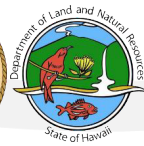




Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



# Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

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Pacific Southwest Region

**Miranda Hutten**

UCF Program Manager, Region 5 State and Private Forestry, USDA Forest Service

April 2023

# Agenda

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- Intro to UCF Programs USDA Forest Service, Region 5
- Intro to the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
- NOFO Eligibility Requirements and Guidelines
- NOFO Match and Match Waivers
  - Tools to Waive Match
- NOFO Proposal Evaluation
- Timeline
- Application Portals
- Help and Resources



# About the Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program

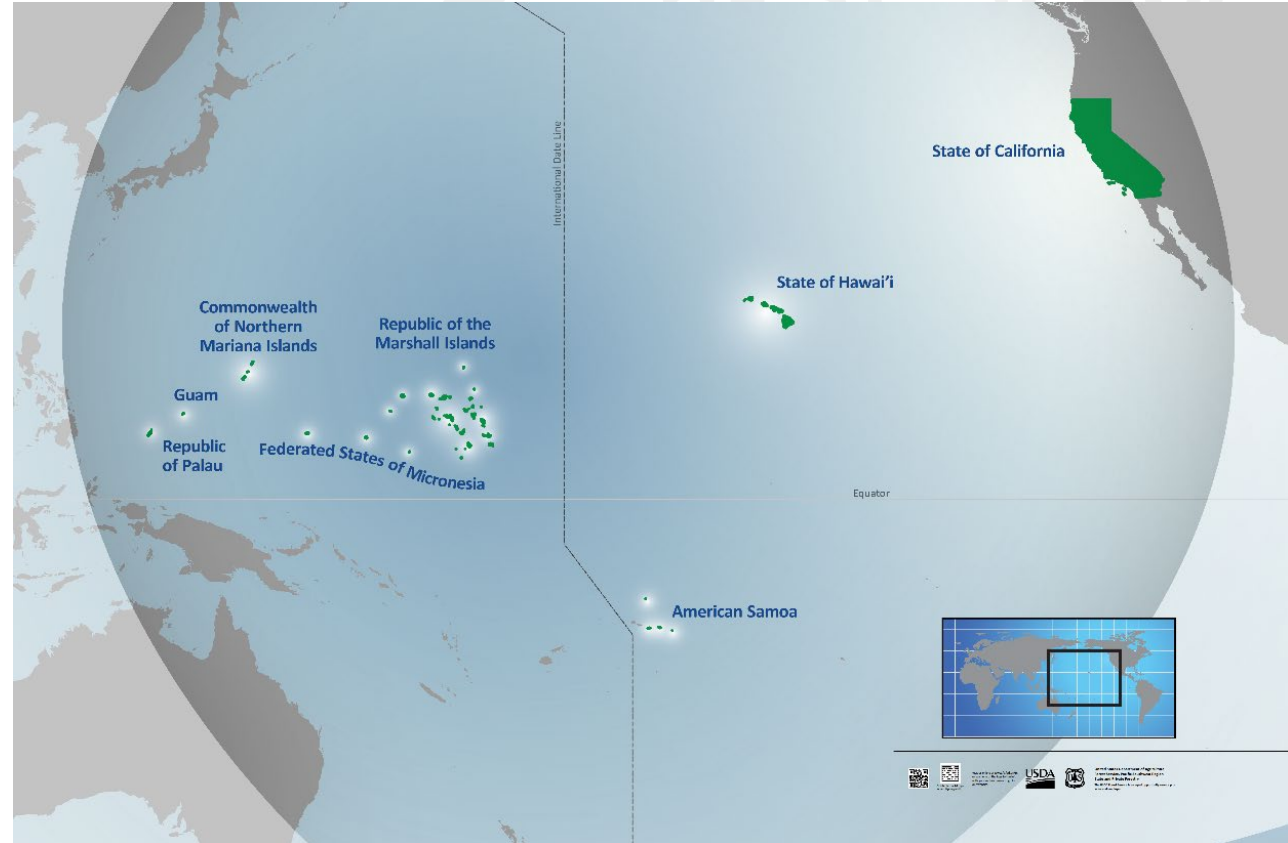
The USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program is the only dedicated urban forest program in the federal government.

The UCF Program assists State Forestry agencies and partner organizations in addressing and applying nature-based solutions to chronic and emergent economic, social, and environmental challenges in communities across the United States.



# About the Forest Service's UCF Program in the Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5)

In **California, Hawai'i, and the United States Affiliated Pacific Islands**, the Urban and Community Forestry Program supports the planning and management of healthy trees and resilient communities.



# The Urban Community Forestry Program and Justice40

- The UCF Program is a covered program under **USDA's Justice40 Initiative** established through **Executive Order 13985**.
- A **minimum of 40% of UCF Program** investments will directly benefit disadvantaged communities through:
  - Increased access to nature and associated public health benefits
  - Newly planted trees that provide shade and reduce extreme heat conditions at the neighborhood level





URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY  
INFLATION REDUCTION ACT  
GRANTS



**LIVE  
WORK  
PLAY**

Equitable access  
to green spaces  
and trees.



**IRA allows:**

\$1.5 billion to the UCF Program  
to remain available until  
**September 30, 2031**

Funds to be used “for tree  
planting and related activities,”  
with a priority for projects that  
benefit underserved populations  
and areas [IRA  
Section 23003(a)(2)].



**USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry  
Inflation Reduction Act  
Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)**

**SUMMARY INFORMATION**

**Federal Awarding Agency Name:** U.S. Department of Agriculture – Forest Service (FS) Urban and Community Forestry Program.

**Notice of Funding Opportunity Title:** Inflation Reduction Act – Urban and Community Forestry

**Notice of Funding Opportunity Number:** USDA-FS-2023-UCF-IRA-01 Grants.gov  
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/home.html>

**Assistance Listing:** This program is listed in the Assistance Listings on [Sam.gov](https://www.sam.gov) under [10.727 Inflation Reduction Act – Urban & Community Forestry](#)

**SAM.gov Registration:** All applicants must have an active registration at [sam.gov](https://www.sam.gov) and maintain active registration throughout the life of the award. This is the government-wide web-based system that supports all contracts, grants, and the electronic payment system. This requirement for registration may be found at 2 CFR 25.200.

**Notice of Funding Opportunity Summary**

Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, Public Law No: 117-169, Subtitle D, Sec. 23003 (a), State and Private Forestry Conservation Programs, (2) Urban and Community Forestry (2022-2031) to provide multiyear, programmatic, competitive grants for tree planting and related activities, with a priority for projects that benefit underserved populations and areas through the Urban and Community Forestry Assistance program established under section 9(c) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act Of 1978 (16U.S.C.2105(c))

**Key Dates**

Applicant materials can be found by searching for this funding opportunity through Grants.gov. Search for grant Opportunity Number USDA-FS-2023-UCF-IRA 01. Applications will be submitted through the UCF Online Grant Portal. All application materials must be received by **11:59 pm Eastern Time on June 1, 2023.**

For inquiries specific to the content of the NOFO requirements, contact the following shared inbox: [SM.FS.UCF\\_IRA@usda.gov](mailto:SM.FS.UCF_IRA@usda.gov). Please limit questions to those regarding specific information contained in

# IRA Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Released April 12, 2023

Funding will be distributed through the UCF Program in the form of competitive grants

[Link to Summary of UCF IRA NOFO Document](#)

## NOFO by the Numbers

The funding opportunity is open to proposals spanning a broad range of costs from eligible entities working at a community, regional, and national scale.

**\$100,000**

Minimum funding amount

**\$50,000,00**

Maximum funding amount

**5 Years**

Required length of grant period

**7 Pages**

Maximum length of proposal



# Who is eligible to apply for funding?

- State government entity
- Local government entity
- Agency or governmental entity of the District of Columbia
- Agency or governmental entity of an insular area
  - Puerto Rico, **Guam, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, Federal States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Palau**, Virgin Islands
- Federally Recognized Tribes, Alaska Native Corporations/villages, and Tribal organizations
- Nonprofit organizations
- Public and State-controlled institutions of higher education
- Community-based organizations



# What type of activities are eligible for funding?

A few examples:

- Fostering community engagement in urban forest planning, planting, and management
- Protecting, enhancing, and expanding equitable urban tree canopy cover
- Encouraging systematic maintenance and monitoring of urban trees and forest



## What type of activities are eligible for funding? (cont.)

A few examples:

- Improving climate resilience (e.g. storm preparedness)
- Providing paid training experiences for urban forestry crews
- Developing paid on-the-job opportunities to expand green workforce development
- Addressing the impact of exotic invasive pests in urban forests



# What type of activities are NOT eligible for funding?

- **Basic research**

- (Note: technical transfer, education, and outreach activities associated with applying research can be included in the application)

- **Land acquisition**

- **Small business start-up funding**

- **Equipment purchases**

- (Note: equipment rental should be considered as an alternative)

- **Construction and infrastructure improvements**

[Link to Eligible Activities & Uses of Funding FAQ](#)

# Private Lands

Funds are encouraged for projects on **publicly accessible lands**

If you want to work on **private lands** you will need to come up with mechanisms to ensure these projects last:

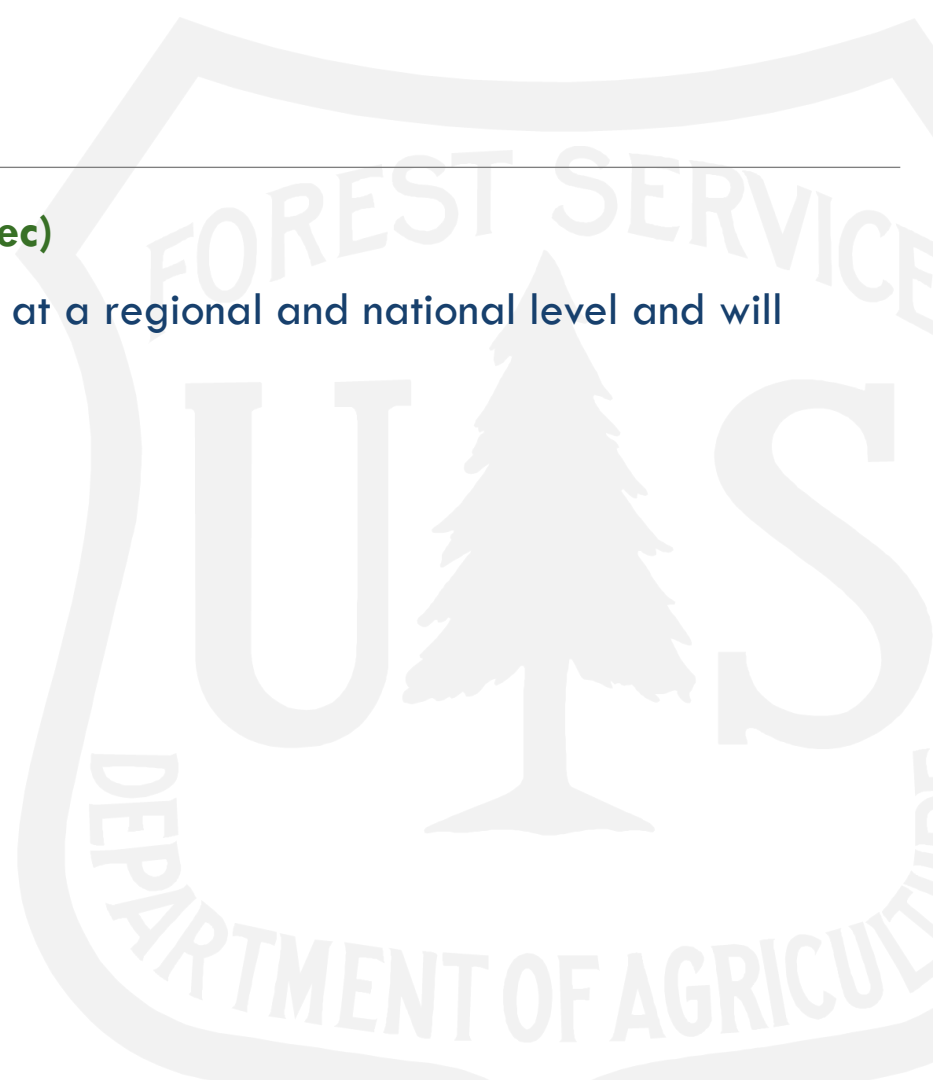
- **MOUs with landowners**
- **Easements**
- **Agreements/pledges by the resident**
- **Education workshops**
- **Partner-provided maintenance, monitoring schemes/schedules**



# Reporting Requirements

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- **Semi Annual Reporting is required (June/Dec)**
- These reports are going to be reviewed both at a regional and national level and will need have a written and budget component.



## Subgrant Opportunities

For applicants that plan to subgrant, a minimum of **80% of federal funding** awarded must be **competitively sub-awarded** to deliver urban and community forestry program benefits at the community level.



# Match and Match-waivers

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All federal grant funds are to be **matched at least equally** (dollar for dollar) with non-federal match.

**Match-waivers** are available for proposals that deliver **100% of the funding/program benefits to disadvantaged communities**

- What is considered a “**disadvantaged community**”?
  - Use online **vulnerability and environmental justice equity data tools** to support a disadvantaged community designation or other **government sponsored** vulnerability tools which inform metrics applicable to the scope of work.
  - Can use multiple tools for justification

**[Link to Region 5 Match Waiver Guide](#)**

(A document that highlights tools available to qualify for match waiver in Region 5)



# How will project proposals be evaluated?

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## Proposal Selection Criteria (100 Points TOTAL):

- (0-30 Points) **Alignment** with [Justice40](#), [State Forest Action Plan](#), and [Ten-Year National Urban and Community Forestry Plan](#) priorities [CA State Forest Action Plan](#)
- (0-20 Points) **Technical merit**
- (0-20 Points) **Capability and capacity** to carry out the proposed work within the grant period
- (0-20 Points) **Measurable** results or outcomes
- (0-10 Points) **Budget and cost-effectiveness**

Additional information about these selection criteria, as well as what information is required for applications, can be found in the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#).

# Timeline

1

**April 12, 2023**

UCF IRA Public Notice  
of Funding Opportunity  
(NOFO) Release

2

**June 1, 2023 @ 8:59  
PM PST**

All Application  
Materials Due

3

**Fall 2023**

FY 2023 Awards  
Announcement

# How to Apply

Applicants must have an active registration and Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) from [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov).

Register for SAM **early!**  
Creating a first-time registration may take several weeks or more to complete.



## The Official U.S. Government System for:

### Contract Opportunities

(was fbo.gov)

### Contract Data

(Reports ONLY from fpds.gov)

### Wage Determinations

(was wdol.gov)

### Federal Hierarchy

Departments and Subtiers

### Assistance Listings

(was cfda.gov)

### Entity Information

Entities, Disaster Response Registry, Exclusions, and Responsibility/ Qualification (was fapiis.gov) **NEW**

### Entity Reporting

SCR and Bio-Preferred Reporting

# How to Apply

Applicant materials can be found by going to [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) and searching for grant opportunity number:

## USDA-FS-2023-UCF-IRA 01

The screenshot displays the Grants.gov interface for the grant opportunity USDA-FS-2023-UCF-IRA-01. The page is titled "VIEW GRANT OPPORTUNITY" and includes a navigation menu with options like HOME, LEARN GRANTS, SEARCH GRANTS, APPLICANTS, GRANTORS, SYSTEM-TO-SYSTEM, FORMS, CONNECT, and SUPPORT. The main content area shows the grant title "2023 Inflation Reduction Act for Urban and Community Forestry" under the USDA Department of Agriculture Forest Service. There are "Apply" and "Subscribe" buttons. Below the title, there are tabs for SYNOPSIS, VERSION HISTORY, RELATED DOCUMENTS, and PACKAGE. The "General Information" section provides detailed metadata:

- Document Type: Grants Notice
- Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-FS-2023-UCF-IRA-01
- Funding Opportunity Title: 2023 Inflation Reduction Act for Urban and Community Forestry
- Opportunity Category: Discretionary
- Opportunity Category Explanation: Cooperative Agreement Grant
- Funding Instrument Type: Cooperative Agreement Grant
- Category of Funding Activity: Community Development, Disaster Prevention and Relief, Environment, Health, Law, Justice and Legal Services, Natural Resources
- Category Explanation: Grant funding for Disadvantage Communities as found in the White House Center for Environmental Quality's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) mapping tool <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5> for Urban and Community Forestry tree planting and related activities.
- Expected Number of Awards: 200
- CFDA Number(s): 10.727 -- Inflation Reduction Act Urban & Community Forestry Program
- Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement: No

Additional information includes the version (Synopsis 11), posted date (Apr 12, 2023), last updated date (Apr 12, 2023), original closing date (Jun 02, 2023), and current closing date (Jun 02, 2023). The estimated total program funding is \$1,000,000,000, with an award ceiling of \$50,000,000 and an award floor of \$100,000. The archive date is also listed.

The "Eligibility" section lists eligible applicants: State governments, Public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities, Public and State controlled institutions of higher education, Special district governments, Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments), and Native American tribal organizations (Federally recognized).

# How to Apply

All application materials will be submitted through the [Online Grant Portal](#).



U.S. FOREST SERVICE  
Caring for the land and serving people

United States Department of Agriculture

USDA FOREST SERVICE URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY INFLATION REDUCTION ACT NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO) ONLINE GRANT PORTAL

[HOME](#)

[APPLY ONLINE](#) | [CONTINUE APPLICATION](#)

[FORMS, TEMPLATES AND RESOURCES](#)

[HELP](#)

## USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Online Grant Portal



Application Deadline: June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 11:59 PM

### NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY SUMMARY

**NOFO Number:** USDA-FS-2023-UCF-IRA-01 **Title:** Inflation Reduction Act - Urban and Community Forestry  
**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:** 10.727 **Title:** Inflation Reduction Act - Urban & Community Forestry

The [Inflation Reduction Act](#) provides up to \$1.5 billion for Urban and Community Forestry investments that foster:

1. increased and equitable access to urban tree canopy and associated human health, environmental, and economic benefits in disadvantaged communities,
2. broadened community engagement in local urban forest planning, tree planting, and management activities, and
3. improved community and urban forest resilience to climate change, extreme heat, forest pests and diseases, and storm events through best management and maintenance practices.

For complete details about the Inflation Reduction Act's funding opportunities for Urban and Community Forestry investments, please download the complete Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) below.

[Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#)

### Webinar Registration

We'll be conducting a two-part "cafe-style" webinar series on the IRA UCF Funding Opportunity to discuss the application requirements and to walk-through and demonstrate the Online Application Grant Portal.

You'll be able to ask questions so come prepared and learn how to create a successful proposal.

**Session #1 - April 18<sup>th</sup> 1 PM EDT**

# Application Help

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Technical assistance will be available for applicants, including in the form of:

- Pre-Award Guide
- Application Checklist
- Grants.gov Navigation Guide
- Recorded Webinars

USDA Forest Service will also award funding to Dedicated Pass-Through Funders to ease administrative barriers, award funds quickly, and extend outreach and engagement activities to recruit most locally in disadvantaged communities.

**[Link to Budget & Proposal Forms, Templates and Resources](#)**

# Application Help

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The Washington Office will host two upcoming webinars to:

- Discuss the application requirements
- Walk-through and demonstrate the Online Application Grant Portal
- Teach attendees how to create a successful proposal
- Provide an opportunity for Q&A

The two sessions will be recorded and uploaded for review after April 18, 2023 and April 25, 2023.



# National Resources

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- USDA Forest Service Briefing on Urban & Community Forestry IRA Funding Opportunity (March 29, 2023) Recording:  
<https://vimeo.com/814268198>
- UCF IRA Funding Opportunity Press Release:  
<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2023/04/12/biden-harris-administration-announces-historic-funding-expand>
- USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forest Home Page:  
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/urban-forests>
- UCF IRA Online Grant Portal:  
<https://iraucfgrants.urbanandcommunityforests.org/>
- UCF IRA NOFO Frequently Asked Questions:  
<https://iraucfgrants.urbanandcommunityforests.org/help/faq>
- UCF IRA NOFO Summary Document:  
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/UCF-IRA-NOFO-04122023.pdf>

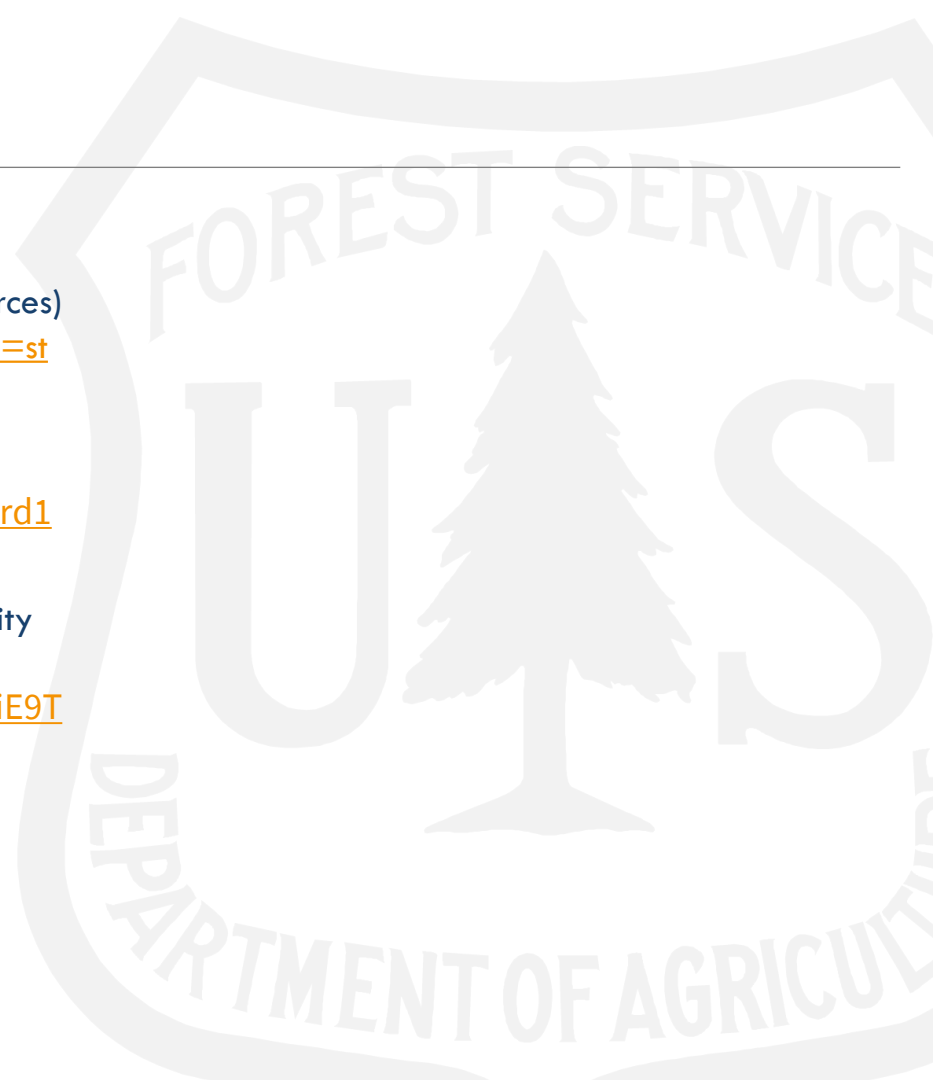




# Regional Resources

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- Region 5 UCF Home Page (scroll down for ALL these resources)  
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/communityforests/?cid=stelprdb5341641>
- Region 5 Match Waiver Support Guide:  
[https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1101634.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1101634.pdf)
- A Pacific Islands-focused webinar on the funding opportunity will be held on **April 26, 2023 @ 4 PM PST**:  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsceiurjkiE9T45BNfKTlFlJHliBv55zCq#/registration>



# Contact Info

For questions about the Notice of Funding Opportunity, contact the following shared inbox:

[SM.FS.UCF\\_IRA@usda.gov](mailto:SM.FS.UCF_IRA@usda.gov)

For technical assistance with the Online Grant Portal, contact the following shared inbox:

[contact@sref.info](mailto:contact@sref.info)



USDA FOREST SERVICE

URBAN AND  
COMMUNITY  
FORESTRY  
GRANTS

