



Eastern Spruce Budworm

Early Intervention Strategy Cost Share Program

2025 Grant Application Guidelines

Application Deadline

Friday, April 25, 2025

Overview

The US Forest Service Forest Health Protection Program (USFS FHP) assists states in conducting forest health management activities on non-federal forest lands to achieve healthy forests by providing states with Federal funds to detect, monitor, control, and evaluate forest health conditions. Funds from the **American Relief Act of 2025** through USFS FHP (Federal Assistance Listing (formerly Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance - CFDA) number and name:10.664, Cooperative Forestry Assistance) will enable the Maine Forest Service to support activities for an early intervention strategy (EIS) to managing spruce budworm in Maine. State funds may also become available to support early intervention activities. This landscape-scale management approach has been undertaken for eleven years in New Brunswick and has successfully stalled budworm outbreak conditions there. Successful EIS will prevent widespread spruce budworm impacts on Maine's 5 million acres of spruce/fir forests.

Additional information and resources can be found on the [Maine Forest Service spruce budworm website](#).

The Maine Eastern Spruce Budworm Early Intervention Strategy Grant will reimburse approved applicants up to 90 percent of EIS treatment costs on private lands and 100 percent of costs on public lands, subject to the requirements and standards set forth below.

Eligibility Requirements

- Public or private timberland management entities with more than 2000 acres within the current [Pesticide Discharge Management Plan](#) may apply.
- Applicants must have an **existing contract for treating eastern spruce budworm (SBW) following an early intervention strategy**, with treatment planned for May and June 2025. A

copy of the contract must be included in the application. The Maine Forest Service may contact the contractor to confirm details.

- Because of environmental review requirements for aerial pesticide applications of this magnitude, applications cannot be considered for acres outside of the existing [Pesticide Discharge Management Plan](#).
- Expenses eligible for reimbursement are only those directly related to aerial insecticide application programs for SBW following an EIS approach in Maine.
- The project must conform to all relevant state and federal rules and regulations and environmental review requirements.
- Grant recipients must be eligible to receive federal and state funding and must not have active exclusions in the System for Award Management (SAM). Any state funding may be subject to additional state requirements.

Funding and Duration

Up to \$11.5 million is currently available for this program from Federal funds. The total amount an applicant may apply for will be determined based on identified eligible acres planned for treatment and the anticipated cost per acre. Actual reimbursement of the cost of contracted treatment program work on private lands is capped at 90 percent, and reimbursements of up to 100 percent may be available for Public Lands. For example:

Land ownership type: Private

Anticipated Cost/Acre: \$45.00/acre

Total Acreage Planned for Treatment: 5,000 acres

Maximum Reimbursement Amount*: \$45.00/acre x 5,000 acres x 0.90 = \$202,500.00

*Actual reimbursement amount will be based on a review of final acres-treated figures.

All applicants determined to be eligible will be offered an opportunity to participate in the grant program. Applications will be reviewed in the order they are received. Applications received after the available funds have been committed will not be eligible to receive funding.

The grant period for this program is from **January 24, 2025, through September 30, 2025**.

Treatment costs invoiced before January 24, 2025, and after September 30, 2025, will not be reimbursed.

The USDA FS and the American Relief Act of 2025 make funding for this program possible. It is covered under USDA FS agreement 25 DG 066. The Federal Assistance Listing (formerly Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance—CFDA) number and name are 10.664, Cooperative Forestry Assistance. State funds may also become available to support early intervention strategy activities.

Recipients of this funding are subject to the OMB guidance in subparts A through F of 2 CFR Part 200 as adopted and supplemented by the USDA in 2 CFR Part 400. The USDA's adoption of the OMB guidance in 2 CFR 400 gives regulatory effect to the OMB guidance in 2 CFR 200, where full text may be found. Electronic copies of the CFRs can be obtained at www.ecfr.gov.

Application Guidelines

SAM (UEID):

Grant recipients must have a SAM.gov Unique Entity Identification (UEID) – note to applicants the entity registration process can take several weeks to establish. Applications may be submitted as long as the process has started for SAM ID registration. No agreements will be finalized until the registration is complete.

Submittal Instructions:

[Applications](#) and supporting documentation must be submitted through an online portal available at: <https://arcg.is/n0j0e>.

Questions or concerns about the **grant application process** should be sent to RFA Coordinator Kent Nelson ([email:kent.nelson@maine.gov](mailto:kent.nelson@maine.gov)).

Questions or concerns about the **online portal and documentation submission** should be sent to Forest Ranger Specialist Daniel Perkins (email: daniel.m.perkins@maine.gov).

SBW EIS Cost Share Program Application for 2025:

[Application Form](#)

The designated and official representative must sign [the application](#). The application must be uploaded to the application portal (PDF format preferred).

[Download Application Form](#) (PDF)

Supporting documentation to be uploaded:

Upload your application and supporting documentation to [this portal](#): <https://arcg.is/n0j0e>

1. Applicator Contract (PDF format preferred)
2. Zipped GIS data outlining planned treatment areas within applicant's ownership or ownership boundaries
3. Document outlining how proposed treatment areas and approach conform to an EIS for spruce budworm management. Document may be one page or less and should address any areas not modeled as meeting the 3.5 L2/branch threshold identified threshold (PDF format preferred).

The deadline to receive applications is midnight Friday, April 25, 2025.

Funding Review and Criteria

A team of Maine Forest Service staff will review proposals for eligibility. Applicants with proposals meeting eligibility requirements will be notified of their eligibility along with the maximum value of the agreement. Each grantee is required to sign an agreement for performance containing the required Federal General Assurances.

A fully executed agreement between the Maine Forest Service and the grantee must be in place before any invoices are considered for reimbursement.

At a minimum, the agreement must contain the following: Certification Regarding Federal Audit Requirements, Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters, American Relief Act of 2025 Service Contract Terms and Conditions, additional terms and a Certificate of Insurance.

Expenses incurred outside of the grant window and those not conforming with the agreement details shall be deemed ineligible for reimbursement.

The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) reserves the right to request the return of funds in whole or in part if it is determined that the funds were not used for the intended purpose, as described in the application.

Grant recipients must retain records relating to the grant for a period of at least six years from the date of the final reimbursement payment received by the applicant for this grant. The applicant must agree that such records will be submitted to DACF or its designees or representatives upon request or upon audit of the completed project by DACF or other authorized state or federal authorities.

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14th and Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-9410
or call (202)720-5964 (voice or TDD).*

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MFS grant programs are also governed by [Rules for Departmental \(DACF\) Grant Awards and Appeals \(01-001, Ch. 8\)](#)