

# Urban & Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act Subaward Program Funding Opportunities



## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is the Inflation Reduction Act and how is the Oregon Department of Forestry's Urban and Community Forestry Program involved?

- The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) is a federal law that makes historic investments in clean energy and climate action. The IRA advances [the Justice40 Initiative](#), which commits to providing 40 percent of climate, clean energy, and infrastructure investment benefits to overburdened and underserved communities. “The Inflation Reduction Act recognizes the importance of conserving, connecting, and restoring the nation’s coasts, marshes, forests, and landscapes as a means to sequester carbon and deploy nature-based defenses to climate impacts. The law also prioritizes reducing the risks posed by catastrophic wildfires” ([Building a Clean Energy Economy: A Guidebook to the Inflation Reduction Act’s Investments in Clean Energy and Climate Action](#), pg. 145).
- The IRA provides up to \$1.5 billion to the United States Forest Service (USFS) for urban and community forestry investments to foster 1) increased and equitable access to urban tree canopy, 2) broadened community engagement in local urban forest planning, tree planting, and management activities, and 3) improved community and urban forest resilience. \$250 million was awarded directly to state urban and community forestry programs, and \$1.13 billion in additional funding was awarded through a competitive grant process (see <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf/2023-grant-funding> for more details).
- The Oregon Department of Forestry’s (ODF’s) Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program received \$26.6 million in IRA grant funding from the USFS to stand up two subaward programs—\$10 million devoted specifically to Federally recognized Tribes and Tribal organizations, and \$12.5 million that will be available to all eligible entities in the state of Oregon—to promote urban and community forest investment and tree equity for overburdened and underserved communities. These programs will provide funding to eligible entities to advance the following priorities:
  - Support urban and community forestry assessment, planning, and prioritization
  - Support culturally responsive urban and community forestry education, engagement, immersive/experiential outdoor recreation, and community-building initiatives
  - Build capacity with collective impact through an urban and community forestry network
  - Support urban and community forestry workforce development
  - Significantly expand urban and community forestry tree production, planting, and maintenance
  - Support urban and community forestry monitoring, adaptive management, and lesson sharing

## 2. What are the eligibility requirements for UCF subaward opportunities?

- **Eligible entities:**
  - Federally recognized Tribes and Tribal organizations
  - Local government entities (e.g., city, county, or regional government; public school districts; soil and water conservation districts; etc.)
  - Public and state-controlled institutions of higher education (e.g., Oregon University System)
  - Non-profit and community-based organizations
  - *Note: Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with other organizations/entities as project partners (e.g., local government entities, non-profit or for-profit organizations, public school districts, contractors, etc.)*
- **Eligible Lands:**
  - Funding may be used for projects on non-Federal lands, which include:
    - Tribal lands (includes fee and Trust land)
    - Private lands (*Note: while private lands are eligible, work on private land should provide community benefits, and will require landowner agreement*)
    - State and local government-owned land
    - Homeowner association managed private land
  - Lands owned or administered by the federal government are not eligible for this funding opportunity except for lands held in trust for Native American Tribes and individuals (i.e., Trust lands).
- **Geographic eligibility:**
  - 100% of program/project benefits must go to 1) Federally recognized Tribes of Oregon, or 2) disadvantaged communities in Oregon, as defined by the [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool \(CJEST\)](#), the [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) IRA Mapping Tool](#), [Title 1-A school](#) campuses, or other government-sponsored vulnerability tools that are applicable to the scope of work to be performed in or for disadvantaged communities. The USFS and ODF UCF will have final approval on geographic eligibility for proposals using “other government-sponsored vulnerability tools”. Proposals must include the tool(s) referenced to demonstrate the designation of the disadvantaged community your program/project will be serving. Please reach out to UCF Program if you are unsure whether your program/project proposal meets the geographic eligibility requirement.
- **SAM.gov registration:**
  - All applicants must have an ***active registration*** and ***Unique Entity ID*** with [SAM.gov](#) and maintain an active registration throughout the life of the award. This is the U.S. governmentwide web-based system that supports all contracts, grants, and the electronic payment system. This requirement for registration may be found at [2 CFR 25.200](#).

- We strongly encourage potential applicants to begin this process early, as it can take some time to complete.
- **Federal Employer Identification (FEIN):**
  - The applicant must have a Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN).

### 3. What activities are not eligible for funding?

- Types of projects that are not eligible in this subaward application process:
  - **Basic research** as defined in [2CFR 422.1](#): the “systematic study directed toward fuller knowledge or understanding of the fundamental aspects of phenomena and of observable facts without specific applications towards processes or products in mind.” Note: Projects that include data collection, monitoring, and tracking associated with applying research to management decision-making are eligible activities.
  - **Equipment purchases.** Equipment rental should be considered as an alternative. Equipment is defined as an article of nonexpendable, tangible personal property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit.
  - **Construction and capital improvements.** Examples of construction include facilities, infrastructure, roads, new buildings, culverts, and boardwalks.
  - **Land acquisition** (i.e., conservation easement and fee simple) projects.
  - **Cost-share, reimbursement, and other types of payment provided directly to private landowners.** However, Urban and Community Forestry funding may be used to perform work on private lands; for example, an eligible entity could pay for trees to be planted on private lands with permission of the landowner.
  - **Small business start-up** funding.
  - **Gift cards**
  - **Food**
  - **Childcare services**

### 4. What are the minimum and maximum dollar amounts for subawards?

- Subaward program for Federally Recognized Tribes:
  - \$10,000 to \$1,000,000
- Subaward program for all eligible entities
  - The ODF UCF Program will accept subaward proposals ranging from \$10,000 to \$750,000 dollars.
  - Two funding levels will be available for this competitive subaward program. We recognize that potential applicants are at various stages of program/project development, and we want to invite entities at all stages to apply. Entities funded through this subaward program may also apply for implementation funding through subsequent funding opportunities.

- **1) Planning, Partnership, Project Development, and Small-Budget Project Subawards (\$10,000 to \$100,000).** This funding level is intended for entities in the initial stages of urban and community forestry program/project development or those with small-scale projects.
- **2) Program or Project Implementation Subawards (\$100,001 to \$750,000).** Entities with existing programs and staff, existing partnerships, or a well-developed project plan consistent with UCF program priorities are encouraged to apply for implementation subawards, which may be used to expand ongoing programs, or implement a program/project with clear outcomes.

**5. Are matching funds required for these subaward opportunities?**

- No, matching funds are not required for these subaward opportunities.

**6. When do applications open? When will the funding be awarded?**

- The ODF UCF Program issued a call for proposal (CFP) for the nine Federally Recognized Tribes of Oregon on May 1, 2024. Proposals will be reviewed and awarded on a rolling basis until June 30, 2026.
- The ODF UCF Program issued a CFP for all entities on May 31, 2024. Proposals may be submitted starting on July 15, 2024 through October 15, 2024 (11:59 p.m., PDT). All applicants will be notified in writing of subaward decision within 3 months of submission close date.

**7. When will the project funding period end?**

- All subaward activities and expenditures must be completed by September 1, 2028.

**8. Will there be more than one opportunity to apply for this funding?**

- A second CFP for all eligible entities will be announced in 2025.
- A second CFP for Federally Recognized Tribes will be developed depending on funding availability after the application period closes (June 30, 2026).
- The ODF UCF subaward program webpage is available with information about the current funding opportunities (<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/forestbenefits/pages/ucf-subaward-programs.aspx>)

**9. What will the review process be like?**

- Specific details regarding the review process are outlined in each subaward program's CFPs.

## 10. Will my organization receive the money upfront, or will we be reimbursed?

- Generally, subawards are funded via reimbursement, but there may be circumstances in which funds can be made available in advance.
- Advance payments can be requested during the subaward agreement process and award phase. Advance payments will require a payment schedule and a list of anticipated costs before ODF can disburse the funds. ODF will assess and approve requests on a case-by-case basis. Some considerations for advance payments may include but are not limited to requesting for minimum amount needed, duration the payment request will apply to, and using the advanced funds before future payments can be approved.

## 11. Where can I receive support to apply for these grants?

- Subaward Assistance Questionnaire: To receive support in the subaward proposal process, the applicant can complete a short questionnaire or email the ODF UCF subaward program. The subaward assistance questionnaire link is available at <https://forms.office.com/g/VhzDdsXWJr>.
- Help with SAM.gov registration is available through the Government Contract Assistance Program: <https://www.gcap.org/registration-assistance-duns-sam-dsbs-fbo>
- Contact ODF's UCF Program staff for additional support or with any questions:
  - **Email:** [UCF.Program@odf.oregon.gov](mailto:UCF.Program@odf.oregon.gov)
  - **Phone:** (503) 945-7390
  - **Booking site** (to set up a meeting with an ODF UCF staff): [https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/UCFProgram@stateoforegon.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/s/sQvh4I86\\_ki8Yr\\_iWuXwPw2](https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/UCFProgram@stateoforegon.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/s/sQvh4I86_ki8Yr_iWuXwPw2)
  - **ODF UCF Program office hours:** ODF UCF staff are available to answer questions and support proposal development on Mondays, 3 - 4 PM (Zoom link: <https://odf.zoom.us/j/91639263800>). *Please note office hours will not be held on state government holidays.*

## 12. Where can I find more information as it becomes available?

- Additional information will be made available on the ODF UCF subaward program webpage is available with information about the current funding opportunities (<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/forestbenefits/pages/ucf-subaward-programs.aspx>).
- Sign up for electronic notifications to receive the latest updates from ODF at <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/aboutodf/pages/email-updates.aspx>.

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(1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) Fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

(3) Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).