



This assistance package is designed to help municipalities that have achieved Tree City USA standards complete practices and activities to meet the standards to achieve the N.C. Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry (NCFS U&CF) Managing Community designation.

- Eligible organizations
 - Municipalities and tribal governments that meet all standards for Tree City USA recognition
- Application period
 - The application period opens Jan. 1, 2026, and closes March 1, 2026.
- Eligible project practices/activities/deliverables -- Engage a qualified professional(s) to guide you and complete the following practices and activities. Guidance for identifying and securing urban forestry professionals can be found on our [Urban Forestry Professionals webpage](#), and minimum qualifications for professionals can be found on our [Financial Assistance Program webpage](#).
 - Outreach -- An outreach program plan and product(s) and/or event(s) that engage, educate and inform the public about the project are required.
 - You may apply to complete up to two of the following practices.
 - Sample tree inventory
 - Partial tree inventory – risk trees
 - Canopy cover assessment
 - Conservation development ordinance
 - Must have a canopy cover assessment that was completed within the last four years
 - Practice plan -- Trees & Storms readiness plan
 - Practice plan – tree risk mitigation
 - Management plan
 - Must have a tree inventory or canopy cover assessment that was completed within the last four years
 - Plan must include analysis and outcomes as detailed in the NCFS U&CF management plan template
 - Final report -- A professionally published two-to-eight-page infographic-style report summarizing and illustrating the project need, goal, objectives and accomplishments is required.
- Funding program options and requirements
 - A grant will be funded by one of the three funding programs. You will need to select one. Contact NCFS U&CF program staff for guidance, if needed.
 - Consolidated Program Grant (CPG)
 - No eligibility restrictions for municipalities or tribal governments.



- Cost share %
 - Reimbursement of 75% of eligible purchased goods and services.
- Indirect administration – 15% de minimis/total purchased goods and services.
- \$50,000 in assistance is available for award of all CPG funded RFAs.
- Hurricane Helene Recovery (HHR)
 - Tribal government or a municipality located in Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Caldwell, Henderson, Madison, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania or Yancey counties.
 - Cost share %
 - Reimbursement of 100% of eligible purchased goods and services.
 - Indirect administration – 15% de minimis/total purchased goods and services.
 - \$2.2 million in assistance is available for award of all HHR funded RFAs.
- Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)
 - 100% of the Tribal government or municipality's incorporated lands fall within the boundaries of [NCFS U&CF Financial Assistance Program Inflation Reduction Act project areas](#).
 - Cost share %
 - Reimbursement of 100% of eligible purchased goods and services.
 - Indirect administration – 20% de minimis/total purchased goods and services
 - \$5.6 million of assistance is available for award of all IRA funded RFAs.
- Award, grant contracts and schedules
 - Award -- See [NCFS U&CF Financial Assistance webpage](#) for awarding information.
 - The project term and grant contract term will be one year.
 - Applicants should plan for a project start date of July 1, 2026.
 - Conditional award notices will be issued by March 31, 2026. Final awardees will enter a grant contract with the N.C. Forest Service.
 - Working with the NCFS U&CF program, conditional awardees must complete the work necessary to execute the grant contract by May 31, 2026.
 - The awardee will complete the work, pay for the agreed goods and services, and submit a reimbursement request to the NCFS U&CF program for approval and payment.
 - Reporting
 - Reporting instructions and documents can be found on the [NCFS U&CF Resources and Specifications](#) webpage under the financial assistance section.



- Awardees will be required to maintain and submit documentation proving project expenses, provide interim progress reports, deliverable accomplishments and a final report in accordance with respective federal ([Code of Federal Regulations](#)), state, and NCFS policies and procedures.
- Application
 - The application is an online electronic application.
 - A copy of the application for planning purposes is available on the [U&CF Resources and Specifications webpage](#) under the financial assistance section.
 - Prepare your application responses and required documents before opening the online application for completion. The application must be completed and submitted in one online session.
 - The following information will be required to complete your application.
 - The funding program selection.
 - A single proposal/quote for services from a consultant(s) to guide the municipality and complete the project practices/activities/deliverables.
 - Quotes from providers for goods or services not provided by the consultant(s) for notation in your budget form.
 - A list of your project team members' names, titles and project roles.
 - Needs and opportunities narrative statement.
 - Project deliverables schedule by project quarter.
 - List of the practices/activities/deliverables that will be completed in the project quarter.
 - Narrative describing the work that will be accomplished.
 - Project cost and completed RFA Budget Form – Cost Share
 - Name of the NCFS county ranger who you have contacted and informed of your intent to submit this application.
 - Click the link below to begin when you are ready to apply.

[Apply for Climb to Managing Community USA package by clicking here](#)