



2024 California Inflation Reduction Act Grants Webinar

Part 1: IRA Grant Opportunity Overview

Housekeeping

- This webinar is being recorded and will be posted online.
- Q&A will be posted online next week.
- Please use the Q&A tool to ask questions. Questions will be addressed in writing and/or out loud at the end of the webinar.
- Project-specific questions may not be answered. Please reach out to your Regional Urban Forester directly.
- **Visit the CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry website to sign up for our newsletter, for grant updates, and to identify your Regional Urban Forester.**





Urban and Community Forestry

Walter Passmore – State Urban Forester



Rachel O’Leary – Partnership and Equity Supervisor



Julia Gowin and Henry Herrera – Urban Forestry Supervisors



Eileen Stonum – Education Specialist



Jazmyn Winczner – Green Schoolyards Specialist



Emily Webb – Senior Partnership and Equity Coordinator



California Climate Fellows – Darius Canuela and Mia Antonelli

Research Data Specialist – Francesca Rohr

Forestry Aids
Jack Shrimpton – NorCal
Vacant - SoCal

Vacant – 2 environmental scientists (Partnerships and Equity)

Grant administration – 8 positions in GMU, CSR, U&CF, CNR

Tanner Mar



Evan Jones



Jessica Casas



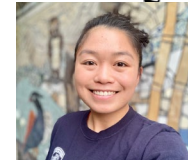
Greg Dion



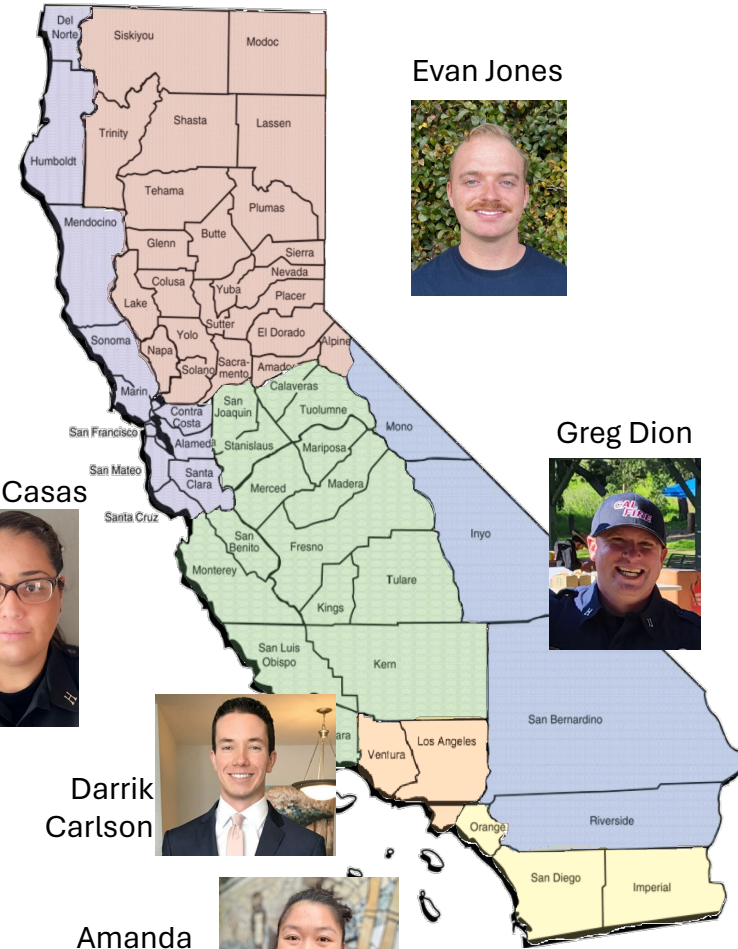
Darrik Carlson



Amanda Ma



Marco DeAnda



CAL FIRE's Urban and Community Forestry Program

Grant Administration

- 117 grants from state sources and 12 sub grants from federal sources

Technical Assistance

- Feedback, advice, input, and resources for Californians

Education and Outreach

- Foster stewardship, develop best management practices, and support hazard risk assessment and planning.

Partnerships and Equity

- Support disinvested communities and build a strong network of partnerships to connect Urban Forestry resources to people.





Today's Webinar Topics

- Purpose of the IRA Grants
- Available Funding
- Eligible Applicants & Lands
- Priority Populations
- Grant Types
- Project Timeline
- General Project Requirements
- General Ineligible Practices and Costs
- Required Standard Forms and Documentation
- Helpful Resources
- Important Dates

**The grant
guidelines are
your friend!**

[Read the 2024 IRA
Grant Guidelines](#)



California Urban and Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act 2024 Grant Guidelines



Why are the IRA grants such a great opportunity?

- **Historic investment** via Justice40 and USDA Forest Service
 - \$1.5 billion nationwide
 - \$30.8 million for CA
- **Help urban communities:**
 - Become more resilient to climate change
 - Combat extreme heat with the cooling effects of increased urban tree canopy
 - Experience improved forest health conditions and safer access to tree benefits
 - Attain broadened exposure and access to environmental career pathways
- **Funds intended to further local efforts** to support disinvested, disadvantaged, and low-income urban communities through equitable access to trees and their benefits





Grants are a seed



- Grants are intended to start, grow, or improve urban and community forests beyond the capacity of local resources.
- Grants are initial investments on long-term improvements. Local commitment/maintenance is essential after the grant closes.
- Grants may create partnerships, processes, or donor relationships to continue improving with or without future grants.

Available Funds

- **\$30.8 million** for California for projects that directly benefit priority populations, disadvantaged, and low-income communities
- Award min/max depends on grant type
- Possible awards range from **\$150,000 - \$3 million**
- All grant types are competing for the same pool of funding.
- Applicants can only apply for one grant type.
- Match or "Cost Share" is waived for all applicants
- Sub-granting is allowable





Eligible Applicants

- Varies based on grant type
- Local government entities, including cities, counties, or qualifying districts
 - For Green Schoolyards, includes school districts, and community college districts
- Federally Recognized Tribes, as defined in 25 USC 5304 (l), operating within California
- Tribal-affiliated non-profit organizations, as classified under Section 501c(3) of the Internal Revenue Code
- Non-profit organizations, as classified under Section 501c(3) of the Internal Revenue Code
 - For Green Schoolyards, includes non-profit childcare facilities receiving government funding

Eligible Lands

- All projects must be in urban areas (population of 2,500+)
- State and local government
- Homeowner associations
- Private lands
- Tribal native corporation (includes Trust lands)
- **Note:** 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

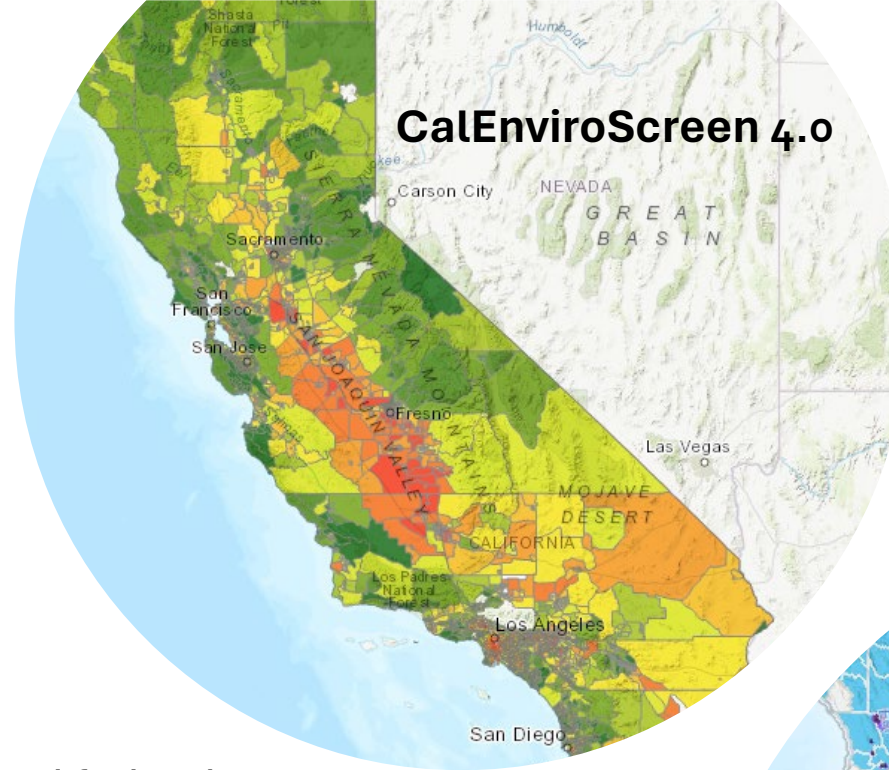


Priority Populations, Disadvantaged, and Low-Income Communities

- All projects must directly benefit and serve **Priority Populations**, disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and/or low-income households.
- Disadvantaged communities are census tracts that are disproportionately affected by pollution and areas with vulnerable populations.
- Low-income communities and low-income households are either at or below 80% of the statewide median income.



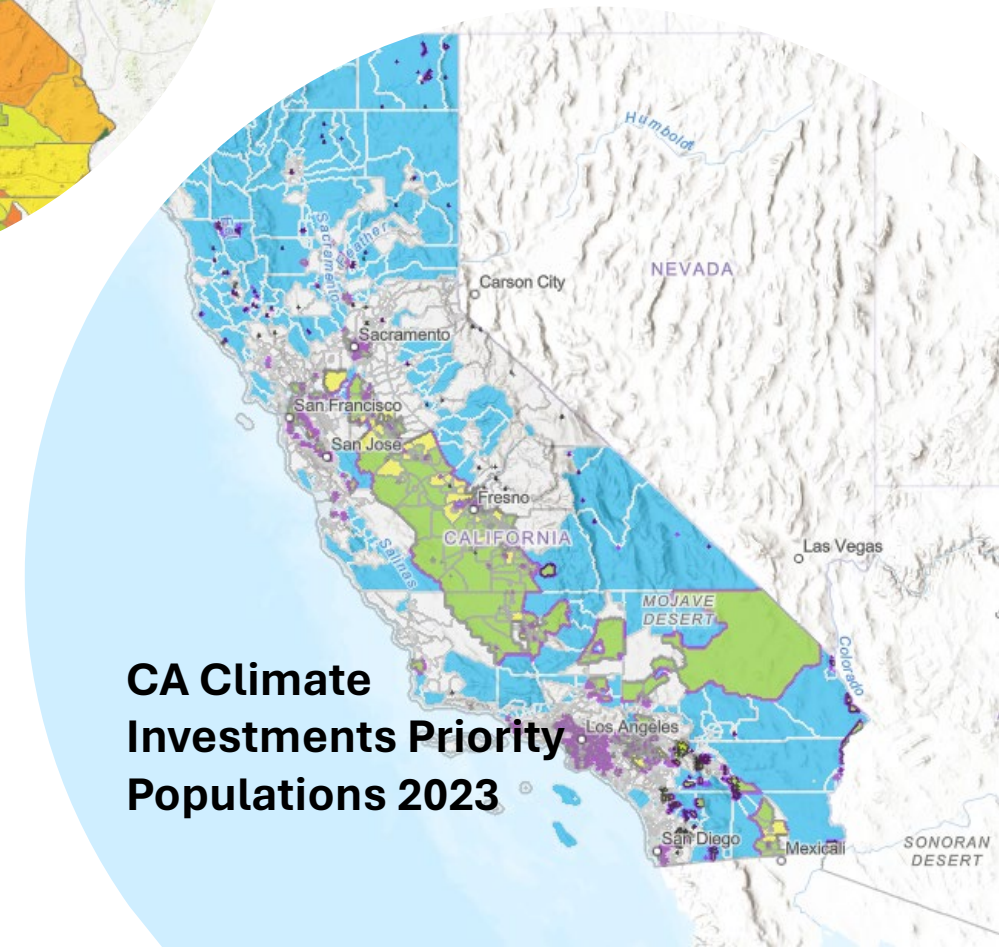
Priority Populations, Disadvantaged, and Low-Income Communities



Applicants can use a variety of state and federal mapping tools to show how projects will serve **priority populations** during application submission:

- [CalEnviroScreen 4.0](#)
- [SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities 2022](#)
- [Priority Populations 2023](#)
- [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool \(CEJST\)](#)

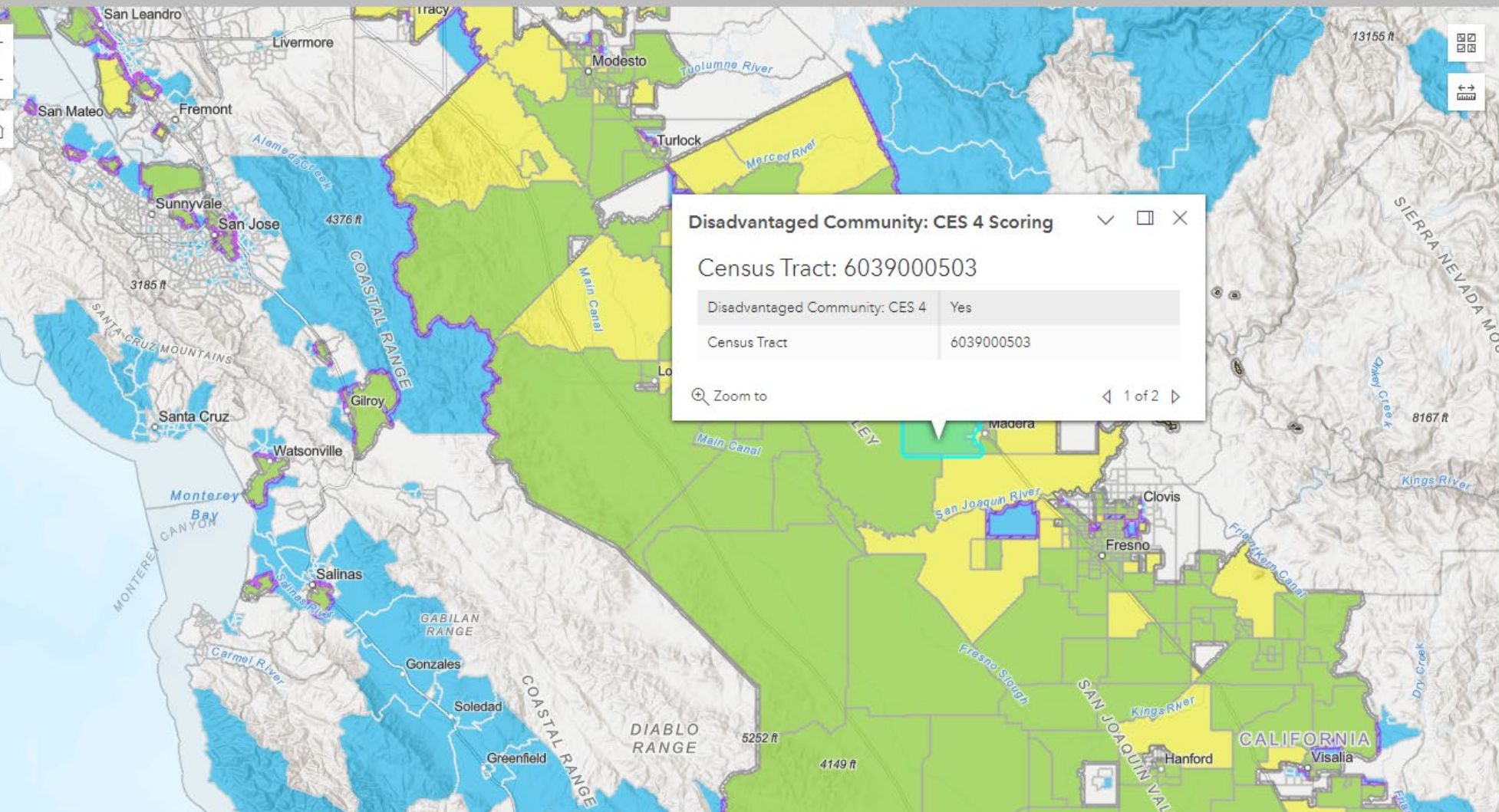
*Demonstration of tools during scheduled office hours





California Climate Investments Priority Populations 2023

Find address, census tract, or place and press the enter key



Legend Map Layer

Priority Populations 2023 Update

Disadvantaged Communities Tribal Lands



Disadvantaged Communities CES4



Buffer Low income Communities



Low income Communities



Buffer Low income Household Eligible



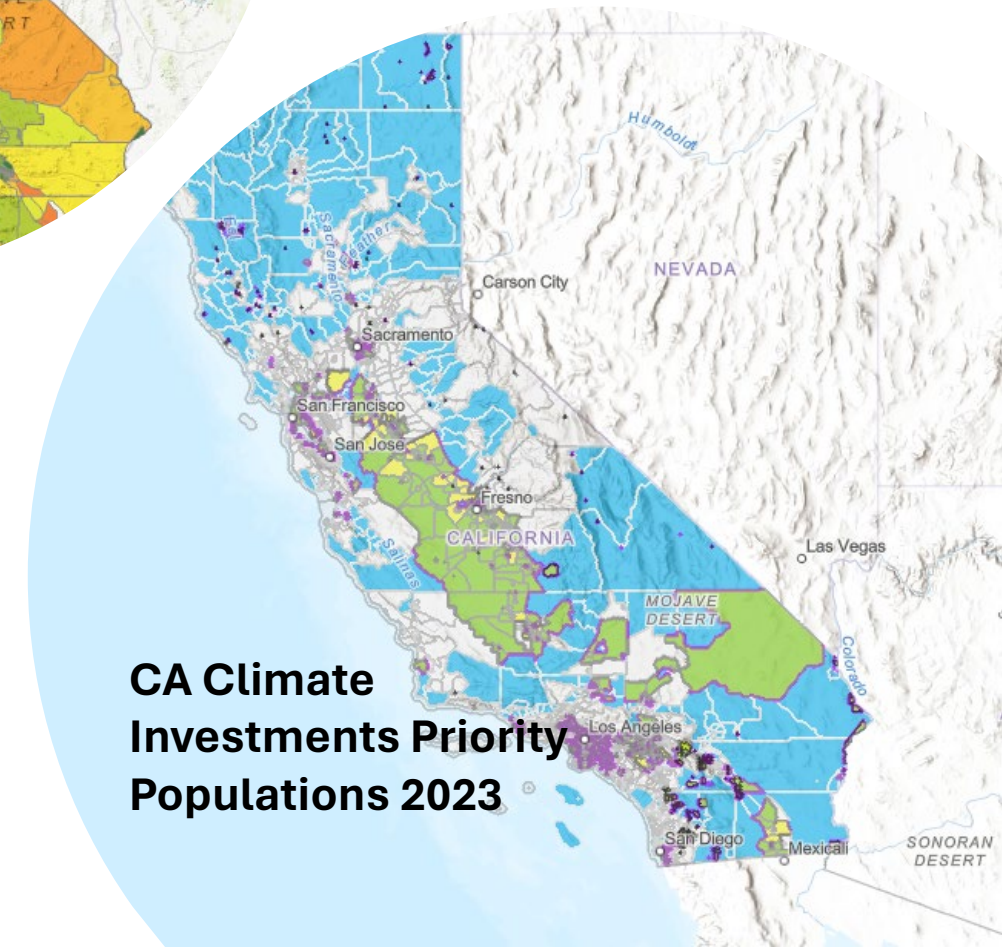
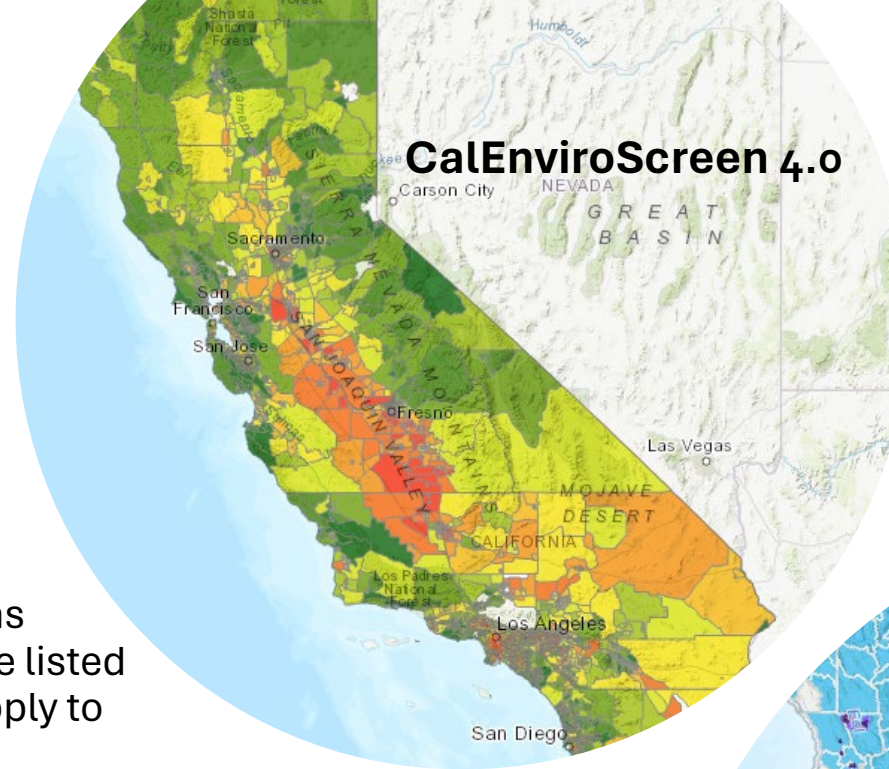
Low income Household Eligible



What about projects with a regional or statewide focus?

In your application:

- List census tracts where project activities will occur that meet the definition of a priority population.
 - Jurisdiction-wide activities such as plans or policies do not need to be listed by census tract since they may apply to all or any.
- Include relevant stats / identification of priority populations within the region(s) in the proposed project area
- Demonstrate how you will ensure any on-the-ground activities (community engagement, outreach and education, tree planting, etc.) in the proposed project will be directed to specifically support priority populations within the region(s)





Grant Types

1. Urban Forest Expansion and Improvement
2. Urban Forest Management Activities
3. Urban Forestry Education and Workforce Development
4. Urban Forestry Regional or Statewide Impact
5. Urban Forest Equity Capacity Building
6. Green Schoolyards



Choosing the Right Grant Type

- Some activities may apply to more than one grant type.
- Choose the grant type that best suits your goals and objectives.
- Reach out to your Regional Urban Forester if you have questions

Urban Forest Expansion & Improvement

Purpose: Plant trees and vegetation to reduce GHG emissions and improve the functionality of urban forests, arrest the decline of urban forest resources, address climate resilience, reduce urban heat, improve the quality of the environment in urban areas, and optimize co-benefits to urban residents. **Tree planting is a required component.**

Awards: \$150,000-\$1.5 million

Eligible practices:

- Designing and implementing urban forest planting projects with multiple benefits
- Establishment of groves of trees or pocket forests
- Bio-swales, urban forestry education centers, edible landscaping, and/or community gardens and orchards
- Funding for removal and replacement of dead, hazardous, or diseased trees in urban areas that are associated with a natural disaster, extraordinary natural event, or pest and/or disease outbreak.
- Urban and community forestry job creation and job training
- Climate change adaptation strategies that result in a net GHG benefit.



Urban Forest Management Activities

Purpose: To fund the development and implementation of urban forest management activities carried out by a local government jurisdiction to optimize the multiple benefits of its urban forest. Management activities will be jurisdiction wide and may include an inventory, analysis, training, and/or educational component. **Tree planting is encouraged but not required.**

Eligible Applicants (Note!)

- Cities, counties, and qualifying districts
- Federally recognized Tribal Nations

Awards: \$150,000 - \$1.5 million

Eligible Activities:

- Tree inventories & software
- Urban forest management plans
- Other policies, plans, or ordinances that are urban forestry related
- Tree planting and associated activities
- Community engagement, education, and outreach activities
- Mapping and analysis to inform the other mentioned activities



Urban Forestry Education & Workforce Development

Purpose: To fund the development and implementation of programs to educate, train, and/or employ the next generation of urban foresters. **Tree planting is encouraged but not required.**

Awards: \$150,000 - \$1.5 million

Eligible Activities:

- Tree inventories
- Teach industry best management practices:
 - American National Standards Institute (ANSI)
 - International Society of Arboriculture (ISA)
 - Principles of urban forestry as taught at Society of American Foresters (SAF) accredited community colleges and universities.
- Long-term development or expansion of tree nurseries seeking to grow locally sourced, climate-ready, culturally significant, native, and/or endemic tree species.
- Support urban wood utilization workforce development.
- Preference will be given to projects that develop paid, on-the-job training opportunities, including pre apprenticeships, and projects that consider job placement for participants from disadvantaged communities.



Urban Forestry Regional or Statewide Impact

Purpose: To fund the improvement, expansion, and coordination of urban forestry programs throughout a large geographic area or at a statewide level. **Tree planting is encouraged but not required.**

Awards: \$150,000 - \$3 million

Eligible Activities:

- Grant requests must provide services, actions, and deliverables to a geographic area of two counties or larger or serve a population of 2 million or more.
- Preference will be given to serving greater numbers of people and underserved populations.



Urban Forest Equity Capacity Building (New!)

Purpose: To provide technical expertise, assistance, grant writing capacity and/or grant reporting support to eligible entities with project needs in disadvantaged and/or low-income urban communities that may not have that capacity in-house. **Tree planting is encouraged but not required.**

Awards: \$150,000 - \$1.5 million

- Projects that directly support community-based organizations with a clear and identified need for increased urban and community forestry capacity, grant reporting, grant writing, and/or technical assistance.
- Projects should be place-based and specifically designed and customized to meet specified community needs.
- Projects that support the creation, development, and implementation of education and outreach campaigns, programs, training programs, and/or projects that engage communities in urban forestry as it intersects with other issues and sectors.



Green Schoolyards

Purpose: Create green schoolyards to protect the health, well-being, and educational opportunity of children most vulnerable to increasing temperatures and extreme heat across California. **Tree planting is required.**

Eligible Projects:

- Public TK-12 Schools.
Note: Schools cannot apply. School districts or other eligible applicants can apply.
- **Licensed** and **operating** non-profit childcare facilities receiving government funding,

Award: \$150,000 - \$1.5 million

- Projects shall include an education and outreach component.
- Projects shall incorporate shade tree plantings and may incorporate the conversion of pavement to green spaces on school campuses with a priority on the child-accessible areas of campus in the campus design.
- Campuses included in the project must be listed by name in the grant application.



Project Timeline

- Applications Due: **May 30, 2024, 5:00 PM PDT**
- Grant awards and project work expected to begin **Summer 2024**
- All project work fully completed: **March 31, 2028**
- Final project invoice & progress reports: **April 30, 2028**



Application Submission eCivis Grants Portal

- Application portal expected to open **April 5, 2024** (tomorrow!)
- All applications must include a completed narrative, goals, Budget Worksheet, and Budget Narrative
- Create your account
 - [eCivis | Grant Management System & Cost Allocation Software](#)
- April 18th "How to" webinar

The screenshot shows the eCivis Grants Portal interface. On the left is a dark blue sidebar with the eCivis logo and navigation links: "My Applications", "My Awards", and "My Profile". The main content area is white and features the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection logo (CAL FIRE) and the text "California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Urban and Community Forestry IRA Urban and Community Forestry 2024". Below this is a contact email "urban.forestry@fire.ca.gov" and two buttons: "Create New Application" (green) and "Back to Solicitation" (blue). The "Application Submissions" section is titled "Applications" with a dropdown arrow. It contains instructions: "When you are ready to submit this step, please click the blue 'Save' button at the bottom of the" followed by a bulleted list: "• You can save this form as a draft at any time by clicking 'Save Draft' at the bottom of the" and "• When you have completed all required items, please click the 'Mark Complete' button at". A note states: "NOTE: When you have completed all required steps, be sure to click 'Submit' on the next pag". Below this is a timestamp "Last saved at 10:30:07 AM". A box contains the text: "Please read through the [IRA Grant Guidelines](#) thoroughly before submitting the application. which are identified with asterisks (*). Other questions are either optional or may not apply to". The "Grant Type" section is partially visible, with the instruction "Please select the grant type you are applying for. *". At the bottom, the "Applications Budget and Goals" section is partially visible.



General Project Requirements

- Requirements vary by grant type—determine eligibility before beginning application process
- SAM.gov Registration
- Must be in an **urban area** or immediately adjacent
- All projects shall be designed to further the goals of the California Urban Forestry Act, U&CF Strategic Plan, and Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP)
- Projects must conform to laws and authorities in the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act, Urban and Community Forestry Assistance



General Project Requirements

- Costs must conform to USDA Forest Service and CAL FIRE program requirements, federal and state laws and regulations.
- Projects must have multiple co-benefits
 - Economic, environmental, and social
- Projects that will reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions must report using the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Quantification Methodology.
- Projects must achieve no net loss of urban tree canopy and/or an increase in urban tree canopy cover.



General Project Requirements

- Projects must optimize the likelihood of long-term success:
 - Policies
 - Goals
 - Best practices, standards, strategies
 - Partnerships & networks
 - Staffing, operational structure, and culture
 - Training
 - Budgets and funding



General Project Requirements

- Applications must include a detailed Budget Worksheet and Budget Narrative.
- Projects must include a justification for the grant amount requested in the application.
- Projects selected for funding shall report to CAL FIRE at least quarterly.
- Projects must show that they have authentically engaged the local community to develop the project.
- Projects must produce a finished and usable product, report, and/or action and share it with CAL FIRE. **All products funded by CAL FIRE are considered public.**

Ineligible Costs & Activities

- Can vary by Grant Type
- Activities designed to supplant rather than supplement existing local agency activities
- Tree mitigation activities required by government agencies due to development or other reasons
- Research, as defined in Code of Federal Regulations
- Capital improvements
- Land acquisition, including conservation easement and fee simple projects
- Cost-share, reimbursement, and other types of payment provided directly to private entities including landowners



Ineligible Costs & Activities

- Planting trees in containers of any size
- Planting trees that require excessive maintenance
- Projects that plant trees that will eventually conflict with overhead or underground utilities or ground-located infrastructure.
- Projects that will not result in a net Greenhouse Gas benefit.
- Planting invasive species
- Projects that use synthetic fertilizer or synthetic turf.
- Management activities that will not lead to improved long-term urban forest management.



Ineligible Costs & Activities

- Projects taking place on public or private property and that do not show concurrence of the controlling governmental jurisdiction or private property owner
- Project elements that are purely aesthetic or are otherwise not eligible under the California Urban Forestry Act
- Artificial turf, reflective paint, or other non-natural activities only with justification and after all other options have been exhausted
- Any activities not connected to tree cover and nature-based activities





Required Standard Forms

- Payee Data Record form (STD. 204)
 - The STD. 204 form indicates that local government entities do not need to fill it out. CAL FIRE utilizes this form internally for all grantees, so it is required that all applicants fill it out.
- Nondiscrimination Compliance Statement form (STD. 19)
- Drug-Free Workplace Certification form (STD. 21)
- Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion, Lower Tier Covered Transactions (AD-1048)
- CAL FIRE Environmental Checklist
- Urban Forestry Grants Resolution

Required Documentation

- Articles of Incorporation
- Letters of Commitment from Project Partners
- Proof that project directly serves Priority Population(s)
- Proof of active registration via SAM.gov and a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) should be included with the application, if available.
 - All applicants must have active registration in SAM.gov to receive an award.
 - Applicants do not need to be registered in SAM.gov at the time of application **but registering early is recommended!**
- **If applicable**, Proof of federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA)
- Greenhouse Gas Methodology for all projects with a tree planting component



What is a partner?

- Partners are distinct from contractors
- Partners make specific and significant contributions to the applicant's project and do not get compensated for every contribution to the project
- Can be a commercial, nonprofit, or government entity that provides expertise
- Partners do not manage the project or have authority to approve or deny project-related decisions.
- Template provided by CAL FIRE

(Insert Partner Organization's Letterhead)

(Date)

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)
Urban & Community Forestry Program
P.O. Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460
(916) 651-3289 / (916) 653-8957 fax

Re: Partnership Letter for (Insert Applicant's Organization Name and Project Title),

Dear CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Program IRA Grant Review Team,

I, (your name) of (company/organization name), am writing on behalf of (grant applicant's name) to express commitment to support their grant application for (project name), whose goal is to (goal of project).

This project is important to me because (explain interest). Our organization will be involved in this project by (state your role in the project). Our contributions will include (provide specific and clearly listed contributions to the project):

- Contribution #1
- Contribution #2
- Etc.

CAL FIRE's support will enable us to (explain the project's objectives: specific actions and measurable steps taken to achieve the project's goals). I believe this project will be successful because (explain the applicant's qualifications and abilities to successfully complete the project).

I have worked with (Applicant Organization's Name) in the past on (nature or relationship; cite specific collaborations and successes you achieved with the applicant in the past), and I am confident that (he/she/they) will deliver as promised.

I am available to answer any questions, and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

(Partner Representative Signature)

*A signature is required for the Letter of Commitment upon submission. If the letter represents more than one person/organization, each individual/organization must sign the letter.

(Partner Representative Full Name)

(Partner Representative Title and Organization)

(Partner Email Address and/or Phone Number)

Required Documentation

Green Schoolyards Grant Type Applicants:

- Conceptual site plans that illustrate or define the proposed improvements.
- For projects on State property, Conceptual site plans that illustrate or define proposed improvements and identify existing accessible path of travel elements as described in CA Building Code 11B202.4.
 - Division of the State Architect (DSA) review and approval are required before project can be implemented
- A signed MOU from the nonprofit childcare facility or school district leadership, if the nonprofit childcare facility or school district is not the applicant.
- For childcare facilities, proof of active childcare license.
- For Green Schoolyard applicants who do not own their property outright, CAL FIRE also requires:
- A signed copy of active Property Lease Agreement
 - A signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the property owner ensuring long-term commitment to the project
- California Air Resources Board Job Co-benefit Modeling Tool
- CCI Quantification, Benefits, and Reporting Materials Page



Reporting Requirements

Quarterly invoicing and progress reports:

March 31st, June 30th, September 30th, and December 31st

Reporting Requirements:

➤ **Financial:**

- Grant funds and total funds expended for the reporting period and to date for the grant.

➤ **Tree Planting:**

- The number of trees and plants planted in the reporting period and to date for the grant.
- Minimum Data Collection Attributes Spreadsheet (MDCA) tree data for each reporting period and the project to date.
- A description of all tree and plant maintenance activity completed during the reporting period.

➤ **Project Benefits:**

- The net GHG benefit (metric tons CO₂e) for the reporting period and the grant to date.
- Quantification (when possible) and description of co-benefits for the reporting period.
 - o Greenhouse Gas Reduction Benefits Calculator
 - o CARB's Job Co-Benefit Modeling Tool

Reporting Requirements

➤ Partnerships:

- Partners are distinct from contractors
- Partners make specific and significant contributions to the applicant's project.
- Can be a commercial, nonprofit, or government entity that provides expertise
- Partnering organizations do not get compensated for every contribution to the project
- Partners do not manage the project or have authority to approve or deny project-related decisions.
- A description of the role of project partners during the reporting period and any challenges or successes derived from the partnerships is required.

➤ Priority Populations

- A list of the disadvantaged and/or low-income census tracts worked within during the reporting period (per CARB Guidance).

➤ Scope of Work and Deliverables

- A general description of activities, events, or milestones completed during the reporting period.
- Any planned events or milestones expected for the next reporting period.
- A description of any challenges faced and if the challenges were overcome.
- Planned events and future planned activities or milestones.

➤ Grant Products

- Representative project photos and/or maps.
- Grant products produced (ex: educational materials, event fliers, meeting attendance sheets, reports, etc.)

Project Inspections and Review

- Inspections once per fiscal year minimum, varies by grant type
- Planted trees continue to be inspected annually for a minimum of 3 years after the grant period ends
- CAL FIRE will review all media or educational materials, Urban Forest Management Plans, tree inventories, and other products prior to finalization
 - 30-60 days to review materials
 - Copies of all materials must be given to CAL FIRE prior to project completion
- Inspections results available to grantees
- Follow-up inspections will be conducted, if necessary.
- The State and Federal government may conduct a financial compliance audit and/or desk review at any time during or at completion of the project.





Post-Grant Maintenance and Long-Term Tree Care

- Post-grant maintenance funding is **not available** for this grant
- Long term tree care plan required
- Post-grant maintenance must be ensured for a minimum of 3 years after the end of the grant period in accordance with ANSI A-300 tree care standards and ISA Best Management Practices.
- All funded work must be completed by **March 31, 2028**

Payment of Grant Funds

- Payments made on a reimbursement basis, with advance payment authorized on a case-by-case basis.
- Reimbursement may require a site inspection.
- Progress report or final report required
- Interest on loans, late fees, or other financial penalties will not be eligible for reimbursement.
- Invoices due to CAL FIRE minimum of quarterly and maximum of monthly.
- Each invoice packet must include supporting documents for all project charges.
- **Note:** All final invoices must be submitted to CAL FIRE no later than **April 30, 2028.**

Advance Payments

- Requests for Advance Payments may be considered in cases of clear need.
- Requests require CAL FIRE approval of an Advance Payment Expenditure Plan and Advance Payment Request Accountability Report.
- May not exceed 5% or up to \$50,000 of the total project budget, and advanced funds must be fully utilized within a 90 period.



Loss of Funding

- Grantee fails to provide benefits to a disadvantaged community or low-income community per criteria in CARB Funding Guidelines.
- Grantee withdraws from the grant program.
- Grantee fails to complete the funded project scope of work within the grant period.
- Grantee fails to submit all documentation within the time periods specified in the Grant Agreement.
- Grantee fails to submit evidence of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance within one year of the execution of the grant agreement.
- Grantee changes the project scope or budget without concurrence of the State.
- GHG reductions fail to be achieved by the project when such reductions are claimed.
- Grantee exercises poor communication or responsiveness.
- Grantee fails to comply with the terms of the grant agreement unless such failure was due to no fault of the grantee.



Helpful Resources

- [Grant Guidelines!](#)
- [eCivis Portal | Login](#)
- [CAL FIRE Regional Urban Foresters](#)
- [Project Learning Tree](#)
- [SelecTree: A Tree Selection Guide \(Cal Poly\)](#)
- [California Grants Portal](#)
- [CA Ed Data](#)



Key Dates

Application Portal Opens:
April 5, 2024

Applications Due:
May 30, 2024 5:00 pm PDT

All project work fully completed by:
March 31, 2028

Final project reports due by:
April 30, 2028



Additional Technical Assistance

- **Grant Webinars**
 - April 4th: 9:00 - 10:00am
 - April 4th: 6:00 - 7:00pm
 - April 18th: 9:00 - 10:00am
 - April 18th: 6:00 - 7:00pm
- **Office Hours**
 - Wednesdays, 2:00 - 3:00pm
 - April 10 - May 8, 2024

IRA Grant Webinar Part 2: How to Write an Application

- **April 18th, 9 - 10am and 6 - 7pm**
- Navigating the eCivis application portal
- Completing an application, goals, Budget Worksheet, and Budget Narrative
- Required documents and forms
- CAL FIRE will not provide guidance that would improve the competitiveness of projects
- Answer questions about procedural questions, requirements stated in the guidelines, and urban forestry specific technical assistance



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Questions?

Thank you!

CAL FIRE Urban and
Community Forestry
Program

