

Question Report		
Report generated time	Oct 08, 2025 17:20:54	
Topic	Webinar ID	
Fall 2025 AIM Informational Webinar		
Question Details		
#	Question	Answer
1	The Budget has a not about "Equipment – Items over \$5,000 per unit; requires prior approval." but the application notes that equipment should be <\$5,000. What does this note mean? Does this mean we should only list equipment >\$5,000 in this line item so that it's submitted for special approval? Or should we list all equipment, regardless of cost, under this line item?	Equipment is allowed up to \$5,000 per unit, but we do prioritize applications that build capacity. Please reach out if you have specific questions to aim@co-co.org . Thank you!
2	Our recovery from disasters is slow do to lack of infrastructure of our organizations (like a COAD). Until we can organize, it is difficult to plan mitigation strategies like fuels reductions and home hardening. Our goal is to help our community build a COAD. Have you had grant applicants be successful in applying for collaborative infrastructure set up, such as a COAD?	Please reach out to us via email to discuss this in better detail: aim@co-co.org . Thank you!
3	Hello! Are Universities eligible?	Yes, universities are eligible to apply.
4	Do federal requirements, e.g., indirect rates, apply to these funds?	Yes, we abide by federal regulations for our AIM subawards. The exception is related to equipment, we have a more stringent requirement to keep focus on capacity building projects. Please contact us at: aim@co-co.org if you have more questions!
5	I assisted a member of my team on a COCO AIM grant application last year. I understand there was a delay in the decision-making process. I am wondering if decisions were made.	Please reach out to us directly at aim@co-co.org so we can provide more detail.
6	What do you mean by "front-line communities?" The link to the tool COCO uses didn't work (pg 5 of the Concept Paper Instructions). Where can we see that tool?	Please try this link: https://wildfirerisk.org/cwdg-tool/ and reach out if you continue to have difficulty at aim@co-co.org . Thank you!
7	Can any of the grant funds be used for water treatment resulting from the watershed flooding and debris flowing after rain, snow melt etc that will directly impact the drinking water for a municipality?	Our funding is specifically focused on wildfire mitigation. If you have more questions, please reach out to us at aim@co-co.org . Thank you!
8	We are planning to submit a proposal that would fund wildfire resiliency work across multiple land management non-profits, including a native botanic garden. We were planning on having the botanic garden be the lead applicant because they can provide the biggest match in terms of volunteer hours (biggest community buy-in), but would it be more advantageous to have our local Wildfire Resiliency Collaborative be the lead applicant because of their specific focus on wildfire resiliency? How much weight does the lead applicant carry?	Please reach out to us at aim@co-co.org so we can get more detail. Even if the local WRC is the lead applicant there may be a way to still capture the match from the land management nonprofit.
9	ArcGIS (mapping software) has a yearly fee associated with it, could applicants use the equipment portion of the AIM Grant to cover this for multiple years on a single grant? The basic ArcGIS is \$700/yr - 7 years would be \$4,900 which is under the \$5,000.	The AIM Grant is a reimbursement process that takes place within the contract agreement dates. Once the agreement is active, there is one year to utilize the funds. Unfortunately pre or post dating funds falls outside of the federal reimbursement guidelines.
10	Does Co-Co use the CWDG tool to determine who/what is an "underserved community"?	Yes, we do! You can access that here: https://wildfirerisk.org/cwdg-tool/
11	Does time for staff need to be listed per staff in the budget narrative?	This is recommended to provide as much transparency and detail to the narrative you feel is needed to help the COCO team understand the full scope while reviewing the concept papers.
12	Can SRS Title 3 funds be used for the 1:1 match?	It is my understanding that these are federally sourced funds so no, it cannot be used for the 1:1 match.
13	For capacity building, could a fire district utilize this grant for seasonal wildfire firefighter personnel? Duties including suppression and mitigation activities.	This hits on the capacity building concept well, utilize the tipping point concept on sharing this proposal.
14	Michael just stated about the 50% private landowner match for mitigation work. Would CoCo also apply that line of thought regarding the costs of doing home hazard assessments on private parcels?	No, it does not necessarily apply to home hazard assessments - the 50% landowner match refers more specifically to mitigation work being done on the homeowner's property.
15	Our mitigation work consists of organizing volunteers to perform work on one another's private lands. No cash changes hands, and no contractors are involved. The landowners do provide some in-kind match in terms of their own time and equipment, but we don't have a hard requirement for how much. We don't need to start asking the landowners to provide cash in exchange for participating in the program, do we?	Please reach out to our team at aim@co-co.org so we can better understand this situation. There are many great ways to capitalize on volunteer time to fulfill match.
16	Double checking that I am understanding the exceptions to needing match. When we applied for the CWDG, match was not required due to us living in a low income/underserved community, would that likely be the same for this grant as well (both being federal grant sources)?	live answered
17	Can we ask for training on grant writing certification?	live answered

18	How much more in-depth is the actual application from the concept paper?	Being invited to the application comes with guidance from the AIM team for the application.
19	Can you explain the difference between hard match and soft match (dollars vs in kind)?	live answered
20	If our organization has a NICRA letter for over that 15% IDR and we submit it with the application as you mentioned... we would then reflect our NICRA amount in the proposed budget as opposed to the 15%, correct?	Leah, with NICRA differences you can reflect that in your budget narrative and if awarded the NICRA documentation will be needed for the reimbursement process.
21	My area does display as an underserved community, however the ownership in the HOA area is primarily second homes with several homes being the only residence for full-timers. Does this change that determination?	We recommend working with your HOA first to see what they can bring to the table. Feel free to reach out to our team for more questions so we can better answer for your situation: aim@co-co.org
22	Do you need a Letter of Support from our Match Source if we are utilizing a state funded grant as match?	live answered
23	Is zone 1 hardscaping around private homes an eligible mitigation activity?	Yes I'd consider that falling under a home hardening mitigation activity. You are welcome to follow up with us if you have more specific questions about your project
24	We hope to provide mitigation services to households in an underserved community. According to the CWDG tool they would qualify for an exemption. If there is no landowner match would that put our proposal at a competitive disadvantage?	live answered
25	Can you please explain more about geography relevant to Federal Land? From grant request instructions "Applicants must demonstrate that their proposed project will take place in close proximity to, or adjacent to, U.S. Forest Service (USFS) or other federal, state or local public lands projects that are planned and/or previously treated." Would municipal land work?	Please email this question to aim@co-co.org . We will get this answered for you!
26	What are options of in-kind match? Would volunteer hours on prescribed burns count, using a standard labor calculator?	The volunteer hours do count at the federal or state rate.
27	as a local coalition, we work closely with our partners (Sheriff office wildland fire team) and are working to build an independent fuels team, but they do not work for our non-profit, we contract them to conduct the work. since they are not employees directly with us, can we still 'fund' them?	live answered
28	How secure is this funding? Several other Federal Grants have been pulled back and this can be concerning when those funds may be pulled back and the recipient is on the hook.	live answered
29	Are workforce development organizations eligible? We do a 10 week training for forestry and wild fire job training. https://abc30.com/post/10-week-program-helps-students-launch-career-forestry-wildland-fire-timber-industry/15523678/	live answered
30	I noticed that the grant will not fund grant writing, but it sounds like it could potentially fund a position to admin existing grants, such as reporting and reimbursement requests?	live answered
31	Would outreach only project proposals be eligible or is it important to include implementation activities?	live answered
32	Does this grant cover the actual wildfire mitigation work? We self-perform this work, but just wanted to clarify that this grant would cover the actual cost of running the crew	Yes, this does cover all things mitigation. Talk about how this is capacity building and/or at a tipping point.
33	I haven't seen prescribed fire explicitly mentioned anywhere. Is this a valid mitigation method that can be applied for as part of this grant?	Yes
34	Are meetings, conferences, or convenings eligible for funding?	live answered
35	Are State Department of Natural Resources or Conservation District staff hours that support our community WF mitigation work considered Hard or Soft match? If Hard, are they valued at the staff's own direct or fully-loaded salary expense? If Soft, must we value their hours at the Volunteer rate?	If staff are getting paid for the work while doing the work, the match is shown as hard at their normal hourly rates. If they are signing in as skilled volunteers they would be going at the volunteer rate.
36	Would it be appropriate to apply for this funding for online course development for prescribed fire?	Yes, emphasize how this has long-term impact within your community too.
37	Can you use other Fed/ State grants as match?	Federal dollars do not count for the 1:1 match requirement due to federal funding requirements. State funding can count for the 1:1 match.
38	Do mitigation projects on private properties need to be in a neighborhood or small area or may we do several throughout the WUI in our county?	live answered
39	Can a community's investment for their Firewise USA program (volunteer or cash) be shown as match for this work if we're supporting the community through this work? And if so, what type of match would that fall under?	live answered
40	Q1 asks about past wildfire projects. What if the tipping point is that a land management nonprofit wants to create their first wildfire risk reduction program? Will applicants without any prior wildfire programs be not competitive?	Programs without prior wildfire programs are still considered competitive.
41	Will this webinar be available to us after today? I have to hop off.	live answered
41	Will this webinar be available to us after today? I have to hop off.	Yes the recording will be shared to attendees and also posted to the website
42	I'm also curious about the public land proximity requirement. What are you looking for?	We were going to get more information for this question. Can you email aim@co-co.org so we can get that response to you?
43	What happened to the grant proposals from the last round? We were told they were on hold due to the federal funding issues, and then never heard another update.	Tamara, please reach out to Wendie for further details about this. wendie.warner@co-co.org .

44	Is there a preferred geographical "scale"?	live answered
	My org works in about half of our large state, and offer support/services/equipment to smaller groups that range from region/county, to specific homeowner groups, in addition to our own volunteer/member list.	
	We would like to hire another (at least) part time staff member - does it make a difference if they are responsible for a specific project or region, vs augmenting the org as a whole?	
45	It's been increasingly difficult to find maintenance work on already treated forest lands. Is there any higher priority for "new" acres vs maintenance acres with this grant for the mitigation portion?	New versus maintenance is not taken into consideration with the concept paper. The wildfire risk for the area is an integrated part of the decision making process.
46	Can this funding support new staff/capacity built, taking CO CO's mitigation best practices course to help us round out employee training?	Yes, professional development with a mitigation lens to bring it back to your community has lasting impact.
47	We have a Forestry Summer Intern Program for college students to assist with development of Forest Managment Plans on private non-industrial forest lands. Would paying for their time to do this be eligible?	live answered
48	If some State grant funding is used for match do we have to make sure that the State \$\$ don't include Federal \$s?	live answered
49	Sounds good!	live answered
50	Will this be avaiable on line and what is the link for it? In writing please.	live answered
50	Will this be avaiable on line and what is the link for it? In writing please.	You can find information for the AIM Grant on our website here: https://co-co.org/aim-grant/
51	can grant funds be used to purchase equipment like vehicle leasing, vehicle repair?	live answered
52	Can a single hour of volunteer time be both written down as match against an AIM grant, and simultaneously written down as Firewise community hours?	live answered
53	In reference to this webinar please. Sorry I was not clear. Where can we download this presentation please.	The slides and recording will be sent out post webinar.
54	Would a program where a recipiant contracts with a local forest management or tree service provider to do chippig work in designated community where residents cut and pile the material on their own to be chipped sometime there after be considered a form of cost-share where landowner match would be required or a use of funding for contractrual services from a vendor?	live answered
55	Can donations to our organization be considered for match? Would the donation need to be specifically for the proposed program, or general donation?	live answered
56	Do you have guaranteed funding this time around or could this funding be potentially taken back? I was on a team who applied last round and never heard back.	live answered
57	As part of a larger forest restoration, vehicle use is significant in Wood For Life efforts	live answered
57	As part of a larger forest restoration, vehicle use is significant in Wood For Life efforts	Community Navigator link: https://co-co.org/community-navigator/
58	Does this need to fund only one position, or can it be split over multiple	live answered
58	Does this need to fund only one position, or can it be split over multiple	It can be split between multiple positions
59	Sorry if this was already explained, but could you please provide a definition of "tipping point"?	live answered
59	Sorry if this was already explained, but could you please provide a definition of "tipping point"?	Projects that increase momentum or improve your efficiency & effectiveness - allowing you to ultimately get more work done on the ground.
60	Will the Q&A be available?	live answered