

## **Leaf Out Grant FAQ's**

### Leafing Out Grants - General Questions (GQ)

#### **GQ1: What is the source of this funding?**

GA1: USDA Forest Service Inflation Reduction Act.

#### **GQ2: How were municipalities selected?**

GA2: In order to not have a match requirement for these grants, we were given advice from the USFS that all work should take place in Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) and/or NJ Environmental Justice (EJ) census blocks. As the NJ Urban & Community Forestry (NJUCF) program works with communities as a whole, our option was to identify communities that are comprised 100% of those census blocks.

#### **GQ3: Is there a match requirement for these grants?**

GQ3: No, no match is required, per the USDA IRA funding agreement.

#### **GQ4: Can I apply for both the management and education grant?**

GA4: Yes! And since the education grant is noncompetitive, we hope that all eligible communities will apply for it.

### Leafing Out Grant - Management Questions (MG)

#### **MQ1: Can we move funds between management grant categories?**

MA1: Yes. Money can be moved between categories within reason. The NJUCF program will work with you to identify specific needs and appropriate use of these funds if awarded.

#### **MQ2: If we have a currently approved Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP), do we need to write a new one in year 1 of the management grant?**

MA2: No. It can be done when your CFMP expires, however all CFMPs will be expiring soon. Therefore, it may be advantageous to have your CFMP developed early, in order to use this plan to layout grant work. Your CFMP will need to follow the new program [guidelines](#).

#### **MQ3: If we have an up-to-date inventory, do we need to redo that in year 1 of the management grant?**

MA3: No. If you have an inventory that is up to date, follows our specifications (found [here](#) in appendix 5) and complete, you can use this data to inform your tree management. It should be updated during this grant period however, after planting and/or maintenance activities take place.

**MQ4: Do we need a complete inventory, or will a sample inventory suffice?**

MA4: A sample inventory will suffice depending on the situation. Please refer to our inventory specifications, linked above.

**MQ5: How will the Leafing Out Management Grants be paid to the awardees?**

MA5: With proper documentation of expenditures, municipalities who have been awarded a grant will receive reimbursements for achieving each milestone (Inventory/CFMP/Maintenance/etc.) of the grant project.

**MQ6: Are there any stipulations with the grant funding we should be aware of?**

MA6: Please carefully read the Request for Proposal (RFP) for specifics related to grant funding. But realize that the management grant is a reimbursement grant, to be spent within the work period for the activities listed in the RFP. Proper documentation of expenditures is required for reimbursement.

**MQ7: Will our municipality be able to upkeep our Shade Tree program following the IRA grant funding with the accreditation funding from NJUCF?**

MA7: Our Leafing Out Management Grant is designed to start your municipality on the path to success in stewarding and managing your community's tree resources. As an accredited municipality, you will be eligible for additional grant funding when offered by our program going forward. While we do not know what tree related activities our future grants will fund, we hope to offer grants related to CFMP preparation, inventory, and planting.

**MQ8: Does our municipality have to pay up front for activities under the Leaf Out Management Grant?**

MA8: Yes, this is a reimbursement grant; no advance payments will be made.

**MQ9: Can municipal employees be reimbursed for work under the Leafing Out Management Grant?**

MA9: No. The grant is intended to reimburse only for the services of forestry professionals as contractors.

**MQ10: What is the timeline of the grant work?**

MA10: Please see RFP for timeline details, however Inventory and CFMP should be developed in the first 1-2 years, then tree maintenance until year 4 and planting can occur from year 2-3.5.

## Leafing Out Grant - Education Questions (EQ)

### **EQ1: How does the Leafing Out Education Grant work?**

EA1: Municipalities can apply for up to \$12,500.00 in education/training funds. The full Leafing Out Education Grant award will provide approximately \$3,125.00 per year for your municipal employees and their engaged volunteers to attend a variety of forestry education/training courses that have been pre-approved by the NJ UCF Program. Your municipality will register their participants with the host organizations for each course or conference. The registration fees for your participants will be paid by us directly to the host organizations.

### **EQ2: Who can we send to training with the education grant?**

EA2: We expect your municipality to send individuals who are *actively engaged* in the stewardship and effective management of your local tree resources. These individuals can be municipal staff, volunteers, or a mix of both.

### **EQ3: Is there a time limit to use Leafing Out education grant funds?**

EA3: All education grant funds must be used within the grant work period, per the RFP.

### **EQ4: What happens to the excess Leafing Out education grant funds if not all 55 municipalities apply? Can they be reallocated?**

EA4: It is possible that excess funds will be reapportioned to those municipalities who are awarded a Leafing Out Education Grant. This will depend on many factors, including how many municipalities apply.