



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2025 WOOD INNOVATIONS FUNDING OPPORTUNITY



Informational Webinar

Recorded October 15, 2024

Wood Innovations Homepage

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/science-technology/energy-forest-products/wood-innovation>

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Today's webcast is a recording and as a result questions are not able to be addressed in real-time. Please contact Collin Buntrock (collin.buntrock@usda.gov) or your Regional Wood Innovations Coordinator for answers to your questions.

The recording will be made available for viewing at the USDA Forest Service Wood Innovations homepage [<https://www.fs.usda.gov/science-technology/energy-forest-products/wood-innovation>].

Any content changes to the Application Form or Instructions, that deviate from the information provided in this pre-recorded webinar, will be posted on the USDA Forest Service [Wood Innovations homepage](#).

Grants.gov
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) #10.674

<https://www.grants.gov/>



Regional Contacts

Additional information may require you contacting your **Regional Wood Innovations Coordinator**.



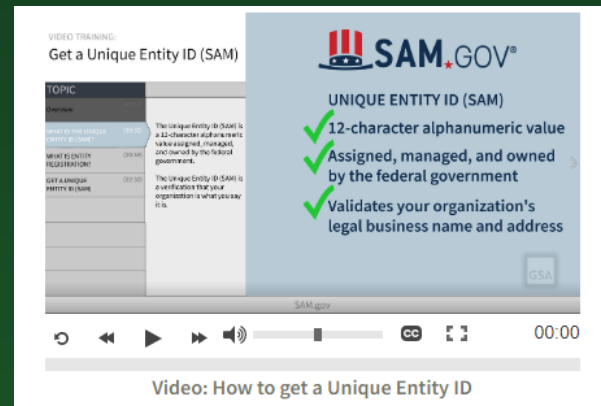
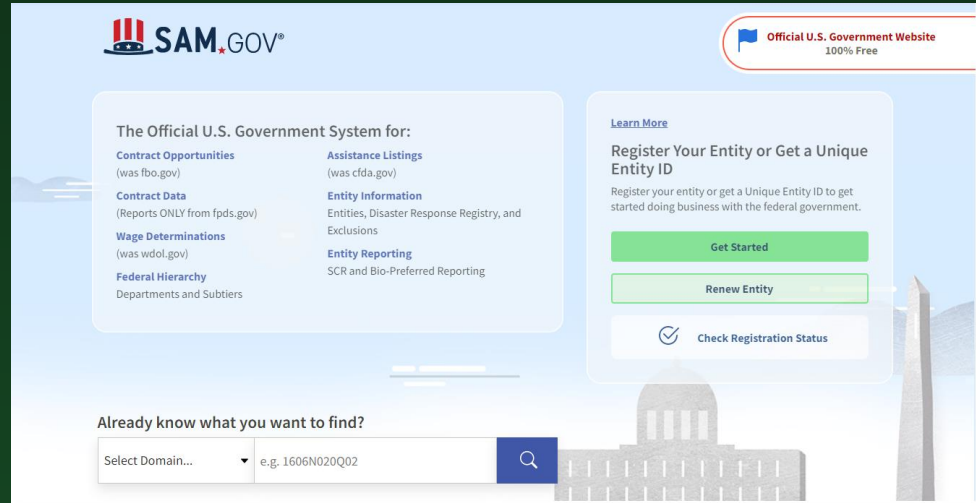
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Wood Innovations Regional Contacts

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/science-technology/energy-forest-products/wood-innovation-contacts>



- System for Award Management (SAM)
- <https://sam.gov/content/home>
- 100% Free to Register
- DO NOT go through a third party that may charge for registration.
- An Active SAM.gov registration is needed to finalize a grant agreement with the USDA Forest Service.
- When applying for funding, provide a screenshot that you have begun the [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) registration process.
- Entity name in SAM must match business/organization name in application

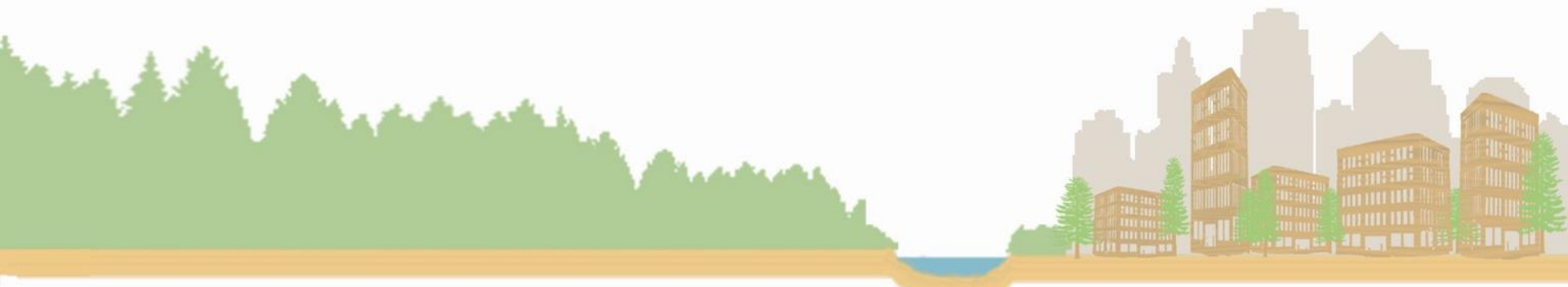




USDA Forest Service Wood Innovations

Purpose of today's webcast:

- Provide an overview of the 2025 Wood Innovations Funding Opportunity Request for Proposals (RFP)
 - What's New for 2025
 - Wood Innovations Grant program background
 - Overall Requirements
 - Application
 - Submission





USDA Forest Service Wood Innovations

FY2025 Overview

- Up to \$8M is available for this announcement
- Applicants may apply for up to \$300,000
- **Exception:** \$1,000,000 is available for a stationary wood energy system greater than 5MW in thermal output
- The purchase of stationary sawmill and other wood processing equipment is allowed

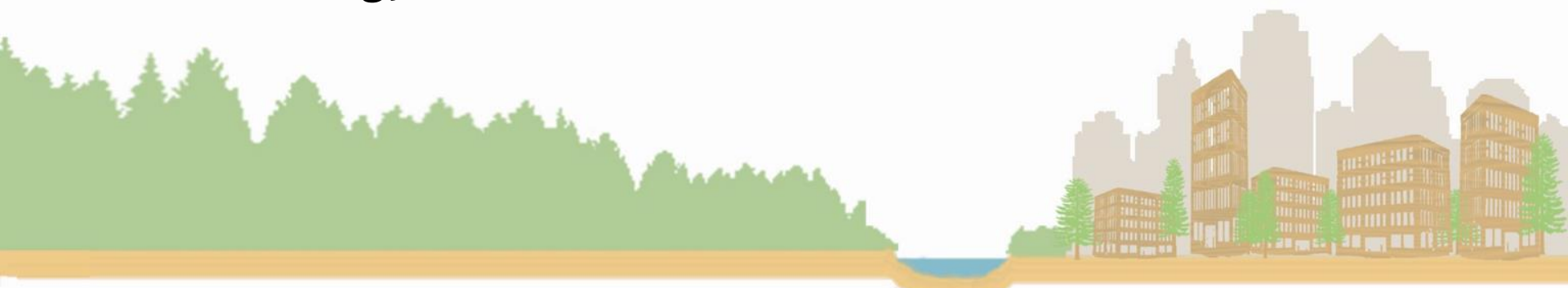




USDA Forest Service Wood Innovations

Background

- Substantially expand and accelerate wood products markets and wood energy markets throughout the United States to support forest management needs on National Forest System and other forest lands.
- RFP supports the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-334), Rural Revitalization Technologies (7 U.S.C. 6601), and the nationwide challenge of disposing of hazardous fuels and other wood residues from National Forest and other forest lands in a manner that supports wood products and wood energy markets.





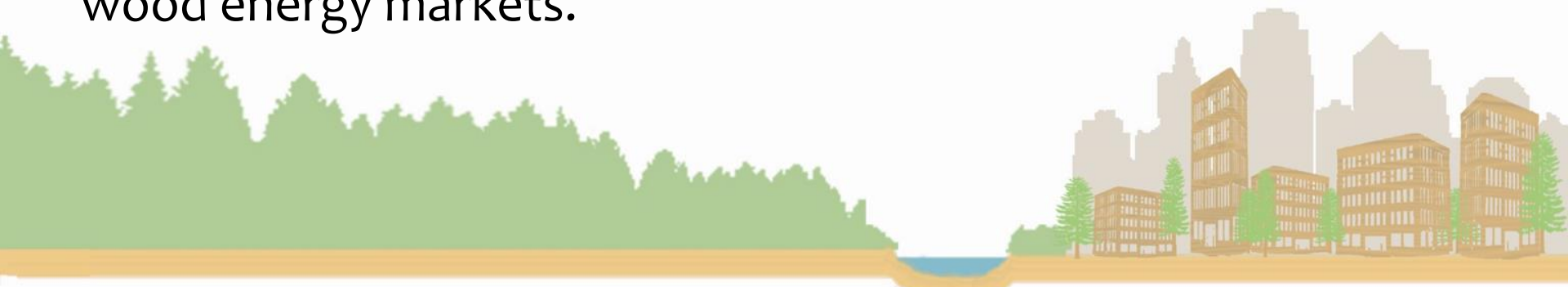
USDA Forest Service Wood Innovations

Background

Goals of the Wood Innovations Funding Opportunity:

- Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health on National Forest System and other forest lands
- Reduce costs of forest management on all land types
- Promote economic and environmental health of communities

Intent of the Wood Innovations Funding Opportunity is to stimulate, expand, and support wood products markets and wood energy markets.



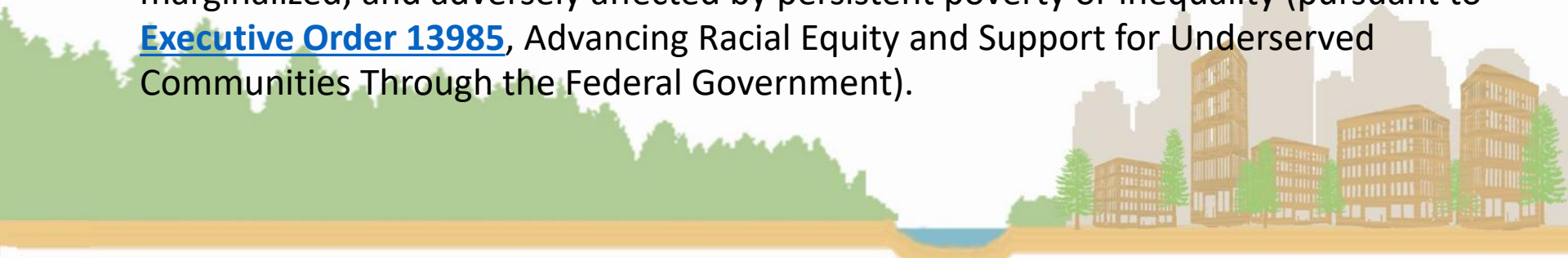


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Background

Preference will be given to proposals that:

- Create or expand markets for wood and biomass generated by forest health and hazardous fuels reduction projects on National Forest System and other U.S. forested lands.
- Support development of domestically sourced timber and U.S. manufacturing of mass timber and other wood products.
- Support commercial building markets or other markets that use innovative wood products.
- Clearly demonstrate how the project will reduce land management costs.
- Commit to utilizing domestically sourced timber for mass timber construction projects.
- Involve wood products or wood industry partners.
- Support, benefit, or engage communities that are historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality (pursuant to [Executive Order 13985](#), Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government).



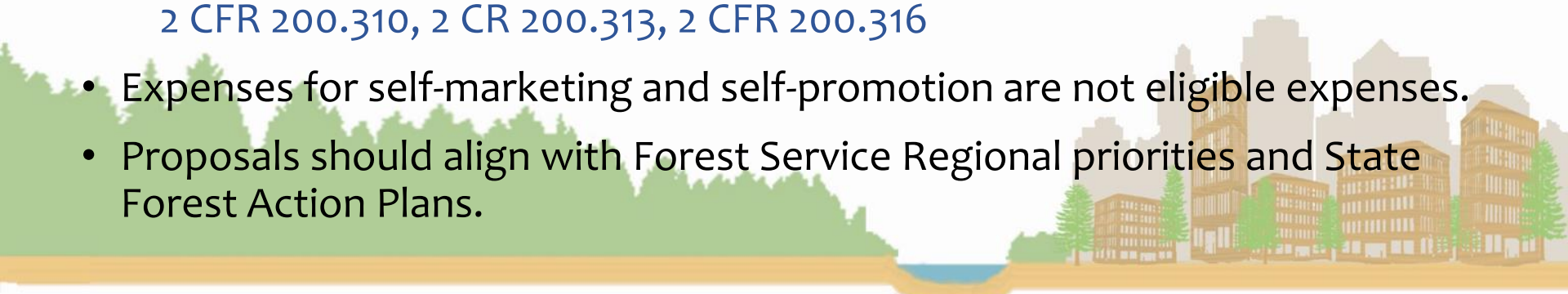


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Background

Other items to note:

- Projects must provide a preference for the purchase, acquisition, or use of goods, products, or materials produced in the United States pursuant to [2 CFR § 200.322](#).
- Labor for operation or production expenses will not be funded with federal funds
- Non-stationary, i.e., portable or mobile equipment, will not be funded in this program.
- Basic research, construction, equipment purchases **except stationary wood energy or sawmill equipment** will NOT be considered.
[2 CFR 200.310](#), [2 CR 200.313](#), [2 CFR 200.316](#)
- Expenses for self-marketing and self-promotion are not eligible expenses.
- Proposals should align with Forest Service Regional priorities and State Forest Action Plans.



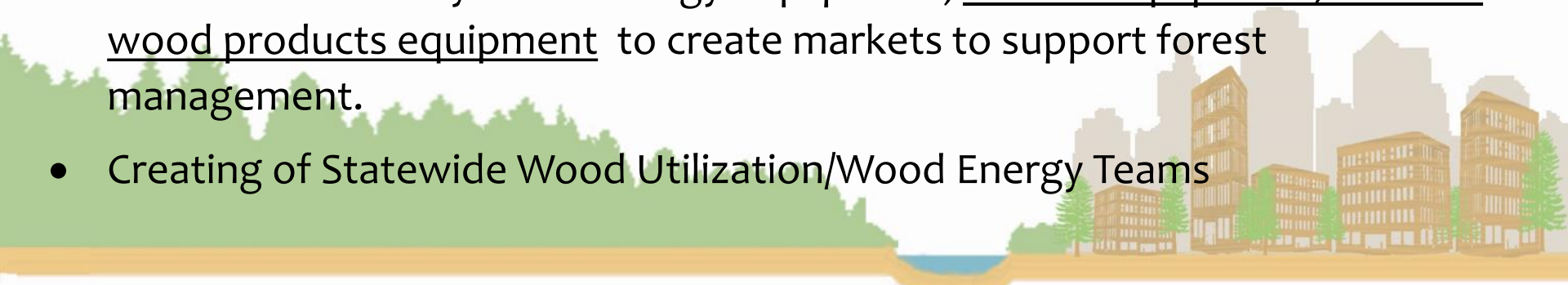


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Background

Examples of projects:

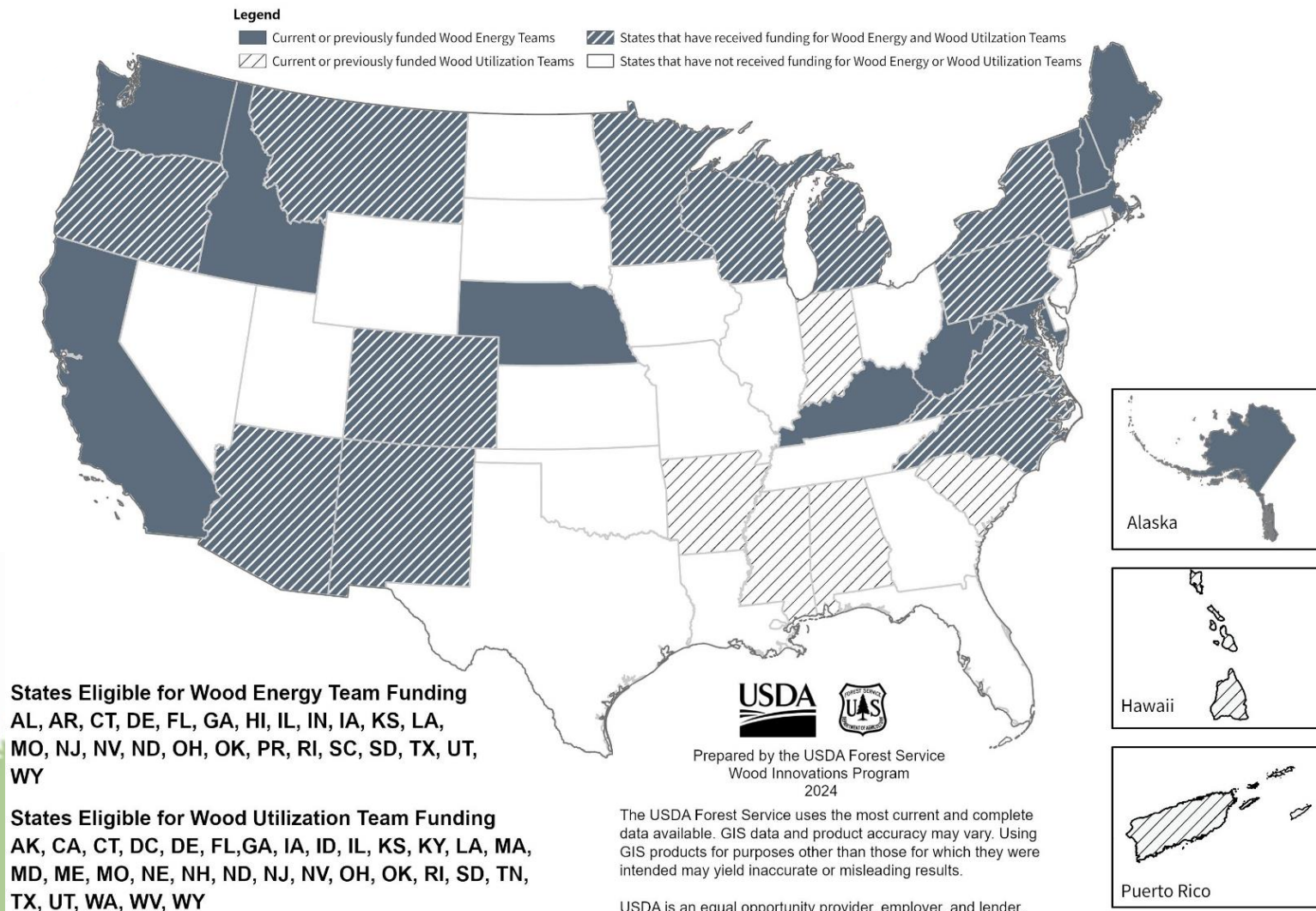
- Engineering designs, cost analyses, and/or permitting necessary, in the later stages of commercial construction projects or in the later stages of wood energy project.
- Showcase quantifiable environmental and economic benefits of using wood as a sustainable building material.
- Establishing or increasing wood products manufacturing capacity and/or markets that support forest ecosystem restoration.
- Developing commercial woody biomass and wood product utilization industrial parks or develop a cluster of wood energy projects
- Purchase stationary wood energy equipment, sawmill equipment, or other wood products equipment to create markets to support forest management.
- Creating of Statewide Wood Utilization/Wood Energy Teams





USDA Forest Service Wood Innovations

Statewide Wood Energy Teams and Statewide Wood Utilization Teams 2024 Status



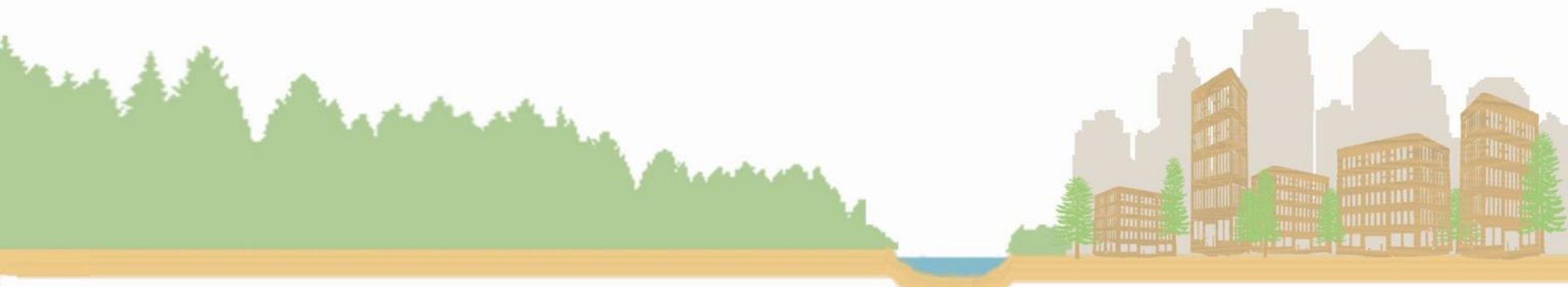


USDA Forest Service Wood Innovations

Background

2024 Results

- 214 proposals received
- 117 proposals funded
- \$31.3 million Forest Service funds, \$68 million match
 - 100 wood products markets (36 related to mass timber)
 - 17 wood energy

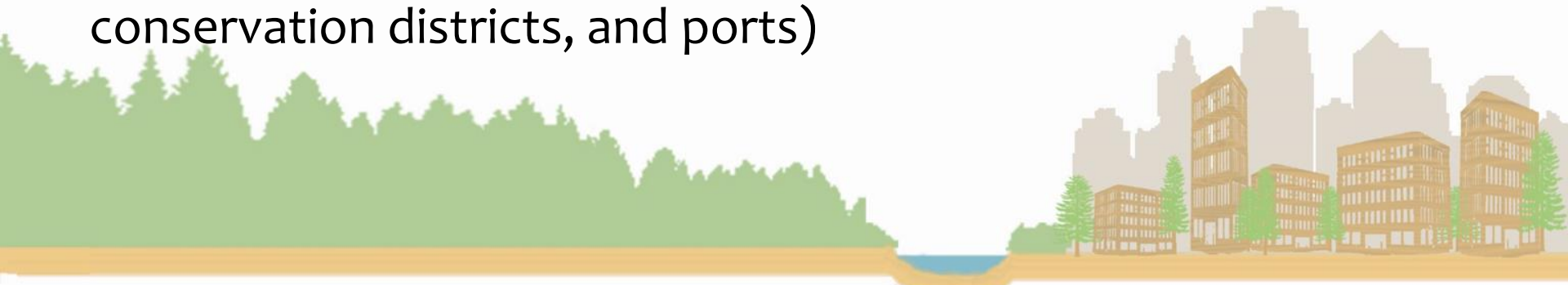




USDA Forest Service Wood Innovations

Overall Requirements

- **Available Funding:** Up to \$8 million. Most awards (excluding match) will not exceed \$300,000
- **Exception:** \$1,000,000 is available for a stationary wood energy system greater than 5MW in thermal output.
- **Eligible applicants:** For-profits; State, local, and Tribal governments; school districts; communities; not-for-profit organizations; institutions of higher education; and special purpose districts (e.g., public utilities districts, fire districts, conservation districts, and ports)

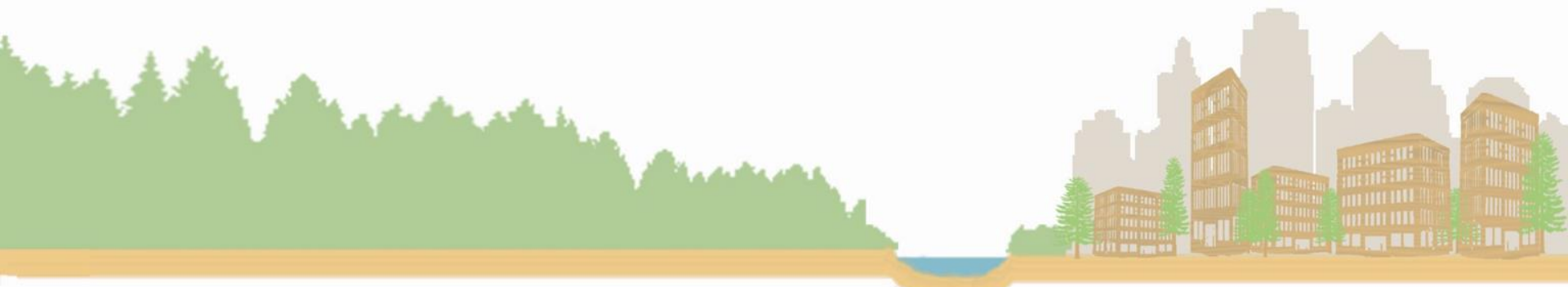




USDA Forest Service Wood Innovations

Overall Requirements

- **Matching: (1:1 match)** Applicants must contribute at least 100% of the Forest Service requested funds. For every \$1 of Federal funding requested, applicants must provide at least \$1 in match. Cash or in-kind match allowed. Federal salary cannot be match. Forest Service funds cannot be used to fund Forest Service involvement in the project.
- **Award Type:** Grants and Cooperative Agreements awarded under this announcement are typically awarded for 2 to 3 years.





USDA Forest Service Wood Innovations

Application Content – Part 1

The application format is a fill in pdf file.

*****Refer to the FY25 Request for Proposals & Instructions for most current information and guidance*****

Basic Project Information

- Project Title
- Project Length
- Abstract



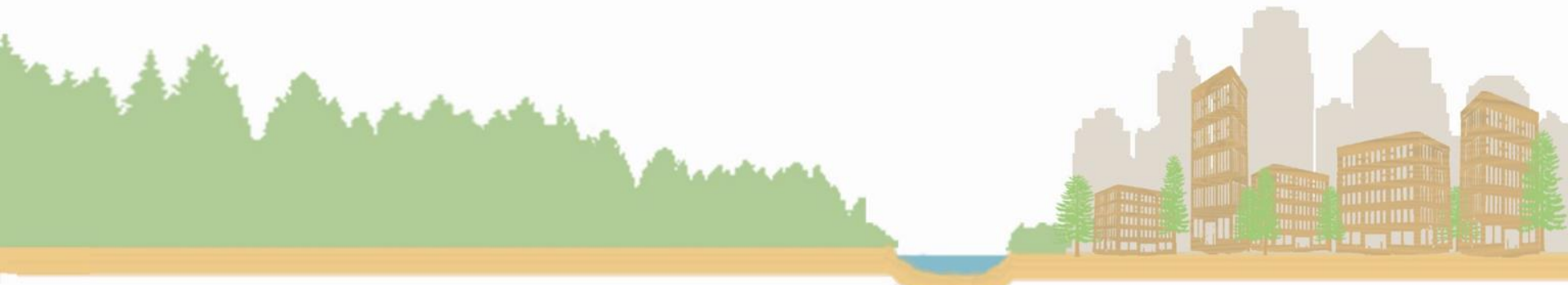


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Application Content – Part 1

Project Goals and Objectives

- Statement of need
- Goals and objectives
- How project responds to program goals, intent and priorities listed



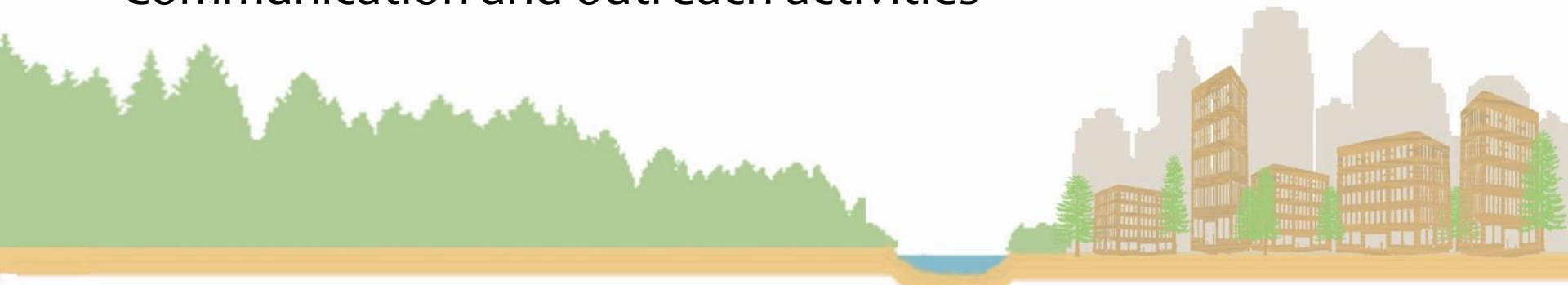


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Application Content – Part 1

Project Description

- Work plan with specific activities to be accomplished
- Budget
- Timeline
- How progress will be measured
- Industry involvement
- Subgrant or subcontracting activity
- Communication and outreach activities



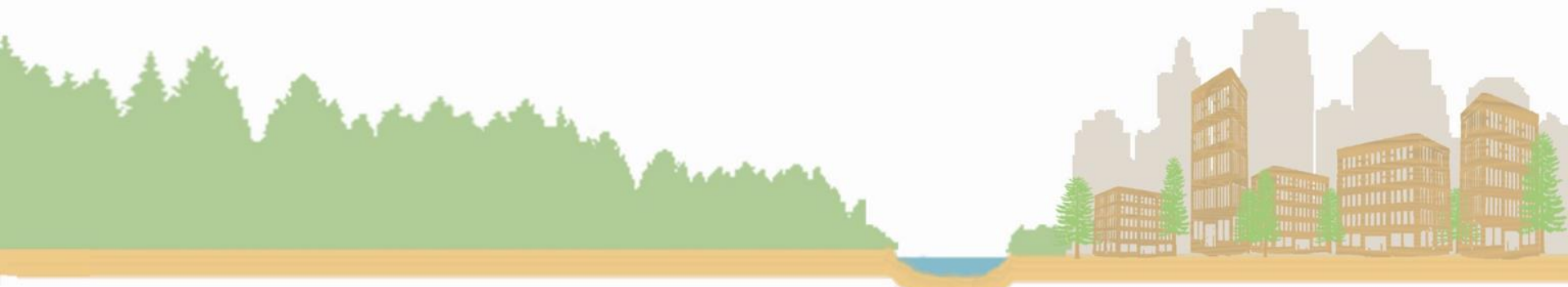


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Application Content – Part 1

Project Impact

- Project outcomes, deliverables, and desired results
- Magnitude of the impact on market
- Benefits to NFS and other lands with metrics
- Job creation and retention
- Include assumptions used to determine these impacts
- Additional funds and/or contributions above the minimum required match that maximize proposed project benefits



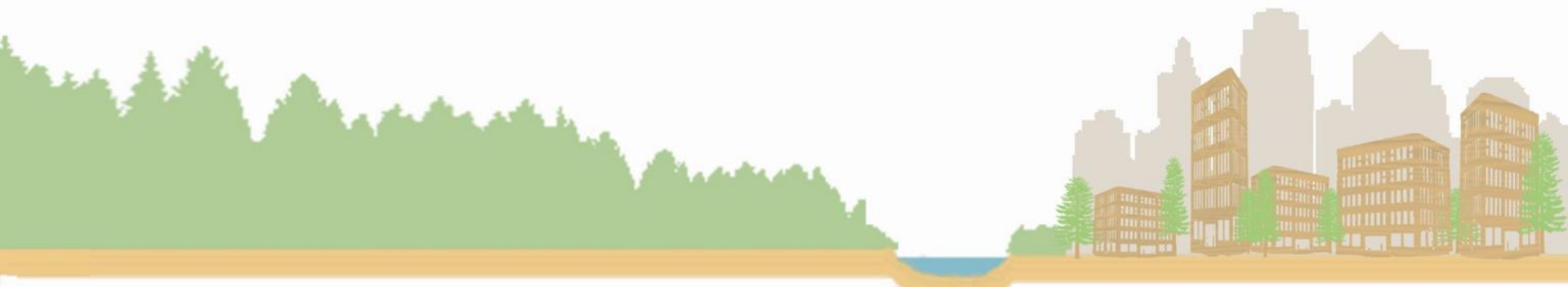


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Application Content – Part 1

Qualifications of Team and Partners

- List key personnel qualifications and roles in project.
- Describe their capabilities and certifications as well as experience on related projects that demonstrate your team has the appropriate skill set and experience for success.
- Experience on prior funded Forest Service projects
- Performance on prior funded Forest Service projects



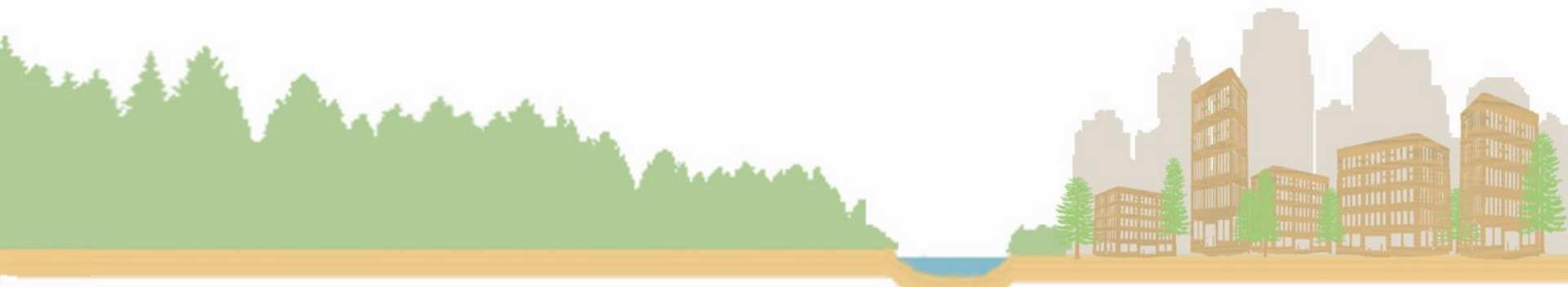


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Application Content – Part 1

Annual Progress Reports and Final Reports

- Describe reports, documents, and success stories that will be provided during and at the end of the project for posting on the Wood Innovations website
- Provide contact information for the person responsible for reporting





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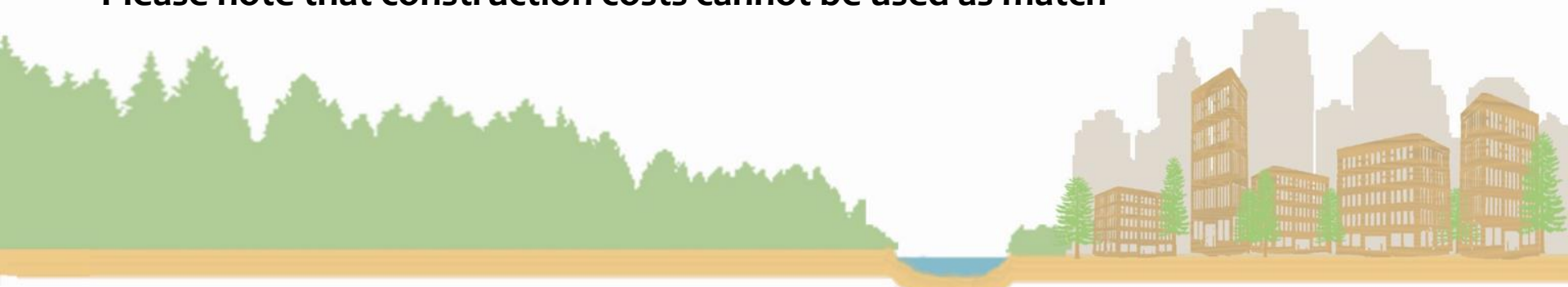
Application Content – Part 1

Budget Summary and Justification (**Very Important!**)

2 CFR 200.400 subpart E – Cost Principles

- Address proposed expenditures
- Specify cash and in-kind match, other Federal funds, and staff time that will help accomplish the program of work
- Must submit letters of support from third-party organizations confirming the amount of cash or in-kind services to be provided, up to the minimum required match

Please note that construction costs cannot be used as match



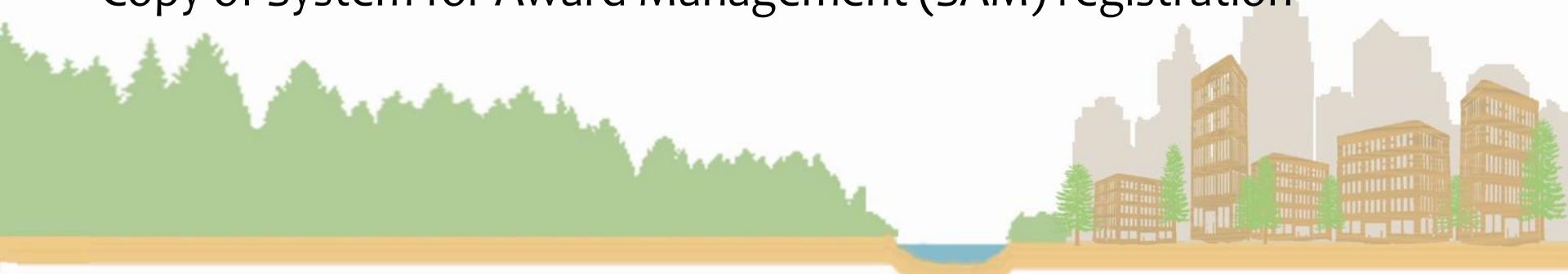


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Application Content – Part 1

Appendices

- Letters of support from third-party organizations confirming the amount of cash or in-kind services to be provided, up to the minimum required match
- List of all other funds (Federal, State, private) received for this project within the last 5 years
- Table of Contents if there are more than two separate appendices
- Documentation or cost quotes for equipment (if applicable)
 - *Energy efficiency and details regarding 5mW provision*
- Copy of System for Award Management (SAM) registration



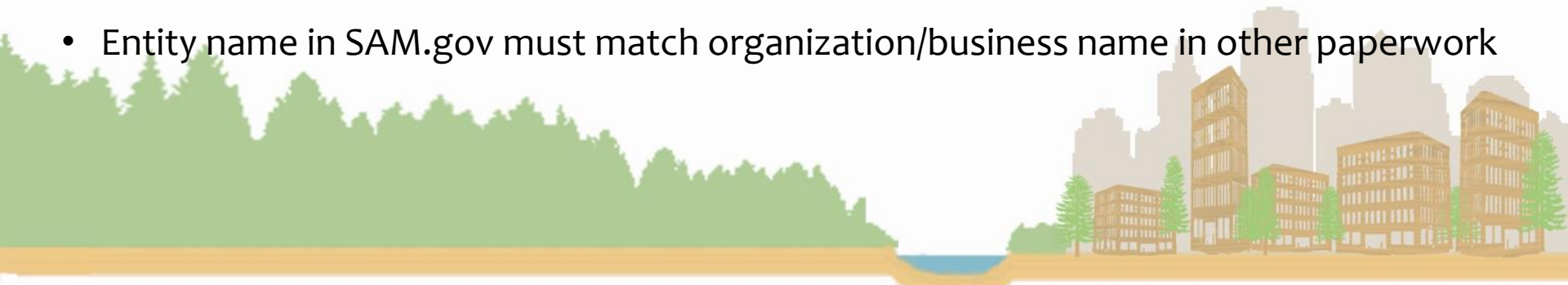


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Application Content – Part 2

Required Financial Forms

- Required forms in Request for Proposals instructions
- **SAM:** The applicant **must have initiated** the registration process in the <https://sam.gov/content/home> to apply. You must include a screenshot of the SAM registration page indicating that you have initiated the registration process in the application appendices, or your application will be denied.
- Additionally, your agency **must** have attained an active registration prior to the final selection and announcements of grant awards to be eligible for an award.
- There is no charge for registration. Active registration must be maintained throughout the life of the award.
- Entity name in SAM.gov must match organization/business name in other paperwork

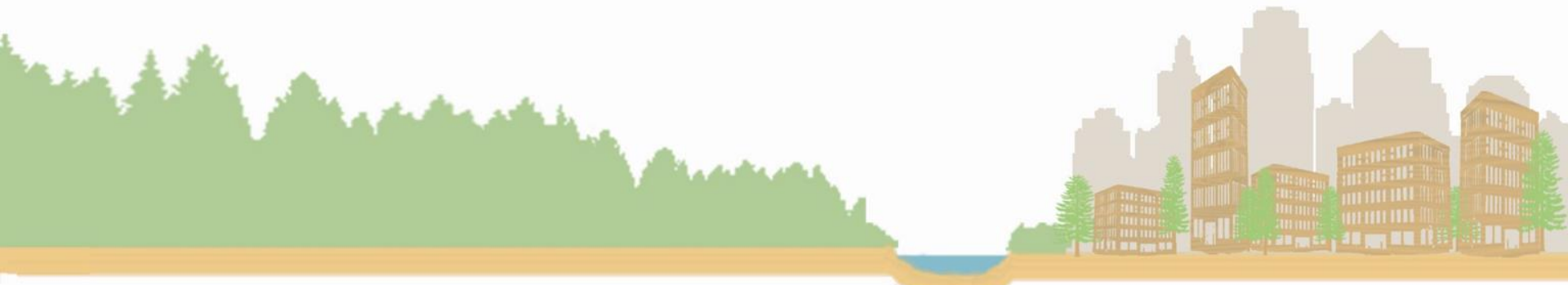




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Wood Innovations Grant proposals – Common Issues

- Ineligible expenses – i.e. construction, operating costs
- Incorrect indirect charges
- Personnel costs aren't described
- Personnel costs contain profit (e.g. billable hours)
- Missing equipment/contracting quotes
- Requested funding/match does not total what is in Part 1: Budget Narrative
- SF-424 entity name does not match SAM entity name

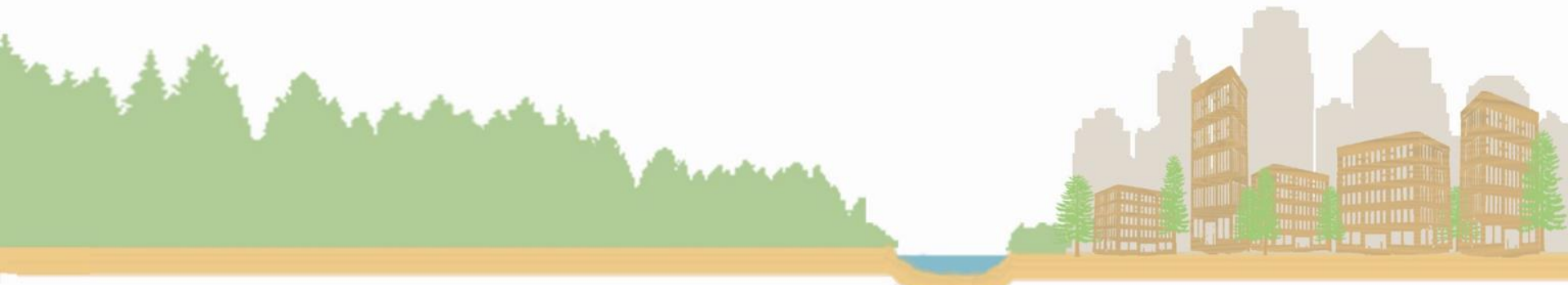




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Evaluation Criteria

	Points
Project Goals and Objectives	15
Project Description	35
Project Impact	35
Qualifications of staff, organization, and partners	15



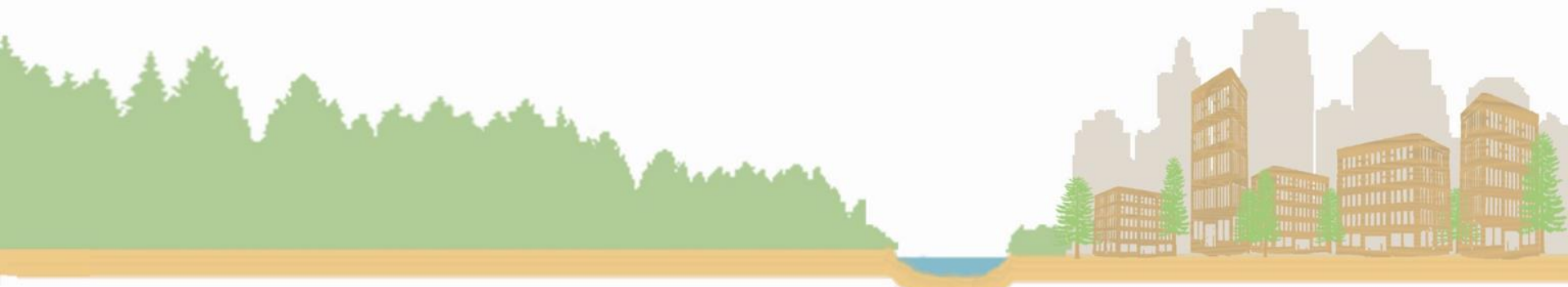


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How to Submit?

Email finalized application to your Forest Service Regional Coordinator listed in the RFP by 5:00 p.m. local time in the region you submit

- TWO separate searchable PDF files:
 - ✓ Part 1: Cooperator Contact Information, Narrative, and any Appendices
 - ✓ Part 2: Required Financial Forms

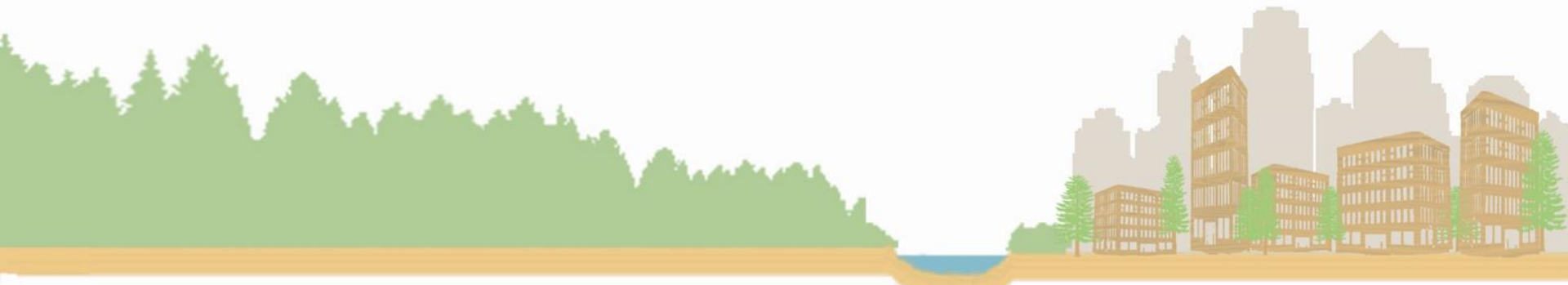




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Forest Service Regional Coordinators

- Receive **all** application submittals by e-mail
- Advise interested applicants and answer questions
- Manage grants and participate with cooperative agreements
- Receive communication about media events or activities generated by the award from awardees





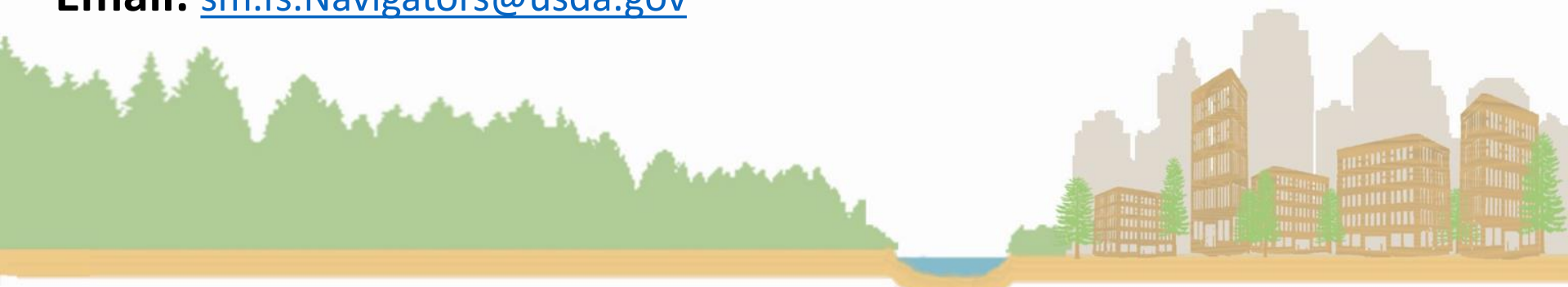
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USFS Community Navigators

- Provide support and guidance to USFS grants, services, and funding programs
- Partnership with six non-profit organizations to build capacity and information among communities
- Provide technical assistance to help communities identify and apply for funding opportunities and comply with post-award requirements.

Community Navigators: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/navigators>

Email: sm.fs.Navigators@usda.gov





USDA Forest Service Wood Innovations

Questions and Discussion

Contact your Regional Wood Innovations Coordinator for questions after webcast
(listed in Instructions Document)

Wood Innovations Homepage

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/science-technology/energy-forest-products/wood-innovation>

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