



COMMUNITY WILDFIRE DEFENSE GRANTS

The US Forest Service (USFS) has released a grant funding [announcement](#) for the Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) program. This program, created by last year's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and funded at \$160 million annually for the next five years, will help communities at risk from wildfires plan and implement steps to reduce their risk.



Is your community at high risk of damage from a wildfire? Use the USFS [Wildfire Risk to Communities](#) portal to start exploring your risk.

Communities can use these grants in a variety of ways to reduce the wildfire risk to people and property. One key use is capacity building for wildfire mitigation. For example, communities can use the grants to support the implementation and enforcement of wildfire-related codes and standards; to train people to assess wildfire risk and implement effective

mitigation measures; and to perform outreach to community members through programs like Firewise USA®.

Communities that build these fundamentals—sound land use and building practices, a skilled workforce, and an educated public—will be better prepared for sustained and effective risk reduction and better equipped to take advantage of future federal grants that prioritize communities with codes in place.

As you prepare your grant applications, know that you can come to the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) for the following resources:

- **Standards:** [NFPA 1140, Standard for Wildland Fire Protection \(2022\)](#), is a comprehensive wildfire risk reduction standard, covering risk assessment methodology, mitigation planning, the creation and maintenance of defensible space, and standards for safer construction in wildfire prone areas. Governments can incorporate the pertinent chapters of NFPA 1140 by reference into their laws and regulations.
- **Training:** The NFPA training course, [Assessing Structure Ignition Potential from Wildfire](#), will build skills and understanding for assessing risk to homes in wildfire-prone areas and of the mitigation actions available to reduce that risk.
- **Certification:** The NFPA certification, [Certified Wildfire Mitigation Specialist](#), is a credential for public- and private-sector professionals alike to demonstrate their knowledge and expertise of wildfire hazard mitigation measures, planning and preparedness strategies, public education practices, and wildfire science.
- **Firewise USA®:** NFPA administers the national [Firewise USA®](#) recognition program, which provides a collaborative framework to help neighbors in a geographic area organize and take action to reduce wildfire risks at the local level. Any community that meets a set of voluntary criteria on an annual basis and retains an "In Good Standing Status" may identify itself as being a Firewise® site.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS [HERE](#).
APPLICATIONS FOR THIS YEAR ARE DUE BY OCTOBER 7!



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