

# Frequently Asked Questions

## *What is the Georgia ReLeaf grant?*

- It is a program funded by the USDA Forest Service and the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC), in partnership with the Georgia Tree Council (GTC), to award funds to local governments and non-profits for community tree planting and giveaway projects.

## *What are the primary objectives of the program?*

- The goals are to improve urban tree canopies, sustain community forest health, incorporate tree planting into city planning, and increase resident access to health benefits from forests.

## *What communities qualify for the grant?*

- Communities listed as “match waiver qualified” on the Georgia ReLeaf Map. This geospatial mapping tool identifies census tracts that are overburdened by projected natural disaster risk, pollution, canopy health, and other factors.
- Under-resourced communities with a documented environmental and/or public health need that can be addressed through increased canopy cover. Applicants may use a combination of economic data, public health data, canopy cover reports, land use history, municipal comprehensive plans, or other relevant sources to justify need.

## *How much funding can an organization request?*

- Applicants may apply for up to \$15,000.

## *When is the application window?*

- For the 2026 grant cycle, the application window is March 13 to July 31.

## *What are the requirements for tree planting projects?*

- Plant trees in public spaces
- Create and follow a 3-year maintenance plan
- Document planting locations

## *What are the requirements for tree giveaway events?*

- Provide containerized trees (1 to 5-gallon) to residents
- Distribute educational materials
- Collect the zip codes of recipients.

## *Are there recommendations or limitations for what tree species should be used?*

- Recommended species can be found in the Tree Giveaway Tree Guide or the Georgia Forestry Commission community forest guide.
- Our goal is to increase tree canopy, so planting shade trees is a priority. Planting projects that include predominantly ornamental trees (like Bradford pears or crape myrtles) will not be funded. For tree giveaways, applicants are encouraged to use at least 50% overstory (shade) trees.
- Community orchards/food forests are not eligible. However, low-maintenance and native fruit species can comprise up to 15% of a project.

## *Can funds be used for invasive species removal?*

- No, funds cannot be used to remove invasives, but they can be used for tree replacement following removal.