

KING COUNTY FORESTRY OPPORTUNITY GRANT GUIDELINES



FORESTS IN KING COUNTY: King County is known for its vibrant urban communities, yet more than half of the county, over 800,000 acres, is covered by forests. A burgeoning population and increasing demand for housing and services has accompanied economic growth in the metropolitan area. In response, large tracts of working forest have been subdivided, sold and converted to residential land uses, breaking up the forested landscape into a patchwork of individual family holdings. As working forests are converted to other uses, the infrastructure for forestry such as sawmills, equipment repair and forester services disappear. The lack of such services makes active forest management for economic and ecological benefits more difficult.

King County established its Forestry Program in 1997 to slow the loss of working forests by providing technical assistance and forest stewardship education programs, strengthening county policy to support forestry, and encouraging innovative approaches to conserving forest land and forestry..

PROGRAM PURPOSE: The purpose of the Forestry Opportunity Grant program is to support pilot projects that help conserve the forest land base and forestry in King County by strengthening infrastructure for forestry, promoting forest products-based businesses and adding to the diversity and self-sufficiency of local economies. The program is one of the actions recommended in the *King County Rural Economic Strategies Report* of 2006 [http://www.kingcounty.gov/exec/bred/rural_econ_strategies.aspx].

Successful grant applications will demonstrate public benefit and show innovative approaches for expanding markets for new or under-used forest products; promoting cooperative forest management among contiguous small forest lands, promoting community fire safety planning or educating about sustainable forest management.

FUNDS AVAILABLE: A maximum of **\$20,000** will be reimbursed to projects for labor and materials costs. Typical grants are in the \$4,000 to \$8,000 range.

PROJECT EXAMPLES:

- Organize landowners to manage clusters of small properties for forestry;
- Hold workshops for small forest landowners to develop marketing strategies or improve distribution networks;
- Develop a forest or non-timber forest products marketing cooperative;
- Develop a forest product concentration yard; or
- Facilitate community planning to implement best management practices and reduce wildfire hazards.

Reforestation or habitat restoration projects are not eligible unless applicants demonstrate economic benefits for rural economies.

MATCH:

A minimum match of 25% of the total project cost is required. The applicant is encouraged to contribute match in the form of cash or in-kind services. The cost share may include resources from project partners and contributors. Proposals will be rated on the mix of resources brought to the project as well as dollar value

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

Rural community groups, landowners, small businesses, not-for-profit organizations, tribal governments, special districts and educational institutions are eligible for grants. General purpose local, state or federal governments are not eligible. Priority will be given to projects in unincorporated King County or in a rural city.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Applications will be accepted and evaluated on a rolling deadline basis until all allocated funds are expended.

PROJECT COMPLETION:

Most projects will be completed within 12 months.

ALLOWED COSTS:

Allowed costs include reasonable expenses that are clearly needed for the project and are outlined in the project budget.

COSTS NOT ALLOWED:

- Grant funds may not be used to pay for any of the following:
- a. Costs of the project incurred before or after the grant period;
 - b. Salary and benefits for government employees except at educational institutions;
 - c. Food, beverages, awards, entertainment or celebrations;
 - d. Use charges for applicant-owned equipment;
 - e. Land purchase; or
 - f. Activities that are the result of a compliance action required by King County or another jurisdiction.

King County reserves the right to determine the nature and manner in which cost items will be paid for in any grant.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Grant funds will be distributed on a reimbursement basis unless other arrangements are made with King County. The project applicant is responsible for the following:

- a. Secure all applicable permits (federal, state, local) before work begins;
- b. Establish a record keeping system which includes a breakdown of cash and in kind contributions as well as grant funds and retain these records for three years after the project is completed;
- c. Submit a progress report with each request for reimbursement; and
- d. Provide documentation such as copies of receipts with each request for reimbursement. If salaries or wages are to be reimbursed or used for the cost share, documentation such as time cards or check stubs must be provided.

Note that the final reimbursement may not be distributed until the project has been completed and verified by King County staff.

Tax reporting is the responsibility of the applicant.

FOR MORE INFORMATION Contact Linda Vane
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Alternative formats available upon request.