



Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# **Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) Program Webinar for Applicants**

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(Updated 12/02/2024)

# Today's Agenda

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- Overview of Round 3
- Overview of Program Changes from Round 2
- CWDG Program Overview
- CWDG Application Eligibility
- CWDG Application Components
- CWDG Application Portal Information
- Grants and Agreements
- Wildfire Risk to Communities CWDG Tool
- Timeline

# Overview of Round 3



# Grant Application Portal

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**All four Notice for Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) will use the <https://cwdg.forestrygrants.org/> portal for application submittal.**

- Round 3 NOFOs are advertised in grants.gov as required
- NOFO point applicants to apply in the [cwdg.forestrygrants.org](https://cwdg.forestrygrants.org) portal, which is where applicants will find the actual application form
- Applicants will be required to submit UEI # and certify they have an active SAM.gov registration

# Underserved Communities

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## **The determination of underserved community for Round 3 will use the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool**

- Tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, Pacific Islands and USVI automatically qualify for a match waiver
- Communities that meet the Low-Income definition are also eligible for the match waiver
- The CJEST info is already loaded into the Wildfire Risk to Communities CWDG Tool

# Application Period

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**Application period will be open for 100 days**

- Grants.gov and Application portal opened on **Thursday, November 21** and will stay open until 11:59pm, eastern time zone, on **Friday, February 28th.**

# Funding for Round 3

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**Anticipated funding amounts available for the third round is \$200 million.**

# Community Navigators

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**Once again, Community Navigators will be available to assist communities in applying for FS funding opportunities.**

- The three main goals of the Community Navigator project are to:
  1. Help Communities engage with the FS;
  2. Assist Communities in applying for Grants; and
  3. Help Communities stay in compliance with Grant requirements and reporting.
- Organizations currently providing Community Navigators are: The Watershed Research and Training Center, Hispanic Access Foundation, Coalitions and Collaboratives, First Nations Development Institute, Federation of Southern Cooperatives, and American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association
- [FS Community Navigators webpage](#)



# **Overview of Program Changes from Round 2**

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# Low Income Communities

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- We received feedback from small communities, and especially Alaskan villages, regarding the tool's ability to capture the true income levels for areas with very small populations.
- These small communities, particularly with low income, are a focus of the program.
- Working with Headwaters Economics, it was recognized that the income data for small communities has a much greater margin of error (MOE) in the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey.
- This discrepancy is due to the limited sampling size as compared to cities and communities with larger populations.
- An improved method of handling these small population areas has been developed for Round 3

# Low Income Communities (continued)

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- Round 1 & 2 used midpoint of MOE, but Round 3 will use the lower end of the MOE versus the mid-point, thereby not penalizing smaller communities.
- For Round 3, median household income is based on the lower bound of the Census Bureau's reported 90% confidence interval, which provides a range to help account for uncertainty in survey data.
- Places with low population or low response rates will see a wider range in the median household income estimates.
- "Low-income" definition remains as having a median household income less than 80% of the state's or nation's median household income, whichever is higher.

# Updating of CWDG Tool

<https://wildfirerisk.org/cwdg-tool>

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- The online CWDG tool, built in partnership with the Wildfire Risk to Communities (WRC) group and Headwaters Economics, has been updated with the latest information;
  - census information
  - listing of federally declared disasters
- The tool has been updated with the new WRC version of wildfire risk and hazard data released this past summer
- This update changed the eligibility and prioritization of some communities.
- Round 3 eligibility will include the new communities, but also grandfather the communities that would lose eligibility based upon the new data
- This allows time to socialize the changes before Round 4
- Information about which communities, counties and tribal areas change eligibility is available

# No Prioritization of CWPPs

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- The CWDG workgroup prioritized CWPP's in the second round of CWDG, and 109 CWPP applications were awarded.
- For the third round, there will not be a prioritization of one type of application over the other.
- Funding will be based upon scoring.

# Severe Disaster Question

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- No other question received more feedback than this one. The issue lies in the requirement to not just list the disasters that have impacted the community, but also to explain how the disaster impacted that community's fire risk and/or hazard.
- Several applicants just listed the disasters and didn't feel they needed any additional narrative.
- Requirement to explain the disasters impact remains
- The question is now a two-part question;
  - First: Yes/No question asking if there was a disaster
  - Second: explain how the disaster impacted that community's fire risk and/or hazard

# Clarification of Grant Award Requirements

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- Based upon feedback from applicants and Forest Service Grants and Agreement staff, several clarifications have been made to the NOFO regarding topics such as:
  - The handling of program income
  - Match requirements
  - Confirmation that approval of project costs will occur as part of grant execution process
  - Confirmation that some states may have additional grant requirements due to state-specific regulations

# Additional items

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- Webinars for applicants
  - Scheduled for week of December 2-6
- Office hours
  - First one December 18
  - Office hours will occur bi-weekly in January and February
- CWDG will likely have total of 4 Application Rounds



# **CWDG Program Overview**

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# Authorizing Legislation

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Infrastructure, Investment and Jobs Act, Section 40803(f) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture, through the USDA Forest Service, to establish a program, which shall be separate from the program established under section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133), under which the Secretary of Agriculture, in cooperation with the States, shall award grants to at-risk communities, including Indian Tribes —

- (A) to develop or revise a community wildfire protection plan; and
- (B) to carry out projects described in a community wildfire protection plan that is not more than 10 years old

# Program Purpose

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- The CWDG programs helps communities in the wildland urban interface (WUI) implement two of the goals of the [National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy](#) (Cohesive Strategy):
  - **Resilient Landscapes:** Landscapes, regardless of jurisdictional boundaries, are resilient to fire, insect, disease, invasive species and climate change disturbances, in accordance with management objectives
  - **Fire Adapted Communities:** Human populations and infrastructure are as prepared as possible to receive, respond to, and recover from wildland fire
  - **Safe, Effective, Risk-based Wildfire Response:** All jurisdictions participate in making and implementing safe, effective, efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions

# Program Administration

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- A grant review panel will be convened in each of the state forestry organization regions to review, score, and rank grant applications received within their respective state forestry organization regions
- USDA Forest Service (USFS) will organize a Tribal review panel to review, score, and rank the grant applications received from Tribes
- Normalization process
  - Normalization is a process where raw scores undergo a statistical adjustment so that scores from different reviewers can be compared on a common scale.

# Legislative Priorities

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- Priority will be given to project proposals that:
  - Are located in an area identified as having high or very high wildfire hazard potential, and/or
  - Benefit a low-income community, and/or
  - Are located in a community impacted by a severe disaster within the previous 10 years
- Supporting documentation or link to documentation must be provided

# Funding

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- Minimum and Maximum Funding Levels
  - There is no *minimum* Federal funding limit for projects under CWDG
  - The *maximum* amount of Federal funding awarded to any one community or Tribal entity:
    - \$250,000 for creating or updating a Community Wildfire Protection Plan
    - \$10 million for a project described within a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP can be no more than 10 years old / 2014 or newer)

# Funding (continued)

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- Required Matching Funds:
  - Proposals to develop or update a CWPP, required match is 10%
  - Proposals to implement projects described in a CWPP, required match is 25%
  - Underserved communities are eligible to request a match waiver
  - Automatic match waiver eligibility for Tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, Pacific Island Territories, and the USVI

# Additional Process Elements

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- **Lead Agency or Organization:**
  - All applications must identify the lead agency or organization
  - The lead agency may pass funds to other partners performing work as relevant
- **Grant Timeframes:** Projects must be completed within five (5) years
- **Reporting:**
  - Quarterly Financial reports
  - Annual Project Performance reports
  - Performance report shall include a spatial data component



# **CWDG Application Eligibility**

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# Applicant Eligibility

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- Eligibility
  - At-risk Community
    - Two options listed in NOFOs to determine if community is an “at-risk community”
- The following entities are eligible to submit a project proposal for funding:
  - Units of local governments representing communities located in an area at risk of wildfires
  - Indian Tribes
  - Alaska Native Corporations
  - Non-profit organizations such as homeowner associations that assist communities
  - State forestry agencies
  - State and public institutions of higher education
- For-profit entities are not eligible to apply for a grant under this program.

# Location of Projects

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- Eligible applicants may apply for grant funding for a project proposal to be conducted on lands with the following ownership types, as long as the project proposal reduces wildfire risk to a community:
  - Private lands
  - Local government
  - Homeowner associations
  - State government
  - Tribal/Alaska Native Corporation (includes Trust lands)
- Federal lands are not eligible for this funding opportunity, with the exception of federal Tribal trust lands

# Project Types

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- CWPP Development or Revision
- Implementation Projects
  - Planning (Codes, smoke readiness, etc.)
  - Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Education/Outreach
  - Reduce Hazardous Fuels / Restore Fire-adapted Ecosystems

*See NOFO's for examples of Eligible and Ineligible project types*

# CWPP Development or Revision

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## **Eligible Projects**

- Creation of a CWPP or comparable plan, such as:
  - wildfire section for a hazard mitigation plan
  - Tribal CWPP
  - Tribal Wildland Fire Prevention Plan
- Update of an existing plan, meaning existing plan must be over five (5) years old (2019 or older)

## **Ineligible Projects**

- Creation and/or update of Forest Stewardship Plans

# CWPP Development or Revision

(continued)

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CWPP or comparable plan must meet the three requirements in the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA):

- Collaboratively developed
- Identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction
- Recommends measures to reduce structural ignitability

# Implementation Project Objectives

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- Projects must advance objectives and priorities identified in a CWPP not more than 10 years old (2014 or newer)
- A project must be designed to achieve one or more of the following objectives:
  - Assist a community with planning to address management of wildfire risk
  - Assist a community with mitigation measures or actions to reduce wildfire risk

# Eligible “Planning” Project Examples

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- Contract support to assist a community with developing building codes, zoning ordinances, or land use planning
- Direct staff funding support to assist a community with developing building codes, zoning ordinances, or land use planning
- Tabletop or functional exercises to test effectiveness of community wildfire planning
- Plan and address public health and safety effects of smoke and mitigation from wildfire and projects that use prescribed fire (“Smoke Ready” efforts)
- Direct staff support for community wildfire mitigation leadership/coordination
- Training in the use of proven effective mitigation practices, such as the Forest Service’s mitigation best practices
- Direct staff support to assist in creation of a local or regional mitigation partnership



# **Ineligible “Planning” Project Examples**

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- GIS and database systems unless in support of a CWPP, wildfire risk reduction planning or fuels mitigation initiative or project
- Creation and/or update of Forest Stewardship Plans
- Economic development projects
- Small business start-up funding
- Research and development projects

# Eligible “Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Education/Outreach” Project Examples

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- Firewise USA© or similar programs outreach to communities and property owners
- Fire education presentations such as Project Learning Tree
- Property inspections and/or assessments
- Training to conduct property inspections and/or assessments
- Implementation of WUI Structure / Parcel / Community Fire Hazard Mitigation Methodology (HMM) for community hazard reduction
- Training for Traditional Ecological Knowledge of fire, Cultural Burning, Identification and protection of culturally significant plants, sacred site protection

# **Ineligible “Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Education/Outreach” Project Example**

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- Printing of paper-based materials without an organized outreach/education program

# Eligible “Hazardous Fuels Reduction / Fire-adapted Ecosystems Restoration” Project Examples

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- Defensible space around homes, businesses, and other structures
- Development, creation, and/or maintenance of fuel breaks and fire breaks, including shaded fuel breaks
- Fuels reduction beyond defensible space adjacent to at-risk communities
- Removal of standing woody vegetation by cutting, piling and burning
- Removal of standing woody vegetation by cutting and chipping

# Eligible “Hazardous Fuels Reduction / Fire-adapted Ecosystems Restoration” Project Examples (continued)

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- Removal of standing woody vegetation using a mechanical mulcher or masticator type equipment mounted on mobile equipment
- Reduction of hazardous fuels through the application of prescribed fire
- Vegetation management (pruning, mowing, chemical treatment, grazing), including rights-of-ways for roads
- Maintenance of fuels projects. Up to two (2) maintenance treatments allowed per project during the grant term

# Eligible “Hazardous Fuels Reduction / Fire-adapted Ecosystems Restoration” Project Examples (continued)

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- Monitoring components of projects for effectiveness (must have established baseline)
- Prescribed fire training, including training on smoke management associated with prescribed fires
- Design and installation of dry hydrants and cisterns
- Purchase of equipment for brush/fuel disposal, such as air curtain burner/trench burner (be aware of permitting requirements for these devices, which are an eligible cost)

# Eligible “Hazardous Fuels Reduction / Fire-adapted Ecosystems Restoration” Project Examples (continued)

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- Purchase of mechanical equipment that meets, or does not exceed, the following requirements:
  - Brush/woodchippers that are towable or mountable to a skid steer, compact track loader or tractor with a maximum chipping capacity of no more than 15 inches
  - Self-propelled forestry mulchers up to a maximum 200 horsepower
  - Forestry mulcher attachments designed for skid steers, compact track loaders, excavators or crawler dozers
  - Heavy duty brush mowers that can be utilized for maintaining road rights-of-ways and fire breaks
  - Trailers necessary to transport equipment that is determined eligible in this section, including box-type trailers to store and transport prescribed fire equipment

# Eligible “Hazardous Fuels Reduction / Fire-adapted Ecosystems Restoration” Project Examples (continued)

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- Purchase of the following equipment and supplies to support the use of prescribed fire:
  - Personal protection equipment, including fire shelters and N95 filtering face respirators
  - Drip torches
  - Wildland hand tools
  - Backpack blowers
  - Chainsaws
  - Portable wildfire pumps
  - Wildland hose
  - Portable folding water tanks
  - Cache of air filtration units for use by at-risk individuals in the public



# **Ineligible “Hazardous Fuels Reduction / Fire-adapted Ecosystems Restoration” Project Examples**

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- Capital improvements including construction/infrastructure (building remodel, bridges, road construction, water system development). Dry hydrants are eligible for funding.
- Home hardening, including but not limited to:
  - Roof upgrades or replacements
  - Fire resistant siding
  - Metal gutters and vents
- Fire suppression training (unless course is a requirement for prescribed fire qualifications)
- Fire suppression equipment and apparatus
- Drones

# Multiple Community Applications

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- **Separate Projects in separate Communities:**
  - A separate narrative form and included budget will need to be filled out for each community for purposes of determining eligibility, prioritization, and ranking of the separate projects
- **Single Project in multiple communities:**
  - For an application consisting of a single project that spans multiple communities, the project can be applied for and described within the same application and narrative form

# Other Considerations

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- If there is an implementation project that is not covered in a CWPP, such as developing a smoke ready program for your community, consider updating your CWPP this year and applying for a grant for that project next year. The examples listed previously may help you recognize any gaps in your existing CWPP.
- You can apply for an implementation grant for projects already identified in your CWPP, and apply for a CWPP update grant separately (if assistance is needed), in the same year.

# **CWDG Application Components**

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# Submitting Applications

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- Notice of Funding Opportunities are posted on grants.gov:
  - Tribes NOFO: USDA-FS-2024-CWDG-TRIBES
  - Southern NOFO: USDA-FS-2024-CWDG-SGSF
  - Northeast/Midwest NOFO: USDA-FS-2024-CWDG-NEMW
  - West NOFO: USDA-FS-2024-CWDG-CWSF
- Applications will be submitted through [cwdg.forestrygrants.org](https://cwdg.forestrygrants.org)
  - Reach out to your point of contact listed in the NOFOs for an application link
  - The [cwdg.forestrygrants.org](https://cwdg.forestrygrants.org) does not accept uploads for any supporting documentation: instead send attachments to CWDG inbox: [SM.FS.usfs\\_cwdg@usda.gov](mailto:SM.FS.usfs_cwdg@usda.gov)
- Tribal entities may submit applications via any NOFO
- Both CWPP and Project Implementation use the same application (but have separate scoring rubrics)

# GIS Coordinates

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- Please include enough coordinates/description to be able to represent the general area of the impact of the project for which you are applying
- For point-based projects, please include a reference point and description
- For fuel treatments, please include enough coordinates to ascertain a general boundary of the area being treated. If unsure of boundaries, please include a reference point and the planned acreage to be treated under the description
- For CWPP development, please include a description of the planning area and type (municipality boundary, fire response district, township, etc.)

**GIS Coordinates:** Ref. Point Name:

Lat/Long:

Description:

Area Name:

Boundary Lat/Longs:

Description:

# Scoring Criteria and Prioritization Factors (cont.)

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- Six of the Scoring Criteria involve a 0-10 scoring range
  - Project Description (0-10 points)
  - Budget (0-10 points)
  - Accomplishments (0-10 points)
  - Collaboration (10 points)
  - Landscape Impacts (0-10 points)
  - Project Sustainability (0-10 points)
- Three of the Scoring Criteria are legislative mandates and are “all or nothing” scores
  - Low Income Community (10 points or 0 points)
  - Affected by a Severe Disaster (10 points or 0 points)
  - High or Very High Wildfire Hazard Potential (20 points or 0 points)

# Scoring Criteria and Prioritization

## Scoring Rubric

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- Two separate scoring rubrics
  - Project Implementation
  - CWPP development or revision
- Each rubric explains expectations for maximizing score
- NOFOs contain both rubrics
- Carefully reading NOFO and scoring rubric will help you score higher on your application



# Project Description (10 points)

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- Clearly define the scope of the project, what the project proposes to accomplish, why it is important, and how it supports the Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and relevant State Forest Action Plan (or equivalent Tribal plan).
- Provide a comprehensive but succinct overview of the proposed project that includes basic details of who is doing what, where, and why this is important.
- Explain how the project is described in a CWPP (or acceptable alternative as described in the NOFO).
- Specify if benefits to traditionally underserved or marginalized audiences are a component of the work.

# Project Description (10 points)

## CWPP Criteria Scoring Rubric

Criteria	High Score	Medium Score	Low Score
1. Project Description	<p><b>7-10 points</b></p> <p>The community has clearly articulated the purpose and need for revising or creating a new CWPP. They have outlined a process, identified key players, and have articulated the ability to get it completed within their timeline.</p> <p>They have referenced how revising or creating a new CWPP will help them meet the intent of the Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and relevant State Forest Action Plan or equivalent Tribal plan.</p>	<p><b>3-6 points</b></p> <p>The community has indicated that they understand the critical need for a CWPP or CWPP revision and have partially outlined the process but appear to have not clearly outlined how they plan to fully get the document written, may still need to identify partners and establish timelines.</p> <p>Mentions Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and/or relevant State Forest Action Plan or equivalent Tribal plan, but only cursory.</p>	<p><b>0-2 points</b></p> <p>The community has communicated that they understand the critical need for a CWPP or CWPP revision, yet the application fails to clearly establish any processes, identified partners, or mentioned any timelines.</p> <p>No linkage to Cohesive Strategy or State Forest Action Plan or Tribal equivalent.</p>

# Project Description (10 points)

## Project Criteria Scoring Rubric

Criteria	High Score	Medium Score	Low Score
1. Project Description	<p><b>7-10 points</b></p> <p>The community has clearly articulated the purpose and need for the project(s) within a CWPP that is not more than 10 years old. They have outlined a process, identified key players, and a timeline, and have articulated the ability to complete the project within their timeline.</p> <p>They have referenced how the project will meet the intent of the Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and relevant State Forest Action Plan or equivalent Tribal plan.</p>	<p><b>3-6 points</b></p> <p>Project(s) are within a CWPP that is not more than 10 years old, and the community has indicated that they understand the critical benefits to the community and have partially outlined the process they will utilize to get started but appear to have not clearly outlined how they plan to fully implement, may still need to identify partners and establish timelines.</p> <p>Mentions Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and/or relevant State Forest Action Plan or equivalent Tribal plan only cursory.</p>	<p><b>0-2 points</b></p> <p>Project(s) are within a CWPP that is not more than 10 years old, and the community mentions that they understand the critical need of the mitigation project, yet the application fails to clearly establish any processes, identified partners, or mentioned any timelines.</p> <p>No linkage to Cohesive Strategy or State Forest Action Plan or equivalent Tribal plan.</p>

# Applicant Budget (10 points)

- Clearly explain how the budget will be spent by line item, sources of match, and how expenditures are applicable and relevant to the goals and objectives of the project.
- The budget narrative must describe how the grant funds will be spent with specific detail for each grant expenditure.
- It must describe how expenditures are applicable and relevant to the goals and objectives of the project.
- A project proposal must also show how the applicant will meet matching requirements or qualify for a waiver. If qualified for a waiver, you do not need to show funding in the match column.

	<b>Grant Funds Requested</b>	<b>Applicant Match</b>	<b>Non-Federal Contributors Match</b>	<b>Total Project Cost</b>
Personnel/Labor				\$ 0.00
Fringe Benefits				\$ 0.00
Travel				\$ 0.00
Equipment				\$ 0.00
Supplies				\$ 0.00
Contractual				\$ 0.00
Other				\$ 0.00
Indirect Costs				\$ 0.00
Total	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

# Accomplishments (10 points)

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- A proposal must clearly define how a project will be accomplished, timelines and milestones, as well as measures and metrics
- Examples include:
  - a. How the selected objectives will lead to measurable outcomes for community wildfire risk reduction
  - b. How the applicant will measure progress towards those outcomes (such as, acres treated to reduce hazardous fuels, change in fire regime)
  - c. The proposed metrics for measuring progress, which must be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely

# Accomplishments - *Measurable Outcomes*

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- A sample Measurable Outcomes table is available in the application pdf form to guide applicants on the types of accomplishments to describe in the accomplishments narrative
- For projects selected for funding, reporting accomplishments will be required for the annual performance reports
- You may also list additional specific measurable results that show how the Federal investment will lead to outcomes on the landscape
- *In the accomplishments narrative section, describe less quantifiable return on investments*

# Collaboration (10 points)

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- The application should clearly define collaborative elements including support from partners, agencies, landowners, and communities
- A project proposal must identify partners that will be actively engaged in carrying out the project and add value to project planning and implementation, with a description of each partner's role
- Collaboration may be qualitative in nature, and the contribution of a partner may be more than the number of partners

# Landscape Impacts (10 points)

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The application should clearly define:

- The scale of the project including relationships with past, present, or future projects that, when combined, offer more benefits than when taken individually
- The overall landscape that the project influences, in addition to the defined project area, should be clearly described, as well as the land ownerships within the area
- Specify areas targeted for planning or mitigation
- Clearly describe each proposed activity and include details on where they will be occurring
- Include the approximate number of structures that will benefit from the proposed action



# Project Sustainability (10 points)

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- The application should clearly define how or if the project will sustain itself after the grant period is over
- Any steps or plans that will be carried out to continue the project benefits beyond the life of the grant should be described, which may include monitoring, as well as who or what organizations will be responsible

# Low-Income Community(10 points)

- The application should clearly demonstrate and document whether the project benefits a low-income community, as defined.

## CWPP Criteria Scoring Rubric

<b>7. Low-Income Community</b>	<b>10 points</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>0 points</b>
	Some or part of the community to be covered under the CWPP or revision is located in a low-income community as defined.		All of the areas to be covered by the CWPP or revision are located outside the footprint of a low-income community, as defined, or is not documented.

## Project Criteria Scoring Rubric

<b>7. Low-Income Community</b>	<b>10 points</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>	<b>0 points</b>
	All, or part of a project area is located in a low-income community as defined.		All of a project is located outside the footprint of a low-income community, as defined, or is not documented.

# Affected by a Severe Disaster (10 points)

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This is now a two-part question;

- First: Yes/No question asking if there was a disaster
- Second: explain how the disaster impacted that community's fire risk and/or hazard

The application must answer both components of Severe Disaster question to get 10 points:

- Does the project benefit a community that has been impacted by a severe disaster within the previous ten (10) years (must answer yes to get points)
- Clearly explain how the severe disaster increased wildfire risk and/or hazard and was of a scale and scope to have had landscape impacts. (must provide this explanation to get points)
- Simply listing a disaster will not suffice, you must explain how this disaster has impacted the community's wildfire risk and hazard (not all disasters will qualify for points if it cannot be shown they have influenced the community's risk or hazard)

# Examples of Severe Disaster

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- **Examples of how a Severe Disaster may impact an area resulting in increased risk or hazard associated with wildfire:**
- Ice storm, windstorm, hurricane, or similar event causing severe vegetation damage resulting in accumulation of dead and downed fuels, leading to increased risk associated with wildfire.
- Flood, landslide, or other event damage impacting transportation infrastructure, resulting in restricted egress, longer evacuation times for communities.
- Past wildfires contributing to conditions which result in more rapid and/or more intense fire behavior:
  - Increased grass and light fuel loading leading to increased rates of spread.
  - Species change to invasives with increased fire behavior.
  - Increased dead / heavy fuel loading due to heavy mortality in previous fires leading to higher intensity fires.
- Past wildfire damage to wildfire response infrastructure, such as communication networks, fire detection systems, air quality monitoring systems.
- Past wildfires reducing watershed capacity (through soil impermeability, lack of cover for snow holding, etc), increasing potential for drought related effects resulting in increased fire risk / fire behavior.
- Forest health related issues, such as insect outbreaks or disease, leading to increased risk of high severity wildfire.

# Area of Wildfire Hazard Potential (20 points)

- The application should clearly demonstrate and document whether the project is located in an area identified as having high or very high wildfire hazard potential as defined by a local, state, Tribal, regional, or national wildfire hazard potential assessment

## CWPP Criteria Scoring Rubric

<b>9. High/Very High Wildfire Hazard Potential</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>20 points</b></p> <p>All or part of the area to be covered by a CWPP or CWPP revision is located within an area of high or very high wildfire hazard potential and is properly documented.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Not applicable</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>0 points</b></p> <p>Area to be covered by a CWPP or revision is located outside any area with high or very high wildfire hazard potential or is not documented properly.</p>
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## Project Criteria Scoring Rubric

<b>9. High/Very High Wildfire Hazard Potential</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>20 points</b></p> <p>All or part of the area to be covered by the project(s) is/are located within an area of high or very high wildfire hazard potential and is properly documented.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Not applicable</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>0 points</b></p> <p>Area to be covered by the project(s) is/are located outside any area with high or very high wildfire hazard potential or is not documented properly.</p>
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# What Factors Influence High Scores

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Detailed narratives including the following:

- How project will impact community immediately
- How project will impact community long term
- Plan for how funds will be spent
- Examples of prior incidents that the project would have been applicable
- Timeline / Project Plan looking forward
- Described how agency will partner with others
- Uses examples of prior and current partnerships

# What Factors Influence Low Scores

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- Lack of detail in descriptions
- Short narratives
- Does not define where money will be spent
- Does not use examples when listing accomplishments / collaboration
- Lacking clear plan for sustainability
- Does not include examples of landscape impacts and how the project will change the effects

# **CWDG Application and Portal Information**

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[cwdg.forestrygrants.org](http://cwdg.forestrygrants.org)



# CWDG Application Process

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- Contact your state/island/territory point of contact
- Request an application link
- Must have UEI# and active sam.gov registration
- For project implementations, you must provide a CWPP

# Application Link



Home Detail Sections Accounts

Login: Tribes/CSS

## Proposal :: TR / Incomplete

Proposal Link: <proposal/5c27b3f3ed57b96295cd4c0efa5130e161d69ffdbcf10864563cbeb4a9c6>

Actions :: Proposals

<b>FY 2024 - 2025 USDA Forest Service Community Wildfire Defense Grant Application</b>	File Name			Update
	State: TR	Keyword:		
	Region:	Priority:	Id:	
	Administration Information			
	Funds Requested:			
	Match:			
	Score:	Ranking:	Project Funding:	

<b>1</b>	Proposal Cooperator [TR]		Update
	Cooperator Organization:		
	Contact Person:		

# Admin Section and Applicant Section

<b>FY 2024 - 2025          USDA Forest Service          Community Wildfire Defense Grant          Application</b>	<b>File Name</b>			<a href="#">Update</a>
	State: AL	Keyword:		
	Region:	Priority:		Id:
	<b>Administration Information</b>			
	Funds Requested:			
	Match:			
	Score:	Ranking:	Project Funding:	

<b>1</b>	<b>Proposal Cooperator [AL]</b>				<a href="#">Update</a>
	Cooperator Organization:				
	Contact Person:		Alabama		
	Address:				
	City:		State:	ZIP Code:	
	Phone: 123		Email:	test	

<b>1</b>	<b>Applicant Information [AL]</b>				<a href="#">Update</a>	
	Applicant:					
	Contact Person:					
	Address:					
	City:		State:	ZIP Code:		
	Phone (work/cell):		Fax:			
	Email:					
	Federal Tax ID:		UEI:			

# Is the applicant an Alaskan Native Corporation or an Indian Tribe?

0 Points. 5000 Characters including spaces.

Is either the Applicant or Proposal Cooperator an Alaskan Native Corporation or an Indian Tribe (either federal or state recognized)? Please answer either Yes or No

Is the Applicant an Alaskan Native Corporation or an Indian Tribe	<a href="#">Update</a>

# UEI# and Sam.gov Expiration Date

0 Points. 3000 Characters including spaces.

Provide the expiration date for your sam.gov Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number registration. Note: The UEI# and an active sam.gov registration are needed to apply for the grant.

	UEI # and Sam.gov Expiration Date	<a href="#">Update</a>
3		

# Project Information

Project Information		Update
3	Name of the Project:	TEST
	Community Name(s):	
	Counties:	
	Congressional District:	

GIS Coordinates	
3	Ref. Point Name:
	Lat/Long:
	Description:
	Ref. Point Name:
	Lat/Long:
	Description:
	Area Name:
	Boundary Lat/Longs:
	Description:
	Area Name:
	Boundary Lat/Longs:
	Description:

# Brief Project Overview and Purpose

*0 Points. 3000 Characters including spaces.*

*Provide a brief overview and purpose statement for the project, addressing the overall intent of this program to assist communities with planning and mitigating their risk against wildfire.*

	Brief Project Overview and Purpose	<a href="#">Update</a>
5		

# Grant Component Type

0 Points. 3000 Characters including spaces.

Respond with the grant component type that applies to the application (please select only one per application): 1.) Creating or Updating a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) that is more than five (5) years old. 2.) Project described in a CWPP that is less than ten (10) years old. (See NOFO for CWPP alternative requirements such as Hazard Mitigation Plans)

	Grant Component Type	Update
6		



# Include an Eligible CWPP or Equivalent Plan

0 Points. 3000 Characters including spaces.

For project implementations, an eligible CWPP or equivalent plan needs to be included. Provide a link to the CWPP or if no link exists, please send a copy to the CWDG Forest Service email at SM.FS.usfs\_cwdg@usda.gov. (Include the state/island, project name, and applicant information) (Note: If the application is for a CWPP development or revision, a current CWPP is not required.)

	Include an Eligible CWPP or Equivalent Plan	<a href="#">Update</a>
7		

# At-Risk Community

0 Points. 3000 Characters including spaces.

Please respond yes or no if the community is considered "at-risk" (please refer to the definition within the NOFO). Provide a web link to the verification source. (Note: At-Risk is a basic eligibility requirement of this grant opportunity. If the answer to this question is "no," do not proceed with the application process.)

Is Your Community Considered "At-Risk"	<a href="#">Update</a>
<p>8</p>	

# Roofing Code/ Ordinance

0 Points. 3000 Characters including spaces.

*Do you currently have, or will you adopt prior to grant award, an ordinance or regulation that requires that roofs for new building construction, as well as the reroofing or replacement of a roof on existing buildings, adheres to standards that are similar to, or more stringent than, the roof construction standards established by the National Fire Protection Association or applicable model building code established by the International Code Council (this is not a requirement for eligibility but determines the source of funds).*

	Roofing Code/Ordinance	Update
9		

# Grant Waiver

0 Points. 3000 Characters including spaces.

Are you planning on applying for a grant match waiver based on the project serving an underserved community? Please respond yes or no. If yes, include sufficient supporting documentation in your waiver request to demonstrate that the community is disadvantaged by either using the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) or by meeting the Low-Income definition. Note: Underserved communities are eligible to request a match waiver, as well as Tribes, Pacific Island Territories, and the USVI.

	Grant Waiver	<a href="#">Update</a>
1 0		

# Project Description

**10 Points. 7500 Characters including spaces.**

**Clearly define the scope of the project, what the project proposes to accomplish, why it is important, and how it supports the Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and relevant State Forest Action Plan (or equivalent Tribal plan). Provide a comprehensive but succinct overview of the proposed project that includes basic details of who is doing what, where, and why this is important. Explain how the project is described in a CWPP (or acceptable alternative as described in the NOFO). Specify if benefits to traditionally underserved or marginalized audiences are a component of the work.**

Project Description	Update

# Applicant Budget

Applicant Budget [TR]				<a href="#">Update</a>
	Grant	Match		TOTAL
	Funds Requested	Applicant	Non-Federal Contributors	Total Project Cost
1 2	Personnel / Labor:			
	Fringe Benefits:			
	Travel:			
	Equipment:			
	Supplies:			
	Contractual:			
	Other:			
	Indirect Costs:			
	TOTAL:			

# Project Budget Explanation

**10 Points. 5000 Characters including spaces.**

***Provide any additional remarks needed to clarify your budget request. Clearly explain how the budget will be spent by line item, sources of match, and how expenditures are applicable and relevant to the goals and objectives of the project. The budget narrative must describe how the grant funds will be spent with specific detail for each grant expenditure. It must describe how expenditures are applicable and relevant to the goals and objectives of the project. A project proposal must also show how the applicant will meet matching requirements or qualify for a waiver. If qualified for a waiver, you do not need to show funding in the match column. Information regarding matching funds will not impact scoring. Any program income generated during the award period must be accounted for by either: 1) reducing the federal share of the award, 2) using as program match, or 3) using as additive funds to do more work. Program income means gross income earned by the recipient or subrecipient that is directly generated by a supported activity or earned because of the federal award during the period of performance.***

Budget Explanation	Update

# Accomplishments

**10 Points. 7500 Characters including spaces.**

**Clearly define how the project will be accomplished, including at least one of the quantitative accomplishment measures provided in the measurable outcomes table. Identify measurable outcomes and timelines (are the proposed activities clear and achievable, goals defined, outcomes measurable, # of acres treated, # of education/outreach programs, planning/assessment efforts clearly described, etc.). Include metrics for measuring progress towards the accomplishment(s). Describe any applicable less quantifiable return on investments.**

Accomplishments	<a href="#">Update</a>



# Collaboration

**10 Points. 7500 Characters including spaces.**

***The application should clearly define collaborative elements, including support from partners, agencies, landowners, and communities. A project proposal must identify partners that will be actively engaged in carrying out the project and add value to project planning and implementation, with a description of each partners role. Collaboration may be qualitative in nature, and the contribution of a partner may be more than the number of partners involved. 1.) Identify partners that have demonstrated a commitment and add value towards planning and carrying out the project. 2.) Describe what these partners and collaborators contribute. 3.) Demonstrate residual positive benefits as a result of collaboration related to capacity, skills, knowledge, infrastructure, or a replicable approach, among others.***

Collaboration	Update

# Landscape Impacts

**10 Points. 7500 Characters including spaces.**

***Clearly define the scale of the project, including relationships with past, present, or future projects that, when combined, offer more benefits than when taken individually. Describe the overall landscape and land ownership that the project influences in addition to the defined project area. Specify areas targeted for planning or mitigation. Clearly describe each proposed activity and include details on where they will be occurring. Include the approximate number of structures that will benefit from the proposed action.***

Landscape Impacts	<a href="#">Update</a>

# Project Sustainability

*10 Points. 7500 Characters including spaces.*

*Clearly define how or if the project will sustain itself after the grant period is over. Describe any plans or steps that will be taken to continue the project benefits beyond the life of the grant as well as who or what organizations are responsible.*

Project Sustainability	<a href="#">Update</a>

# Low-Income Community

10 Points. 3000 Characters including spaces.

*Does this project benefit a low-income community as defined in the NOFO? To receive priority points the application must clearly demonstrate and document whether the project benefits a low-income community, as defined. Please respond yes or no. Provide a description and web link to the verification source.*

Does this Project Benefit a Low-Income Community	<a href="#">Update</a>

1  
8

# Severe Disaster Impact: Part 1

10 Points. 3000 Characters including spaces.

Has all or part of the project area been impacted by a severe disaster that impacts wildfire risk and/or hazard? Please respond yes or no. Provide a web link to the verification source.

Has this Community Been Impacted by a Severe Disaster: Part 1	<a href="#">Update</a>
<p>1 9</p>	

# Severe Disaster Impact: Part 2

0 Points. 3000 Characters including spaces.

*If yes, in order to receive priority points the application must clearly demonstrate and document whether the project benefits a community that has been impacted by a severe disaster within the previous ten (10) years, and clearly exhibit how the severe disaster increased wildfire risk and/or hazard and was of a scale and scope to have had landscape impacts (please see full definition in the NOFO). Note: simply listing a disaster will not suffice; you must explain how this disaster has impacted the community's wildfire risk and hazard (not all disasters will qualify for points if it cannot be shown they have influenced the community's risk or hazard).*

	Has this Community Been Impacted by a Severe Disaster: Part 2	<a href="#">Update</a>
20		

# Wildfire Hazard Potential

10 Points. 3000 Characters including spaces.

To receive priority points the application must clearly demonstrate and document whether the project is located in an area identified as having high or very high wildfire hazard potential as defined by a local, state, Tribal, regional, or national wildfire hazard potential assessment. Please respond yes or no, and provide a description and web link to the verification source.

	Does the Project Location have Wildfire Hazard Potential	<a href="#">Update</a>
2 1		

# Review & Submit



Home Detail Sections Accounts

Login: Halie

## Application :: AK / Test

Ready to Submit

Actions :: Applications :: Review Assignments

<b>FY 2023 USDA Forest Service Community Wildfire Defense Grant Application</b>	<b>File Name</b>		<a href="#">Update</a>
	State: AK	Keyword:	Test
	Region:	Priority:	Id:
	<b>Administration Information</b>		
	Funds Requested:		\$200
	Match:		\$200
	Score:	Ranking:	Project Funding: \$400

<b>1</b>	<b>Proposal Cooperator [AK]</b>				<a href="#">Update</a>
	Cooperator Organization:	Test			
	Contact Person:	Test			
	Address:	123			
	City:	Test	State:	Test	ZIP Code: 123
	Phone:	123	Email:	hmiyazawa@westernforesters.org	

<b>Applicant Information [AK]</b>				<a href="#">Update</a>
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# Any Additional Attachments?

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- CWPPs (or equivalent plan) and any additional documents should be sent to the CWDG Forest Service email at [SM.FS.usfs\\_cwdg@usda.gov](mailto:SM.FS.usfs_cwdg@usda.gov)
- If sending attachments, please include the State/Island/Tribe, project name, and applicant information

# **Grants & Agreements**

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# Grants & Agreements

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- Budget details
- Cost share/match
- Equipment
- Buy American
- Davis-Bacon wages for construction
- Roads
- Subawards – requirements and reporting
- Sam.gov and risk
- Performance and financial reporting
- G&A specific questions can go to CWDG inbox:  
[sm.fs.usfs\\_cwdg@usda.gov](mailto:sm.fs.usfs_cwdg@usda.gov)

# **Wildfire Risk to Communities CWDG Tool**

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# CWDG Tool

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**An easy-to-use, online dashboard provides data to include in your CWDG application.**

**[www.wildfirerisk.org/cwdg-tool](http://www.wildfirerisk.org/cwdg-tool)**

- ✓ Immediate information about eligibility status
- ✓ Populates key criteria (wildfire risk, low-income, and severe disaster declarations)
- ✓ Cost-share waiver eligibility
- ✓ GIS coordinates
- ✓ Copy and paste options to easily populate your application

# CWDG Tool

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## Updates from Prior Rounds

- Updated FAQs
- New “What’s new for Round 3”
  - Updated wildfire risk data
  - Updated low-income data and modified threshold
  - Updated severe natural disaster data
  - WRC CWDG Tool video: [CWDG Tool Intro video](#)

# CWDG Tool Video



How to use the  
**Community Wildfire  
Defense Grants Tool**



## Community Wildfire Defense Grants

Find eligibility and scoring information for your community.



### About Community Wildfire Defense Grants

The U.S. Forest Service's Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) program is intended to help at-risk communities and Tribes plan for and reduce the risk of wildfire. The program, which was authorized by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, prioritizes at-risk communities in areas identified as having high or very high wildfire hazard potential, that are low-income, or that have been impacted by a severe disaster that increases the risk of wildfire. [Read more](#) about the CWDG program.

### About the data on this website

The data on this website were assembled for the CWDG program by Headwaters Economics and the Wildfire Risk to Communities team. This information is intended to help communities complete grant applications and for reviewers to score applications. Complete methodology for this dataset can be [found here](#).

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USDA FOREST SERVICE



# National Tools

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- CWDG Tool: <https://wildfirerisk.org/cwdg-tool>
- Council of Environmental Quality Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool:  
<https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5>
- **Updated and approved tools will be posted on CWDG website:** [Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program | US Forest Service \(usda.gov\)](#)
  - FAQ's
  - Samples of high/low scoring questions
  - Webinar Recordings
  - CWDG Email inbox: [sm.fs.usfs\\_cwdg@usda.gov](mailto:sm.fs.usfs_cwdg@usda.gov)

# CWDG Accomplishment Reporting

<https://garphub.org/>

- Grant Accomplishment Reporting Portal (GARP) is the gateway to accomplishments reporting modules (ARMs).
- CWDG Accomplishments Reporting Module (“CWDG ARM”) will release in January 2025
- Will support annual performance reporting and grant monitoring.
- Will combine individual CWDG project reports into a single Performance Report to meet federal grant reporting requirements
- Includes quantitative metrics, import of mapped treatments, CWPP boundaries, and narrative accomplishment details.
- USFS Regional staff administering CWDG grants, State forestry organizations with ‘Fully Opt-in’ status for CWDG, and community-level CWDG grantees will have access to the module.
- CWDG Program Managers will share access to community-level grantees to complete their annual performance report.
- Annual accomplishments for the 2024 calendar year will be entered starting January 2025.
- [CWDG Accomplishment Reporting Newsletter](#)

# Proposed Timeline of CWDG Round 3

- Three Applicant Webinars:
  - December 2
  - December 4
  - December 6
- Office Hours (1<sup>st</sup> Session Dec 18)
- Bi-weekly Office Hours schedule for January & February (see [CWDG webpage](#))
- Application period closes February 28 at 11:59pm eastern time
- Application CWDG Verification
- CWDG Adjudication
- Review and Scoring
- Statistical Normalization and Analysis
- QC Period
- Briefings of Awardee List
- Round 3 Award Announcement (summer 2025)

Questions?