



Forest Service Financial and Technical Assistance Programs

Overview: The USDA Forest Service, Wood Innovations program provides technical and financial assistance to strengthen the forest products industry and expand wood product and wood energy markets. These programs and projects address the nationwide challenge of restoring resilient forests for all landowners and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires, disease, and infestations. Investments accelerate forest management activities and reduce costs for all landowners by creating market demand for wood products and wood energy. This helps retain industry by modernizing or expanding existing facilities and building new facilities. Industry is essential to accomplish Forest Service goals. *Assistance Program availability is based on Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) approval and available funding.*

Financial Assistance Programs

Wood Innovations Grant (WIG) Program, launched in 2015 and codified in the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (Farm Bill), stimulates, expands, and supports U.S. wood products markets and wood energy markets to support the long-term management of National Forest System and other forest lands. National focus areas include mass timber, wood energy, and technological development that supports hazardous fuel reduction and sustainable forest management. Funding is available through the annual agency appropriations and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. More information is available at [Wood Grants | US Forest Service \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/wood-grants). *NOFO typically announced in October.*

Community Wood Grant (CWG) Program, launched in 2020, provides funding for grants to install thermally-led community wood energy systems or to build innovative wood product manufacturing facilities. The program prioritizes assisting sawmills in economically challenged areas to retool or add advanced technology. More information is available at [Wood Grants | US Forest Service \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/wood-grants). *NOFO typically announced in October.*

Wood Products Infrastructure Assistance (WPIA) Grant Program supports facilities that purchase and process forest byproducts of ecosystem restoration projects. This includes projects that establish, reopen, retrofit, expand, or improve sawmills or other wood-processing facilities near federal or Indian lands that need ecosystem restoration. The emphasis is on areas of unnaturally severe high wildfire risk or insect or disease infestation with high or very high priority for ecological restoration. More information is available at [Wood Grants | US Forest Service \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/wood-grants). *NOFO typically announced in October.*

Timber Production Expansion Guaranteed Loan Program (TPEP) is managed by USDA Rural Development with support from the Forest Service. TPEP provides financial support to qualified lenders whose loan applicants want to establish, reopen, expand, or improve sawmills or other wood processing facilities that process forest ecosystem restoration byproducts from Forest Service National Forest System lands, along with Indian forest and rangelands. More information is available at [USDA TPEP](https://www.usda.gov/rural-development/tpep). *Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.*

Temporary Water Crossing Grant Program supports funding for temporary bridge rental programs with States and federally recognized Indian Tribes to protect water resources and reduce water quality degradation during forestry-related operations. Temporary bridges support active forest management and timber harvesting where crossing streams, wet areas, energy pipelines, and other buried infrastructure is required. More information is located at [Temporary Water Crossing | US Forest Service \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/forest-service/temporary-water-crossing). *Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and due on the last Friday of April, August, and December.*

Hazardous Fuels Transportation Assistance (HFTA) Grant Program support projects that remove hazardous fuels from National Forests to locations where the woody materials will be used to produce various wood products or wood energy. Projects must remove hazardous materials from and/or demonstrate direct benefit to National Forest System lands, explain how it reduces hazardous fuels, and describe and provide documentation showing why transportation of hazardous fuels to facility locations where they can be used (e.g. mills and wood energy plants) is the limiting factor to removal. More information is available at [Hazardous Fuels Transport Program Overview](#). *NOFO timing unknown.*

Firewood Bank Grant Program provides funding to support firewood banks or firewood distribution programs, organizations which provide emergency and seasonal wood for heating homes. Similar to food banks, firewood banks can be run by nonprofits, churches and other religious organizations, state or local governments, or tribes. Available through the Alliance for Green Heat, a national non-profit, funds are available for firewood banks to help communities acquire and process low-grade wood from federal lands for residential heating. This grant will connect rural communities with forested land that is being actively managed to reduce fire risk and improve forest health. More information is available at the [Firewood Banks Assistance Program](#). *Applications open from Alliance for Green Heat in September 2025.*

Technical Assistance Programs

Wood Innovations Team

National and regional staff (15 team members) steward high-profile agency relationships with industry leaders, offer technical input on complex policy questions such as the Renewable Fuel Standard, and deliver direct technical assistance to industry, facilities, and organizations supporting the forest products sector. They provide essential industry knowledge to Forest Service staff, other federal, state, tribal and other organizations on wood products markets, softwood and hardwood lumber, wood energy, bioenergy, and biochar. Further, they engage local and state economic development agencies to support wood processing facility retention and identify actions across industry that support the current and future wood products industry. A list of current staff and their geographic location is at [Wood Innovations Contacts](#).

Wood Manufacturing Assistance Team

The Wood Manufacturing Assistance Team, launched in 2024, provides expert hands-on technical consultation, prioritizing small and medium-sized forest products manufacturers, through a partnership with the U.S. Endowment for Forestry & Communities and industry experts. This program provides free technical assistance to facilities to identify opportunities for mill expansion, facility and equipment improvements, operational efficiencies, evaluate current and potential market opportunities, and support long-term planning needs. This team is critical to ensuring the economic health, productivity, and long-term stability of forest products infrastructure across the United States. For more information, please visit the [U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities website](#).

Wood Energy Technical Assistance Team

The Wood Energy Technical Assistance Team directly assists facilities to advance thermal and combined-heat-and-power (CHP) projects from the concept stage to implementation. The team ensures that implemented projects are sustained and successful through ongoing technical assistance. Since 2009, the team has worked with partners across the United States on more than 200 projects that annually use over 850,000 green tons of biomass, stimulating a \$34 million local impact and 2,686 local jobs. For more information, visit the [Forest Markets - Wood Energy Technical Assistance Team web page](#).