

Inflation Reduction Act Grant Categories

This grant allows for specific categories and funding limitations. All grant funds will be used on a reimbursable basis, the community must clearly and accurately document all expenses. This funding will be match free if the work is performed in allowable areas as determined by the federal tool: Climate and economic justice screening tool. Work outside of the highlighted areas will not be funded under this grant. This grant is funded by Inflation Reduction Act dollars which has been handled and dispersed by the United States Forest Service.

Tree Inventory/Assessment (\$1,000 (Min.) - \$100,000 (Max.)) – The costs associated with community tree inventory projects may be covered by this category. Grant funds must be used for the development and implementation of a community tree inventory.

Existing Tree Care & Maintenance (\$1,000 (Min.) - \$100,000 (Max.)) – Tree pruning, and care costs associated with existing trees may be covered under this category (ANSI A300 - 2005). Grant funds must be used for the care and maintenance of existing trees in a community.

Tree Removal (\$1,000 (Min.) - \$100,000 (Max.)) – The community may use this portion of the grant to cover the cost of urban tree removals on public land or public right of way. This will be accompanied by a tree replacement program with a ratio of 2 replacement trees per removal. Trees can be replaced on private property if the community can demonstrate a lack of space for planting in public right of ways. The replanted trees cannot meaningfully impact property value for any singular property; due to this, a limit of three new trees per private property will be enforced. Replacement tree plantings will follow the new tree planting standards found below.

New Tree Planting (\$500 (Min.) - \$100,000 (Max.)) – New trees may be planted in a community to augment or replace existing trees lost to disease or other factors. To receive reimbursement, the following standards must be in place:

- i. At a minimum, trees must be at least 1" caliper and a minimum of 8' tall for deciduous species and at least 4' tall for coniferous species (as defined in the American Standards Institute (ANSI) publication *Z60.1 -2004 American Standards for Nursery Stock*).
- ii. Trees must have protection and maintenance in place that meets or exceeds ANSI A300 *Standards for Tree Care Operations* standards.
- iii. Grant funds may only be used to purchase trees. Shrubs and other ornamental plants will not qualify for funding.
- iv. All labor and other supplies and planting qualify as match for this grant.
- v. Only high-quality nursery stock trees will be eligible for reimbursement. High-quality, for the purpose of this grant, refers to trees that are grown and obtained from a licensed nursery and that are: typical of their species or variety and of suitable hardiness for South Dakota. They must have self-supporting, straight trunks and strong central leaders. They must be free from injury, to include scrapes, wounds, and improper pruning cuts. They must also be free from

disease and insect or other infestations. Container grown trees must show no signs of girdling. When in leaf, foliage must be full and vigorous. Whips are also excluded.

- vi. Bare root stock is eligible for reimbursement, the stock is required to be consistent with the standards listed above and must be planted before Memorial Day to be eligible for reimbursement. Any bare root plantings that occur under the grant after Memorial Day will not be eligible for reimbursement.
- vii. Trees in a container must be container grown to be eligible for reimbursement. The trees can be planted up until the end of the 2nd week of June and after Labor Day. Container grown trees must adhere to ANSI standards for size and quality.
- viii. It is highly recommended for your regional forester to be present upon picking up nursery stock. This will ensure that the chosen trees adhere to IRA standards.

Urban Food Forest (\$1,000 (Min.) - \$100,000 (Max.)) – This category may be used to fund activities such as the development, improvement, or maintenance of an urban food forest demonstration area.

Tree Health Treatments (\$1,000 (Min.) - \$100,000 (Max.)) – This category may be used to fund non-permanent insect and disease treatments such as but not limited to aphids, bagworms, and certain fungi. Treatments are limited to two years. This category does not allow for emerald ash borer, Dutch elm disease, or pine wilt.

Other Activities (\$1,000 (Min.) - \$100,000 (Max.)) – This category may be used to fund such activities as the development and implementation of a community website, specific to urban forestry. This category may also be used to develop any other projects specific to urban forestry and or arboriculture.