

Action, Implementation & Mitigation (AIM) Program Webinar



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Meet the Team



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Action, Implementation & Mitigation

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AIM Grant Eligibility

The AIM Grant is a **12-month** capacity building grant opportunity open to:

- Non-profit organizations with 501c3 status
- Collaborative groups
- Cities and Counties
- Conservation Districts
- Fire Departments
- Tribal Nations

*Organizations listed above must be working to advance wildfire resiliency within their communities. If your organization type is not listed above send us an email to **Jon (jonathan@cusp.ws)** or **Maria (maria@cusp.ws)***

AIM Grant Guiding Principles

The AIM Team believes in supporting sustainable organizations and programs that reduce the wildfire risk and lead to community resilience.

Key components of this include:

- Local people solving local problems by using best-known practices to create place-based solutions.
- Residents and communities taking ownership in the effort by committing time, equipment, and financial resources.
- Working together and sharing resources to build resilient communities.

1. Alpine Area Wildfire Protection Coalition (WY)
2. Audubon Canyon Ranch (CA)
3. Big Thompson Watershed Coalition (CO)
4. Blackfoot Challenge (MT)
5. Cascadia Conservation District (WA)
6. Clearwater Resource Council (MT)
7. Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed (CO)
8. Doveetail Partners (MN)
9. Durango Fire Protection District (CO)
10. Elk Creek Fire Protection District (CO)
11. Fire Adapted Methow Valley (WA)
12. Firesafe Council of Nevada County (CA)
13. Forest Stewards Guild (NM)
14. Fourmile Watershed Coalition / Four Mile Fire Protection District (CO)
15. Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HI)
16. Huerfano County (CO)
17. Island Park Sustainable Fire Community (ID)
18. Jefferson Conservation District (CO)
19. Kittitas County Conservation District (WA)
20. Klamath Watershed Partnership (OR)
21. Lake County and Cook County (MN)
22. Lower Musselshell Conservation District (MT)
23. maqlaqe'gee'tkni (OR)
24. Mattole Restoration Council (CA)
25. Meade County FireWise (SD)
26. Mendocino County Fire Safe Council (CA)
27. Mountain Valleys Resource Conservation & Development Council (NC)
28. Mt. Adams Resource Stewards (WA)
29. Okanogan Conservation District (WA)
30. Pinetop Fire Department (AZ)
31. Platte Canyon Fire Protection District (CO)
32. Plumas County Fire Safe Council (CA)
33. Ruffed Grouse Society & American Woodcock Society (PA)
34. Salmon River Restoration Council (CA)
35. Saws & Slaws (CO)
36. Seigler Springs Community Redevelopment Association (CA)
37. South Willamette Solutions (OR)
38. Spanish Peaks Alliance for Wildfire Protection (CO)
39. Tri-County FireSafe Working Group (MT)
40. United Way of Missoula County (MT)
41. Washoe Tribe (NV & CA)
42. West Region Wildfire Council (CO)
43. Whatcom Conservation District (WA)
44. Wildfire Adapted Partnership (CO)
45. Wildfire Network (NM)
46. Woodland Hills Fire Department (UT)
47. Yosemite Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council (CA)
48. Yuba Watershed Protection and Fire Safe Council (CA)

ACTION, IMPLEMENTATION & MITIGATION PARTNERS



What is Capacity Building?

Capacity building (or capacity development) is the process by which individuals and organizations obtain, improve, and retain the skills, knowledge, tools, equipment, and other resources needed to do their jobs competently. It allows individuals and organizations to perform at a greater capacity (larger scale, larger audience, *larger impact*, etc).

Funding Categories

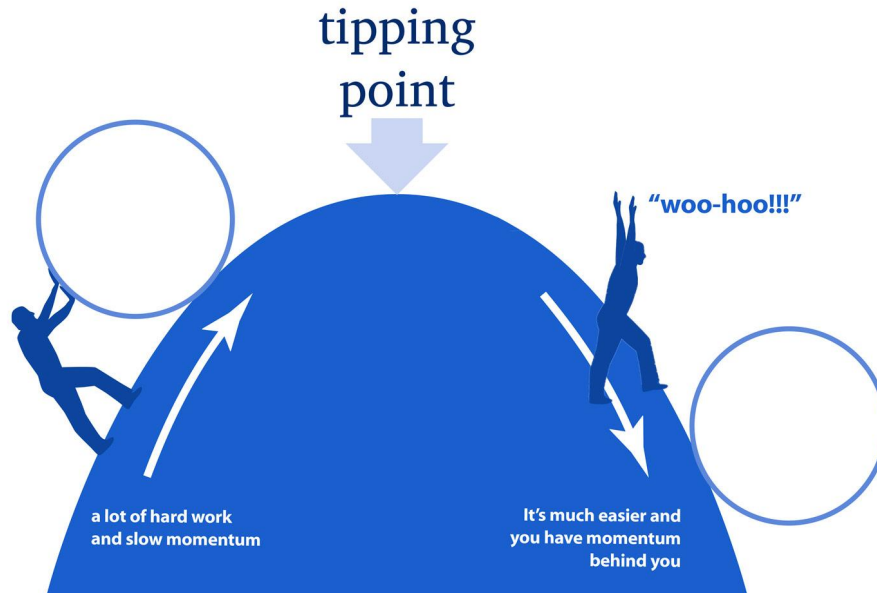
Applicants can request \$10,000 - \$75,000 for **Capacity Building** projects under one or more of the following categories. All projects must be matched 100%.

- Personnel (New or Existing)
- Planning Efforts
- Reduction of Hazardous Fuels
- Mitigation Equipment under \$5,000

Priority will be given to proposals that clearly demonstrate how the organization's capacity will be increased versus proposals that just treat acres.

Tipping Point Projects

Projects that increase momentum or improve your efficiency and effectiveness - *allowing you to ultimately get more work done on the ground.*



Building Capacity

- **Staffing:** The demand on your program exceeds current staffing, need to hire new staff, support existing staff members
- **Planning Efforts:** Starting a new CWPP, conducting Community Assessments or Home Assessments, Neighborhood Ambassador programs
- **Equipment under \$5,000:** Building a fuels crew but lacking the necessary equipment: trailers, chainsaws, technology (hardware and/or software)

Tipping Point Projects

- **Mitigation:** Clearly articulate how the proposed mitigation project will increase your organization's capacity. Include anticipated acres treated, but clearly describe how completing this project fills in a much needed gap and/or will allow for more projects and outcomes in the future.
- Chipping/slash removal
 - Demonstration site
 - Key cross-boundary project connections
 - Cost-share program
 - Mitigation on private land will require a 50% cash match from the landowner

What AIM cannot fund

- Grant Writing
- Equipment over \$5,000

Please reach out to us...

if you have questions on whether your project fits within the AIM guidelines.
We recommend that you read through the Request For Proposal first!

We understand that forest health and water quality are important, but please tie your project into community risk reduction and capacity building.

Application Process

Concept Paper

1. Your organization's involvement in wildfire risk reduction activities
2. Proposal description with detailed scope of work
3. Strategic Value of Project*
4. Maintenance and Sustainability
5. Match and Budget
6. Budget Narrative

*Examples of Strategic Value and the Concept Paper are on COCO's website:

<https://co-co.org/get-involved/grants/aim-grant/>

As you work on your Concept Paper...

Make a compelling case about how the demand on your program exceeds the current capacity level.

- Need a new position to process reimbursement requests and reporting
- Current fuels crew is lacking technical supplies to move forward
- Your organization has an increase of funding for mitigation on the ground and not enough funding for personnel to support the projects
- Funding for an essential position is or will be lost

How will this ask push you over the tipping point and why is funding not available?

Filling out the Budget and Narrative

Indirect Fee

- The maximum request amount is \$75,000. Indirect Fees can be up to 10% of the total project cost, not 10% of the maximum request amount.
 - ◆ Project Cost + Indirect Fee = \$75,000
 - ◆ \$30,000 + \$3,000 Indirect = \$33,000 Total AIM Ask
 - ◆ *If you have a negotiated NICRA over 10%, please include documentation*
- What not to do: If asking for the \$75,000 maximum amount, having a total project cost of \$67,500 with an Indirect Fee of \$7,500 (max. Indirect Fees in this case would be \$6,750)

Filling out the Budget and Narrative

Budget Narrative: Please list out how AIM funds will be spent.

- Personnel: \$25 x 300 hours
- Equipment: \$1000 for 3 chainsaws
- Leveraged Match: federal funds contributing to the project but cannot count towards the 1:1 match

Personnel (note, SWCD personnel will likely be funded through a subcontract from Dovetail Partners)

- Project manager (DP) - 4 days/month @ \$400/day x 12 months to provide overall project oversight, coordinate stakeholder meetings and strategic planning efforts (\$9,600 requested, \$9,600 matched)
- Intern/seasonal temp (DP) - 12 weeks @ \$480/week to coordinate outreach and fuels mitigation events (\$5,760 requested)
- Forestry specialist (SWCD) - 1 day/month @ \$440/day x 12 months to collaborate on initiatives and link efforts with local stakeholders and landowners (\$5,280 requested)
- Personnel support (SWCD) - 2 days/month @ \$480/day x 12 months to support program development (\$11,520 matched)

Travel/mileage

- 1200 miles @ \$0.56/mile for project related travel by personnel (\$672 requested)

Materials and supplies

- Outreach supplies: printing, tools, misc. materials, etc. (\$1,000 requested)

Contractual

- Chipper day events x 2 (\$5,000 each) - seeking to reach 15-20 landowners with each event
- Landowners required to provide sweat equity (volunteer in-kind match) 30 LO @ 20 hours/LO x \$27.20/hour (\$16,320 in-kind matched)
- Landowners required to contribute cash match (cost share) for the chipping contractor (\$5,000 requested, \$5,000 cash match by landowners)

Indirect

- 10% indirect on total direct costs

Filling out the Match Table

Your AIM proposal must be matched 100% with non-federal funding (1:1 match). Below are some ways to meet this ask:

- Employee hours
- In-kind volunteer and resident hours
- Cash match
 - ◆ If reducing fuel on private lands, a 50% direct cash match is required from the landowner
 - ◆ Exceptions may be made for supported disadvantaged communities/underserved populations
- Equipment purchase or usage that support the project

Match Table

MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS			
Contributors	City of Granada	Private Landowners	Insert Name Here
Hard Match (dollars)	\$15,000		
Landowner (minimum 50% cash match)		\$15,000	
Soft Match (in-kind)	\$30,000	\$15,000	
Total	\$45,000	\$30,000	

AIM Grant Requirements

AIM Reporting Requirements

If awarded an AIM grant, the following is required:

- Monthly status updates
 - ◆ 2-5 narrative bullets in a shared Google Doc
- Quarterly check-in calls
- Final report
 - ◆ Photos, spatial data (GIS shapefiles), outcomes table and narrative

AIM Funding Timeline



Concept Paper/RFP Release	January 21, 2022
Concept Paper Due	February 18, 2022
Notifications for Application Advancement	Week of March 7, 2022
Application Due Date	April 1, 2022
Anticipated Start Date	May 2022



Additional Questions?

You can email us directly if you have questions beyond this webinar. You will also be receiving a follow up email with all important links.

Access Spring 2022 Concept Paper [HERE](#).

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