

Additional information - ReLeaf community forestry grants program FAQ Summary

Updated July 23, 2023. Answers to common questions.

Planting and Project Details

- Grantees should note that balled and burlap stock is ineligible for reimbursement in this grant program due to the additional costs, and care and skill often required for proper planting. These trees often have excessive soil over the root collar flare and stem girdling roots, leading to potential establishment issues. Our grant program aims to ensure the long-term survival of trees planted with the funds, and thus, balled and burlap stock will not be reimbursed.
- Funding to assist private residences within municipalities to remove infested ash trees are limited to low-income residents. For activities on residential land, residential agreements are required. Work conducted on residential property will either be completed by residents (tree planting only), or by tree care companies holding liability insurance and with an ISA Certified Arborist on staff, or TCIA accreditation. Organizations will need to sign a formal agreement with property owner. Residential agreements will contain the following language:
 - *The State of Minnesota is released from any liability associated with work completed on private property.*
 - Access is granted by the landowner for all planned activities within agreement; this may include but is not limited to: follow-up maintenance, monitoring, or other on-site work.
 - I will plant and care for my tree according to the Tree Owner's Manual for as long as it is within my right to do so.

Matching Funds and Budget

- Grantees have the option to add volunteer hours to the budget sheet, but it is not mandatory. As of April 2023, the national value of volunteer time is \$31.80 per hour.
- Staff time spent on this grant would likely be considered in-kind match if you are including this in the application, but match is not required and is not recommended to include in application.

Eligibility and Requirements

- EAB does not have to be present in the city/community for grantee to apply.
- Council resolutions are not needed by/for DNR as a part of this grant.

- Homeowners are not eligible to apply for this grant, but they can recommend their municipality or a local nonprofit to apply. All applications for this grant must come from a local unit of government or non-profit organization with 501(c)(3) status. Work can be done on residential land for low-income residents, but the grant must be managed by one of the aforementioned entities.
- Each tree removed must be replanted for this grant. Grantees have flexibility in structuring their budget to make this feasible. For instance, grant funds can be used for removal, while the costs of tree planting can be covered using match funds. To ensure a minimum 1:1 replanting ratio, both removals and planted trees must be included in the application and budget to be eligible for funding.