

Question	Answer
What average percentage of applications get funded?	This depends on how many applications we receive each funding round. On average about 25% of applications are funded.
Can project management time for invoicing be part of personnel costs granted and matched?	Yes, however, putting it into personnel costs would be most appropriate if you are actually hiring an administrative position to help out with grant reimbursements and reporting. If that is not the case, your time for invoicing and reporting should be covered with your indirect fee, which can be up to 10% of your overall award.
We already have a lot of participation from private landowners. Are you asking for in-kind match PLUS cash?	Yes, asking for homeowner contributions helps create program sustainability. Research and decades of program experience show that most homeowners expect and are willing to pay for services rendered.
Where does your money come from...US Forest Service?	Yes, the AIM program is funded primarily through a cooperative agreement with the US Forest Service.
Our mitigation project, Chipper Days, takes place in July. It's not a 12 month project. Would this qualify?	Yes, however the minimum grant ask is \$10,000. The International Association of Fire Chiefs has chipper funding right now at iafc.org and the Wildfire Community Preparedness Day grant from NFPA Firewise USA is also open right now.
This year we had 67 families contribute 1228 hours. As the administrator I saw all of their slash stacks and think they reported fairly. I'm concerned that if we start asking for cash in addition to their work, we will lose their participation altogether.	Barbara please email me directly so we can discuss your project ali@cusp.ws
Are 1:1 match and 50% match the same thing? Is the 25% only a quarter of the 50% or half of it?	The 1:1 match is the requirement for overall match on the grant. If you request \$50,000 you have to match \$50,000. The 50% cash match rule applies to fuel reduction efforts on private lands. COCO requires a 50% cash match (cost-share) from the resident on the cost of the project.
More on the indirect fee please. Can this go to grant admin/ accounting work on our end?	Indirect can and should be used for grant admin/accounting. You can apply for up to 10% unless you have a federally negotiated indirect rate (NICRA).
Back to timing. Can we get reimbursed for work started before everything is signed?	No, those expenses would not be eligible. We do endeavour to move rapidly with the paperwork and get your subaward to you as soon as possible.
Would an HOA contribution count toward private landowner match?	Yes
If we are not able to apply for this round (ie starting projects in May), when will the AIM applications open up again?	AIM funding will be offered again in Fall 2021 with an anticipated project start date of January 2022.
Does purchase of additional licensing for GIS qualify for equipment?	Yes, that would be acceptable. To expand a bit further - with these types of requests we ask that you please explain - 1. Why this additional license is not able to be funded from other sources (several low cost ESRI options are available), and, 2. how this license will support increasing mitigation outcomes. Hope that helps.
Do state grant funds qualify for match on private lands?	State funds are eligible as match for work on private lands as long as they are not pass-through dollars from a federal agency. However, the AIM grant requires at least a 50% cash match from the resident. This cash match requirement has exceptions if you are working to reduce risk to vulnerable populations; however it doesn't reduce the need to provide a 1:1 match. Research and decades of program experience shows that residents will maintain projects over time when they have invested money, not just sweat equity.
Maintaining fuel breaks is a big issue for fire safe councils. Will COCO pay for use of herbicides?	Yes, but please describe in your Concept Paper how herbicides are contributing to your mitigation project.

Can Firewise communities apply for this grant?

Not directly, however a local Fire Safe Council or Organization that works with Firewise Communities can apply to AIM. Most Firewise Communities are essentially the same as an HOA, and HOAs, even if they have 501c3 status are not eligible. The primary purpose of the AIM grant is to help increase the capacity of organizations and enhance their wildfire mitigation programs and personnel.

Could these funds be used to advance project implementation, e.g., constructing a fuel break?

Yes

If awarded a grant, can a grantee apply for AIM funding again in the next year/round of funding?

As stated in the RFP, you are eligible to apply for another AIM grant one year after the signed award agreement.

Cash match question - County Government needs to update an older CWPP. Would the County pay 50% and Coco pay 50%?

That is correct. Please pay special attention when you put in a CWPP concept paper and explain how your older CWPP was used and how the new CWPP is going to increase your capacity and on-the-ground risk reduction projects. We are not likely to fund a CWPP update just because your old one is out of date.

Our director is concerned about grants that demand a lot of admin/reporting/staff time for the award size. Can you provide any info that would help us decide whether to apply, and of course to budget? Thank you.

Great question - we ask for monthly updates. The monthly reporting requires up to 5 bullets on status and outcomes and photos if available. With invoicing, we require common and necessary documentation - volunteer match justification, staff timesheets, expense information, etc.. Additionally we require an end of project report. Overall the time commitment is not exhaustive; however, we do ask that grant recipients engage and are accountable. We do allow indirect fees to support admin activities. In the past we have not received feedback that the requirements are overwhelming. Hope this helps.

Can you clarify "50% direct match" - is that only for work on private land, including the 50% landowner cash match? If not private land work, is cash-match amount less than 50%?

The grant requires a 1:1 match. Regardless of land ownership, 50% of that should be from the "landowner," so on county land, the county would be required to show a 50% cash match. and on private land, the home or property owner must provide a 50% cash match. The remaining 50% of match can be either cash or in-kind.

Give a cash match % examples for a \$10K grant

See Budget and Match Example(s) on the AIM grant page

Can we use SWCD funds for cost match?

As long as it is not sourced from federal funds.

We need to start our planning project before May, will it be an issue to incorporate the AIM grant for the remainder of the project?

That will not be an issue.