Rooting Resilience Program Applicant Webinar
Community- Based Organizations

WELCOME TO THE APPLICANT WEBINAR

Rooting Resilience Program for Community-Based Organizations

While you wait …

- Please mute yourself

- In the chat box, share your organization, the native lands from which you're joining, and your preferred pronouns (if you are comfortable).

  https://native-land.ca/

  https://www.mypronouns.org/what-and-why

- Please use the chat box for questions.

- This session will be recorded for your reference and a PDF of the presentation will be posted on the program webpage with useful links embedded.

ABOUT RIVER NETWORK

River Network grows and strengthens a transformational national network of water, justice, and river advocates.

We envision a powerful and inclusive movement that ensures abundant clean water for all people and nature to thrive.

Meet the network and access resources for organizations on our website: *rivernetwork.org*

OUR FOCUS

Healthy, Resilient Rivers

Safe, Affordable Drinking Water

To learn more about these focus areas and how we're working to achieve them, please explore our Strategic Plan:
https://bit.ly/RNStrategicPlan

Climate-Resilient Communities

Today's Agenda

- River Network, our funders, and our partners

- Review of the RFA

  - Program Priorities

  - Eligibility

  - Application Process

  - Evaluation Criteria

- Budget Guidance

- Letters of Support

- Federal Compliance

- Additional Technical Assistance

- How to Apply

Rooting Resilience Program Funding and Partners

This opportunity is possible thanks to a grant from the Urban & Community Forestry Program of the Forest Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, under the Inflation Reduction Act Funding Opportunity #: USDA-FS-2023-UCF-IRA-01

River Network is a proud national pass-through partner of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service.
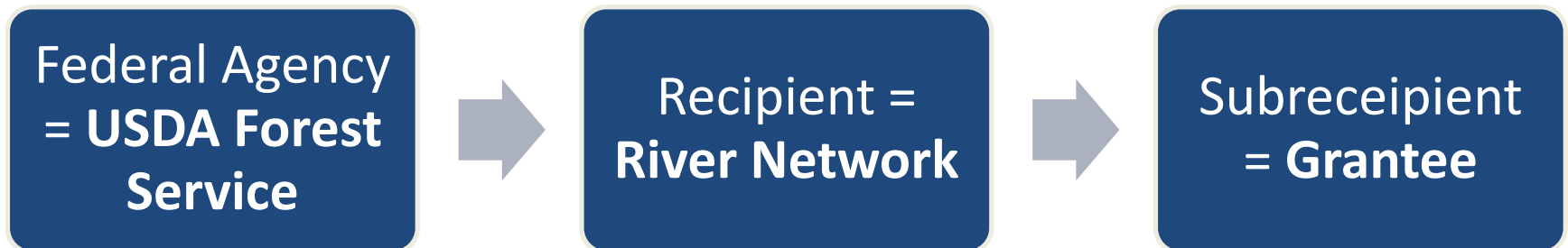
Outreach and Engagement Partners:
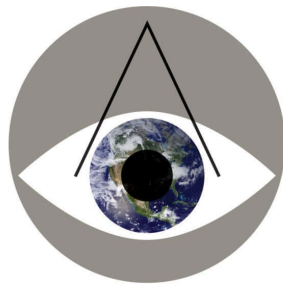
Anthropocene Alliance

NATIVE AMERICANS IN PHILANTHROPY

River Network and these institutions are equal opportunity providers.

Source of Subaward Funds

A **FEDERAL AGENCY** is allocated funds by Congress and awards grants to Recipients

→

A **RECIPIENT** receives a grant and passes through funds to a Subrecipient

→

A **SUBRECIPIENT** receives a subaward and completes a project

In this case…

Federal Agency = **USDA Forest Service**

→

Recipient = **River Network**

→

Subreceipient = **Grantee**

River Network is a "pass-through entity" because it **passes federal grant dollars through** to a subreceipient

Program Priorities and Funding

- All projects must directly impact federally defined disadvantaged communities and be for the benefit of historically underserved or underrepresented communities.

- River Network will prioritize community-led projects that improve the condition of the tree canopy to address the challenges of flooding and erosion, extreme heat, community health concerns, and/or increase access to green jobs through forestry.

- Funding is meant to provide support for organizations and communities that are on the frontlines of climate change impacts and may not have received federal funding before.

A total of $1,800,000 in program funding is available
Match or cost share is NOT required

Program Priorities

The Rooting Resilience program will prioritize:

- Work rooted in community. This includes work proposed by and with support from Tribal or disadvantaged community members who understand, based on lived experience, what approaches will work best for their area.

- Entities or organizations that are seeking federal pass-through funding for the first time and/or have limited experience receiving charitable funds or grants.

- Projects that clearly demonstrate the benefits of their proposed activities to their community and their local trees.

Eligible Applicants

- Community-based nonprofit organizations that have 501(c)3 status or a fiscal sponsor
    - A nonprofit organization that supports a community or certain populations within a community through engagement, education, or other services
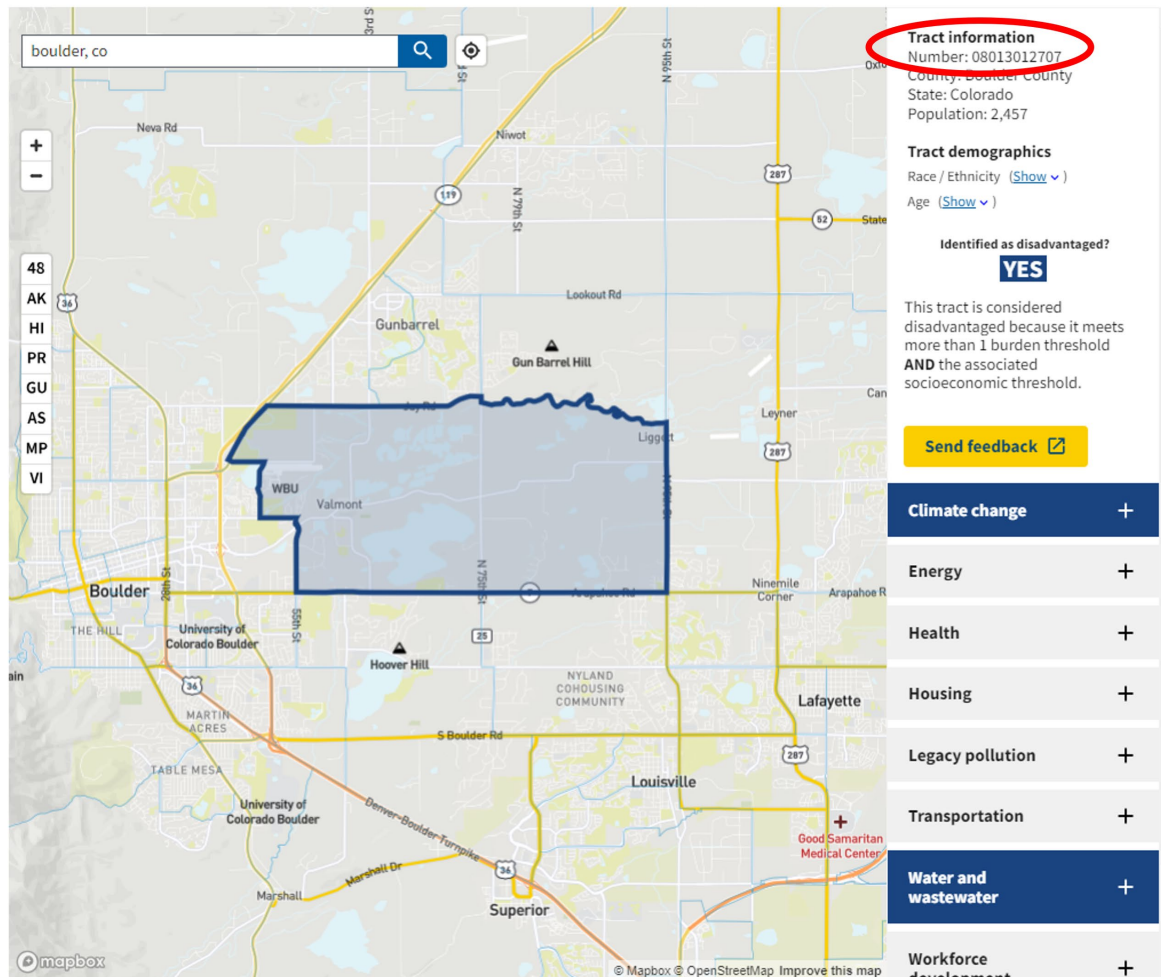
Eligible Project Locations

- Projects that benefit disadvantaged communities in the United States or its territories
- Projects on non-Federal lands such as:
  - State and local government,
  - Homeowner associations,
  - Private lands, and
  - Tribal/Alaska native corporation (includes Trust lands)

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 (Trust lands).
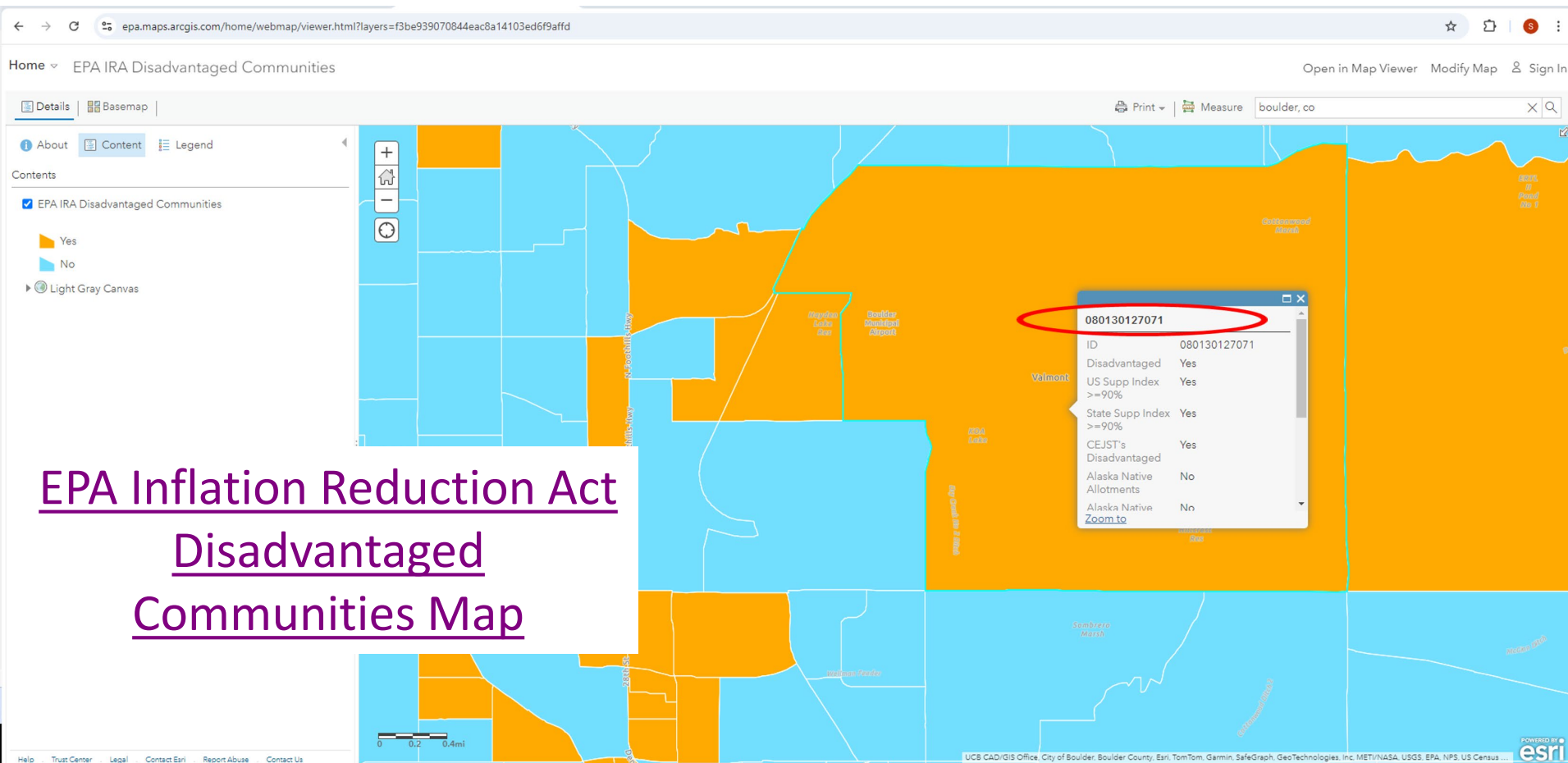
Eligible Projects

All work led by community-based nonprofit organizations must directly benefit disadvantaged communities
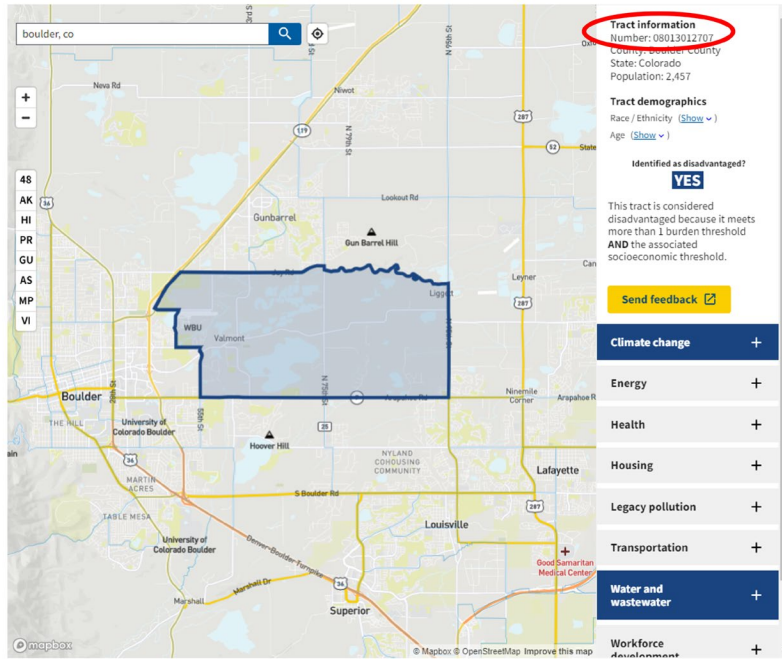

Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool

Eligible Projects

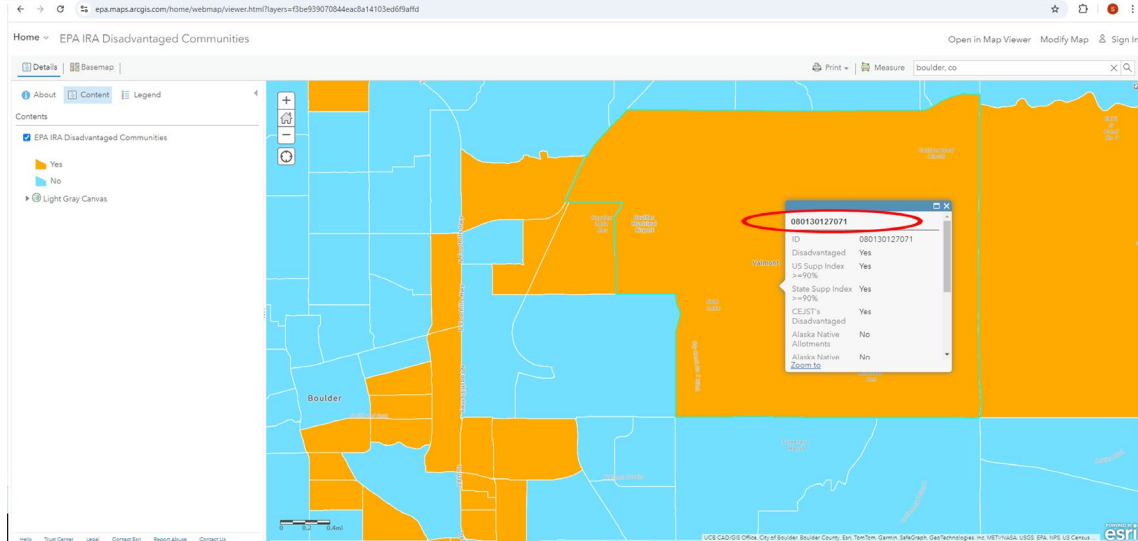*All work led by community-based nonprofit organizations must directly benefit disadvantaged communities*

EPA Inflation Reduction Act Disadvantaged Communities Map

Let's Try It!

[Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#)

[EPA Inflation Reduction Act Disadvantaged Communities Map](#)

Available Funding Levels

🌱 Seedling Projects

Awards of $75,000

Support for the planning and implementation of smaller-scale urban and community forestry projects for **1-3 years**.

- Proposed work at a single site or several small sites.

- Should include activities that build people's skills and abilities to lay the foundation for future forestry work.
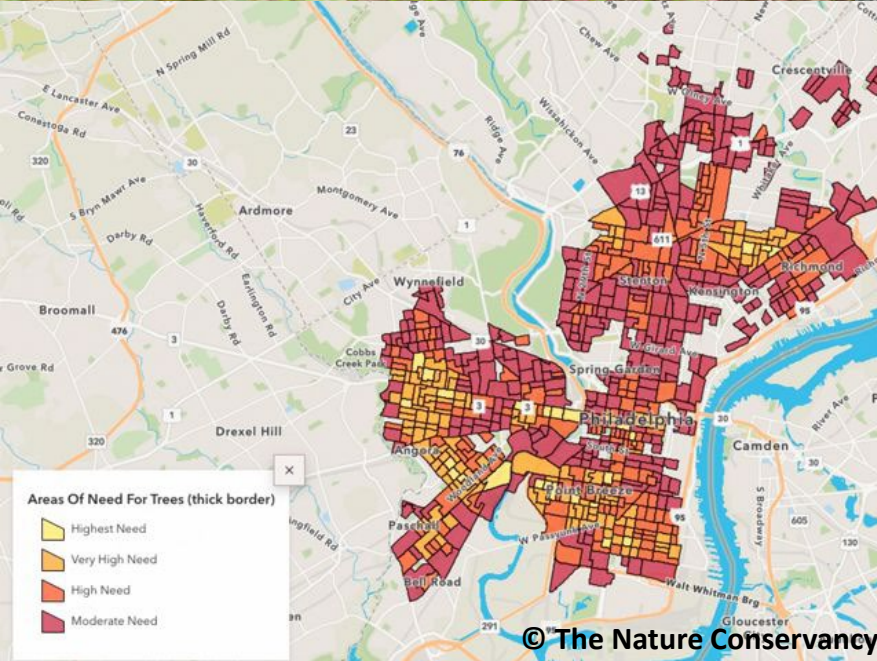
🌳 Sapling Projects

Awards of $75,000-$200,000

Support for the planning and implementation of slightly larger-scale projects for **1-3 years**.

- Can support planning activities, such as completing engineering or designs, securing necessary permits, conducting community engagement, or developing a workforce development curriculum.

- Could also support the implementation of tree planting activities, tree maintenance, or the deployment of a workforce development program.

Eligible Projects- Planning and Implementation

© Sahar Coston-Hardy 2023

Areas Of Need For Trees (thick border)
- Highest Need
- Very High Need
- High Need
- Moderate Need

© The Nature Conservancy

Eligible Projects- Education and Outreach

Portland Neighborhood Tree Stewards

Eligible Projects- Workforce Development

Work2Live WELL program Maryland

Seed Your Future
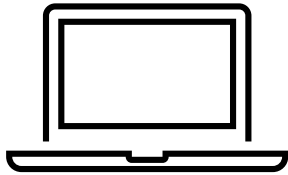
Greening of Detroit

Trees Atlanta

Ineligible Project Activities

Examples of project activities NOT eligible for funding:

- Basic Research
- Capital Improvements or Construction
- Land Acquisition
- Reimbursements directly to private landowners
- Small business start-up funding
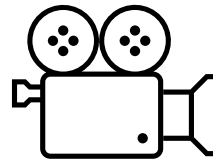- Equipment purchases

Application Options

Full written application submitted via our online grant portal

OR

Phone call to answer narrative questions

Recorded video to answer narrative questions, submitted in the online grant portal

All applicants must use our grant portal to submit basic information about your organization, project location, project budget, and required supplemental uploads.

Narrative Questions

1.What need will this project address and what are the intended outcomes (what will be the result of the project)?

2.Please describe the project activities and explain how the project will build community resilience through urban and community forestry?

3.Who are the key individuals on the project team and what skills are they bringing to ensure a successful project?

4.Please describe the relationship that your project team has to the community you are engaging with.

Narrative Questions

5. Who are your partners on this project and what will be their specific role(s)?

6. What have been the challenges/barriers to obtaining previous funding and how do you think receiving a Rooting Resilience grant could build capacity for your community or organization/entity?

7. Please provide a general and brief timeline for your major project activities, who's responsible for those activities, and the anticipated result of those activities.

8. What is the status of any permits, authorizations, or permissions needed before you can begin your proposed work?

Review Process

EVALUATION CRITERIA		SCORE
Partnership and Community Impact	The applicant either directly represents a federally designated disadvantaged community or proposes to directly benefit one through collaboration.	1-5
Community Forestry and Climate Resilience Benefits	Proposed project will promote, plan, or carry out activities that increase or improve the community's trees and support climate resilience	1-5
Budget	Project budget includes costs that are reasonable, allowable, and necessary for the work proposed. Budget narrative includes sufficient detail.	1-5
Project Feasibility	Project team has the necessary experience and/or skills to achieve project outcomes- this includes having established community relationships, Traditional Indigenous Knowledge or other relevant skills.	1-5
Capacity Building Potential	The project would potentially set the stage for future urban and community forestry work by building organizational or community capacity.	1-5
OVERALL SCORE	**A COMPREHENSIVE SCORE FOR THE STRENGTH OF A PROPOSAL IN ITS ENTIRETY**	**1-5**

Program Timeline

Application submission deadline	11:59pm ET on October 23, 2024
Review Period	Late October through mid-November 2024
Award Notification	Mid-November 2024
Execution of Award Agreements	Mid-November through end of December 2024
Project Period Start Date	January 2025
Reimbursements	Throughout 1-3 year project

Grant funds will generally be disbursed by reimbursement; however, advance payments will be considered on a case-by-case basis due to immediate need

Grantee Expectations and Support

•Bi-annual performance and financial reports

• Potential site visits and storytelling opportunities

•The opportunity to connect with your fellow grantees to engage in capacity-building, networking, and technical assistance
  •Virtually meet up to four times per year
  •You can include the necessary staff time to participate in these convenings

Support from River Network and our program partners during your award period to address any project challenges, ensure compliance, and highlight project successes

Budget Guidance

- Budget must comply with the Code of Federal Regulations
  - Should be necessary, reasonable, and able to be allocated/directly assigned to a grant award
- Ensure budget matches your budget narrative and addresses your project activities
- Ask for what you need and anticipate impacts of rising costs
- Capacity building costs

Allowable costs are further discussed in the original [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#), [IRA U&CF Award Administration Guide](#)

Budget Categories

Categories:

- Personnel
- Fringe
- Travel
- Contractors/Equipment Rental
- Supplies (>$5,000 ea.)
- Participant Support Costs
- Indirect Costs*

Budget Example

PERSONNEL

Staff Position	Annual Salary/Rat	% Time on Project	Total Cost	Personnel Budget Narrative
Program Director	$ 70,000.00	20%	$ 42,000.00	**Program Director** Alicia Reyes has 10 years of experience leading community environmental initiatives and will supervise the forestry contractor, oversee project deliverables, and provide guidance for the educational program design. Alicia will dedicate 20% of her time ($14,000/yr) over the course of the 3 year grant for a total cost of $42,000.
Education Coordinator	$ 50,000.00	30%	$ 45,000.00	**Education Coordinator** Mario Jones leads Sunnyside Elementary's afterschool program, where the educational outreach program will be initiated. He will oversee all educational activities to promote environmental awareness among students at the school and adults at the community center. Mario will dedicate 30% of his time ($15,000/yr) to this project over 3 years for a total of $45,000.
		Subtotal 'Personnel'	$ 87,000.00	

FRINGE BENEFITS

Position	Personnel Costs	Fringe Rate	Total Cost	Fringe Budget Narrative
Program Director	$ 42,000.00	20%	$ 8,400.00	Sunnyside Environmental Coalition's fringe rate is 20%, which includes paid time off, health benefits, 401k, payroll taxes, and workers compensation.
Education Coordinator	$ 45,000.00	20%	$ 9,000.00	Sunnyside Environmental Coalition's fringe rate is 20%, which includes paid time off, health benefits, 401k, payroll taxes, and workers compensation.
		Subtotal 'Fringe'	$ 17,400.00	

TRAVEL

Expense Type	Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost	Travel Budget Narrative
Staff Mileage	275	0.67	$ 184.25	**Mileage** costs associated with the Program Director visiting key project partners to generate community support and to conduct educational awareness. Calculated based on an estimate of 275 miles over 3 years using the federal mileage rate of $.67/mile.
		Subtotal 'Travel'	$ 184.25	

SUPPLIES

Item	Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost	Supplies Budget Narrative
Native Trees	50	$ 250.00	$ 12,500.00	**Native Trees** - Estimated cost to plant 50 native trees in the area surrounding Sunnyside Elementary School. The types of trees planted will be determined by the Forestry consultant, and this is an average estimated cost of $300/tree for 2" ball and burlap trees.
Tree Establishment Supplies	50	35	$ 1,750.00	**Tree Establishment Supplies** - Estimated costs for watering bags and tree stakes for 50 trees to provide additional establishment support. Water bags are $30/bag with stakes costing $5/tree.
Mulch	50	5	$ 250.00	**Mulch**- 50 bags of mulch at $5 each to place around newly planted trees.
Educational signage	2	500	$ 1,000.00	**Educational Signage** - Estimated cost to professionally print 2 weather-resistant signs to display the names of trees and provide educational information about their care. Costs based on previously puchased signage.
Educational Workshop Supplies	1	1500	$ 1,500.00	with students at Sunnyside Elementary School- approximately 100 students. Environmental education supplies include notebooks, magnifying glasses, and art supplies for tree lessons- collectively around $15/student for 100 students.
		Subtotal 'Supplies'	$ 17,000.00	

Required Uploads

- Overlay map of project location and disadvantaged community tool
  - Demonstrating that the project location is 100% within a disadvantaged area
- [Financial Capability Questionnaire](#)
  - You can apply even if you answer "no" to one or more questions. TA will be available to help you address any concerns!
- [Certification regarding debarment](#)
- Letter of Support (at least one)
  - Template provided

Letters of Support

Goal: To demonstrate a sincere working relationship between partner organizations

- Who is the partner?
- What role will they play?
- How have you worked together previously?
- Why is this project important?

[Template available on the RFA page](#)

(Photo by Will Parson/Chesapeake Bay Program)

Federal Compliance

SAM.gov Registration

Your organization must be registered and validated with [SAM.gov](SAM.gov) and have a Unique Entity ID (UEI), generated by SAM.gov to be awarded funding
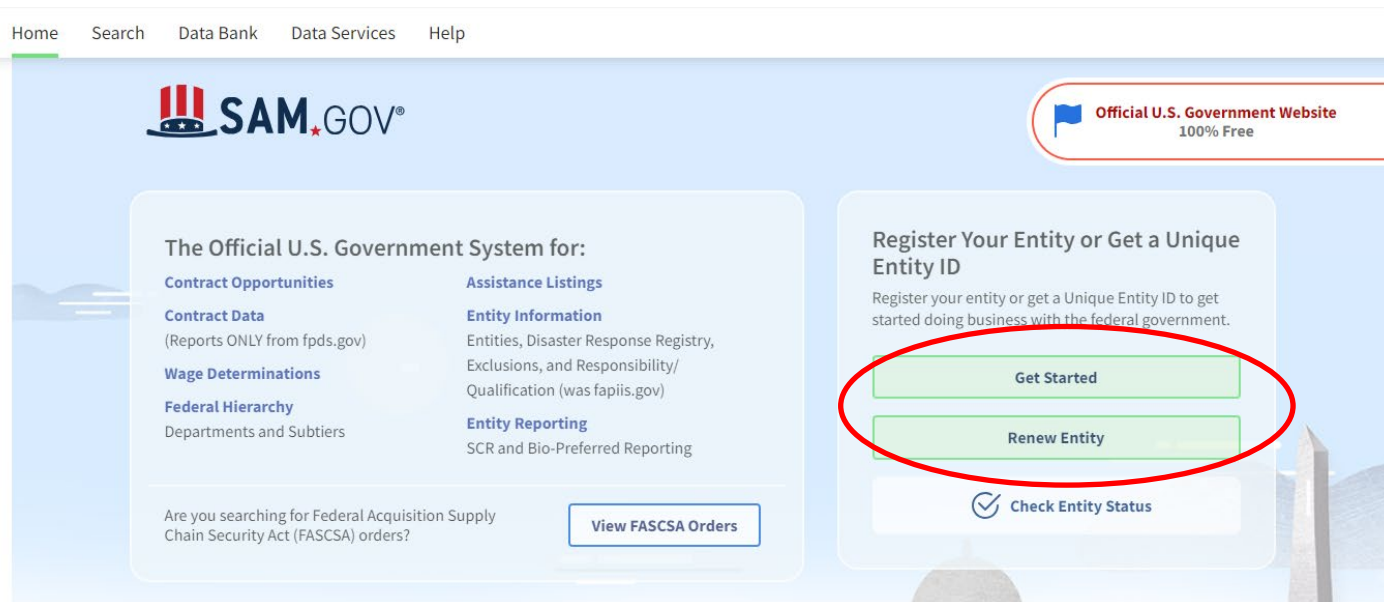
If you do not have a SAM.gov UEI Number, here is a short GSA video outlining the steps to create one: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=56NQ77JX5yo

Federal Compliance

- Follow all federal and state statutes, laws, rules, and regulations
- Code of Federal Regulations
    Chapter 2, Part 200
    - Allowable costs
    - Procurement policies
    - Compliance with CBO's own and USDA policies

We can help!
TA on compliance provided
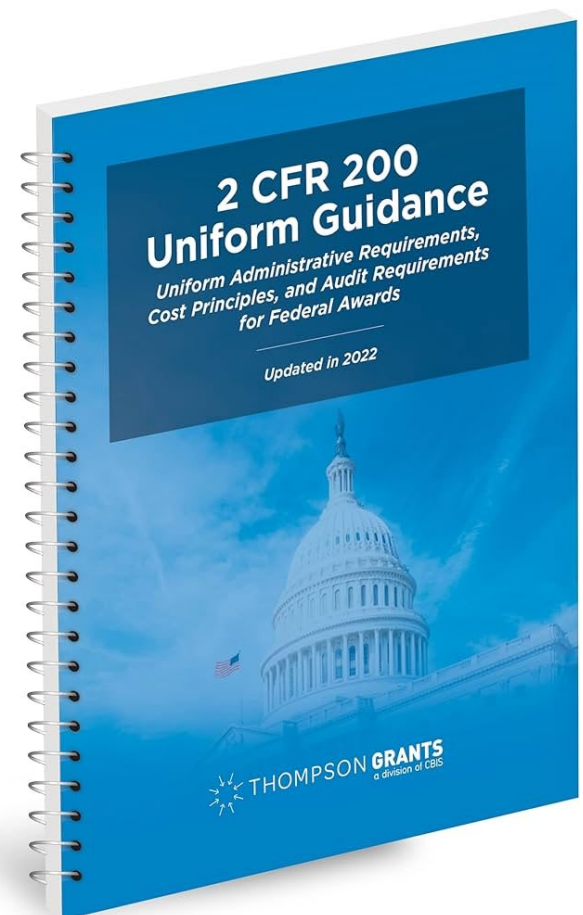
2 CFR 200 Summarized: Procurement

When purchasing goods or services with grant funds, subrecipients must follow **requirements for procurement.** Although requirements vary by the type of entity and the purchase amount, they generally include:

| conducting a cost or price analysis for every procurement* | avoiding conflict of interest in the procurement | retaining documentation to support the approach to procurement |

*Would a reasonable and prudent person purchase the item at this price to meet this need?

See **2 CFR 200.320** for more details

2 CFR 200: Procurement

Additional Technical Assistance

- Virtual Office Hours
- Upcoming Webinar: Crafting a Compelling Proposal
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Templates
- Additional Resources

Reference resources or register for opportunities on the [RFA webpage](#)

Submitting an Application

https://rivernetwork.grantplatform.com/

Questions?

rootingresilience@rivernetwork.org