



Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# **IRA Forest Landowner Support**

**Chesapeake Bay Program Forestry Workgroup**  
**November 1, 2023**

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# IRA Forest Landowner Support: Legislative Provisions

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1. \$150 million for programs that provide a [cost share](#) to carry out climate mitigation or forest resilience practices in the case of [underserved forest landowners](#)
2. \$150 million for program to [support the participation of underserved forest landowners](#) in emerging private markets for climate mitigation or forest resilience
3. \$100 million for program to [support the participation of forest landowners who own less than 2,500 acres of forest land](#) in emerging private markets for climate mitigation or forest resilience
4. \$50 million for grants to provide [payments to owners](#) of private forest land for implementation of forestry practices on private forest land to provide measurable increases in carbon sequestration and storage beyond customary practices on comparable land

# **Non-competitive IRA Funding to States: Programs for Underserved Landowners**

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- Funded from provision 2 – develop technical assistance delivery programs for underserved forest landowners
- State forestry agencies or third party identified by state
- Up to \$500,000 for 5-year project
- Includes development and USFS review of implementation plan

# IRA Forest Landowner Support Competitive NOFO 1: Overview

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- Funded from provisions 2 & 3
- Support participation of underserved landowners and small-acreage landowners (<2,500 ac) in emerging private markets for climate mitigation and forest resilience
  - Track A (~\$100 million) - \$2 million to \$25 million (deadline: October 25)
  - Track B (\$50 million) - <\$2 million (rolling application until August 2024)
  - Track C – National regranting program, \$5-50 million
- No match requirement

# Track B Timeline

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- Applications accepted on rolling basis with batched review:
  - Batch 1: received by November 30, 2023
  - Batch 2: received December 1, 2023 - February 29, 2024
  - Batch 3: received March 1, 2024 - May 31, 2024
  - Batch 4: received June 1, 2024 - August 21, 2024
- Submit Track B applications as soon as possible

# Definitions and Eligibility: Applicants

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- Eligible Entities:

- US State Governments
- US Local Governments
- Tribal Governments
- Alaska Native Corporations and Villages
- Other Tribal Entities
- Education Institutions
- Non-Profit Entities
- For-Profit Entities

***Individuals are not eligible to apply***

# Definitions and Eligibility: Land

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- Program activities must target nonindustrial private forest land, which is defined as meeting all of the following criteria:
  - Is rural (all areas outside US Census areas with 50,000 or more people) Landscape Scale Restoration Project Planning Tool
  - Has existing tree cover or is suitable for growing trees
  - Is owned by any private individual, group, association, corporation, Indian Tribe, or other private legal entity or is Tribal land held in trust by the Federal government

# Definitions and Eligibility: Beneficiaries

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## **Focus Area 1: Underserved landowners**

*Forest landowner(s) belonging to one or more of the following groups:*

- Forest landowners living in high poverty areas
- Federally recognized Tribes
- Beginning forest landowners (<10 years)
- Limited resource producers (use self-determination tool)
- Veterans (obtained status within last 10 years)

*For Focus Area 1, there is no minimum or maximum acreage*



# Definitions and Eligibility: Beneficiaries

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## Focus Area 2: Small-acreage landowners

<2,500 acres

*For Focus Area 2, there is no minimum acreage requirement*

# Definitions and Eligibility: Activities

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All proposed activities should **support participation** of underserved and/or small-acreage landowners in emerging private markets for climate mitigation or forest resilience

# Definitions and Eligibility: Activities

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- Project activities may include, but are not limited to:
  - Practice development and the installation of practices on private forest land (with technical caveat that direct payments to landowners are not an eligible expenditure under this NOFO)
  - Science synthesis and technical support to assist project implementers and inform program development
  - Assessment of barriers to participation in markets and proposed strategies for addressing those barriers
  - Targeted outreach, education, and/or communication tool development to increase awareness and help landowners navigate market opportunities
  - Facilitation of access to markets and/or certification systems

# Definitions and Eligibility: Activities

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- Project activities may include, but are not limited to:
  - Development of innovative tools or strategies for lowering transaction costs and/or managing risk
  - Technical assistance for development of forest management plans and/or implementation of applicable forest management activities
  - Training for foresters and technical assistance providers
  - Innovation for quantification, data collection, and monitoring
  - Hiring of staff or contractors to provide support services

# Applicant Support

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- IRA Forest Landowner Support website
  - Recordings of Application Assistance Webinars
  - FAQ: IRA Forest Landowner Support NOFO 1 FAQ
  - Program inbox: SM.FS.LandownerIRA@usda.gov (email to be added to distribution list)
  - Applicant office hours: first Friday of every month (November 2023 – June 2024), 3-4pm Eastern

# Applicant Support

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- Community Navigators Program
  - Support leaders in historically underserved communities find and access funding and partnership support
  - Connect communities to the appropriate resources for building climate resilience

<https://communitynavigators.net/>

# Applicant Support: USDA Forest Service Contacts

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- Eastern Region (R9) – Cotton Randall / [cotton.randall@usda.gov](mailto:cotton.randall@usda.gov)
  - Morgantown Field Office (PA, WV, MD, DE) – Collin Shephard / [collin.shephard@usda.gov](mailto:collin.shephard@usda.gov)
  - Durham Field Office (NY) – Peter Beringer / [peter.beringer@usda.gov](mailto:peter.beringer@usda.gov)
- Southern Region (R8): Lynn Lewis / [lynn.lewis@usda.gov](mailto:lynn.lewis@usda.gov)