

Firewise Community Mitigation Grant Application Evaluation

Grant Applicant: _____

Reviewer code: _____

Date Evaluated: _____

Total Score: _____

Proposals will be evaluated on a 100-point scale using the following criteria:

1. **Goals and impact**, 20 points. Goals clearly meet grant priorities and describes how the proposal will improve or increase wildfire resiliency for the community.
2. **Scope of Work**, 20 points. Proposals that include more than one category of Firewise Project Categories and meet one or more of the [Northeast Regional Action Plan's](#) Identified Options.
3. **Ability**, 10 points. Provides the approach and how this will achieve results within the project timeline, completing all projects, and submitting final reports by June 30, 2026.
4. **Project Sustainability**, 10 points. Proposal not only addresses current risks, but considers future concerns through planning, development, and mitigation.
5. **Collaboration**, 10 points. Includes support from partners, agencies, landowners, or communities.
6. **Low-Income Community**, 10 points. For purposes of this program, a low-income community is defined as a community where the relevant counties (i.e., the counties in which the community is located) has a median household income of less than 80% of the median household income of the state of Minnesota. This is a priority for funding, so if you check "no" you are still eligible for funding but will not receive as many points. Documentation is required and may be accomplished by either entering a link to the source in the application or by submitting documentation as an attachment.
7. **High Wildfire Risk**, 10 points. All, or part of the project is in an area identified as having a high fire hazard potential. This is a priority for funding, so if you check "no" you are still eligible for funding but will not receive as many points. Documentation is required and may be accomplished by either entering a link to the source in the application or by submitting documentation as an attachment.
8. **New Community**, 5 points. The project creates a new Firewise Community or develops a new CWPP.
9. **Budget and Match**, 10 points. 1:1 match with sufficient details in the application. Project work matches the budget worksheet.

Evaluation – 100-point rubric

Criteria	High Score	Medium Score	Low Score
1. Goals and Impact	15-20 points Clearly defined purpose with accomplishments linked to grant goals.	7-14 points Project described generally but missing elements to clarify project and intent. Somewhat addresses goals.	0-6 points Weak description or goals. Unclear on how the project will be completed. Not linked to the grant goals.
2. Scope of Work	15-20 points Linked to one or more Firewise categories and Northeast Regional Action Plan's actions. Clearly shows how the project will mitigate risk.	7-14 points Does not clearly describe how it meets more than one Firewise categories or Northeast Regional Action Plan's actions.	0-6 points Missing information on how it meets or does not link to the Firewise categories or Northeast Action Plan's actions.
3. Ability	7-10 points Clear and concise description of the outcomes and has clear, achievable measures.	3-6 points Describes how outcomes will meet one or more objectives.	0-2 points Weakly describes, or lack of clarity on measures and outcomes.
4. Project Sustainability	7-10 points Clearly shows maintenance, duration, and long-term plans to support the project after the grant is complete.	3-6 points Missing key details on project maintenance beyond the life of the grant. Otherwise, well-written and detailed.	0-2 points Does not contain details on project sustainability or how it provides benefit beyond the grant timeline.
5. Collaboration	7-10 points Demonstrates strong collaboration with partners and coordination with others.	3-6 points Moderate to limited partnership. Some, but not strong, partner commitment.	0-2 points Very little to no collaboration or coordination with partners.
6. Low-Income Community	10 points All, or part of a project area is in a low-income community as defined.	Not applicable	0 points The project is located outside a low-income community or is not documented.
7. High Wildfire Risk	10 points All, or part of the project is located within an area of high wildfire hazard potential and is properly documented.	Not applicable	0 points Project is located outside any areas with high wildfire hazard potential or is not properly documented.
8. New Firewise Community or New CWPP	5 points Project creates a new Firewise Community or develops a new CWPP.	Not applicable	0 points Project has an existing CWPP and does not create a new Firewise Community.
9. Budget and Match	4-5 points Budget is complete and clearly labeled. Narrative provides details of each budget line and connects to the project goals.	2-3 points Budget items are present, but some line items lack explanation or connection to project goals in the narrative.	0-1 points Errors are present in the budget. Unclear line items. No connection to narrative or poorly written.