



# TEMPORARY BRIDGE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM APPLICATION

(Reference Public Law 117-58)

FS-1500-0048 (REV. 10/2022)

OMB #: 0596-0255

OMB Exp. Date: 05/31/2023

**Required Actions** - Ensure that your organization is registered with the System for Award Management (SAM), which is located at <https://sam.gov/content/home>

## Cover Page for Part 1: Cooperator Contact Information

1. Applicant: South Carolina Forestry Commission

2. Requested Forest Service Funding: \$ 350,000.00

3. Contact Information

Financial Contact (*Responsible official for the financial administration of the project*)

Name: Cathy Nordeen Title: Director of Administration

Organization/Company: SC Forestry Commission

Street Address/P.O. Box: P.O. Box 21707

City, State Zip: Columbia, SC 29221

Phone: (803)896-8865 E-mail Address: cnordeen@scfc.gov

Project Contact (*Responsible for management/coordination of project*)

If same as Financial Contact above, check box ☐

Name: Holly Welch Title: Environmental Program Manager

Organization/Company: SC Forestry Commission

Street Address/P.O. Box: 219 W. Laurens Street

City, State Zip: Laurens, SC 29360

Phone: (b) (6) E-mail Address: hwelch@scfc.gov

This duplicate of a previously funded application is intended for reference only.

Application Instructions: Complete and submit Part 1 (Narrative) and Part 2 (Required Financial Forms). Address each item number for Part 1 as thoroughly as possible. Refer to the Notice of Funding Opportunity for additional instructions.

## Part 1: Narrative

### A. Applicant Information

Applicant Organization:

Funding Amount Requested:

Does your organization currently have an active Temporary Bridge Program? If yes, will you be updating and changing how you manage the program? Please describe in the fillable form field below (*limited to 1,625 characters and spaces*).

This funding request is for Year 1 and 2 funds.

The South Carolina Forestry Commission (SCFC) currently has a temporary bridge program. The program has two facets: rental and cost-share. The SCFC has been operating the bridge loan program for 16 months, and it has been well received by the forest industry. The bridges have been used to access approximately 2,960 acres of timberland and have helped to avoid temporary culvert and debris crossings, which have a much higher risk of water quality impact than temporary bridge crossings do. With this funding two more bridges will be added to the rental program, which will allow access to loggers in more areas of the state and reduce wait times.

The cost-share program uses state funds to help defray the purchase costs of temporary bridges for logging. The pre-application period garnered 80 applicants, and unfortunately, the funding allotted was only enough to fully fund eight of those applications. This funding will be used to help additional contractors purchase temporary bridges.

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**B. Partner Organizations** (*Address the following in the fillable form field. The form field is limited to 1,625 characters and spaces.*)

- Applicant Partners: List all collaborating partners and roles in implementing and supporting the program, along with letters of support, if possible.
- Multi-state collaboration: If planned, please describe. It is encouraged, but not required for smaller states.

**South Carolina Timber Producers Association** will assist in informing the logging contractors about the funding opportunity.

**Forestry Association of South Carolina** will assist with information sharing and publicizing the program.

**SFI-SIC Committee** members will share program information with their contacts.

**C. Program Information** (*Address the following in the fillable form field. The form field is limited to 5,000 characters and spaces.*)

- Describe how the bridge program will be implemented. Will you implement a rental, loan, cost share program or a combination of each?
- Bridge Information - Provide a list of potential bridge suppliers.
  - Which bridges and how many of each will be used for each program? Refer to Instructions for allowable bridge structures. Identify by type, material, size, quantity and cost.
    - **Rental**
    - **Loan**
    - **Cost-Share**
- Has a rental rate already been identified?
- If using a cost-share program, have potential users been identified?
  - Please list any identified users.
  - Has a cost- share percentage been identified?
- Have bridge storage/pickup sites have been identified? How many and where?
- Describe how maintenance costs will be addressed.
- Describe how bridges will be inventoried and tracked throughout the life of the bridge.

*Input Program Information in this Form Field*

A portion of the requested funds, \$47,000, will be used to expand the Commission's existing bridge rental program. Two additional bridges will be purchased and located in areas of the state that are not being served by the current program. One bridge will be a three-section 4' x 30' bridge, and the second will be a two-section 6' x 30' bridge. Both will be constructed of steel. Bridges will be rented out using the existing procedure. A lawyer drafted rental agreement will be signed using DocuSign. This agreement has already been drafted and has been in use for over a year. The location of use will be reported by the renter, and basic information (such as stream type and acres accessed) will be gathered at the time of rental. The crossing installation will be inspected at least once during the rental period, and the bridge condition will be inspected upon return. Renters will be charged a rental fee of \$50 per week. The rental fees will be reserved and used as needed for bridge maintenance, repair and replacement. The user is responsible for repairing or replacing the bridges if major damage occurs during the rental period. The bridges will be stored at Forestry Commission office locations. Equipment suitable for loading and unloading the bridges is already in place at chosen locations. All bridges will be inventoried as a part of the SCFC's annual fixed asset inventory process.

Potential bridge suppliers:

Watford Industries (Kingstree, SC) - current pricing for **6'x30' bridge set \$(b) (4)**. Purchased bridges from them two years ago for the current bridge rental program.

Andrews Metal Works (Andrews, SC) - current pricing for **6'x30' bridge set \$(b) (4)**

John Woodie Enterprises, Inc. (Statesville, NC) - current pricing for **4'x30' bridge set \$(b) (4)**. Purchased bridges from them two years ago for the current bridge rental program.

Local welder that is currently building two sets for loggers funded through the existing cost-share program (Union, SC) - current pricing for **4'x30' bridge set \$(b) (4)**.

A small portion of the requested funds, \$1,650.00, will be used to purchase chains and binder straps to secure bridges during transport. A quote is attached to this request.

The remaining requested funds of \$301,350.00 will be used to augment the Commission's BMP cost-share program. Funds will be used to improve stream crossing BMP compliance by offsetting a portion of the costs associated with the installation of BMP-compliant stream crossings. Reimbursement payments will be available to qualified forest product operators to purchase temporary bridges. The Forestry Commission will receive applications, provide BMP recommendations where applicable, validate costs and process cost-share payments. This program will follow the procedure that is in place for the existing cost-share program. Application forms, work completed forms, tracking forms and spreadsheets are already established and can be modified to capture additional information if required for this program. Bridge use will be tracked and reported to adequately meet the requirements of this program. Cost-share funds will reimburse forest products operators up to 80% of the actual cost to purchase or manufacture temporary bridges up to a \$16,000 maximum.

There are currently 72 qualified forest products operators on a waiting list for cost-share to purchase temporary bridges from the first application period of the existing program. If the SCFC is approved for funding through this program and can announce another application period, it is anticipated that additional contractors will apply for funds, which will result in a robust potential user list. If, for unanticipated circumstances, there are not enough applicants to use the full funding amount requested for cost-share, the Commission requests that those funds may be used to purchase additional bridges for the SCFC bridge rental program.

**D. Other Information** (*Address the following in the fillable form field. The form field is limited to 3,000 characters and spaces.*)

- How will information be disseminated to end users about the bridge program? Please discuss your outreach strategy.
- Describe how your bridge program will reach out to and support underserved communities as defined by EO 13985 as populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life, as exemplified by the list in the preceding definition of 'equity.'
- Describe how implementation of this program will mitigate water resource damage and prevent water quality degradation.

*Input Other Information in this Form Field*

Information on this program will be spread in multiple ways:

- Cooperators have agreed to spread information through their contact lists, social media accounts and periodic newsletters.
- Information will be published on the SCFC's social media accounts, website, and shared with all contact lists.
- A press release will be sent out to all major news outlets in the state.
- The press release will also be shared with all of the primary forest products manufacturing facilities in the state who will in turn share it with their suppliers.
- An information segment on the program will also be included in the continuing education video that all South Carolina TOP trained loggers, wood buyers, and foresters are required to watch every year.

Forestry and logging are vital to rural South Carolina communities. The majority of working forests and timber harvesting occurs in these rural, underserved areas of the state, and many of the qualified forestry operators meet the definition of underserved as defined by EO 13985. This program will support these underserved business owners by providing a funding opportunity that will enhance the capabilities and quality of their business.

Historically, stream crossings have the lowest BMP compliance rates in SC BMP implementation monitoring studies and continue to be the area with the greatest opportunity for improvement. Stream crossings are critical for water quality protection since they often involve use of heavy equipment and soil disturbance in and near water bodies. Scientific studies have shown that stream crossings constructed below BMP standards produce 2.8 times more erosion and 11.6 times more sediment than ones constructed in compliance with BMPs (1). A cost-share program will encourage BMP compliance by assisting contractors in offsetting the high cost associated with purchasing temporary bridges and installing BMP-compliant stream crossings, thereby reducing the opportunity for water quality impact.

(1) Richard Cristan, W. Michael Aust, M. Chad Bolding, Scott M. Barrett, Estimated Sediment Protection Efficiencies for Increasing Levels of Best Management Practices on Forest Harvests in the Piedmont, USA, Forests, 10.3390/f10110997, 10, 11, (1997), (2019). <https://www.mdpi.com/1999-4907/10/11/997/pdf>

**E. Budget Information**

1. Personnel	\$ 0.00
2. Fringe benefits	\$ 0.00
3. Equipment	\$ 47,000.00
4. Supplies/Materials	\$ 1,650.00
5. Contractual (identify below)	\$ 0.00
6. Other (identify below)	\$ 301,350.00
7. Direct charges	\$ 350,000.00
8. Indirect charges	\$ 0.00
9. Total	\$ 350,000.00

Please provide more specific details on how Forest Service funding will be used for each of the following budget categories:

**Category 1. Personnel ([2 CFR § 200.430](#)):** This is the actual estimated salary cost paid and may or may not include fringe benefits. Show job titles or positions and estimated days or hours and the estimated cost per day or hour. Maximum allowable personnel cost is up to 10% of total bridge purchase cost (*Form field is limited to 1,625 characters and spaces*).

**Category 2. Fringe Benefits:** Fringe is generally expressed as a percentage of the salary cost. Provide the rate and total estimated cost (*Form field is limited to 1,625 characters and spaces*).

**Category 3. Equipment:** Total Bridge Cost. Provide a list of individual bridge costs in proposal (*Form field is limited to 5,000 characters and spaces*).

One 4'x30' bridge set - \$25,000 (purchase price plus transportation cost to get it to SCFC office)

One 6'x30' bridge set - \$22,000 (purchase price plus transportation cost to get it to SCFC office)

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**Category 4. Supplies/Materials:** Provide an estimate of the supplies and materials that may be purchased for the project. Maximum allowable supplies/material cost is up to 3% of total bridge purchase cost (*Form field is limited to 5,000 characters and spaces*).

Transport chains 10 each @ \$95 = \$950

Ratchet binders 12 each @ \$48 = \$576.00

Sales tax = \$122.08

Total \$1,648.08 (request rounded to \$1650)

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**Category 5. Contractual:** List any estimated costs with a description of work for each anticipated contract or subaward (*Form field is limited to 5,000 characters and spaces*).

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**Category 6. Other:** Maintenance Costs. Total allowable maintenance cost is up to 10% of total bridge purchase cost (*Form field is limited to 3,000 characters and spaces*).

**Cost-share funds \$301,350.00:**

Reimbursement amount will vary based on the actual purchase price of bridges. If all applicants request the maximum allowable amount (\$16,000), \$301,350 will fully fund the purchase of eighteen bridges and partially fund one additional bridge. Additional applicants will be funded if requested reimbursement amounts do not reach the maximum.

If there are not enough applicants to consume the requested amount of cost-share money these funds will be used to purchase additional bridges for the SCFC bridge loan program.

**F. Attach Appendices, as appropriate. Examples include the following.**

- Letters of commitment from collaborative partners
- Cost estimates of bridges to be purchased
- List of bridge vendors
- Schematics, drawings or literature of potential bridges to be purchased
- Proof of SAM.gov registration

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## Part 2: Required Financial Forms

The following forms must be completed and submitted with your proposal. The forms below are located at the [Grants.gov Forms Repository website](#) or applicable Forest Service website. If the weblinks below are not functioning, search the "Form Name" column for the appropriate form.

- SF-424: Application for Federal Assistance
- SF-424A: Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs
- SF-424B: Assurances for Non-Construction Programs
- FS-1500-35: Certificate Regarding Lobbying Activities
- FS-1500-22: Financial Capability Questionnaire (see Financial Capability section)

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond, to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0596-NEW. Response to this collection of information is mandatory. The authority to collect the information is the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. Law 117-58). The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 6.5 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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The Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a and the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552 govern the confidentiality to be provided for information received by the Forest Service.