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Community Wildfire Preparedness Funding Application

**Overview**

Benton County Community Development Department is seeking applications for neighborhood community wildfire preparedness projects that aim to 1) decrease structure ignitability of homes, 2) reduce hazardous fuels around homes and/or 3) educate residents about wildfire risk reduction or preparedness. Priority will be given to projects that support residents with vulnerability to the negative impacts of wildfires, including low-income, elderly, disabled, and/or non-English speaking residents, as well as rural residents of Benton County.

The total funding for this grant is $18,000 with a maximum of $3,000 for each proposal (there is no minimum request amount). An individual applicant can only be associated with one unique proposal. Awarded grant funds need to be expended by December 31, 2023. The deadline to submit applications is 5pm on June 16, 2023. Grant funds will be made available to successful applicants either by direct funding or through reimbursement, dependent on the project.

All applications will be assessed for feasibility, potential impact, and equity. See the last page for additional information including example projects, exclusions, the application evaluation criteria, and project administration details.

Please complete the following application electronically and email the completed Word document to Inga Williams, [inga.williams@bentoncountyor.gov](mailto:inga.williams@bentoncountyor.gov). Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

**Primary Applicant Name:**Click or tap here to enter text.

**Address:**Click or tap here to enter text.

**Phone #:**Click or tap here to enter text.

**Email:**Click or tap here to enter text.

**Co-Applicant Name (if applicable):**Click or tap here to enter text.

**What neighborhood, community, or geographic area will this project support?** *Please be as specific as possible. Note: your defined geography for the project does not have to be an organized community group. All of these examples would qualify: Haysville Firewise Community, Three Oaks HOA, Blueberry Road residents, etc.*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**How many households are expected to participate in this project?**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Project Narrative:**

Describe your proposed project in 300 words or less. Include the specific project objectives, the connection to one or more of the 3 project areas defined in the overview, target audience/participants (including number of beneficiaries), action items, and a timeline for completion prior to December 31, 2023.

Click or tap here to enter text.

**You can request up to $3,000. How much funding are you requesting?**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Provide detailed itemization for the use of the funds (your best guess):**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Does this project support any of the wildfire vulnerable groups listed below?**  Yes  No  Unsure

**If you selected “Yes” above, define which vulnerable group(s) is/are supported and explain your response:**

Low-income residents

Elderly residents

Disabled residents

Non-English-speaking residents

**How will your project serve the populations you selected above?** *Be as specific as possible***:**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Projects must align with at least one policy in Benton County’s current** [**Community Wildfire Protection Plan**](https://www.co.benton.or.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/planning/page/2001/cwpp_adoptionversion-1-23-23.pdf) **(CWPP). Which of the following are included in your project proposal?** *Select all that apply.*

Incorporate the practice of creating and maintaining defensible space and structural resistance to wildfire for existing and new structures in the WUI, and other urban and rural locations (policy 1.1.1)

Disseminate information about fire resistant construction and adaptations that can lower flammability of structures (policy 1.1.1a)

Establish a property evaluation program for home owners (policy 1.1.1c)

Support a brush and branch chipping service to each Firewise Community, or community actively pursuing a Firewise Community designation (policy 1.1.1d)

Create additional disposal opportunities for yard debris using alternative methods to burning (policy 1.1.1e)

Provide assistance to socially vulnerable or rural WUI communities to create defensible space and incorporate hardening of structures (policy 1.1.1f)

Encourage home owners to clear vegetation and improve road grades along driveways (1.1.2b)

Other current Benton County CWPP policy. *What policy number?* Click or tap here to enter text.

**Additional Information**

**What can the funds be used for?**

Funds are for neighborhood projects that aim to 1) reduce structure ignitability of homes during wildfires (i.e., Home Hardening), 2) reduce flammable fuels in the 30’ surrounding homes and other structures (i.e., Defensible Space), and/or 3) provide education about wildfire risk reduction and resident preparedness.

Examples of projects include hosting a neighborhood chipping day, contracting an expert to conduct neighborhood-wide home assessments for wildfire risk, hiring a conservation crew to carry out defensible space work for residents who are not able to do the work themselves, hosting a neighborhood work party weekend that includes Home Ignition Zone education, developing a DIY vent screening program to reduce ember intrusion into homes, etc.

Defensible space activities within 30’ of structures can include tree trimming, tree removal, clearing brush and undergrowth, trimming shrubs, and replacing highly flammable vegetation with more fire-resistant plants.

**What activities/costs are excluded from funding?**

Funds cannot be used to cover the cost of food or drinks or pay for administration of the funds. You, as an applicant, won’t be paid for doing work on your property. Payment will be made as reimbursements to the property owner(s) who expended the funds, a business, or a community group or organization with a 501c tax designation (such as a church group, 4-H, scouts etc.). Neighbors who group together to work on a neighbor’s property will not be paid individually –you must be working on behalf of an organization and the funds will be paid to the organization.

**How will applications be evaluated?**

All applications will be accepted until the deadline and evaluated based on the following criteria: 1) project feasibility, 2) potential project impact on community risk reduction (determined by project activities and number of participating households), and 3) prioritization of risk reduction for wildfire vulnerable populations (low-income, elderly, disabled, and non-English speaking) or rural residents.

**Project administration & reporting**

Project amendments need to be approved prior to commencement of the project. To make an amendment to an awarded project, contact Inga Williams: [inga.williams@bentoncountyor.gov](mailto:inga.williams@bentoncountyor.gov).

The primary applicant (and co-applicant, if applicable) are responsible for coordinating the work to be done with a contractor or organization.If possible, the county will directly pay the contractor or organization that you hire to do the work. Otherwise, you will need to pay them and be reimbursed. This will be decided on a case-by-case basis once awards are granted.

The primary applicant is responsible for submitting a brief project report that describes project outcomes and impact upon finalizing the project. This report will be due 2 months after project completion (approximately February 28, 2024). Before and after pictures are required for any home hardening or defensible space work conducted as part of the project.

**Additional questions?**

Kindly email Inga Williams: [inga.williams@bentoncountyor.gov](mailto:inga.williams@bentoncountyor.gov).