

2021 Colorado Tree Coalition/Xcel Energy Vegetation Management Grants

INTRODUCTION

Please note these important details of the grant program:

- The application is electronic. All applications are emailed.
- The maximum grant amount is \$3,000.
- A cash match of 25% of the request is required.

The Xcel Energy Vegetation management grants are made possible by the support and funding of the Xcel Energy Vegetation Management Division of Xcel Energy. 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 \$6,000 will be distributed in the form of grants.

Minimum/Maximum Award: The minimum grant request is \$500; the maximum is \$3,000.

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

GRANT CYCLE

Application Distribution: Early 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 25% by the applicant with **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 can make up the remaining 75% match.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Applicants: State and local governments, school districts, community and neighborhood organizations, and private non-profit groups in the Xcel Energy service area.

Eligible Projects: These funds are available for communities served by Xcel Energy and must be used for replacement or new planting projects. Line clearance activities are not eligible for these grants. **An educational component should be included in each project.** Projects which enhance good community tree planting and maintenance are eligible. In general projects must be on public property, but projects on private property that provide public benefit and access are acceptable.

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 by 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 are encouraged and may be used on the CTC website, social media sites and the Annual Report.** Letters of appreciation are also helpful for CTC’s fundraising efforts.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PREPARING A SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION

CTC/Xcel Energy Vegetation Management 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/Xcel Energy Vegetation Management grants is to promote community forestry while ensuring safe power transmission through utility lines. Grants should demonstrate and encourage proper tree species selection and diversity, proper planting techniques and locations, and/or proper maintenance schedules and methods.

The Xcel Energy Vegetation Management grants are separately funded by Xcel Energy. **If your community is served by Xcel Energy, we strongly suggest that you apply for this tier as this funding source has been underutilized in years past.** It is easy to find overhead power lines in prominent locations.

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 Forester, a CTC or Xcel Energy representative, your City Forester or Tree Board prior to submitting your application to insure that it demonstrates proper tree species selection and diversity, planting techniques and locations, and maintenance that is appropriate for your community.

CONTACTS

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