**Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management**

**Community Challenge Grant Program**

As of today, September 4, 2018, the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management – Community Challenge Grant Program is accepting applications.

Under this solicitation, Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management is seeking grant proposals from eligible applicants to support locally focused urban forestry projects that meet one of the State’s strategic goals for urban and community forestry. Priority will be given to projects that align with this year’s theme of **Water Conservation and Rainwater Harvesting for Benefit of Trees and Communities**. These grants are intended to help communities of all sizes to strengthen their urban forest management and outreach efforts. Projects should demonstrate partnerships, be community friendly, and include a description of how the project will be evaluated.

Applicants are limited to one proposal. Grant program details are provided in the application materials including: funding amounts, eligibility, how to apply, cost-matching parameters, and examples of previously funded projects. Communities with Tree City USA designation or those working toward Tree City USA designation ([www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org/)) are strongly encouraged to apply. Applicants (cities, towns) with this designation do receive additional points in the grant scoring process.

Community Challenge Grants are awarded through the Department of Forestry and Fire Management – Urban and Community Forestry Program in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service. This program focuses on the stewardship of urban natural resources, and is intended to encourage and promote citizen involvement in creating and supporting long-term and sustainable urban and community forestry programs at the local level.

You may also obtain the Grant Guidelines, Q&A, and Application Form at  [www.dffm.az.gov](http://www.dffm.az.gov/) under our grants tab.

**Applications are due October 12, 2018 no later than 5pm.**

For questions regarding this grant program, please contact John Richardson, Program Manager at 602-771-1420.

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