



Maine Forest Service announces second round of the USDA Forest Service's new Community Wildfire Defense Grant program

The purpose of the **Community Wildfire Defense Grant** (CWDG) is to assist at-risk local communities with planning and mitigating against the threat of wildfire near homes and structures. Each grant lasts up to five years. During the first round of CWDG grants, \$197 million was awarded for 99 projects across 22 states.

Communities in an area identified as having high or very high wildfire hazard potential, are low-income, and /or have been impacted by a severe disaster are eligible to apply. Do not apply directly in www.grants.gov. Contact the MFS and a unique application link will be provided. **The deadline to apply is October 31, 2023.**

The USFS has developed a dashboard to indicate if a town is eligible for CWDG grants, but the Maine Forest Service may be able to help if the wildfire hazard potential rating is incorrectly listed as low.

[Community Wildfire Defense Grants \(wildfirerisk.org\)](http://wildfirerisk.org)

There are two primary project types for which the grant provides funding:

- The development and revision of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP's).
- The implementation of projects described in a Community Wildfire Protection Plan that is less than ten years old.

CWDG grant funding can also be used for:

- Creating fire breaks to prevent the spread of wildfire near values at risk.
- Hazardous fuels mitigation work (brush removal) at the community level.
- RX burns and / or training for RX burns in wildland urban interface areas.
- Projects involving installing dry hydrants and purchasing PPE / fire equipment will also be considered, but must relate directly to a specific community-based hazardous fuel reduction project stated in the CWPP.

Up to 25% match is required for projects, but underserved communities can request the match be waived. In-kind services (such as homeowner volunteer time @ \$30 / hour) can be used for match.

State / county / municipal agencies and communities with homeowner, lake or road associations are eligible to apply. Federal lands with the exception of Tribal Trust Lands are not eligible. Each applicant must have a current SAM Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number, which can be obtained at [SAM.gov | Entity Information](https://sam.gov)

A committee has been formed to review and score applications. Preference will be given to communities pursuing CWPP's and wildfire risk reduction projects that have high wildfire hazard potential.

For questions regarding project types and the application process, please access the following link:

[CWDF 2023 FAQ 8 2 \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/forestry/programs/cwdg/faq)

For more information on how the MFS can assist applicants, please contact Forest Ranger Specialist Kent Nelson 207-287-4989 or via email at kent.nelson@maine.gov