

Grant funding links for wildfire mitigation

1) Volunteer Fire Capacity Grants (formerly VFA)

This program focuses on providing assistance to Alaskan communities to increase firefighter safety, build capacity and support rural volunteer fire departments. VFC funds can be used for structural and wildfire response and prevention. Up to \$10,000 is available to communities to fund projects that help with mitigation and prevention. Funding can also cover training and response equipment purchases. The applicant community must have a registered volunteer fire department to be eligible to apply.

The next application period will open in the fall of 2025.

More info here <https://forestry.alaska.gov/fire/vfc>

Basic Volunteer Fire Capacity Criteria:

- Serve a population of 10,000 or less
- Be registered with the Alaska Division of Fire & Life Safety
- Be NIMS Compliant
- Be in compliance with past VFC awards
- Provide documentation of a minimum of 10% matching funds with application

2) Community Wildfire Defense Grants

This grant program supports wildfire risk reduction planning and project implementation for eligible communities, Tribes, states, non-profits, and Alaska Native Corporations. Communities will receive priority for this program if they are in a low-income area, recently impacted by disaster or in a wildfire hazard location.

There are two categories of projects that can be applied for and will be evaluated separately:

- For Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Development or Revision: One of the fundamental building blocks in creating a fire adapted community is the development, adoption and continuous use of a well-prepared CWPP. In some cases, a community may choose to utilize a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan or Tribal hazard mitigation plan with a wildfire component that meets the same objectives of a CWPP.
- For project implementation: The project must be described in a Community Wildfire Protection Plan that is not more than 10-years old.
- Funding is **not available** for fire suppression training, equipment, or supplies.

Individual grants will fund up to \$250,000 to create and update community wildfire protection plans or conduct outreach and education, and up to \$10 million for associated infrastructure and resilience projects. Projects must be completed within five years of the award obligation. The U.S. Forest Service may waive the cost-sharing requirement for a CWDG project that serves an underserved community. To apply for a cost-share waiver, an applicant must demonstrate that the community meets the low-income criteria.

Use the CWDG dashboard to see if your community is eligible. <https://wildfirerisk.org/cwdg-tool/206105>

More CWDG info here: <https://forestry.alaska.gov/fire/cwdgrants>

The next CWDG application period will open in winter 2025.

3) Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Grants

The Western States WUI program focuses on the areas where the wildland meets towns and neighborhoods, which is what many rural Alaskan communities are.

Funding is awarded for hazardous fuels and educational projects within the four goals of:

- improving wildfire prevention programs
- reduction of hazardous fuels
- restoration of fire-adapted ecosystems
- promotion of community assistance

Eligible applicants for this program include, state and local governments, native corporations and non-profits.

If interested, please contact the Division of Forestry & Fire Protection Stewardship program

<https://forestry.alaska.gov/stewardship/index>

The next CWDG application period will open in late fall 2025

Please reach out anytime with questions, thank you

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