FY23 IMPLEMENTATION GRANT

Information Session, April 19, 2022
The GGCP is designed to bring the energy efficiency and environmental benefits of a healthy tree canopy to Gateway Cities.

Executive Office of Environment & Energy Affairs (EEA)
Department of Conservation & Recreation Urban & Community Forestry Program (DCR)
Department of Energy Resources (DOER)
Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)
Implementation Grant Program Overview & Goals

• Program seeks to accelerate urban tree planting in Gateway Cities to bring the benefits of the GGCP to more residents.

• Soliciting proposals from Gateway Cities and qualified non-profits working in Gateway Cities for tree planting work. This can include tree planting outside DCR planting zones.

• Grantees receive reimbursement for eligible tree planting expenses.

• Seeks projects with a measurable impact to future canopy in residential neighborhoods; we anticipate funding projects with costs between $20,000-$100,000.
Funding Availability

• Maximum grant award is $100,000.
• Reimbursement grant program; applicant must be prepared to incur costs up front.
• Costs incurred prior to award contract are not eligible for reimbursement.

Eligible Applicants

• Gateway City municipalities and non-profit 501 (c)(3) organizations with demonstrated experience in tree planting and stewardship.
• Municipalities & non-profits are encouraged to explore partnership opportunities where it will achieve greater impact.
Eligible Project Costs

• High visibility tree plantings where climate resilience, environmental justice goals and energy efficiency benefits of urban canopy will be advanced.

  • Purchase of trees and planting materials (clean loam, mulch)
  • Excavating and planting trees
  • Removal of impervious surfaces
  • Stump removal if necessitated by planting site preparation
  • City-owned vacant lot restoration with tree planting in coordination with DCR and with a site plan approved by EEA.

• Outreach activities that strengthen community engagement with tree care and tree planting.

  • Community outreach events
  • Training or educational programs that will empower residents to participate in tree planting and stewardship
  • Costs to distribute information (mailers, staff calls to residents)
Eligible Project Costs, Continued

- Plantings must follow “right tree, right place” principles
  - Tree species (or cultivars) prohibited for purchase in MA are **not** eligible
  - Restrictions on host species of emerald ash borer and Asian long-horned beetle
  - Plantings in proximity to utility wires must reflect low-growing species

- Sub-contracts for planting or other work is acceptable. An MCA or ISA certified arborist is required to manage day-to-day tree plantings. Please see *Attachment C in Bid Document* for additional contractual specifications for tree planting & care

**PLEASE READ BID DOCUMENT CAREFULLY AND FOLLOW APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS.**
Application Requirements

- Application form
- Project description (see application form for details)
  - Measurable goals, project deliverables & timeline
  - Strategy for watering and tree stewardship in the first 2 years
- Planting plan (see application form for details)
  - Identify planting locations, species and size of trees to be planted.
  - Plan should be reviewed with municipal Planning Department
  - Coordinate with DCR Forester if plan overlaps DCR Planting Zone
- Project Budget
  - Total estimated costs, itemized where possible
  - Project costs contributed in-kind or other funding matches
Additional Required Documents

- Letter from CEO authorizing application and identifying the project manager
- Letter of support from Tree Warden or appropriate commission
- Documentation that planting plan has been reviewed by planning board
- Letters of endorsement from any partners if tree planting is proposed on lands that are not owned by applicant

Non-profit applicants:
  - Letter of endorsement from the municipality
  - Articles of Incorporation and IRS 501(c)(3) letter
Application Evaluation

• Overall project quality (35%)
  • Achieves strategic plantings that increase tree canopy in residential areas with minimal cover
  • Reflects “right tree, right place” principles
  • Achievable timeline with strong project deliverables
  • Provides training and/or employment to community members

• Applicant capacity (25%)
  • Demonstrated capacity to carry out the project
  • Experience planting trees
  • Resources to steward newly planted trees for a minimum of 2 years
Application Evaluation, Cont’d

• Community Engagement & Support (20%)
  • Reflects input and/or participation from the neighborhoods served
  • Reflects municipal & community partner collaboration
  • Communicates project goals and benefits via diverse communication channels.

• Environmental Justice Goals (20%)
  • Staff fluent in applicable languages or reliable translational services
  • Targets EJ population areas
  • Contributes to other EJ community goals
Grant Timeline

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Monday, June 6 at 3:00pm
Submit PDF application electronically – do not exceed 20 MB

- **June:** EEA & DCR conduct application review, schedule site visits
- **July:** Awards announced (July).
- **August/September:** Contracts executed.
- **Fall, 2022 & Spring, 2023:** Projects executed
  
  DCR Forester will meet with project manager to inspect trees and confirm plantings are acceptable.

- **June 30, 2023:** Deadline for grant reimbursement requests and final project report.

  Final project report should indicate whether project deliverables identified in proposal were achieved
Contact Information

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https://www.mass.gov/service-details/greening-the-gateway-cities-program