

**2025 N.C Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Financial Assistance Program
Urban and Community Forestry Foundations
2025 Professional Staff Development Request for Applications**



In partnership with the N.C. Urban Forest Council, financial assistance is available for an eligible organization's staff member to obtain professional urban and community forestry credentials between Aug. 1, 2025, and Jan. 31, 2026.

- Eligible Organizations
 - Municipalities and tribal governments

- Application Period
 - Opens July 1, 2025, and closes Oct. 31, 2025, at 5 p.m. EST.

- Eligible Credentials and Expenses
 - Eligible credentials
 - International Society of Arboriculture (ISA)
 - Certified urban forest professional
 - Tree Risk Assessment Qualification
 - Society of American Foresters (SAF)
 - Certified urban and community forester
 - Eligible expenses
 - Certification and exam fees
 - Tree Risk Assessment Qualification
 - TRAQ 3-day course for new applicants
 - Travel, lodging and per diem, if required

- Award and Agreement
 - Awards will be made on a first-come, first-served basis during the application period until funding is exhausted or the application closes Oct. 31, 2025.
 - Preference will be given to applicants that do not currently have an urban forestry professional on staff. If applications exceed available funding, awards will be made in accordance with the award criteria outlined on our Financial Assistance webpage.
 - An awardee will pay the expenses to obtain the credential and be reimbursed through an agreement with the N.C. Urban Forest Council.
 - The staff person earning the credential is currently serving in a role that affects urban and community forestry activities of the community.
 - The community commits to facilitating the maintenance of the staff person's credential for as long as they continue to work for the municipality in a capacity that supports the urban and community forestry activities of the community.



- Application
 - The application is electronic, and a copy of the application can be found on our U&CF Resources and Specifications webpage under the Financial Assistance section.
 - Review the application before submitting your application. The application has all the questions you will be required to answer and the information you will need to provide.
 - Requirements
 - Prerequisite qualifications for the desired credential have been reviewed, and the staff member qualifies.
 - A letter from supervisor authorizing the candidate's application, describing why it is relevant to the candidate's role and how it would benefit the community, and committing to facilitate the staff person's maintenance of the credential for as long as they continue to work for the municipality in a capacity that supports the urban and community forestry activities of the community.

[Click Here to Submit an Application](#)