



# COMMUNITY FORESTRY Financial Assistance Program

*(Administered by the South Carolina Forestry Commission and Funded by the US Forest Service)*

Since 1991 the Community Forestry Grant Program has provided over \$3.8 million in financial assistance to over 500 South Carolina cities, counties, non-profit groups and others. These funds are designed to improve the awareness, management, conservation and care of the tree resource in and around our communities.

The purpose of the Community Forestry Financial Assistance program is to:

- Develop sustainable public tree management programs at the local level,
- Improve public tree planning and management efforts of local governments,
- Enhance the technical skills of individuals involved in planning, development and maintenance of public trees,
- Provide educational programs to individuals involved in planning, development and maintenance of public trees, and
- Promote volunteerism and involvement of nonprofit organizations, agencies and the private sector in implementing public tree management programs.

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## **ELIGIBLE PROJECTS -----**

The Community Forestry Financial Assistance Program is intended to support new initiatives, programs, projects, and/or activities not currently being funded through other sources.

The following lists the types of projects that can be funded through the Financial Assistance Program. Project types not listed here will be accepted.

**RESOURCE ASSESSMENT** - This category is intended to inventory local natural resources (public and private) and will result in a document or database containing specific, standardized information on groups of trees, other natural resources, and other features in the community.

**RESOURCE INVENTORY** - This category is intended for the development of a local tree inventory on public properties and will result in a document or database containing specific, standardized information recorded on a number of individual trees in an identified area of the community.

**PROFESSIONAL STAFF** - This category is intended for the full- or part-time employment of a community forestry professional to assist in community forestry program development and improvement.

**ORDINANCES/POLICIES** - This category is intended for costs associated with outside fees incurred to develop or revise a local government ordinance or policy regarding tree management, conservation, and/or landscaping.

**MANAGEMENT PLAN** - A management plan addresses the systematic planning, planting, maintaining, protecting, conservation, storm damage mitigation, and/or maintenance of community trees.



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## **ELIGIBLE PROJECTS (continued) -----**

**PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION** - This category is intended to promote the level of professionalism within community forest management.

**TRAINING & CONTINUING EDUCATION** - This category is intended to enhance the technical skills of individuals involved in planning, development and maintenance of community forests in order to promote increased understanding and awareness of community forestry and arboriculture.

**TRAINING SESSIONS / SEMINARS** - This category is intended for the support and organization of public programs / events such as seminars, training sessions and workshops regarding arboriculture and/or community forestry topics.

**ADVOCACY / ADVISORY ORGANIZATION** - This category is intended to assist local units of government to become more efficient and effective in their ability to support and promote a tree management program.

**EDUCATIONAL TREE PLANTING** - Plant trees in association with an educational event that focuses on a specific audience with an identified educational objective.

**BROWNFIELD TREE PLANTING** - For the implementation of tree planting in areas abandoned and/or not utilized in urban or community centers. Projects may include the creation of pocket parks or other related projects.

**URBAN WATERSHED / RIPARIAN RESTORATION TREE PLANTING** - For the improvement of community watershed management through the addition of tree vegetation to slow runoff and mitigate overheating of streambeds for improved health of watershed fauna.

**ARBOR DAY TREE PLANTING** - This category is intended for the planting of a ceremonial tree(s) on public property in association with a local Arbor Day Program. To find out how to have an Arbor Day program go to [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org).

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## **ELIGIBILITY -----**

Grants may be awarded to municipal and county government, state agencies, and approved non-profit organizations. Grantees must comply with all federal regulations pertaining to federal grants.

## **COST SHARE REQUIREMENTS -----**

This is a 1-to-1 reimbursable, cost-share program. The non-federal share of such support may be in the form of cash, services, or in-kind contributions. Sources of the non-federal match must not be used as a match from any other federal cost share project.



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## **FUNDS AVAILABILITY -----**

Grants are awarded on a competitive basis. The recommended federal funding range for proposals should not exceed \$20,000. Noteworthy proposals greater or less than the amount in this range will be considered. For proposals significantly above this range, the amount should be divided into phases where possible, to allow for partial funding.

**All of the criteria listed may not be applicable to each proposal.**

• Demonstrated need of project	• Local budget commitment for follow-through
• Leverage of federal and state dollars with private funds	• 3-year maintenance plan for planting projects
• Goal oriented	• Public relations impact
• Cost effectiveness	• Cooperator inclusion and coordination
• Activity not currently funded	• Level of volunteer involvement
• Local budget commitment for match	• Level of local support
• Supported by local plans	• Technical merit

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE -----**

Technical assistance in developing proposals is available to all potential grantees through the SC Forestry Commission Regional Urban Foresters. Contact (803) 896-8846 for the Urban Forester in your area.

## **TIMETABLE -----**

Call for Proposals are generally requested in late winter to early spring. Potential grantees are given approximately two months after the call for proposals to complete their application packet. Proposals are then reviewed and applicants notified of funding approval by the State Forester. The funding cycle time-frame is twelve months.

### **For questions or to be added to the grant mailing list, contact:**

South Carolina Forestry Commission  
Gloria Freeman, Community Forestry Grant Program  
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