

2021 COLORADO TREE COALITION GRANTS

INTRODUCTION

Please note these important criteria for the grant program:

- The application continues to be electronic. All applications are emailed.
- The maximum grant amount is \$1,500.
- 2020 grant recipients are not eligible for 2021 grants, but may reapply again in 2021.
- Applications from communities serving populations of less than 8,000 people will receive 5 extra points in our grant evaluation process.
- Currently certified Tree City USA's will receive an extra 5 points in our grant evaluation process.
- Applications that address emerald ash borer (EAB) preparation, education or management will receive 5 extra points in the grant evaluation process.
- Applications that include a new or updated tree inventory that is uploaded to www.cotreeview.com will receive 5 extra points in the grant evaluation process. CO-TreeView is a web-based tree inventory and mapping tool used by Colorado foresters and arborists to record and visualize the location, species, and condition of the trees that make up Colorado's urban forests. This user-friendly tool, which allows users to view tree and planting site data at a variety of scales, enables proactive, data-driven forest management planning, grant solicitation, and public outreach in support of the conservation and enhancement of the state's community forests.
- **NEW for 2021:** The USDA Forest Service provided additional funding for a Landscape Scale Restoration Grant (LSR) Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) grant that was awarded to the CSFS in 2018. **This additional funding can only be for ash tree replacement projects in communities that are located in the LSR-EAB polygon (see attached map).**

The CTC grants are made possible by the support and funding of the USDA Forest Service and the Colorado State Forest Service through the Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Act, providing for urban forestry education, technical assistance, and research. In Colorado, the Colorado Tree Coalition, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, administers the grant program with support from the Colorado State Forest Service.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Fund Total: In 2021, we anticipate up to \$30,000 will be distributed in the form of grants.

Minimum/Maximum Award: The minimum grant request is \$500; the maximum is \$1,500.

Application Deadline: Emailed by **Friday, December 11, 2020** (No paper or faxed applications).

GRANT CYCLE – IMPORTANT DATES

Application Distribution: November 2020
Applications Due: December 11, 2020
Grant Review: December 2020 & January 2021
Successful Applicants Informed: February 2021
Project Completion: September 30, 2021
Documentation & Expense Report Due: September 30, 2021

Matching Requirement: All grant funds must be matched equally (100%) by the applicant with non-federal cash funds. The matching funds may be private or public monetary contributions. The source of the matching funds must be identified. In-kind personnel and volunteer services are not eligible.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Applicants: State and local governments, school districts, community and neighborhood organizations, and private non-profit groups.

Eligible Projects: These grants are for tree-related projects and community forestry promotional activities only. **An educational component should be included in each project;** projects which enhance good community tree planting, care or maintenance are eligible. In general projects must be on public property, but projects on private property that provide public benefit and access are acceptable.

In 2021, grant dollars will be divided into (4) tiers (*Management/Maintenance, Media, and Tree Planting, Ash Tree Replacement*). The Review Team has the option to change the selected project tier.

PROJECT TIERS

- 1. Management/Maintenance Grants** can include tree-related research, tree inventories, management plans, and tree maintenance projects. Examples:
 - Structural pruning of small trees along a main street
 - Implementing an invasive species management plan and program
 - Developing a community tree care plan
 - Partial or complete tree inventories

- 2. Media Grants** can include public relations activities, literature or video development or dispersal, and educational programs. Examples:
 - Develop or distribute a video on proper tree watering
 - Create a list for your community of good street trees
 - Interpretive signs for an arboretum or garden
 - Develop an emerald ash borer outreach campaign for your community

- 3. Tree Planting Grants** can include street, arboretum, school or park tree planting projects. These grants should emphasize a diverse species palette and proper planting. Examples:
 - Highlight some new tree varieties by planting them in your arboretum
 - Plant some new trees at a school involving the students in planting and care
 - Replant street trees in an older neighborhood that has lost many trees, involving the neighborhood
 - Replace ash trees with more suitable species as part of an overall emerald ash borer management plan (more information can be found here [\(add ash tree replacement website\)](#))

- 4. NEW: Ash Tree Replacement Grants** can include any of the following project ideas for public tree planting. Examples:
 - A community has already lost ash trees due to EAB.
 - A community has proactively removed declining or unhealthy ash trees prior to the arrival of EAB.
 - A community wants to shadow plant trees next to existing ash trees that will be lost when EAB does arrive in their community.
 - A community has a new planting project that would have used ash trees if EAB had not been detected in an adjoining community.

Eligible Expenses: Eligible expenses must be tree-related only. Do not include expenses related to turf, shrubs, flowers, trail construction, recreational facilities, food, merchandise and similar items.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

To be considered for funding the attached grant application must be completely filled out in electronic format. The application and support material must be emailed back to vince.urbina@colostate.edu the grant application deadline.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Documentation and grant close-out information must be received by **September 30, 2021**. It can be in the form of photos, publications, videotapes, news releases, etc. **Photos, especially digital, and news articles are encouraged to use in CTC newsletters, annual report and social media sites.** Letters of appreciation are also helpful in CTC's fundraising efforts.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PREPARING A SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION

CTC grants are competitive. Because funding is limited, not receiving a grant does not imply that you submitted a poor project. Successful applications usually have a component of *each* of the **Selection Criteria** (listed in the grant application) as part of the project. (For example, a good planting project with no community involvement or educational component will probably not be funded). Membership or involvement with the Colorado Tree Coalition is a plus.

The purpose of CTC grants is to promote community forestry. Grants should demonstrate and encourage proper tree species selection and diversity, proper planting techniques and planting locations, and/or proper maintenance schedules and methods.

Read the application guidelines carefully before and after you prepare your proposal to ensure that you have included everything. Check your application for typographical and calculation errors. Finally, have someone who isn't closely associated with the project read the guidelines and proposal before you submit it. This person is more likely to notice what may be missing, unclear, or unconvincing.

It is highly recommended that you confer with your local CSFS office, a CTC representative, or your City Forester or Tree Board prior to submitting your application to ensure that it demonstrates tree species selection and diversity, planting techniques and locations, and maintenance that is appropriate for your community.

Donna Davis	Colorado State Forest Service-Broomfield	719-468-9499
Vince Urbina	Colorado State Forest Service-Grand Junction	970-250-1923
David Flaig	CTC Grants Committee	720-624-6555

