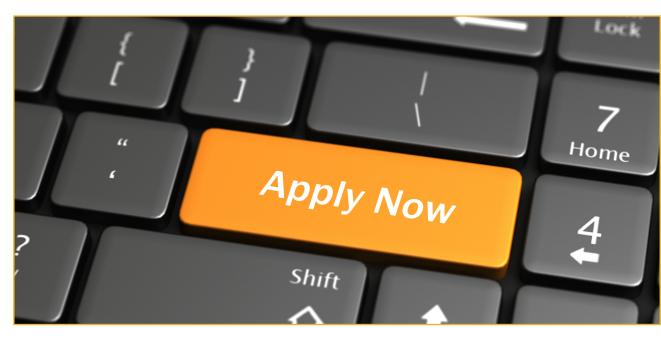# CWPP Funding Resources and Tips

Securing funding for CWPP development and implementation is a critical task that can shape a community's ability to meet its wildfire risk reduction and resilience goals. This CWPP Toolkit resource provides a starting point to help communities identify funds for preparing CWPPs and implementing actions. Funding resources are based on the most up-to-date information. Resources and opportunities should be monitored on a regular basis for changes in program and funding availability, application timeframes, eligibility requirements, and new funding sources.

CAL FIRE Grant Programs

CAL FIRE grant programs provide funding to conduct wildfire prevention activities, reduce risk in the wildland-urban interface, improve forest health, and enhance community resilience. Each grant program has its own focus—such as the Wildfire Prevention Grants Program, which funds projects in or near fire threatened communities, including the development and implementation of CWPPs. Other programs fund activities to support volunteer fire capacity building, equipment purchases, private forests, tribal land management, and more. Explore the webpage for the full scope of potential funding opportunities and their associated grant cycles and eligibility requirements.

California Grants Portal

The California Grants Portal is a project by the California State Library and provides an extensive list of grants and loans offered on a competitive or first-come basis by California state agencies. Users can sort funding opportunities by categories, including applicant type (e.g., nonprofit, public agency, tribal government), grant category (including disaster prevention and relief, environment and water), and timeframe.

California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) / Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) / Funding

Cal OES administers many federal and state grant programs that fund mitigation assistance, including the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM), Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC), and California Wildfire Mitigation Program (CWMP). Grant programs provide funding for mitigation activities that reduce disaster losses and protect life and property from future disaster damages. Examples of eligible wildfire projects include post-fire erosion control, ignition-resistant construction, defensible space, building code improvements, and hazard mitigation planning.

California Fire Safe Council (CFSC) Grant Programs

CFSC administers their own assistance grant programs to support a number of planning and mitigation activities. Their website also provides helpful tips and information for grant management.

USDA Forest Service Funding Information

The USDA Forest Service provides federal funding to carry out projects through grants and cooperative agreements, partnership agreements, and contracts. This website provides information about each funding option and additional links to grant opportunities, contact information, and other resources. Periodically, there is also funding available for specific programs that support CWPP development and implementation, such as the Community Wildfire Defense Grant program. These opportunities should be regularly reviewed for new funding streams.

Local and Private Funding Sources

In addition to state and federal funding programs, there are community foundations, philanthropic organizations, and other avenues to explore for planning activities and projects (e.g., local fundraisers). Due to the wide variability of sources these are not listed here, but consulting local hazard mitigation or similar plans, resilience and adaptation programs or regional and local organizations (e.g., resource conservation districts, Fire Safe Councils) provide a good starting point for identifying such opportunities.

Funding Tips and Considerations

To maximize success with identifying and managing funding to support CWPP development and implementation, consider the following tips:

- **Funding terms.** When reviewing potential funding opportunities, review the funding terms to understand any funding constraints, limitations, or requirements before applying. This may include maximum amounts for indirect (overhead) fees that can be applied, grant funding restrictions on spending, expectations, reporting requirements, and application submittal deadlines. Also note the eligibility requirements as different grants allow different types of awardees.

- **Collaboration.** Consider collaborating with other partners on an application to reflect a broader coalition of support. This approach can be helpful when agency budgets are constrained and may be seeking ways to maximize their funding allocations. However, take time upfront to ensure that project goals are aligned, each project partner understands their role in the proposed project, and partnerships reflect a genuine commitment to collaboration.

- **Capacity.** Consider the organization's internal capacity for applying for and managing grants, loans, or other funds. Organizations with limited capacity may want to hire a grant specialist to help identify or write grant proposals; similarly, a fiscal agent can serve as a third-party organization that agrees to accept grant funds and handle various financial and administrative duties on behalf of another organization. When determining if a fiscal agent is appropriate, ensure they have experience managing other grants and can provide information about their process in advance (e.g., the percentage that a fiscal agent requires, typical processing time for payment).

- **Prior funding streams.** Review previous funding streams associated with local CWPPs and other plans (Local Hazard Mitigation Plan) to determine if these sources are still available and whether those were successful funding opportunities.

- **Notifications.** Sign up for notifications to reduce the time burden for tracking funding opportunities. Some organizations offer sign up lists that will send email notifications when funding windows and grant solicitations open. This provides an easy way to stay updated without the burden of regularly visiting websites.

- **Educational opportunities.** Navigating the world of grants can be complex. Many organizations offer informational webinars about their funding programs. Take advantage of these educational opportunities to get tips and insights into their programs.

- **Feedback.** In cases where a grant proposal or funding application was not approved, reach out to the agency for feedback. This can offer the opportunity to learn from any shortcomings and improve future proposals.

Interested in more CWPP resources and guidance? Explore the entire CWPP Toolkit here.

About the California CWPP Toolkit

The California CWPP Toolkit was co-developed by CAL FIRE's Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation Division, Community Wildfire Planning Center, Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network, and California Fire Safe Council.