Tree Canopy Funding & Policy Roundtable - GIT Funding Proposal 2021

Required Components of the Phase 1 Development of Project Ideas (*Table 1*)	
Goal Implementation Team (GIT)	Water Quality GIT (3), Forestry Workgroup
Proposed GIT Technical Lead	Julie Mawhorter US Forest Service, Tree Canopy Coordinator julie.mawhorter@usda.gov
Annual Weighting Factors to Consider	1. <u>DEIJ</u>-tree canopy distribution has a strong nexus with DEIJ and public health risks (urban heat, air quality, flooding) 2. <u>Climate Change</u>-the Roundtable will develop practical policy recommendations to advance tree canopy as a key climate resilience strategy 3. <u>Local Engagement</u>-local government leaders will be primary participants in developing solution pathways to advance tree canopy 5. <u>Outcome Attainment</u>- while our CB goal is a net gain of 2400 acres of TC by 2025, the version 1 CBP land use change data shows significant net losses in many urban areas in the watershed
CBP Functional Areas (Yes or No)	No, there is no direct overlap with the CBP functional areas in the project scope. That said, we will be coordinating with CBP GIS and Communications teams on other Tree Canopy workplan items that will be incorporated into Roundtable content. (e.g. land use change data, CBP Environmental Justice & Equity Dashboard)
Preparers	Julie Mawhorter, US Forest Service, julie.mawhorter@usda.gov (in consultation with coordinators from CBP Local Leadership, LGAC, Climate, Land Use Options Evaluation, and Stewardship GIT)
Project Title (10 words or less)	Tree Canopy Funding and Policy Roundtable
Project Type (Describe the type of project submitted)	Logic & Action Plan Implementation: -Policy research & recommendations -Training
Proposed Project Outcomes	The Tree Canopy Funding & Policy Roundtable process will be modeled after previously successful forums and designed to meet three outcomes: 1) Through Roundtable presentations, equip local and state decision makers with the best available data, tools and innovative approaches to strengthen tree canopy outcomes towards equity and climate resilience. The briefing materials and presentations from the Roundtable will be designed to be valuable and accessible online to local, state and nongovernmental organizations beyond those in attendance at the virtual Roundtable event. 2) Through Roundtable discussions, engage local and state decision makers in identifying new funding and policy solution pathways to address key challenges and opportunities. The Roundtable will be designed with multiple break out sessions by topic and/or state to generate forward-thinking recommendations regarding key gaps, priorities and strategies. 3) Through the Roundtable and follow up State Strategy Sessions (1 per state and DC), generate an actionable set of findings and recommendations to CBP

	leadership and an initial set of state-specific strategies to be pursued in the next two years.
Project Justification (500 words or less)	Based on engaging tree canopy practitioners through two prior Chesapeake Tree Canopy Summits, funding and policy gaps at the local and state level are the primary factors limiting progress on tree canopy goals. For this reason, the Tree Canopy Funding and Policy Roundtable has been in our workplan for two cycles and is our top priority workplan action in this cycle (2021-2022). This proposal builds on prior partnership projects to synthesize guidance, current programs and best practices through the "Financing Urban Tree Canopy Programs" guidebook and "Making your Community Forest Friendly" codes and ordinance review guide. What is needed at this stage is for a skilled process facilitator to directly engage a strategically selected group of local and state government leaders in developing a new set of forward-looking, actionable strategies to address key needs and opportunities. In addition to creating a summary report of findings and recommendations for CBP leadership, the contractor will conduct a state-level strategy session to identify a starting list of key priorities and actions to be pursued in each state. A virtual format (likely 2 half + days) will be used to enable key participants from across the watershed to be able to participate without extra travel time and burden. The Roundtable will be designed to maximize and leverage timely cross-GIT connections with tree canopy, including: - new CBP high resolution land use change data showing for the first time where and to what extent tree canopy gains and losses are occurring throughout the watershed - trees as a prominent climate resilience strategy showing up in state goals and legislation (e.g. Maryland Tree Solutions Now Act); - new datasets and tools showing tree canopy distribution as a significant DEIJ concern, impacting public health through urban heat and air quality risks
Proposed Project Steps and Timeline	June 2022-September 2022 Step 1: Develop and Conduct Planning Committee Meetings (3) At the direction of the Technical Lead and cross-GIT collaborators, the contractor will convene a planning committee which includes local, state, federal, Chesapeake Bay Commission, LGAC, and cross-GIT representatives and other expertise as needed. June 2022-November 2022 Step 2: Prepare Topic Briefing Materials for Roundtable With content input and review from the planning committee, the contractor will prepare briefing materials (policy briefs, topic synthesis papers, powerpoints, TBD by team) on key presentation and discussion topics for the Roundtable. Topics include but are not limited to: understanding and managing tree canopy losses; data, tools and best practices for tree equity; tree canopy strategies for climate resilience; innovative funding and policy approaches/examples.

	Nov/Dec 2022 Step 3: Plan and Deliver State & Local Roundtable Sessions With exact format to be determined by planning committee input, the contractor will coordinate and deliver an engaging, 1 or 2-day virtual roundtable event. There will be a mix of presentations by topic experts and innovators around key content, interspersed with facilitated break-out group discussions to capture solution pathways. Jan-April 2022 Step 4:Create Summary Report & Recommendations for CBP Leadership The contractor will summarize key content, findings and recommendations from the Roundtable in an actionable report geared toward CBP leadership. The report will guide future updates to the Tree Canopy Management Strategy and 2-year workplans and include a short list of priorities for potential CBP leadership action. Contractor will solicit and incorporate planning committee and stakeholder input on draft before finalizing. May-July 2022 Step 5: Plan and facilitate State-level Strategy & Action Planning sessions (1 per jurisdiction), with notes captured As a follow up to the learning generated by the Roundtable, the contractor will work with CBP staff to facilitate one strategy and action planning session for key agency leaders and staff in each state. The intent is to dive further into state-specific issues and opportunities and generate a list of steps that will be pursued by key partners in each state.
Estimated Costs	$65,000
Cross-Outcome Benefits	Local Leadership – local government leaders will be directly engaged in developing solution pathways to advance tree canopy Climate Adaptation – Roundtable will synthesize best available resources and develop recommendations to advance trees as a climate resilience strategy Diversity/DEIJ – Roundtable will engage decision-makers in developing new strategies to advance and prioritize DEIJ within tree canopy efforts Land Use Methods & Metrics; Land Use Options Evaluation – local and state decision-makers will be introduced to the latest CBP land use change data and tools and be engaged in developing strategies to minimize tree canopy losses due to development-related activities