PUBLIC NOTICE COMMUNITY FORESTRY ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATION ISSUED BY THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, FORESTRY DIVISION

The State of New Mexico, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD), Forestry Division (Forestry Division) in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (Forest Service) is seeking applications (Applications) for urban and community forestry projects year-round.

Eligible applicants (Applicants) are non-federal governmental entities, including public colleges and universities and tribes (as long as other federal money is not involved). Projects located on lands owned or administered by the federal government are not eligible for this funding.

The focus of the grant is on projects that occur within or deliver 100 percent of the projects benefits to communities identified as disadvantaged by the U.S. federal government. Applicants must use federal online vulnerability and environmental justice equity data tools to support a disadvantaged community designation, (e.g., White House Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST), the EPA Environmental Justice and Screening Mapping Tool, and EPA EnviroAtlas Interactive Map. Projects that occur outside of the areas identified as disadvantaged may still be funded but at a lower amount.

The purpose of the Community Forestry Assistance Grant is to assist communities in developing and maintaining sustainable stewardship of urban and community forestry resources in New Mexico. Projects that support expanding equitable tree canopy cover and access to nature deprived disadvantaged communities experiencing low tree canopy and environmental justice issues will receive higher priority.

Projects must emphasize the development and management of community forests. Examples of eligible project activities include:

- community forestry program development or improvement such as the creation of management plans, staffing urban forest professional, ordinances, tree boards, site preparation (clearing invasives, removing impervious), tree plantings, wood waste program creation, food forest creation, invasive detection, tree maintenance (mulch, irrigation, pruning, removal), inventory, green infrastructure, assessment, or monitoring;
- professional development to create or expand the technical skillset of diverse and inclusive urban forestry workforce such as development of classes, implementation of workshops, registration to attend conferences; and
- public outreach and education promoting community involvement in urban forestry such as community events, surveys, engagement, creation of publications,

multimedia, trainings.

Applications may request any amount up to \$60,000.00. The Forestry Division reserves the right to partially fund projects. Project contacts will be notified by the Forestry Division Program Manager before any partial funding is approved.

Questions regarding this RFA shall be addressed to:

Alyssa O'Brien Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager EMNRD, Forestry Division 1220 S. St. Francis Drive Santa Fe, N.M., 87505 Telephone: (505) 690-8531 Alyssa.O'Brien@emnrd.nm.gov

Applications are available on the Forestry Division website, https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/requests-for-proposals-and-grants/or by contacting Alyssa O'Brien. Applicants must submit their proposals on the Forestry Division's Submittable webpage using this link: https://emnrd-sfd.submittable.com/submit.