

## **Aliso Canyon 25/26 Green Schoolyards Grant-Frequently Asked Questions**

### *Eligibility*

1. Who is eligible to apply for this grant?
  - a. Cities, counties, qualifying districts, or nonprofit organizations qualified under Section 501 c3 of the Internal Revenue Code. Individual school campuses cannot apply.
2. Are all public campuses shown on the project map eligible to be included in the project application?
  - a. Yes, all TK-12 public-school campuses within the mapped project area are eligible school campuses.
3. How does eligibility differ from scoring criteria?
  - a. Eligibility determines whether an applicant meets the eligibility requirements to submit a proposal. Scoring criteria are used after submission to evaluate and rank eligible proposals/applications.
4. Will all eligible applicants receive funding?
  - a. No. Funding is competitive and awarded based on the quality of the proposed project. Applications selected for funding may be offered the proposed amount, a lesser amount, or asked to adjust some budgeted costs or activities.

### *Match Requirements*

5. Is match funding required?
  - a. There is a cost share (matching) rate of 75/25. The proportion of the project's cost funded by CAL FIRE Urban & Community Forestry shall not be greater than 75%, except as described under match waiver.
6. What types of match are acceptable?
  - a. Match funding cannot be of the same state funding source as the State source of funding awarded by CAL FIRE
7. What is considered in-kind match?
  - a. In-kind match includes non-cash contributions that directly support the project, such as staff time, donated materials, equipment use, or volunteer labor. All in-kind contributions must be properly documented.
8. What qualifies an applicant for a match waiver?
  - a. Match waivers may be granted for applicants that meet qualifying conditions defined in the Urban Forestry Act (e.g. disadvantaged communities or other eligible designations). CAL FIRE is authorized to waive the cost-sharing requirement for projects that are in disadvantaged and low-income

communities. The CAL FIRE Director also is authorized to reduce the cost share to 10% when a compelling case can be made. Match may be waived or reduced only if requested on the application.

#### *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)*

9. Is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) required at the time of application?
  - a. An MOU is strongly encouraged at the time of application to demonstrate project readiness and partner commitment.
10. Does the MOU need to be fully signed when submitting the application?
  - a. A project may be selected for award without a signed MOU. The MOU must be signed prior to a grant agreement being executed which authorizes the project to proceed.
11. What happens if my MOU is not signed at the time of application?
  - a. Applications may still be submitted, however in order for funds to be awarded the MOU must be completely signed.

#### *Reporting Requirements*

12. What reporting requirements are mandatory?
  - a. The following are always required:
    - i. Progress Reports (quarterly)
    - ii. Financial Reports (quarterly)
    - iii. Final report upon project completion
13. What reporting elements are recommended but not required?
  - a. Testimonials on community impact
  - b. Additional applicable data that demonstrates project impact (student-use patterns, test scores, etc.)