2027 Wildfire Risk Reduction Program

Applicant Education & Instructional Guide

Nevada Fire Chiefs Association (NFCA) | Based on the November 10, 2026 applicant webinar

Purpose: Help prospective applicants assess project fit, prepare a competitive proposal, and navigate the new online grant portal.

At a glance

Application deadline	**January 6, 2027**
Application status	Open at time of November 10 webinar
2027 funding	More than $980,000 described as available
Award notifications	Expected by the end of January or very early February 2027
SAM.gov	Active registration required when applying; eligible partnerships may help organizations without their own registration
Application location	NFCA website → login → grant portal login

Important: This educational guide is based on the spoken webinar, not a substitute for the official application, scoring sheet, eligibility rules, or award terms. Verify details in the current NFCA grant materials before submitting.

1 | Program overview and purpose

The Wildfire Risk Reduction Program supports projects that reduce hazardous fuels and wildfire exposure in Nevada communities. NFCA administers the program in partnership with federal wildland fire representatives. The webinar described 2027 as year three of a five-year agreement, originally associated with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) managed lands.

Across 2025 and 2026, the program reported more than $1 million awarded to 16 projects in eight Nevada counties—Clark, Douglas, Elko, Humboldt, Lincoln, Lyon, Pershing and Washoe—and two Tribal Nations. In 2026, 10 of 14 applications were funded; the remaining four were found ineligible and referred to other potential partners or programs.

2 | Determine whether your project fits

Focus on tangible hazard mitigation

Proposals should clearly describe the hazardous fuels or wildfire risk being addressed and the mitigation work that will be performed. The webinar emphasized direct risk-reduction work rather than unrelated planning or inventory activities.

Demonstrate the connection to BLM-managed lands

The review places significant weight on the project's nexus to BLM land. The webinar discussed a two-mile proximity guideline, but explained that compelling projects outside that distance may still warrant consideration where a meaningful connection and critical need can be demonstrated. Do not assume that proximity alone guarantees eligibility.

Assess cost-effectiveness

Reviewers consider treatment cost per acre, whether the proposed method is effective, and whether it is a reasonable approach for the terrain and conditions. Applicants are encouraged to seek technical assistance from NFCA and fuels specialists before submitting if treatment methods or costs are uncertain.

Understand match and in-kind support

No matching contribution is required, according to the webinar. However, applicants are encouraged to document contributions such as staff time, use of equipment, waived indirect costs, partner participation, or phased funding. These demonstrate local investment and may strengthen the application.

3 | Prepare your organization

1. Confirm who will apply and who will be responsible for managing the award and project.
2. Check whether the applying organization has an active SAM.gov registration. Start early: registration may take several weeks.
3. If your organization lacks SAM.gov registration, discuss a possible formal partnership with a local fire department, district, city, or county that can serve as applicant and manage the administrative responsibilities.
4. Identify partners, project boundaries, the specific wildfire hazard, proposed treatment, and realistic project costs.
5. Review the official eligibility information, scoring sheet, and sample successful applications on the NFCA website.

Partnership example: D'Andrea Homeowners Association worked with Sparks Fire Department, using the department's SAM.gov registration and administrative processes. This is an example of an arrangement to discuss with NFCA, not automatic authorization to use another organization's registration.

4 | Build a strong project proposal

Recommended application narrative

6. Define the community and location: identify the affected area, relevant jurisdictions, and nearby BLM-managed land.

7. Explain the problem: describe fuel conditions, exposure, ignition sources, and potential impacts to residents, responders, property, or infrastructure.
8. Describe the treatment: state precisely what work will be performed, where, and why the method is appropriate.
9. Explain the BLM nexus: document proximity and/or a defensible connection to risks involving BLM-managed lands.
10. Present a defensible budget: show treatment quantities, estimated cost per acre where applicable, and the basis for the proposed approach.
11. Describe partnerships and contributions: identify staff time, equipment, other funds, or in-kind support, even though match is not mandatory.
12. Plan execution: describe approvals, contractors or crews, seasonal constraints, and a feasible schedule.
13. Check completeness: follow every instruction in the current portal and official application materials.

Multiple project areas

Distinct projects may be submitted and scored individually. In 2026, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District submitted three projects, with two funded. Conversely, the Washoe Tribe of California and Nevada worked with NFCA on one application covering the Dresslerville community and Stewart Colony. Ask NFCA how best to structure geographically separate or related work.

5 | Examples of funded approaches

D'Andrea HOA / Sparks

Community fuels mitigation with a local fire department administrative partner; selective treatment rather than clear-cutting.

Pershing County

Vegetation and ignition-risk mitigation along roadways, fencing, rail corridors and transportation routes.

Humboldt County

Defensible-space assistance for older adults, people with disabilities and residents unable to complete work themselves; coordinated with senior-service partners and county support.

City of Elko

Adoption of a similar assistance model for vulnerable residents.

Lincoln County

Fuel-break work around Pioche and Caselton.

Cold Creek Canyon HOA

Treatment on individual properties in a Firewise community, including properties with absentee owners.

City of Sparks

Community green-waste collection and removal to reduce accumulated fuels.

Central Lyon County

Multi-partner hazardous fuels and invasive-weed treatment, coordinated with State Parks and conservation partners across seasonal work windows.

These are illustrative examples, not a definitive list of eligible project types. Project eligibility depends on the official criteria and site-specific circumstances.

6 | Apply through the NFCA grant portal

14. Visit the Nevada Fire Chiefs Association website. https://nvfirechf.org
15. Choose the login option, then select the grant portal login.
16. Create an account as prompted.
17. Review the application materials and enter the requested project and organizational information.
18. Submit the application through the portal by January 6, 2027.
19. Return to your account to view the application and monitor its status.

The new portal is intended to centralize applications, status tracking, communications, reporting and monitoring. NFCA also encouraged applicants to call or email with questions or technical problems rather than relying solely on portal messages.

7 | Review, awards, and project timing

Applications are evaluated by a multi-agency panel. The webinar described participation from federal representatives, the Nevada Division of Forestry, and NFCA; the prior year included approximately six reviewers. Applicants were told the program would communicate awards by late January or very early February 2027.

The earlier application schedule is designed to allow recipients to obtain governing-board approvals during winter and begin fieldwork when spring conditions permit. This addresses delays in previous cycles, when summer approvals and active wildfire seasons postponed treatment work.

8 | Questions addressed during the webinar

Can grant funds pay for a protected-plant inventory required for a utility right-of-way project?

The presenters indicated that a stand-alone plant inventory was not an eligible hazard-mitigation expense as described. They suggested exploring assistance from University of Nevada, Reno Extension or other technical partners. Ask NFCA about any project-specific eligibility questions before budgeting such work.

Where do we obtain SAM.gov registration?

Use https://sam.gov. Check whether your organization is already registered and who manages that registration. If creating and maintaining registration is impractical, discuss partnering with a qualified local public agency.

What if our project does not qualify?

NFCA may help identify other organizations or programs with a better fit. The webinar cited a Mount Charleston proposal lacking a BLM nexus and overlapping nearby Nevada Division of Forestry work; the applicants were connected with NDF to explore collaboration.

Are application examples available?

Yes. The presenters said the NFCA website includes examples of completed successful applications, past awards, eligibility information, webinar materials, and the new portal.

9 | Final applicant checklist

☐ Project directly reduces hazardous fuels or wildfire risk

☐ BLM-land connection is clearly explained

☐ Applicant has active SAM.gov registration or an approved partner arrangement

☐ Project scope, location, treatment approach and expected outcomes are clear

☐ Costs and treatment quantities are supportable

☐ Partners and optional in-kind contributions are documented

☐ Required local approvals and seasonal work constraints are considered

☐ Official scoring sheet, eligibility rules and sample applications reviewed

☐ Portal account created and application submitted by January 6, 2027

10 | Where to go for help

Start with the NFCA website for the official grant portal, program details, scoring information and example applications. The webinar identified NFCA Executive Director and Program Administrator Kelli Baratti and federal Community Assistance representative Jennifer Diamond as contacts for project and application questions. Their contact details were shown on the presentation slides but were not spoken in the transcript; consult the NFCA website or slide deck for current information.

Kelli Baratti
Nevada Fire Chiefs Association
Program Administrator
kelli@nvfirechf.org
775.720.9874

Jennifer Diamond
Fire Prevention, Education, and Mitigation Specialist
jdiamond@blm.gov

Source and editorial notes

Source: “2027 NFCA Wildfire Risk Reduction Webinar,” recorded November 10, 2026, supplied transcript. The webinar contains a verbal deadline error that was immediately corrected to January 6, 2027; this guide uses the corrected date. The webinar gave funding as “over $980,000,” not a precise amount. References to a two-mile BLM proximity guideline and to potential partnership arrangements are descriptions of webinar guidance, not substitutes for written eligibility determinations. The spoken transcript did not establish a 2027 project performance end date or an exact per-project award maximum; neither is asserted here.