



# Wood Innovations Grant Program

## Fiscal Year 2024 Overview

The USDA Forest Service is announcing the availability of \$20 million in funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act to support projects that will substantially expand and accelerate wood products and wood energy markets throughout the United States. Additional funds from annual agency appropriations will be subject to availability. The intent is to stimulate, expand, and support U.S. wood products and wood energy markets to support long-term management of National Forest System and other forest lands while enhancing the economic and environmental health of communities.

## Program Eligibility

Eligible applicants include:

- For-profit entities
- State and local governments
- Indian Tribes
- School districts
- Communities
- Not-for-profit organizations
- Institutions of higher education
- Special purpose districts (e.g., public utilities districts, fire districts, conservation districts, and ports)

## Funding Priority

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 land.

- Support development of domestically sourced timber and U.S. manufacturing of mass timber and other wood products.
- Involve wood products or wood industry partners.
- Support commercial building markets or other markets that use innovative wood products.
- Commit to utilizing domestically sourced timber for mass timber construction projects.
- Bundle or address multiple wood energy or wood products projects.
- 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).

## Funding Limitations

The maximum for each award is generally \$300,000; however, the Forest Service may consider awarding more (up to \$500,000) to a proposal that demonstrates the ability to have a significant and sizeable impact on wood product or energy markets. Funding up to \$1,000,000 is available for stationary wood energy systems rated greater than 5 Megawatts in thermal output; applicants need to meet criteria outlined in instructions. Applicants must contribute matching funds equal to 100% of the Forest Service requested funds (1:1 match). USDA Forest Service funds cannot be used to fund USDA Forest Service or other federal involvement in the project.

## Personnel and Benefits

Personnel and benefits costs for construction or general facility operations are not allowed for Forest Service or cooperator match funding.

## Construction

Federal funds and cooperator match cannot be used for construction of buildings, however, funds can be used to reimburse for facility engineering, permitting, or design costs, etc.

## Equipment

Projects for the purchase and installation of stationary wood products or wood energy equipment will be considered. Purchase of mobile equipment will not be funded under this opportunity. Use of these funds to lease mobile equipment will be allowed if they are not lease-to-own arrangements.

Applicants should be aware that the purchase of equipment greater than \$5,000 with Forest Service funds creates a federal interest in the equipment until the fair market value of the equipment falls below \$5,000. Applicants are strongly encouraged to use non-federal funding to purchase equipment and use federal financial assistance to cover other relevant project associated costs, which include but are not limited to the engineering, design, transportation, and installation of the equipment. Purchase of equipment with cooperator funds does not create a federal interest in the equipment.

## Operating Costs

Forest Service funds cannot be used for operating costs, which are expenses associated with maintenance and administration of operations on a day-to-day basis.

## Research

Basic research will not be considered. Applied research and demonstration projects will be considered. Feasibility studies and early phase project development proposals will not be competitive. Applied research should have a strong connection to industry.

## Application Information

The Notice of Funding Opportunity is anticipated to be made available during National Forest Products Week (October 15-22, 2023).

Application information and forms will be available on grants.gov and the [Wood Innovations website](#).

Applicants must be registered with the System for Award Management (SAM), which is located at <https://sam.gov/>. DO NOT go through a third party that may charge for registration. There is no charge for registering at SAM.gov. This process will take time, so please register immediately.

## Proposal Submission

Proposal packages (including application materials and required financial forms) must be emailed in a PDF format to the corresponding Regional Wood Innovation Coordinator, as outlined in the Application Instructions.

**Deadline: December 15, 2023, at 5:00 pm local time** for your Forest Service Regional Coordinator. No proposals will be accepted by fax or hard copy. Incomplete proposals and those received past the official deadline will not be accepted. If any part of the application is missing, the proposal will not be accepted.

**Award of Funding Notice:** It is planned that applicants will be notified by email about funding decisions in May 2024. Successful applicants will receive notification from the appropriate USDA Forest Service Grants and Agreements Office.

**Regional Program Contacts:** Questions that arise should be addressed to USDA Forest Service Regional Wood Innovations Coordinators. Contact information for the Regional Wood Innovations Coordinators, by state, can be found at the following weblink: [USDA Forest Service Regional Wood Innovations Coordinator Contacts](#).