

About the IRA Urban & Community Forestry Grants

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program encourages projects that plant trees and increase the benefits of tree canopy, create and support long-term and sustained urban and community forestry programs, and promote the care of trees in disadvantaged communities throughout Nevada. This program is funded through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and is intended to support new initiatives, programs, projects, staff positions or activities not currently being funded through other sources.

Key Dates

- **Application Portal Opens:** December 9, 2024
- **Applications Due:** February 9th, 2025, by 11:59 PM PST
- **Award Notification:** February 23, 2025

Application Process

All applications must be submitted by 11:59 PM PST on February 9, 2025, through the [online grant portal](#). No paper applications will be accepted. Please contact the NDF UCF Program Coordinator, Danielle Hensley, with additional questions:

- **Email:** NDF-UCFGrants@forestry.nv.gov
- **Office Phone:** 702-683-0639

Legislative Authority

The USDA Forest Service, authorized by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and the Community Forestry Assistance Act of the 1990 Farm Bill, has allocated funding to the Nevada Division of Forestry for statewide distribution.

Subtitle D, Sec. 23003 (a). State and Private Forestry Conservation Programs via the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) appropriated \$1.5B to provide multiyear, programmatic, competitive grants, \$250M of which was distributed to states for program implementation. Nevada received \$3,000,000 to be distributed statewide over a 5-year period. A minimum of \$2,100,000 was made available for competitive grant programs. To advance the mission of the Justice40 initiative, proposals should deliver the benefits of IRA investments through established partnerships with local organizations working to support and enhance tree canopy in disadvantaged communities.

Eligibility Criteria

IRA funds are available exclusively for programs or projects serving disadvantaged communities, which are defined as those that meet at least one of the following criteria:

- All projects or programs must occur in, or benefit, disadvantaged communities, which can be identified by using [the Nevada Division of Forestry’s Urban and Community Forestry Mapping Tool](#). The NDF Tool uses data from [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool \(CEJST\)](#) and the EPA’s Inflation Reduction Act Disadvantaged Communities Layer to determine eligibility. The Tool can also be used to generate maps in support of the grant application.
- Programs must be working in or with students from a [Title 1 school](#).

Projects or programs of work completed 100% in disadvantaged communities identified by CEJST may qualify for IRA funding. IRA qualified projects will be eligible for funding up to \$200,000 per project. Grant award period is up to three years, based on need and completed milestones.

Grant Opportunities

Applicants can submit proposals for Program Development and Tree Canopy Management Grants and/or Planting and Education Grants.

Program Development & Tree Canopy Management

- **Purpose:** To support projects that may take longer than one year to implement, or that require greater funding due to their complexity.
- **Funding Request Range:** \$20,000 - \$200,000 per project
- **Grant Delivery Method:** Subgrant award from NDF
- **Communities Served:** Disadvantaged communities exclusively
- **Eligible Entities:**
 - Local governments
 - Tribal governments
 - Non-profit organizations with 501(c)(3) status
 - Public educational institutions
- **Eligible Activities (not an exhaustive list):**
 - Tree care worker education
 - Municipal or community tree canopy planning and management
 - Planting and demonstration projects
 - Urban forest resiliency
 - Urban forest equity
 - Urban wood utilization
 - Workforce development
 - School greening
 - Encouraging public valuation of tree benefits (education)
- **Cost in Kind/Match Requirement:** None
- **Project Time Frame:** Up to 3 years

Planting & Education

- **Purpose:** To support single site or focused projects. OR to provide direct purchasing support to initiatives by entities that lack the resources, staff and/or infrastructure to process subgrants.
 - **Funding Request Range:** \$1,000 -\$10,000 per project
 - **Grant Delivery Method:** Subgrant award from NDF OR NDF direct purchase of materials.
 - **Communities Served:** Disadvantaged communities exclusively
- Eligible Entities:**
- State agencies
 - Counties
 - Educational institutions
 - Tribal governments
 - Non-profit 501(c)(3) status
 - Neighborhood associations
 - Civic groups
 - Religious groups
- **Eligible Activities (not an exhaustive list):**
 - Trees
 - Planting supplies (soil amendments, mulch, tree protection), irrigation (no hard line).
 - Tree-care training opportunities (e.g., arborist certification training for staff)
 - Educational materials
 - **Cost in Kind/Match Requirement:** None
 - **Project Time Frame:** Up to 1 year

Eligible Projects

Eligible projects must meet Federal and State Program objectives, as outlined in the [Ten Year National Urban and Community Forestry Action Plan](#) and/or the NDF Urban & Community Forestry Strategic Plan.

Eligible Lands

Eligible applicants may apply for funding for a project to be conducted on non-Federal lands, including but not limited to those owned by **state and/or local governments, Homeowner Associations, private landowners, and tribal governments.**

Evaluation and Ranking

Priority Projects

Projects that meet any of the following criteria will receive priority:

- Municipalities applying that maintain currency on their Tree City USA qualifications
- Projects which move communities from “developing” to “managing”^[1] their community forests by meeting USFS standards:
 - Tree Ordinance
 - Professional Forestry/Arboriculture Staff
 - Tree Advisory or Advocacy Groups
 - Tree Management Plan based on inventory data
- Projects that are tied to water conservation, extreme heat mitigation, or reduction in energy use.

Evaluation Criteria

Only applications that meet all requirements will be reviewed. Project proposals will be evaluated by the individual project goals and quality, and clarity of project methods, goals, and outcomes as written in the application. The grant review policy promotes a process whereby each grant application submitted is independently evaluated on its own strengths and merits.

Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by members of the Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council and Nevada Division of Forestry staff. If conflicts of interest exist, a recusal process will be followed.

The Nevada Division of Forestry reserves the right to reject all proposals. Partial funding for projects may be awarded.

Additional Resources

Strategic Plans to Reference

National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council Ten-year Urban Forest action plan: <https://urbanforestplan.org/>.

- Nevada Division of Forestry Forest, Watershed, and Rangeland Action Plan: <https://forestry.nv.gov/natural-resource-management/state-frwap>

General Resources

- International Society of Arboriculture: www.isa-arbor.com
- Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA Program: www.ArborDay.org
- USDA Forest Service: fs.usda.gov/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf
- Tree care and selection how-to: www.treesaregood.com
- www.treecaretips.org
- [ANSI Z60.1 Standards for Nursery Stock](#)
- [ANSI A300 Standards for Tree Planting and Tree Care](#)

Species Selection Recommendations

- <https://selecttree.calpoly.edu/>
- <https://www.snwa.com/assets/pdf/water-smart-plant-list.pdf>
- <https://www.aztrees.org/Native-Trees-AZ-NM>

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