



Frequently Asked Questions about NSA's \$10 Million USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act Award

Q: How were you selected to receive this grant?

A: We applied through a competitive process during the spring of 2023. The USDA Forest Service reviewed all grant applications and selected the awardees throughout the summer. You can read more about their process and other awardees here: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf/2023-grant-funding>

Q: What are your plans for the funds?

A: In our application we outlined two main areas for funding: tree planting and maintenance, including tree removals, and tree care industry workforce development throughout the state. Most of the funds will be administered through passthrough grants via a competitive process.

Q: Who will be eligible to apply for and receive the passthrough funds?

A: At this time, we do not know all the qualification criteria that will be required. We do know that all funds will need to be used in areas highlighted as “disadvantaged” according to the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool. You can find more information about the tool and explore the map here: <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5>

Q: When will funds become available?

A: Currently, we do not have a timeline. We must first sign the agreement with the USDA to begin to set timelines and eligibility criteria. When we have more information, it will be announced through public press releases and via our website, Plantnebraska.org.

Q: The title says “urban” -- does that mean rural communities won't be eligible?

A: Rural and urban communities will be eligible to apply for funding if the project locations meet the eligibility criteria. These funds are targeted at community forests which include the trees that line our streets and shade our homes, schools, and businesses. Learn more about what community forests are here: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/urban-forests>