

Frequently Asked Questions

1). Why is there a match waiver?

State partners (us) have been very vocal with our federal partners on our community's behalf that not every community has the funding to pursue urban forestry projects on a consistent basis. Specifically, our smaller communities. Our federal partners heard this and were able to convince congress to dedicate the funding as match free as long as it occurs in disadvantaged communities.

2). Why is my community considered disadvantaged?

Your community was marked by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CJEST) as disadvantaged. CJEST uses a variety of census-based markers to determine if a community is disadvantaged. Factors that are considered are health metrics, income metrics, population decline, pollution, and others.

3). Why is my community not considered disadvantaged?

Your community was **not** marked by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CJEST) as disadvantaged. CJEST uses a variety of census-based markers to determine if a community is disadvantaged. Factors that are considered are health metrics, income metrics, population decline, pollution, and others. Your community not being highlighted does not mean that the aforementioned factors are not having a negative impact on your community, it is a scale compared to communities across the country. Meaning it is a determination of how impactful those factors are compared to other communities.

4). How many applications can I submit?

You may submit one total application per grant round, but that application may include multiple funding categories. Each application has a total limit of \$100,000.

5). The forms say I need to speak with a Resource Conservation and Forestry staff member to proceed, who is that?

This depends on where you are in the state, we have maps with included names and phone numbers that can be found here:

<https://danr.sd.gov/Conservation/Forestry/UrbanandCommunityForestry/ComprehensiveChallengeGrants/default.aspx>

6). Will there be another opportunity to apply?

At this moment that is an unknown. We would encourage you to assume this is your best opportunity to apply for this funding.

7). How much money can I apply for?

You can apply for anywhere between \$1,000 and \$100,000.

8). How long does the grant process usually take?

There are several stages to the grant process, it can be safe to assume from the date of your application to first day of implementation it can be several months. We do our best to work quickly, but there is a process that must be followed.

9). Can I replant trees on private property?

This will be allowed on a pre-approved basis with a maximum of 2 trees per residential property.

10). How long do I have to perform the work?

June 2027 can be considered a deadline for project completion.