards grants but we currently do not have confirmed funding for other UCF grants. We are working on additional funding, such as that available through the USDA Forest Service (USFS), and if we receive further funding, we will be offering additional grants through our program. We are not accepting concept proposals at this time. Please hold your project ideas, and if there are any questions, or concerns with your proposed project, please reach out to your Regional Urban Forester.
I have seen a few due dates proposed by the UCF Program. Are you no longer accepting concept proposals which were due by March 31, 2023? What about April 14, 2023?	We are not accepting concept proposals for UCF grants at this time. We are only accepting applications for Green Schoolyard Grants, due April 28, 2023. These are the only applications we are accepting.
Please clarify what was due February 28. Is this the deadline for the UCF program to submit their application to the USFS for Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding?	Yes, the deadline for CAL FIRE to apply for IRA funding was February 28, 2023.
You said ideas are useful - what is the best way to submit ideas? Is there a format you want them submitted to you? Do we need to submit the concept proposal? Or can we just submit a full proposal when/if CAL FIRE receives a grant from the USFS?	Please contact your Regional Urban Forester to discuss potential project ideas. We are not accepting concept proposals at this time. Proposing ideas is not required before we officially request full proposals. There may be some restrictions we may not be aware of yet, determined by the funding source.
Can we still submit applications to the UCF Program to be held until funds are available?	Not at this time. Although, your Regional Urban Forester can assist with your project ideas and help with any questions you may have.
Is your expected timeline for the CAL FIRE UCF grants application period (assuming you get IRA funding) in summer to fall?	Yes, we anticipate having funding before the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2023) and will open the application period after funding is confirmed.
If IRA funding is awarded, will UCF FY 2022-2023 grant guidelines be applicable or will a new FY 2023-2024 be drafted? Will we be notified once the guidelines are revised?	If awarded, new guidelines will have to be drafted to fit the funding requirements for IRA funding. However, the base of the grant guidelines will generally stay the same. Grant types will change. We will announce when final grant guidelines are available and suggest signing up for our listserv to stay updated on grant announcements.
Funding Updates and Opportunities	
How much funding is CAL FIRE requesting from the IRA program?	To be determined. If our application is accepted, we will notify potential applicants of the final funding amount approved.
Why are there currently job openings at CAL FIRE if the funding is being cut? (or are those positions still being funded?)	We are experiencing funding cut backs for our grants program. We have other funding sources for staff salaries.
Will the lack of funding have any effect on previously awarded urban forestry grants?	No, all previously awarded grant projects have designated funding for the individual projects.
What is the name of the EPA grant? When will this grant application be open?	Please review information about funding opportunities on the Environmental Protection Agency website at, EPA Funding Announcements from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act US EPA: https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/epa-funding-announcements-bipartisan-infrastructure-law-and-inflation
Are open competitive grants from IRA to be funded through the USFS?	Yes, USDAFS will be the funding source. If our program receives IRA funding, UCF grants will be awarded and administered through CAL FIRE's UCF grant program.
As UCF stakeholders, how can we support CAL FIRE's application to the USFS for IRA funding? Would letters or social media outreach help?	Thank you for your support. We appreciate the sentiment; however, the USFS is only accepting an application from the UCF program at this time, not letters. We encourage advocating to the state legislature for future support of the program.
What changed this year to cause the withdrawing of general state funding? Is there any forecasting on funding for next year?	Unfortunately, these decisions are on an annual basis. At this time, next year's UCF budget is also predicted to be zero. At this time, the state has a projected revenue shortfall which resulted in significant changes in the budget. We are unsure about the full reasoning behind these adjustments.
The governor's budget proposal still has to be approved, correct?	Funding decisions are final for the current Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2023. Decisions for next Fiscal Year may be modified.

Which federal agency/program specifically is making IRA grants?	It might depend on the agency. Grants may be reviewed and awarded at the region level at the USFS.
Can you define what you mean by state agencies? Are these just the state coordinators?	California Government Agencies: https://www.ca.gov/agenciesall/ . Other state agencies may be able to provide funding for other components of your projects.
Application and Budget Questions	
Can Green Schoolyards grants through the CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Program be used as match/cost-share for federal grants?	No, Green Schoolyards grants through the CAL FIRE UCF Program may not be used as match/cost-share for federal grants.
Could we apply for and be awarded both through USFS and CAL FIRE?	Yes, that is possible. However, funding sources for the same project must be different if you intend on using them for matching funds.
Would CAL FIRE be able to provide technical assistance for federal grant applications? Or is that only for grants from state agencies?	Yes. CAL FIRE staff can provide technical assistance. During the application period, applicants can reach out to Regional Urban Foresters and Program Staff to ask general program related questions. Project-specific questions can be considered for feedback; however, these answers may be more generalized and will not be delivered in a way that will give the applicant a competitive advantage.
How should we contact CAL FIRE for technical assistance with future projects?	Contact your Regional Urban Forester or Program Staff for technical assistance.
Can you explain what a sub-grant is vs. an open competitive grant?	CAL FIRE obtains a grant from the USDA Forest Service which is then sub-granted to local jurisdictions or organizations. Subgranting will function the same as our competitive grant program that we've had historically. Applicants will go through the same application process and forms; however, based on our funding source, some of the requirements may change.
If we are applying for the Urban Forest Management Activities grant (assuming funding is awarded through the IRA) and have qualifying urban areas as outlined in the grant guidelines, is there space to expand the grant funded tree program beyond the qualifying urban areas?	Yes, although projects that primarily serve a disadvantaged community (DAC) will have a competitive advantage. If funding is awarded, grant guidelines will be updated to outline eligible applicants and activities.
The guidelines require an adopted resolution by the governing body; can a potential applicant submit the application with the template resolution while the agency obtains a resolution from the governing body?	When we are requesting applications, a draft resolution may be acceptable as a placeholder. Please submit your application with the draft resolution and explanation of when you expect the final draft will be submitted.
Can you provide draft resolution for the application?	The draft resolution can be found on the UCF grants webpage.
Can you speak to any capacity building strategies that nonprofits can write into their concept budgets? For example, would paying for staff to obtain tree care or arborist certification be allowed?	Yes, we allow grantees to budget for education and outreach, as well as additional staff. Other eligible budget items are outlined in the grant guidelines.
How long will the grant fund the new staff?	This is typically for the life of the grant. For IRA funding, this would be 5 year terms. Depending on our funding source, the employee may be required to be a permanent position, held in perpetuity.
Can Green Schoolyards grants through the CAL FIRE UCF Program be used as match/cost-share for federal grants?	No, Green Schoolyards grants through the CAL FIRE UCF Program may not be used as match/cost-share for federal grants.
Does the transportation portion of the grants apply to pedestrian trail systems?	Please clarify your budget question with your Regional Urban Forester.