

Questions Received – 2019 SCFC Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program

Questions below are a summary of all questions received and SCFC responses as of February 14, 2020. We will post any additional questions received as an amendment to this document by February 19, 2020.

1. Project eligibility – are the following activities eligible?

- Plan Development – Downtown Trees and Vegetation
- Speaker fees and expenses for conferences

SCFC Response: Please review the 2019 NOFO for allowable activities under the program. Costs listed above are usually allowable, but each application must be reviewed for allowability of the proposed project costs. Please consult 2 CFR 200 Subpart E, Cost Principles for further information on allowable costs.

2. Does Program Income need to be addressed in the budget?

SCFC Response: Yes, program income needs to be addressed. In your agreement we will address program income, as the decision to use program income other than through the “deductive” method requires prior approval of SC Forestry Commission. One way to handle program income is that the program income could be proposed in your application to be utilized as cash match and would need to be reflected in the budget. Another way would be additive – you can use program income to provide more services or increased program activity. Please consult 2 CFR 200.307 for more details.

3. Can you clarify the difference between operations versus program-specific tasks?

SCFC Response: Funds from the Urban and Community Forestry program (Assistance Listing # 10.675) are used to support projects that advance the goals established in the State of South Carolina Forest Action Plan and the strategic goals of the USDA Urban and Community Forestry Program established through the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act. SCFC funds from the USDA program are to be used on projects that have performance measures that tie to established goals and objectives as detailed in the 2019 NOFO. SCFC will fund projects only. Any funds used to pay for personnel time and effort, consultant costs, or other proposed costs must be directly related to specific projects submitted and approved under the program. All level of effort and the amounts proposed in any application must be reasonable and necessary in relation to the project activities.

4. Do you have to document indirect costs?

SCFC Response: You may apply for indirect costs as part of your grant application. You may use the 10% de minimis indirect cost rate if your organization is eligible, which is 10 percent of Modified Total Direct Costs as defined under 2 CFR 200.68, or you may ask to negotiate an indirect cost rate with SCFC if you are approved for funding. If you negotiate a rate, SCFC will examine all supporting documentation for the indirect cost percentage rate that you are seeking, and that rate would be applied to the Modified Total Direct Costs of your project. Please refer to 2 CFR 200.414 for further information.