2021 State Fire Assistance Grant Application Webinar

Frequently Asked Questions

Eligibility:

Can for-profit organizations apply for this grant?

Yes, for-profits are eligible to apply.

Who assesses organizational risk for grant applications?

CFSC grant specialists complete the risk assessment during the pre-award phase based on the documentation provided during pre-award.

We (an HOA) are pursuing a grant to conduct brush clearance located in a portion of land that we own, but it is regulated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, would that affect our ability to receive an SFA grant?

No, that would not affect your organization's ability to receive funding for the 21 SFA grant, however additional permitting may be needed for the land managed by CDFW.

Do sub-award recipients need their own CAGE code?

Yes, unless they have a fiscal sponsor. Then the fiscal sponsor will need to provide their CAGE code with the application.

Due to Covid it can take some time to get the CAGE code after SAM registration is complete. Took us 6 weeks earlier this year just for the CAGE code after the rest of SAM registration was done.

Thank you for the heads up. If anyone is concerned about delays getting registered, please contact a CFSC staff member before the application is submitted.

Grant Activities:

Does this funding support HIZ retrofitting (roofs, vents, etc.)?

> Construction costs are not allowable under this particular program. There may be funding available for that type of activity from another program in the future. Please refer to the CFSC website for future CFSC funding opportunities.

Does this funding opportunity allow for capacity building or general operating grants?

> Capacity building activities can make up a portion of the federal costs or match, as long as they are a necessary part of efforts in support of the three program areas of Planning (such as CWPP's or Firewise plans), Education, or Fuel Reduction.
>
> CFSC has resources in addition to 21SFA grants that can be used to build capacity for local organizations. Mala Arthur, is a good person to talk with about those resources.
>
> Marthur@cafiresafecouncil.org

Does mechanical treatment include exclusive use of hand tools?

> There are a number of categories under mechanical treatment, including thinning and piling by hand. It is a little small in the screen shot here but you will be able to see the categories clearly in the application online.

Funding, Fiscal Sponsors, and Match:

What is definition of a "Fiscal Sponsor", if not the very agencies issuing grants? Do Firewise communities qualify as nonprofits?

> Applicant organizations must be incorporated and have a federal employer ID# to be eligible to apply for federal grant funds. Applicant organizations must also meet the requirements for receiving federal grant funds. If your organization does not meet these requirements, you will need to partner with another organization that can serve as your "fiscal sponsor". Organizations that do not have legal standing may apply for grants with representation from a fiscal sponsor organization. The fiscal sponsor must meet the grant eligibility requirements and be able to receive the grant award, including meeting all terms and conditions in the subaward agreement on behalf of the organization it is sponsoring. The key role of the fiscal sponsor is to receive and manage the grant funds on behalf of the sponsored organization.
> More information can be found in 21 Application Guide, Page 11: https://cafiresafecouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/2021-SFA-Grant-Application-Guide-2.pdf

Are these grant management activities available pro-bono or can they be added to the dollar-for-dollar costing if not? How about Fiscal Sponsors, pro bono, or includable in expenses?

> Project management by the grantee and/or fiscal sponsor are both allowable costs under these grants. They can also be allocated as match.

Can volunteer time be used as part of the match?

> Yes, Volunteer time can be charged to the grant as in-kind match, documentation and hour rates will be required in Program Reporting to CFSC.

Is a grant manager salary an eligible expense?

Yes, grant management and project management are allowable expenses, as long as they are properly documented and reasonable.

So, do all grants provided by the CFSC have matching agreements or will there be any that won't have the matching?

> For the 21 SFA program, one to one match is a requirement. Other funding programs through CFSC may have a lower cost share/match or not require any.

When implementing our project, are there any prevailing wage requirements?

> CFSC has discussed this question with the federal funders in the past and they confirmed that prevailing wage is not a requirement for this program.

Is funding provided on a reimbursement basis, or up front, incrementally?

> Funds are provided by advance. Funding is requested by recipients in increments, usually once per quarter.

Application Resources:

Will we be to download these slides?

> Yes, CFSC will have the recording and slides available on our website and can be located: here

What map is used for Fire Hazard Severity Zones?

> State and County FHSZ maps:
> https://gis.data.ca.gov/datasets/789d5286736248f69c4515c04f58f414
>
> General information on FHSZ: http://www.fire.ca.gov

Would you clarify what handbook/guide the presentation referring to?

> It is a guide you can reference as you work through your application. Here is the link:
> https://cafiresafecouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/2021-SFA-Grant-Application-Guide-2.pdf

Are we able to receive feedback on our application from CFSC before the submission due date?

> CFSC staff can review your application before the deadline and give feedback as long as you leave a reasonable amount of time to complete the review. This can be an easy way to catch common errors and help make sure your application is clear. There is no guarantee that the application will be funded but it can be help give your request the best chance possible.

Are we able to receive feedback on past unfunded grant applications submitted to CFSC?

> If you have questions about past CFSC applications, please reach out to a CFSC Grant Specialist.

> Contact information can be found: [Here](#)

We are presently writing a CWPP specific to our community that will be in place by fall 2021. Our county Fire Department is also presently updating their CWPP. How can we reflect this in our grant so that our renewed goals will be part of the grant submission? Would a letter from the agency helping us to do the CWPP be appropriate?

> You can include specific updates or clarifications about your local or regional CWPP's in the narrative portion of the application.

> Related to the CWPP status, question 20 of the application asks for the status of the CWPP or other related planning document. If your plan is being revised, you can describe the status there.

How is a letter of agreement different than the cover letter?

> The cover letter is from the applicant organization and lists all the attached letters of commitment from third party organizations. This relates back to when the letters were physically mailed and having a list of all the incoming letters avoided the confusion when letters went missing or the contributor failed to mail them. It's still an important step to make sure the applicant and other match contributors have agreed on the nature of the match contributions.

Do we need to include locations adjacent to state land?

> This information is not required for this grant application.

How do you get your community identified as a "Community at Risk?" if you met the conditions and you believe you were overlooked?

Cal Fire manages the CAR list so you would need to contact them about being added. Unfortunately, CFSC does not have specific details about that process at this moment.

Links Referenced in 21 SFA Application Webinar:

CFSC Website: https://cafiresafecouncil.org/

ZoomGrants: https://cafiresafecouncil.org/grants-and-funding/apply-for-a-grant/

https://www.zoomgrants.com/

Grant Application: www.cafiresafecouncil.org/zoomgrantslogin

2 CFR 200: https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2020-title2-vol1/xml/CFR-2020-title2-vol1-part200.xml

SAM website: https://www.sam.gov/

Zoom Grants Support Team Contact Information: 8am to 5 pm, Mountain Time, Monday-Friday; Toll Free: 866-323-5404

Zoom Grants Support Request: https://zoomgrants.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/requests/new

Communities At Risk ("CAR"): https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/wildfire-planning-engineering/fire-plan/communities-at-risk/

List of Firewise Communities: https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA/Firewise-USA-Resources/Firewise-USA-sites/State-listing-of-participants

Firewise Communities Information: http://www.firewise.org

Political Boundaries – District Maps: https://www.calvoter.org/content/california-map-series

Cohesive Strategy: http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov

California Forest Action Plan:

https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/ps4p2vck/californiawildfireandforestresilienceactionplan.pdf

Fire Adapted Communities Information: http://www.fireadapted.org

Online Mapping Tools: Google Maps, https://www.usgs.gov/ , or https://itouchmap.com/

Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps:

https://gis.data.ca.gov/datasets/789d5286736248f69c4515c04f58f414

Fire Hazard Severity Zone Information: http://www.fire.ca.gov

California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Information Page:

https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/professional-foresters-registration/

Registered Professional Forester (RPF) License List:

https://caltreesplans.resources.ca.gov/Caltrees/customization/common/rpflicenselist.aspx

Certified Rangeland Manager (CRM) License List:

https://caltreesplans.resources.ca.gov/Caltrees/customization/common/crmlicenselist.aspx

RPF and CRM Rosters General Information:

https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/professional-foresters-registration/rpf-crm-rosters/