



WASHINGTON STATE CWDG FAQs

Updated: 9/26/2022: Updates are highlighted with **.

FUNDING TIMELINE & AWARDS

When will funds be awarded for this application period?

Notification of funding is expected to occur in January 2023.

Are funds provided up front or are they reimbursed to the applicant?

Funding is provided on a reimbursement basis, which means the applicant must be able to front the money. Please reach out to the State Point of Contact if you need to explore a different option.

****Will there be other opportunities to apply for this funding after Oct. 5th 2022?**

Yes. These funds are available for 5 years. Application periods will open up each year. Beginning in 2023 the application process is expected to shift to Spring, with the application window expected to be open Spring through Summer/Fall 2023.

Do all sub-grantees and subcontractors of a lead recipient also need to register on Sam.gov?

They are not required to register in sam.gov; however, they do need to have a UEI (previously DUNS#) assigned through sam.gov. That allows the state to validate that they are indeed eligible to receive federal funding and have not been debarred or suspended.

Are applications that don't get funded automatically considered for funding the following year?

No. You will need to submit a new application the following year.

****Will feedback be provided on applications that don't get funded?**

Yes. Feedback will be provided on non-funded applications via the application portal prior to the following years application cycle.

****How to handle indirect rates or NICRA?**

This NICRA/Indirect costs will be calculated **in addition** to the application, and will be sent to WADNR . The **applicant need NOT account for this when figuring out their budget**. An applicant must account for their own admin/indirect costs *within* their project budget.

****CWPPs – WADNR strongly encourages County Level CWPPs with stakeholder inputs brought to the table by 'lower' level organizations in the county.**

Is a LEGACY neighborhood-scale CWPP eligible to apply for implementation funds? Yes – if that plan meets the minimum requirements of a CWPP [as defined by HFRA](#) (see pg. 3), AND it is less than 10 years old. No – if any of the required components of a CWPP as defined in the link above are missing, AND/OR the plan is 10 years old or older.

Does a CWPP have to be 5 years or older to be eligible for funding to update it?

Yes.

****If the CWPP project states helping homeowners in a community, can CWDG funds be used to distribute to homeowners in the form of cash/vouchers/coupons/microgrants? Or to reimburse homeowners for projects done?**

No. They cannot be paid for the work that they are doing, but a contractor could certainly be hired to perform work in a community. The homeowners are beneficiaries of the work being performed and cannot be paid for improvement work on their own property.

****CWPP clarification - If part or only an exact location is a high risk of wildfire, but the rest of the community is not, would the community as a whole be eligible as high risk?**

It sounds like this is regarding “high or very high wildfire hazard potential,” and the scoring rubric states it would meet that requirement if “All, or part of the project is located within an area of high or very high wildfire hazard potential, and is properly documented.”

MATCH

Can I use in-kind or community resident volunteer hours for match?

Yes. Cash, in-kind, and community resident volunteer hours can count toward match.

Is there any type of match I cannot use?

Yes. **You cannot use match that is tied to federal funding.** This includes federal money that has been passed through another source. For example, if a county receives Title III funds they want to use to support their staff involvement in CWPP development as match, that would be ineligible because the original source of funding is federal.

****How do I know if my community is eligible for a match waiver?**

In order to qualify for a match waiver, the community must fall into one of two categories:

- Underserved community – a community where the relevant county has a score of 0.75 or higher on the CDC Social Vulnerability Index. *(The following counties in Washington State are eligible to request a cost share waiver per [The Social Vulnerability Index \(SVI\): Interactive Map | CDC](#)): Adams, Cowlitz, Douglas, Ferry, Franklin, Grant, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Okanogan, Yakima.*

OR

- Low income – a community where the relevant county has a median household income of less than 80% of the median household income of the state. *(The following counties in Washington State are eligible to request a cost share waiver per median household income <80% of state median household income, [CWDG Scoring-Priority.xlsx \(live.com\)](#)): Adams, Asotin, Chelan, Clallam, Cowlitz, Garfield, Grant, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lewis, Lincoln, Mason, Okanogan, Pacific, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Wahkiakum, Walla Walla, Whitman, Yakima*

SEVERE DISASTER

****Does a severe disaster need a certain declaration?**

- The legislation doesn’t define what a severe disaster means. The disaster must have been at a scale and scope that impacts wildfire risk and hazard. A severe snowstorm that doesn’t impact wildfire risk wouldn’t apply. An insect infestation that has resulted in areas of stressed or dead trees would have a direct impact on risk and therefore would apply. To show this, you will need something from a government entity that states that the situation is of a scope and scale that wildfire risk is negatively impacted. Sometimes there will be federal or state declarations you can point to.
- Impacted by a severe disaster means any event declared, designated, or recognized by a government authority as having caused damage, loss, or destruction to an extent and scale that

an unusual or abnormal increase in wildfire risk or hazard potential to a community has occurred. Examples may include Federal, State, Tribal, or county disaster declarations or declared emergencies, events declared by the USDA Farm Services Agency, communities impacted by a FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant, or widespread insect and disease mortality.

- [This spreadsheet](#) from the Wildfire Risk to Communities team enables you to sort disasters which resulted in a Federal disaster declaration or initiation of the Fire Management Assistance Grant program in your area. **Filter your results first by state and then search for your county.** If you cannot document impacts from a severe disaster from this source, other potential sources include:
 - County emergency declarations (contact your local emergency management department)
 - Farm Services Agency disaster declarations ([annual data available here](#); recommend working with your state point of contact to verify your status).

****Does wildfire hazard potential, mean the occurrence or re-occurrence of wildfire, or can other metrics be used to qualify "potential"**

See Application TIPS – Sept27.doc when filling out application.

APPLICATION RANKING/REVIEW

What is the review and ranking process for these applications (non-Tribal)

The review and ranking process is as follows:

- Application gets submitted to the State Point of Contact
 - You can submit a draft version using the fillable pdf to your county contact for review before submitting online if you choose
- Applications are scored by members of a regional review panel which will then be normalized.
- All regionally-scored applications will be compiled into a single nationally-ranked list which will be used to award funding

What is the review and ranking process for these applications (Tribal)

The review and ranking process is as follows:

- Application gets submitted to the State Point of Contact
 - You can submit a draft version using the fillable pdf to your county contact for review before submitting online if you choose
- Review of applications will be done by a review panel that the Forest Service will assemble with support, input, and involvement from the Tribes.

****Is it better to lump projects together or to split them apart?**

That depends. If you lump them together, make sure that one project area doesn't rank lower in any of the application points than another area would. That will bring down the points earned on the application and therefore you would want to split those up into two projects to get the most points. If this isn't the case, then you can lump them if it makes the most sense.

REPORTING

****What are the reporting requirements for these funds?**

- Quarterly financial reports

- Annual project performance reports; Project performance reports must include a geospatial data component
- Federal reporting requirements are based on the calendar year. Quarterly reports are due 30 days after the end of the reporting period: March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31. Annual reports are due 120 days after the year-end – December 31

[ADDITIONAL FAQ FROM THE USDA FOREST SERVICE CAN BE FOUND HERE](#)

REGIONAL COORDINATOR CONTACTS

For additional assistance with wildfire risk resources, please contact your county representative.

Assistance By County			
Coordinator	Counties	Coordinator	Counties
Jennifer Coe Jennifer.coe@dnr.wa.gov (360) 972-4428	Whatcom, Skagit, San Juan, Snohomish, Island, King, Pierce, Thurston, Mason, Kitsap, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Clallam	Jake Hardt jake.hardt@dnr.wa.gov (360) 359-6566	Chelan, Kittitas, Douglas, Grant, Adams
Marc Titus marc.titus@dnr.wa.gov (360) 972-4135	Yakima, Skamania, Clark, Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, Lewis, Pacific	William Knowlton William.knowlton@dnr.wa.gov (360) 972-4272	Okanogan, Ferry
Charlie Landsman charles.landsman@dnr.wa.gov (360) 972-4249	Klickitat, Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, Asotin	Jason Cirksena Jason.cirksena@dnr.wa.gov (360) 972-4185	Stevens, Pend Oreille, Lincoln, Spokane, Whitman