Case Studies for RFA Alignment Exercise



Instructions

Please read through each of the case studies below and consider how well it aligns with the specified RFA.

Please use L3A Handout 3 - RFA Alignment Worksheet to guide your thought process.

Note: Though the organization names and project descriptions below may be similar to real organizations and/or draw from real-life scenarios, all are purely fictional.

1 Case Study #1

Organization: Trees Are Life
Project: Expanding Canopy Coverage in the State of South Carolina
RFA: USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry IRA Notice of Funding Opportunity

Our organization, Trees Are Life, is dedicated to enhancing urban and community forestry in our state. We work with local government entities, tribal organizations, and nonprofit organizations to plant and manage trees in underserved communities. Although we are unable to provide the required matching funds or in-kind contributions per this proposal, our organization has a proven track record of success in improving the urban tree canopy and in providing access to nature and its benefits. We have experience in planting and maintaining trees on non-federal lands, including private lands. Furthermore, we have partnerships with local organizations working to support disadvantaged communities, and we are committed to delivering at least 40% of the benefits of our projects to such communities. We are seeking funds to primarily go toward our basic research on urban and community forestry. Additional funds will be for 1,000 additional trees in our target low-canopy areas and the construction of our new research building.

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2 Case Study #2

Organization: Council on Urban Greening
Project: Building Resilient Communities in Austin, Texas through Urban Forestry
RFA: USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry IRA Notice of Funding Opportunity

The Council on Urban Greening is a nonprofit organization committed to advancing the understanding and practice of urban forestry in Austin, Texas. Our mission is to promote healthy urban and community forests by providing leadership, education, and resources to citizens, organizations, and communities throughout the metro area. We have been working towards this goal for over 30 years and have developed a reputation for being a trusted source of information on urban forestry statewide. We have a network of partnerships with community organizations, government agencies, and private sector entities that can help us to effectively reach and engage underserved populations.

The Council on Urban Greening proposes a workforce development apprenticeship program with an arboretum. This program aims to research and grow native horticulture that will be planted around the city by youth. With the state's contribution of matching funds, the project will not only create jobs and educate the next generation but also beautify the city with sustainable greenery. The project will include educational and outreach components to engage communities and promote the benefits of urban forestry. One-third of the grant will go toward the development of an outdoor classroom, which is vital to bring youth together in a space that is outfitted with the necessary tools and equipment for the success of the program.

Our nonprofit would be working with two key partners – a government entity and a consulting firm – to complete this project.

3 Case Study #3

Organization: Make It Green!
Project: Botanical Garden Workforce Development Initiative
RFA: USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry IRA Notice of Funding Opportunity

Our organization, Green Alliance 3000, is a newly-formed nonprofit committed to enhancing the environment and quality of life for Maine residents. We have been in operation for just under one year and have formally registered three months ago. With no current partnerships, we recognize the importance of building relationships and collaborating with local organizations to achieve our goals.

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Our team is composed of experienced environmental professionals who have worked in the state for many years and have a deep understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities that Maine presents. Second, we are committed to promoting equity and social justice in all of our activities, and will prioritize projects that benefit underserved and marginalized communities. Finally, we are eager to leverage the funding to catalyze new partnerships and collaborations, bringing together diverse stakeholders to work towards a shared vision of a healthier, more sustainable Maine.

Green Alliance 3000 would like to use the funding for a statewide environmental education initiative for K-12 students. The initiative would focus on educating students about the importance of sustainability, conservation, and environmental stewardship, using hands-on learning activities and interactive workshops. The project would partner with local schools and teachers to develop a comprehensive curriculum and provide training and resources for teachers to incorporate environmental education into their classrooms.

4 Case Study #4

Organization: Make It Green!

Project: Botanical Garden Workforce Development Initiative

RFA: USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry IRA Notice of Funding Opportunity

Make It Green! (MIG) creates holistic solutions for systemic problems. MIG works at the census-tract level in underserved, predominantly low-wealth and BIPOC communities to address quality of life issues and social determinants of health through promoting economic development; access to local, healthy food and green space; clean energy; and social cohesion. With USDA Urban Forestry grant funds the organization will develop and replicate a new element to our comprehensive model. This new element will include workforce development, training young people in the neighborhood of Highland Park about horticulture and how to maintain the Dr. MLK, Jr. Botanical Garden. This is a neighborhood where MIG is already working extensively and thus this project will add value and be a leveraged resource. In addition to the benefits of having a means to maintain this garden which is a neglected centerpiece of this depressed neighborhood with little shade structures and no tree canopy on most streets, we will train residents to plant trees, and we as a community will plant an estimated 1,000-2,000 native tree species across our one-square mile area of focus.

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