



Action, Implementation &
Mitigation (AIM) Grant
Webinar



Core Team



Wendie Warner

AIM Program Director
Wendie.Warner@co-co.org



Michaele Bloodsworth

Grants & Account Director
Michaele.Bloodsworth@co-co.org



Katie Dorman

Wildfire Mitigation Specialist
Katie.Dorman@co-co.org

AIM Grant Eligibility

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

- Non-profit organizations with 501 c3 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, please send an email to wendie

Applicants *must* also be eligible to receive federal funding, and have an **active UEID Number at the time of Award.**



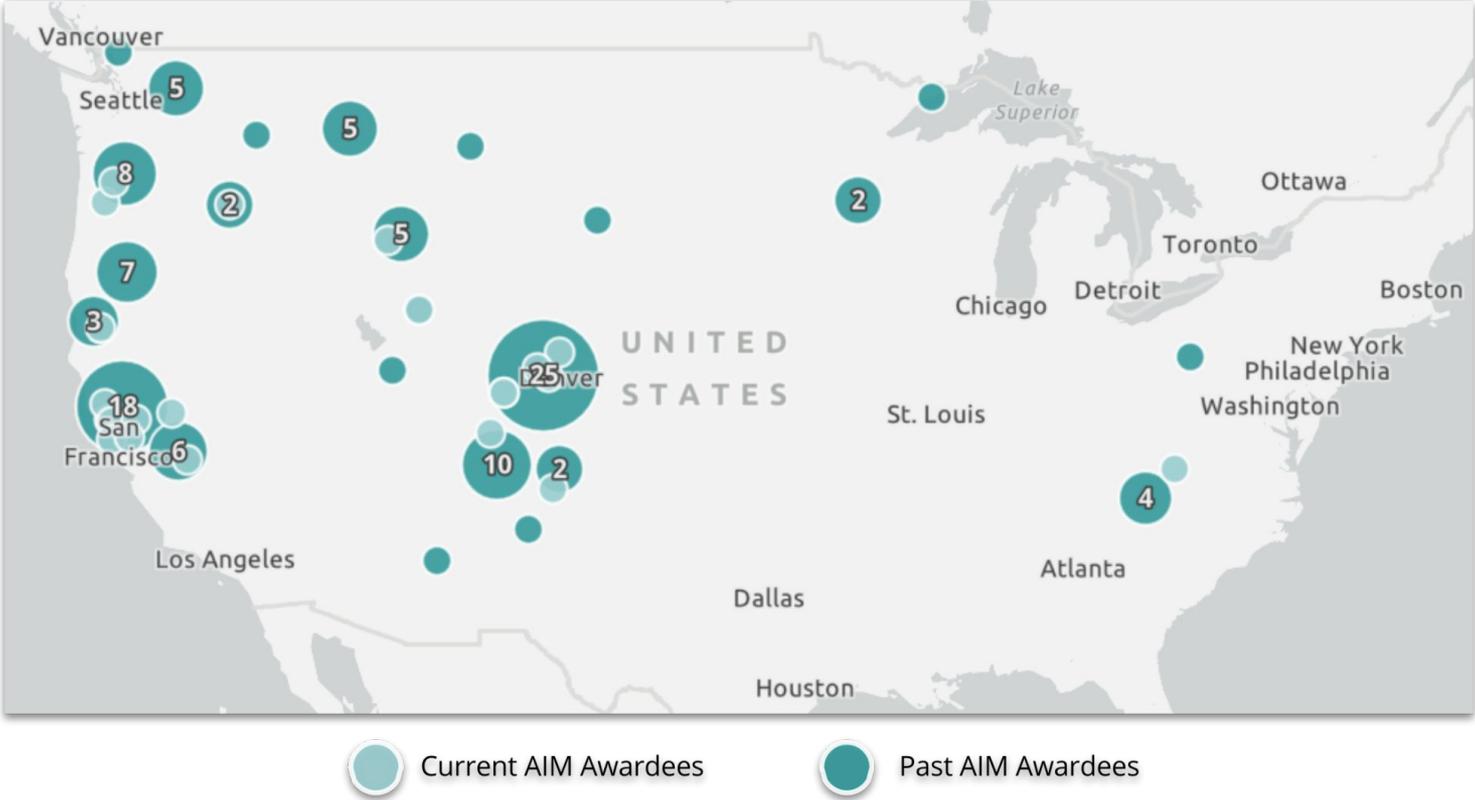
Action, Implementation & Mitigation

The Action, Implementation & Mitigation (AIM) program is supported by a cooperative agreement with the USDA Forest Service. In accordance with federal law and the U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, Coalitions and Collaboratives, Inc. is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call toll free voice (866) 632-9992, TDD (800) 877-8339, or voice relay (866) 377-8642. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Past and Current AIM Awardees



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.



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).



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 \$10,000:** Building a fuels crew but lacking the necessary equipment: trailers, chainsaws, technology (hardware and/or software)

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% (cash or in-kind).

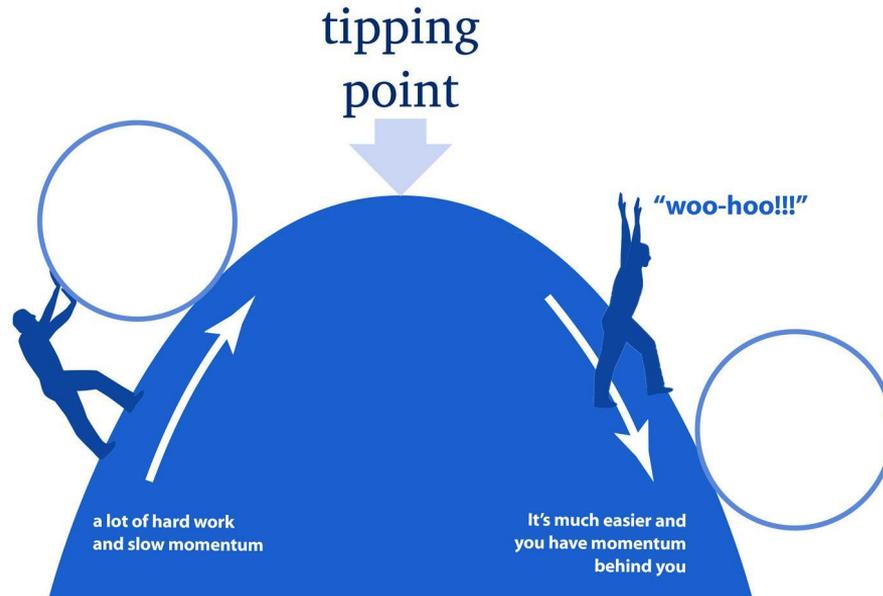
- Personnel (New or Existing)
- Planning Efforts
- Reduction of Hazardous Fuels
- Mitigation Equipment under \$10,000

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.*



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 program
 - Demonstration site
 - Key cross-boundary project connections
 - Cost-share program
 - Mitigation on private land will require a 50% cash match from the landowner (proof of underserved community may decrease this percentage)

What AIM cannot fund

- Grant Writing
- Equipment over \$10,000

Please reach out to us...

If the team has yet to address your organization or project eligibility.

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

Email Wendie Warner: wendie.warner@co-co.org





Application Process



Concept Paper

1. Organization's involvement in wildfire risk reduction activities
2. Proposal description
3. Strategic Value of Project*
4. Maintenance & Sustainability
5. Match & 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 other funding not available?



Filling out the Budget and Narrative

Indirect Fee

- The maximum request amount is \$75,000. Indirect Fees can be up to 15% of the total project cost, not 15% of the maximum request amount.
 - ◆ Project Cost + Indirect Fee = \$75,000
 - ◆ \$30,000 + \$4,500 Indirect = \$34,500 Total AIM Ask
 - ◆ *If you have a federally negotiated indirect fee, please include NICRA documentation*

Filling out the Budget and Narrative

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

- Personnel: Requesting \$7,500 (\$25/hour x 300 hours) for Wildfire Mitigation Specialist' time
- Equipment: Requesting \$1,000 to purchase 3 chainsaws
- Mileage: Requesting 500 miles at current federal mileage rate of \$0.67/mi.
- Leveraged Match: federal funds contributing to the project but cannot count towards the 1:1 match



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

Matching Contributions Table Instructions: Please complete the Matching Contributions table below. Use the "Fill In Name" spaces to input the names of the organization/entity, adding their associated match amount in the appropriate space in the column below. If your proposal involves chipping / mitigation work that benefits resident's properties, you must include a 50% cash match from the resident (may be decreased with proof of disadvantaged community). Because AIM funding is federal funding, you may not use federal funds for your match. Other Federal funding sources are shown as "Leveraged Match" that add value to the project, but do not count toward the 1:1 required match for an AIM Award.

Contributors	City of Granada	Eagle Eye HOA Residents	Fill In Name HERE	Fill In Name HERE	Fill In Name HERE	Total
Hard Match (Dollars)	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00
50% Landowner Match (Dollars)	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00
Soft Match (In Kind)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00

AIM Grant Requirements



AIM Reporting

If awarded an AIM grant:

- Status updates accompany each reimbursement request
 - ◆ Google form including quantitative and qualitative info
- Check-in calls (w/ mentors & AIM staff)
- Final report
 - ◆ Photos, spatial data (GIS shapefiles), final outcomes table & expense report, and narrative

AIM Funding Timeline

Concept Paper/RFC Release	September 27, 2024
Concept Paper Due	October 25, 2024
Notifications for Application Advancement	November 2024
Application Due Date	December 2024
Anticipated Start Date	February of 2025

Thank you! - Additional Questions?



Wendie Warner

AIM Program Director

Wendie.Warner@co-co.org



Michaele Bloodsworth

Grants & Account Director

Michaele.Bloodsworth@co-co.org



Katie Dorman

Wildfire Mitigation Specialist

Katie.Dorman@co-co.org

You will receive a recording of this webinar via email. It will also be linked on our website at <https://co-co.org/get-involved/grants/aim-grant/>

