

INFLATION REDUCTION ACT PROGRAM

CEJST TREE MAINTENANCE AND PLANTING PROJECT



N.C. Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry

Securing funding to complete tree maintenance and tree planting is a challenge for all municipalities. The Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) program provides funding to complete tree pruning, removal and tree planting along streets and/or on public properties in Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) tracts at no cost to the community.

To assist municipalities with CEJST tracts within their municipal boundaries, this is a project template to develop a project and apply for this funding through our Financial Assistance Program Request for Applications (FAP RFA). The project will include completion of the following practices and activities and will have a duration of up to three years depending on the scope of work to be completed.

- Planning phase – Define the project scope and develop the project plan.
- Tree inventory – Complete a professional tree inventory to identify tree location and maintenance needs.
- Outreach Program – Develop a program to inform, educate and engage the community in the project.
- Tree maintenance – Hire a tree service to complete the tree maintenance work.
- Tree Planting – Develop tree-planting plans and plant trees.

Step 1 – Eligibility

- Confirm you have a CEJST tract within your municipality.
- Perform a web search for or click [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#).
- Using the search tool, search your municipality by name. Eligible census tracts will appear as “greyed out” census tracts within your municipality. This program will fund U&CF projects located within this census tract(s).
- Contact U&CF staff for guidance and begin the planning process.

Step 2 – Develop Overall Project Plan

- Utilizing guidance from NCFS staff or a consultant and NCFS planning tools and resources, your project team will develop an overall project plan following the Step 3 Implementation Schedule.
- Most importantly, you will need to select the project scope, the area your project will include. For example, single street or park, single neighborhood within a CEJST tract, or one or all CEJST tracts.

Step 3 – Implementation Schedule

- Overall Project Plan complete and apply at FAP RFA for Phase 1 – six month duration
- Phase 1 Outreach Program and Tree Inventory – one year duration
 - Develop and implement outreach plan
 - Tree Inventory
 - Secure tree inventory contract
 - Complete tree inventory
 - Develop Phase 2 plan
 - Apply at FAP RFA for Phase 2
- Phase 2 Tree Maintenance Work and Tree Planting Plans – one year duration
 - Secure tree service contract
 - Complete Phase 2 outreach plan
 - Complete tree maintenance work
 - Develop tree planting and post-care plans
 - Develop Phase 3 plan
 - Apply at FAP RFA for Phase 3
- Phase 3 Tree Planting – one year duration
 - Complete Phase 3 outreach plan
 - Secure tree-planting contract
 - Complete tree planting
- Maintenance Phase – Ongoing duration
 - Complete Maintenance Phase outreach plan
 - Implement post tree-planting care plan

Project Needs List

1. NCFS U&CF FAP Project Planning and Request for Application guidance documents which can be found on our [U&CF Resources and Specifications webpage](#).
2. Project scope – Select geographic areas to complete the work at a scale that you can manage.
3. Urban forestry consultants – Qualified urban forestry consultants will be needed to provide project cost estimates, complete tree inventory, tree-planting plans and monitor contract work.
4. Community outreach professional – A communications/outreach professional will be needed to develop your outreach program to educate and engage the community in the project.
5. Community outreach program – The work completed during this project will take place in residents' neighborhoods and in front of their homes or businesses. Informing, educating and engaging them in the project is critical in the success of the project.
6. Tree Inventory – A professionally completed inventory of trees and planting sites located in the project area will be needed. We have contract specifications for your use in soliciting bids for and completion of the work.
7. Tree maintenance and planting contract specifications – The tree work and planting will be completed by qualified contractors. We have contract specifications for your use in soliciting bids for and completion of the work.
8. Tree-planting plans and post tree-planting care plan – A qualified urban forestry consultant will review planting site conditions, select tree species appropriate for the planting sites and develop a post-planting care plan. We have contract specifications for your use in soliciting bids for and completion of the work.
9. Tree maintenance and planting contractors – Qualified tree services will be needed to complete the tree work and planting.

Visit our [Arborists and Consultants webpage for guidance](#). Our [service contract specifications](#) also list minimum qualifications for these services.

Contact your NCFS county ranger. | ncforestservice.gov/contacts

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