NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT for
NCRP CAL FIRE FOREST HEALTH PILOT PROJECTS

Proposals Accepted & Awarded on a Rolling Basis Through February 1, 2024

The North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) is pleased to offer Technical Assistance (TA) for project development, prioritizing Tribes and economically disadvantaged communities, to support grant applications to the CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Program.

BACKGROUND

CAL FIRE has awarded the North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) a Forest Health Pilot Grant in the amount of $10 million. The pilot grant is a test bed intended to result in a regional, landscape scale portfolio of projects that implement the goals of the CAL FIRE Forest Health Program, as well as to evaluate opportunities to connect CAL FIRE's Forest Health program with the priorities outlined in the North Coast Resource Partnership's Regional Resiliency Plan funded by the California Department of Conservation's Regional Forest and Fire Capacity (RFFC) Program. Additionally, the Pilot is intended to evaluate opportunities for NCRP to partner with CAL FIRE to prioritize and implement an array of forest health projects in the North Coast region using the regional pilot grant model as a way to achieve California's ambitious Million Acre Strategy for Wildfire and Forest Resilience. NCRP will work closely with a CAL FIRE Advisory Team throughout the process to enable CAL FIRE direction, review, and input.

To demonstrate the mutual benefit of the two funding programs described above, NCRP intends to leverage RFFC funding to solicit, provide technical assistance for, evaluate, and select a portfolio of priority Forest Health projects in the North Coast region. NCRP intends to use the full $10 million grant provided by the CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot program to administer and implement the regional portfolio of projects. Following is the general schedule for the NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Project solicitation:

- Late March/ Early April 2024 – NCRP announces a Request for Proposals for NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Implementation Projects
- Late Spring 2024 – Implementation project application materials due
- Summer 2024 – Project proposals are reviewed and selected by the NCRP Leadership Council
- Fall 2024 – Priority projects sub-agreements finalized
- Fall 2029 – NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot project implementation completed (grant end date: March 2030)

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Direct technical assistance for project development, prioritizing projects that benefit Tribes and economically disadvantaged communities, will be made available via this request for proposals solicitation. The Technical Assistance will support grant applications for the NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot grant program and will target the development of multi-benefit forest resiliency projects in priority project areas identified by the North Coast Forest Health screening assessment described below. All projects must include Activities supported by the CAL FIRE Forest Health Program:

- Forest Fuels Reduction
- Prescribed Fire
- Pest Management
- Reforestation
- Biomass Utilization

Types of technical assistance may include site assessments, grant development, mapping and GIS analysis, greenhouse gas calculations, cost estimates, project benefits quantification, preliminary project design/planning, permitting, environmental compliance support and other relevant activities. The NCRP anticipates providing between $5,000-$15,000 per entity for this support, provided in the form of a contract between NCRP and NCRP-approved TA provider authorized by NCRP to provide consulting services. Click on this link for a list of NCRP Technical Assistance providers who can be requested by project sponsors to provide TA.

NCRP LANDSCAPE PRIORITY AREAS FOR FOREST HEALTH PROJECTS

The NCRP developed a regional Forest Health screening assessment to prioritize forest health project areas in the North Coast region, aligned with CAL FIRE Forest Health categories and program criteria. This regional assessment and its corresponding maps are intended to filter and stratify the landscape through the lens of CAL FIRE Forest Health priorities in the North Coast Region, as well as provide background information for the development of projects by partners in the Region. The NCRP Landscape Priority Areas for Forest Health Projects assessment resulted in a series of maps of the high priority areas for forest health projects and which are described in the following Review Draft Story Map.

The NCRP Landscape Priority Area Assessment is meant to be a screening tool and is currently being reviewed by agency partners, project sponsors, and the general public. Eligible projects may occur outside of the Priority Areas. If your project is not located in a NCRP Landscape Priority Area, please explain why it should be considered for inclusion in the TA supplemental application materials. To provide feedback about the Review Draft Story Map, please submit comments to: Karen Gaffney at kgaffney@northcoastresourcepartnership.org

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants include federally recognized Indian Tribes, California State Indian Tribes, and organizations serving economically disadvantaged and historically underrepresented communities: public agencies, local or state agencies/special districts, Resource Conservation Districts, non-profit organizations, industrial and nonindustrial private forest landowners and public utilities. Please see the NCRP interactive map to determine disadvantaged community status at https://northcoastresourcepartnership.org/data/.

DELIVERY OF PROPOSALS AND DEADLINES

To apply for project development TA, please submit a proposal via the NCRP Project Tracker (see below for more information on how to apply). Proposals will be accepted and awards made on a rolling basis through February 1, 2024. In order to be considered for TA funding through this RFP, a complete application must be submitted to the NCRP Project Tracker by midnight on February 1, 2024. Assistance with Project Tracker is available – please see below.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

All proposals, including supporting documents, must be submitted via the NCRP Project Tracker; please see the **NCRP Project Tracker Technical Assistance for Project Development for NCRP CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Projects webpage** for more information. A complete proposal is made up of 2 elements:

1. NCRP Project Tracker Project Proposal
2. Supplemental Supporting Document attached and uploaded to the NCRP Project Tracker, including:
    - Proposal Cover Page
    - Certification of Authority
    - Supplemental Questions that address the potential project benefits to Tribes and/or economically disadvantaged communities and the need for Technical Assistance to develop the proposed project *(maximum 2 pages)*.
    - Organization Statement of Qualifications that briefly describes the organization's key personnel and their qualifications and list/hyperlinks to examples of relevant work that support the proposal *(maximum 1 page)*.

Please see the List of Consultant Resources for the North Coast Region for a list of eligible consultants that can be requested to provide TA. NCRP will try to pair each project sponsor with the requested provider, contingent on provider availability and capacity. If project sponsors do not have a preferred provider, NCRP will help match them with an appropriate consultant qualified to provide the requested technical assistance. Qualified consultants can be added to the NCRP List of Consultant Resources by submitting at Statement of Qualifications to the NCRP; see the this link for more information.

INQUIRIES, PROPOSAL OR PROJECT TRACKER SUPPORT

- Contact Rose Roberts at rroberts@northcoastresourcepartnership.org
- For Tribal questions please call or email NCRP Director of Tribal Engagement, Sherri Norris sherri@cieaweb.org or 510-848-2043

PROPOSAL EVALUATION & SELECTION FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Proposals for TA will be evaluated based on a selection process developed by the NCRP RFFC Ad Hoc committee and approved by the NCRP Leadership Council. Technical assistance proposals will be evaluated and selected by staff using the criteria developed by the Ad Hoc committee. Projects will be selected based on eligibility, timing of requested technical assistance, level of need, and available funding. The specific criteria used to evaluate the proposals for technical assistance submitted for this RFP are:

- Project type and project sponsor eligibility (Tribal or economically disadvantaged community status will be prioritized).
- Demonstration that the technical assistance needs are reasonable, justifiable, and can be effectively addressed by the technical assistance team.
- Demonstrated successful outcomes and work products for projects similar in nature to the project proposal submitted.
- A Project Description that includes a clear problem statement, intended purpose and appropriate solution.
- The goals and objectives of the proposed project are consistent with the goals and objectives of the NCRP and the objectives of the CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot program.
- If implemented, the proposed project will implement effective strategies, providing multiple benefits of significant magnitude.
- Need for the project and demonstration that the project is clearly supported by and important to the local community and region.
- The project is located in, and substantially benefits an economically disadvantaged community or severely economically disadvantaged community.
- The relative size of the project and project impact area.
- The project impact area is located within a high priority area identified in the NCRP Landscape Priority Areas (in the Regional or Sub-Regional Priority maps) for Forest Health Projects assessment story map <u>or</u> includes a reasonable justification for why the project is a priority for this CAL FIRE Forest Health program, even if the project is not located in a NCRP Landscape Priority Area for Forest Health Projects per the above story map.