**Chat Questions from Wildfire Prevention Grants Workshop January 11, 2023**

1. Does "no sub-awarding" mean that a Fire Safe Council cannot use a fiscal sponsor if we don't have a 501(c)3 status?  
   A fiscal sponsor is still allowable.
2. Does a project under a 509(a)2 public charity nonprofit qualify?  
   Please contact your region office for a one-on-one conversation.

Southern Region (CSR): SouthernRegionGrants@fire.ca.gov

Northern Region (CNR): CNRgrants@fire.ca.gov

When you say "combine" all projects into one application, does that mean one application per organization, or should geographic regions be separated out?  
Please contact your local CAL FIRE Unit to discuss the specifics of your project. This sounds like it could be a project specific discussion. We do encourage entities with more than one application to consider consolidating into just fewer applications, especially if proposed project(s) are similar and/or share geographic locations. For additional assistance work with your local CAL FIRE Unit coordinator and/or your region representatives.

1. What is the total amount of grant funding available under this program?

Up to $115 million in State funding has been appropriated for FY22-23 Wildfire Prevention grants. The maximum allowable funding amount per grant award is $5 million.

1. Do applicants in contract counties apply through the same portal?

Yes, but please keep your Contract County FD grant administrator apprised.

All applicants will use the same portal.

1. Please confirm that multiple applications can be submitted under one entity, with each application eligible for the $5M max. Each application will be associated with a different department that will manage the contract independent of the other.

Yes, you can apply for multiple applications, but each application will be subject to individual review for selection. We encourage entities with more than one application to consider consolidating into just fewer applications, especially if proposed project(s) are similar and/or share geographic locations. For additional assistance work with your local CAL FIRE Unit coordinator and/or your region representatives.

1. If we do not combine our projects under one application, and our combined applications exceed the cap, will one be automatically denied? In other words, is the Cap placed on the applicant, or the application?

The $5 million cap is for each project application.

1. Is a list of and details for past successful projects visible somewhere on your website?

A list of previous awardees is available on the [Wildfire Prevention grants website](https://www.fire.ca.gov/grants/wildfire-prevention/) click on the fiscal year banner for the fiscal year you wish to view.

1. Can match be waived?  
   Match is encouraged but not a requirement.
2. For the applications, there are 3 categories. Hazardous Fuels Reduction, Wildfire Prevention Planning, Wildfire Prevention Education. If we "combine" applications as you just advised, do they have to be in the same category? The application portal only lets you choose one category.  
   You can have multiple categories, but your primary function of the project would be how you apply in Portal. Usually, the primary category is the one with the largest requested funding amount.
3. Question #1- I have a homeowners association located in Rancho Santa Margarita. The Board was hit pretty hard last year with the request of many common area slopes to be abated. Due to the high cost, the Board would like to apply for a grant to help fund the costs of this coming years requests from the fire inspector. Do you require a certain threshold as far as amount of landscaping acreage minimums to apply?

No minimum threshold on the acres but please make sure your project activity is eligible. Costs associated with improvement of landscaping, including planting are *not* eligible.

1. Is the Green Schoolyards Grant part of this workshop?

The Green Schoolyards grants is a separate grants program under Urban Forestry grants.

1. If we are applying for funding for a chipping program, does acres treated self-reported by the homeowner work for this statistic?

Homeowner reporting is fine, but the grantee will still have to report on the total number of acres treated.

1. For acres treated, do you want to see total or CF-funded part, e.g., if the project has significant match?

We will need to see what acres were treated with grant funding. It is recommended the grantee keep records of acres they treat under match as well.

1. Do we report (reconcile) in-kind contributions during the contract period? For example, if a partner provides in-kind time to develop a plan, will that partner need to provide a timesheet or some other match reference on the back end. This potential requirement sometimes impedes partners' willingness to offer their time as a match.

In-kind time would go towards local match. We do not verify records for match funding so it would be up to the grantee to maintain any match records for their own use.

1. Is this funding different than the Workforce Development and Business Development grants offered in 2022?

Yes, this is a different program. Please visit the [CALFIRE Grants website](https://www.fire.ca.gov/grants/) for information on other grant programs.

1. I thought the Cal Fire mileage rate policy states that if there is an organization written policy to reimburse above IRS rates, that will be the allowable rate. Has that changed?

Absent a written policy, per diem shall not exceed the California Standard Per Diem Rate allowable by the U.S. General Services Administration. Mileage rates shall not exceed the rates allowable by the IRS. The Procedural Guide states on page 20 that, "Mileage rates shall not exceed the rates allowable by the IRS".

1. Where can I obtain copy of this PowerPoint & Procedural Guide?

All guides and PowerPoint are on our website CalFire Wildfire Prevention Grants: <https://www.fire.ca.gov/grants/wildfire-prevention/>

1. Do all contractors that will be used for a project need to be known and identified at time of applying?

No need to identify contractors but knowledge of costs for their services will be helpful when completing your budget for your application.

1. Does "CEQA costs" include pre-project bio/arch surveys?  
   Please contact your local CAL FIRE Unit for CEQA questions.
2. Can we include photos and media with application?

Not required but you can upload any documents necessary to support your project application.

1. Where do we find out Unit Forester contact?

CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grants Unit Contact List (<https://www.fire.ca.gov/grants/wildfire-prevention/>)

1. How are grants reported to IRS? will we receive a 1099?

All grant funding reporting is the responsibility of the grantee.

1. The Scope of Work slides reference the Evaluation Factors pages in the Procedural Guide. Is there a direct correlation from the portal scope of work questions to the procedural guide? Or can we only find the specific questions inside the portal?

Grants Portal contains the specific questions. The Procedure Guide contains a general overview of the information needed in the SOW.

1. Our water district lands are throughout the entire county. Only 20% of our lands are within the SRA/LRA. If we’re applying for a planning grant for a plan that would cover the entire county, would CalFire still see this as a valuable benefit? i.e., Would we still be ‘competitive’ if only a smaller portion of the wildfire plan would apply to lands within SRA/LRAs?

We encourage all applications, Wildfire Prevention grants are to protect the greatest number of people, structures, and communities and are not limited to SRA. Provide the most detail possible and we will review.

1. Could you post the mapping link again?

Please visit our website for the mapping link, there are user guides and tutorials as well. CalFire Wildfire Prevention Grants: <https://www.fire.ca.gov/grants/wildfire-prevention/>

1. Would this grant program cover CWPP production?  
   Yes, creating or revising a CWPP falls under the Wildfire Prevention Planning category.
2. Is CEQA required for projects on private land? i.e., Rx fire through a PBA?  
   Yes, CEA is required for any groundwork, contact your Unit for CEQA questions.
3. How do I get my name added to your list?

You can sign up here: [listserv](https://fire.us8.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=1eab3f5545f6a6e4d33c94dcb&id=c330a569ca) or at the bottom of the CALFIRE Grants webpage.

1. Will an applicant be less competitive if they have received an award last year?  
   That isn't a factor when reviewing applications. Each application will be reviewed individually before selection.
2. Is it possible to view submitted grants for the 2022/2023 FY on the CALFIRE Grants webpage?  
   A summary of applicants and project descriptions will be posted on the WP Grants webpage after the solicitation is finalized. Once awards are announced, awarded grant summaries are also posted. See fiscal year banners at the bottom of the Cal FIRE WP Grants webpage for applicants and awards from previous solicitation.
3. Between the 3/15/23 application deadline and the "Summer 2023” issuance of grant agreements, when is the expected time frame of notification of award/no award?  
   This varies depending on our review. Email WPGrants@fire.ca.gov for a more specific timeline.
4. Could you tell us the contact emails for the region and Sacramento offices?  
   Sacramento: WPGrants@fire.ca.gov   
   Southern Region (CSR): SouthernRegionGrants@fire.ca.gov

Northern Region (CNR): CNRgrants@fire.ca.gov

1. What are the restrictions on sub-awarding?   
   No sub-awarding is allowed under this program.
2. Has office hour info been posted? I'm not seeing it.

Office hour info is on our website <https://www.fire.ca.gov/grants/wildfire-prevention/>

1. I know you cannot promote yourself as a vendor or sponsor but is there a place to look for collaboration opportunities?

Unfortunately, we don't have any information on this. You will need to reach out to local entities for more information.

1. Will grants over 1 million require a Workforce Report?

California Climate Investments (CCI) Jobs Reporting is required for Projects Totaling Over $1 Million.

1. Can you please save and post these Q&A's on the website? I can't copy them into a text file.  
   It will be a part of the presentation that will be added to the website.
2. Will an applicant be less competitive if they received an award last year?

No, we encourage all applicants to apply.

1. For applicants with third-party assistance for preparing the application, will they be allowed to create the application login and be the primary applicant’s name, or is the primary applicant’s name required to be part of the applicant organization?  
   The applicant needs to be the entity applying.

The primary applicant’s name should be the name of the entity applying for the grant. Because the application allows only one login per application, the login should be created so everyone involved can access the application.

1. Is this group a good place to ask questions about the eCivis log in issues?  
   Please reach out to your Region for assistance with eCivis (Grants Portal) log in.

Southern Region (CSR): SouthernRegionGrants@fire.ca.gov

Northern Region (CNR): CNRgrants@fire.ca.gov

1. If we have multiple projects (planning, education, fuels reduction) should we submit one application with three sections on every document?  
   We recommend contacting your Unit to discuss the specifics of your project and if combining all those activities into one project is feasible. With multiple projects on one application, you will select a primary activity and include other activities in the narrative description fields where appropriate.
2. Can HOAs apply?  
   Applicants may not be one of the following:

• A privately held for-profit company or corporation

• Individual or private landowners requesting a grant specifically for a project to be completed on only their own land

• Homeowners’ associations or other associations unless they have 501(c)(3) non-profit status.

If the HOA is a 501(c)3 they can apply. If the HOA isn't a 501(c)3 they should get in contact with their local RCD or Firesafe Council for project support.

1. When is notification of award?

The timeline is not finalized at this time, but awards announcement is expected to be Summer or Fall 2023.

1. If our FSC is a fiscal sponsor for another organization does the maximum grant amount include our applicant AND the fiscal sponsor application?

The cap is for each individual application, not per entity.

1. I am the Fire Grant Program Manager applying on behalf of the Karuk Tribe for a project. I was wondering if there will be more information specific to the Tribal Wildfire Resilience funding portion or if there are ideal contacts within Cal Fire to discuss those details?  
   Please reach out to your Region or Unit for more details.

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/programs/resource-management/resource-protection-improvement/wildfire-resilience/>

1. Has Prevailing Wage been discussed?   
   Prevailing Wage Requirements:

CAL FIRE provides no opinion as to whether projects may be subject to prevailing wages. For determination for prevailing wages, please contact the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) at DIR Prevailing Wage. It is the applicant’s responsibility to budget for prevailing wages in their project cost when applicable.  
Prevailing wage details can be found on page 10 of the procedure guide. <https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/4fhjm1py/fy22-23-wildfire-prevention-grants-procedural-guide-1-9-23.pdf>

1. Indirect could cover your rent, insurance, etc...?  
   Indirect Costs are costs associated with doing business that are of a general nature and are incurred to benefit two or more functions within the grantee organization. These costs are not usually identified specifically in the grant agreement, project, or activity, but are necessary for the general operation of the organization. Examples include salaries and benefits of employees not directly assigned to a project; functions such as personnel, accounting, budgeting, audits, business services, information technology, janitorial, and rent, utilities, supplies, etc. Functions included as direct versus indirect costs must be applied consistently for all activities within the Grantee organization, regardless of fund source.
2. Can cities as the applicant include proposed fuel reduction treatment in HOA's with 501 (c) 3's? Separately, can HOA's apply separately rather than partnering with a city or local fire safe council?  
   Yes, cities can still be the applicant even if the work is in an area with a 501(c)3. If an HOA is a 501(c)3 they can also apply on their own. However, the work between the city and the 501(c)3 cannot overlap if both are awarded.
3. Will there be more staff to help process the advances and invoices?  
   CALFIRE has a full staff and works hard to complete invoices and advances as quickly as possible.
4. Which entities are available to receive advances?

Advance payments may be considered for non-profit organizations, local agencies, Resource Conservation Districts, special districts, and Native American tribes. Advance payments are solely at CAL FIRE’s discretion and eligibility and may be subject to change.

1. Hello! is it possible to get the recording of this meeting?   
   The recording of this meeting & PowerPoint presentation will be available on WP website https://www.fire.ca.gov/grants/wildfire-prevention/
2. Can applicants use grant funds to pay contractors (for-profit contractors) for project management?  
   Yes, contractors for project management can be included in the budget.