

Forest Service Use Only
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Revision: 0.022 DRAFT

APPLICATION PACKAGE

USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry
Inflation Reduction Act Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
Proposals are due by June 1st, 2023 11:59 PM EST

APPLICATION SUMMARY

Madison County-Sulphur Springs Park Urban Renewal
Mr. Greg Higginbotham
greg@madison-co.com

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COVER SHEET

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GRANT CATEGORY

Inflation-Reduction-Act-Urban-and-Community-Forestry: Inflation Reduction Act - Urban and Community Forestry

PROJECT TITLE

Madison County-Sulphur Springs Park Urban Renewal

PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

Primary Contact:

Mr. Greg Higginbotham

Madison County, Mississippi

County Administrator

125 W. North Street

Canton, MS 39046

Phone: (601) 855-5502

Cell Phone: (601) 342-9273

Email: greg@madison-co.com

Secondary Contact:

Mrs. Na'Son White

Madison County, Mississippi

Comptroller

Email: nason.white@madison-co.com

PROPOSAL ABSTRACT

(100 word maximum)

The proposed project will acquire and plant trees in Sulphur Springs Park in Northeast Madison County, Mississippi, tract number 28089031000, a disadvantaged community.

NON-FEDERAL FUNDS MATCH WAIVER

Applicant **is** seeking non-federal funds match waiver

FUNDING REQUEST AND MATCH

(Non-Federal Matching Funds MUST be equal to or greater than the Federal Funds Requested unless the applicant has requested a Non-Federal Funds Match Waiver.)

REQUESTED: **\$300,000.00** + MATCHING: **\$0.00** = TOTAL PROJECT: **\$300,000.00**

REQUESTING ADMINISTRATIVE / TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Applicant **has not** requested to to receive administrative and technical assistance from a designated Sub-Award Partner.

PASS-THROUGH FUNDING (SUB-AWARDS) PARTNER REQUEST

Applicant **has not** requested to be considered as a Pass-Through (Sub-Awards) partner.

PROJECT PARTNERS

1. Griffin, Dr. Pollia

North Madison County Economic Development Council (NMCEDC)

2nd Vice Chair

929 Sulphur Springs Road

Canton, MS 39046

Phone: (601) 832-4769

Email: pllgriff@aol.com

PARTNER INVOLVEMENT:

The North Madison County Economic Development Council (NMCEDC) is a 501(c)(3) organization that serves as the Advisory Council for the Urban Renewal/Sulphur Springs Lake Project, a restoration plan for a federally designated blighted area encompassing Sulphur Springs Park. As the management partner for the park, their role includes community outreach and assistance with project management. NMCEDC includes members with significant experience in managing federal grants and economic development.

PARTNER COMMITMENT LETTER INCLUDED: **YES** (see appendix)

— **End of Cover Sheet** —

PROJECT NARRATIVE TEMPLATE

NOTE: Do NOT rename or rearrange the sections in this template.

INSTRUCTIONS: Edit this document and complete each of the numbered sections below. Once your project narrative is completed, save this file as an Adobe Acrobat PDF file and upload it to the Grant Portal under the appropriate Project Narrative document workflow step.

The text in this narrative must be single spaced typed in standard typeface (e.g., Times New Roman, Arial, Calibri) with no smaller than 12-point font. Do NOT modify the page layout, margins, header, or footer in the document as each page must be numbered and have one-inch margins.

NOTE: This completed project narrative document is NOT to exceed 7 single spaced pages.

1. Project Scope Alignment:

The proposed project is to purchase and plant trees for shade at a health center, walking trail, playground, and lake at Sulphur Springs Park in Northeast Madison County, a disadvantaged community, as defined by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST). The park is owned by the Madison County Board of Supervisors, a political subdivision of the State of Mississippi, and managed by the North Madison County Economic Development Council (NMCEDC), a 501 (c)(3) organization. The existing recreational infrastructure at the park was constructed with a combination of Urban Renewal bonds and support from the Madison County Nursing Home. The Madison County Nursing Home Board deemed the construction of the walking trail essential to the “health and wellbeing” of the residents of Madison County. Currently, the trail is without the benefit of shade. The project addresses goals in the Funding Opportunity, State Forest Action Plan, and Ten-Year Urban and Community Forestry Action Plan (2016-2026).

A. Funding Opportunity Goals

The Funding Opportunity cites 12 examples of eligible uses for funding in Section C of the “Eligibility Information” Section of the Funding Opportunity. The acquisition and planting of trees at a health center, walking trail, lake, and playground in a disadvantaged community aligns with multiple goals noted in the aforementioned section of the Funding Opportunity.

The Funding Opportunity specifically mentions the grant may be used to “Protect, enhance, and expand equitable urban tree canopy cover to maximize community access to human health, social, ecological, and economic benefits particularly in disadvantaged and nature-deprived communities experiencing low tree canopy cover, extreme heat and frequent flooding. **Improve and increase access to parks and nature in communities** (emphasis added).” The Sulphur Springs Park Urban Renewal Project proposes to plant trees for shade around a walking trail and health center in a state with a maximum summer temperature of 91.6°F in 2022, according to NOAA. To maximize the health, ecological, and economic benefits of Sulphur Springs Park, as

specified by the Funding Opportunity, providing a respite from the extreme heat in Mississippi is essential. Further, by planting trees around the health center, the park can reduce energy consumption by reducing the dependence on air conditioning.

Because the community is disadvantaged and lacks adequate resources to install green infrastructure, as noted in the Funding Opportunity, federal assistance is necessary to acquire and plant trees in the underserved community. The project will be overseen through a public-private partnership between the Madison County Board of Supervisors and the NMEDC. By forging a public-private partnership, the project will encourage individuals in a disadvantaged community without sufficient resources to maintain green infrastructure to have a vested interest in urban forestry.

As cited in the Funding Opportunity, USDA is a partner to the Interagency MOU on Promoting Equitable Access to nature in Nature-Deprived Communities. Three of the items listed in the “Goals” section of the MOU are directly addressed by this project: Increase Access to Nature and Its Benefits; Improve Public Health and Safety; and Build Trust. As mentioned above, to maximize the community’s use of Sulphur Springs Park and thereby increase access to nature and improve public health, providing relief from oppressive heat is essential. The CJEST tool referenced throughout this application ranks the tract containing the park in the 93rd percentile for low-life expectancy, 94th percentile in unemployment, and 69th percentile in low-income residents. Providing avenues to address public health issues is essential, and this project allows a community-owned option at no cost to the user. Furthermore, this project builds trust and supports community-led engagement promoting local parks. Having a local nonprofit involved in the project allows the community to have its own members with a voice in the decision-making process and project oversight.

B. State Forestry Action Plan Goals

The State of Mississippi’s “Forest Action Plan 2020,” published by the Mississippi Forestry Commission identifies 7 key issues of primary concern. Key Issue 4 is “Stewardship;” Key Issue 6 is “Climate Change;” and Key Issue 7 is “Wildlife.” The Sulphur Springs Park project will address both of those issues. A tangible example of urban forestry owned and maintained by the Madison County Board of Supervisors will provide opportunities for education on the responsible use and protection of natural resources while helping minimize the harmful effects of wildfires, insects, diseases, etc. The “Forest Action Plan” notes funding reductions for education programs threatens the delivery of traditional education methods and programs. The proposed project allows for the delivery of these educational programs without any additional state funding. Madison County will immediately become a shining example of effective stewardship of urban forestry if the proposed project is approved.

Key Issue 6 of the “Forest Action Plan 2020” is “Climate Change,” and shade produced by the trees proposed under this project creates cooler microclimates under the canopy and reduces the county’s need for environmentally harmful fossil fuels. The cooler microclimates benefit both the residents and the wildlife in and around the lake, thereby addressing Key Issue 7 in the

“Forestry Action Plan 2020,” which is “Wildlife.” Wildlife in the lake is managed by the Madison County Board of Supervisors pursuant to a fisheries plan assembled in conjunction with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks.

C. Ten-Year Urban and Community Forestry Action Plan (2016-2026)

The Ten-Year Urban and Community Forestry Action Plan has 7 goals. This project aligns with goals 2, 3, and 5. Goal 2 is to “Promote the Role of Urban and Community Forestry in Human Health and Wellness.” As noted above, providing shade in Sulphur Springs Park will increase the utilization of the park thereby allowing urban forestry to play a significant role in increasing health and wellness in an area in dire need of options for improving health and wellness.

Goal 3 of the Plan is to “Cultivate Diversity, Equity, and Leadership within the Urban Forestry Community.” The NMCEDC is predominantly minority and serves an area with a 73% African-American resident population and 99% African-American school population.

Goal 5 is “Improve Urban and Community Forest Management, Maintenance, and Stewardship.” Like Key Issue 4 in the “Forest Action Plan 2020,” having a tangible example of urban forestry is essential to improving stewardship and providing an example of stewardship both to the disadvantaged community served by the park and surrounding disadvantaged communities like Holmes and Choctaw counties.

2. Implementation Strategy/Methodology/Timeline:

A. Approach

To accomplish the goals outlined in Section 1, the project will follow applicable laws governing the purchase of commodities (trees) and have Madison County employees use equipment already owned by Madison County to plant the trees.

B. Timeline:

Day 1-Grant Award Letter

Day 90-Advertise for Bids for Purchasing Trees

Day 150-Award Bid for Trees

Day 210-Take Possession of Purchased Trees

Day 365- Madison County Employees Complete Tree Planting

C. Milestones

Each of the events in the timeline constitutes a milestone in the completion of the project.

D. Expected Accomplishments

Madison County expects to plant approximately \$250,000 worth of Live Oak, White Oak, and Cherrybark Oak trees in Sulphur Springs Park. A specific number of trees is impossible to ascertain until bids are received, given the variable pricing of trees.

E. Measurable Outcomes

1. Number of trees planted and surviving at 1 year, 2 years, 3 years, 4 years, and 5 years after completion.

F. Evaluation Methods

1. Survey of the health of the planted trees at annual intervals following the completion of the project.

3. Capability and Capacity:

The Madison County Board of Supervisors will rely on 3 key personnel in delivering the project: Greg Higginbotham, JD, CPA-County Administrator; Na'Son White, CPA-Comptroller; and Drew Ridinger-Director of Buildings and Grounds. Greg Higginbotham has overseen approximately \$500,000,000 of federal grant dollars in his career without any funds being clawed back or voluntarily returned to the grantor agency. Na'Son White has overseen countless grants from both the Mississippi Department of Education and the United States Department of Education while complying with reporting requirements. Mr. Ridinger has overseen projects funded by the Federal Aviation Administration, NOAA, and other federal agencies and complied with all reporting requirements.

4. Communications Plan:

All communications on both social and traditional media discussing the project will mention the project is funded by a USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act Grant. The county will also post signs near trees purchased with grant funds containing the same notice.

5. Evidence of Disadvantaged Community Status for projects requesting Match Waiver (if applicable):

All work will be performed in a disadvantaged community as determined by CJEST. As noted above, the tract in question is in the 93rd percentile for low-life expectancy, 94th percentile in unemployment, and 69th percentile in low-income residents. Further, the Sulphur Springs Park is subject to an Urban Renewal Plan in accordance with Section 43-35-1 et seq. of the Mississippi Code 1972 Annotated. While a state designation is not in any way controlling or

binding in this context, the designation is helpful. The statutory definition of an “Urban Renewal Area” like Sulphur Springs Park is “a slum area or a blighted area or a combination thereof.” A “slum area” is an area in which there is a predominance of buildings or improvements, whether residential or nonresidential, which by reason of dilapidation, deterioration, age or obsolescence, inadequate provision for ventilation, light, air, sanitation, or open spaces, high density of population and overcrowding, or the existence of conditions which endanger life or property by fire and other causes, or any combination of such factors is conducive to ill health, transmission of disease, infant mortality, juvenile delinquency, or crime, and is detrimental to the public health, safety, morals or welfare.

A “blighted area” is an area which by reason of the presence of a substantial number of slum, deteriorated or deteriorating structures, predominance of defective or inadequate street layout, faulty lot layout in relation to size, adequacy, accessibility or usefulness, unsanitary or unsafe conditions, deterioration of site or other improvements, diversity of ownership, tax or special assessment delinquency exceeding the fair value of the land, defective or unusual conditions of title, or the existence of conditions which endanger life or property by fire and other causes, or any combination of such factors, substantially impairs or arrests the sound growth of a municipality, retards the provision of housing accommodations or constitutes an economic or social liability and is a menace to the public health, safety, morals, or welfare in its present condition and use.

Regardless of whether Sulphur Springs Park is a “slum area” or a “blighted area,” the area clearly is in need of revitalization and this project aims to both revitalize and reduce the detrimental impacts on public health, safety and welfare.

BUDGET TABLE

	Funds (requested)	Non-Federal Match		Total	Source of Matching Funds
		Cash	In-Kind		
Personnel		\$37,200.00		\$37,200.00	Madison County
				\$0.00	
				\$0.00	
				\$0.00	
Fringe Benefits		\$9,318.60		\$9,318.60	Madison County
				\$0.00	
				\$0.00	
				\$0.00	
Travel				\$0.00	
				\$0.00	
				\$0.00	
Equipment				\$0.00	
				\$0.00	
				\$0.00	
				\$0.00	
Supplies	\$150,000.00	\$103,481.40		\$253,481.40	Madison County
				\$0.00	
				\$0.00	
				\$0.00	
Contractual				\$0.00	
				\$0.00	
				\$0.00	
				\$0.00	
Other (sub-grants only)				\$0.00	
				\$0.00	
				\$0.00	
				\$0.00	
Total Direct Costs:	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00		\$300,000.00	Madison County
Indirect Cost:				\$0.00	
Total Project Cost:	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00		\$300,000.00	

Budget Narrative

Madison County-Sulphur Springs Park Urban Renewal

Personnel:

2 Madison County Employees at \$15 per hour for 155 days (1,240 hours per employee) = \$37,200

Fringe Benefits:

\$37,200 in wages x 7.65% in Social Security and Medicare taxes + 17.4% employer retirement contribution mandated by state law = \$9,318.60

Supplies:

Trees: (live oak, cherrybark oak, white oak) = \$248,481.40. The total number of each type of tree will depend on cost at the time of bid.

Signs: \$5,000 for signs notifying the public that the planting of trees was made possible by funds from USDA.

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Appendix - SF-424

Title: SF-424

Click to view the linked file: [sf-424.pdf](#)

NOTE: Access to this document is provided as a link to the uploaded file because the original file uploaded can NOT be converted to a standard Adobe Acrobat .pdf file.

Reason: Unsupported PDF format (XFA)

BUDGET INFORMATION - Non-Construction Programs

SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY						
Grant Program Function or Activity (a)	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (b)	Estimated Unobligated Funds		New or Revised Budget		Total (g)
		Federal (c)	Non-Federal (d)	Federal (e)	Non-Federal (f)	
1. Inflation Reduction Act Urban & Community Forestry Program	10.727	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$	\$	\$300,000
2.						0.00
3.						0.00
4.						0.00
5. Totals		\$150,000	\$150,000	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$300,000
SECTION B - BUDGET CATEGORIES						
Object Class Categories	GRANT PROGRAM, FUNCTION OR ACTIVITY			Total (5)		
	(1)	(2)	(3)			
a. Personnel	\$	\$37,200	\$	\$		\$37,200
b. Fringe Benefits		9,318.60				9,318.60
c. Travel						0.00
d. Equipment						0.00
e. Supplies	150,000		103,481.40			253,481.40
f. Contractual						0.00
g. Construction						0.00
h. Other						0.00
i. Total Direct Charges (sum of 6a-6h)		150,000.00	150,000.00	0.00	0.00	300,000
j. Indirect Charges						0.00
k. TOTALS (sum of 6i and 6j)	\$	0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	0.00
7. Program Income	\$		\$	\$	\$	0.00

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SECTION C - NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES					
(a) Grant Program	(b) Applicant	(c) State	(d) Other Sources	(e) TOTALS	
8.	\$	\$	\$	0.00	0.00
9.				0.00	0.00
10.				0.00	0.00
11.				0.00	0.00
12. TOTAL (sum of lines 8-11)	\$	0.00 \$	0.00 \$	0.00 \$	0.00 \$
SECTION D - FORECASTED CASH NEEDS					
	Total for 1st Year	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
13. Federal	0.00				
14. Non-Federal	0.00				
15. TOTAL (sum of lines 13 and 14)	\$	0.00 \$	0.00 \$	0.00 \$	0.00 \$
SECTION E - BUDGET ESTIMATES OF FEDERAL FUNDS NEEDED FOR BALANCE OF THE PROJECT					
(a) Grant Program	FUTURE FUNDING PERIODS (Years)				
	(b) First	(c) Second	(d) Third	(e) Fourth	
16.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
17.					
18.					
19.					
20. TOTAL (sum of lines 16-19)	\$	0.00 \$	0.00 \$	0.00 \$	0.00 \$
SECTION F - OTHER BUDGET INFORMATION					
21. Direct Charges:		22. Indirect Charges:			
23. Remarks:					

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SF-424A

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 180 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0044), Washington, DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

General Instructions

This form is designed so that application can be made for funds from one or more grant programs. In preparing the budget, adhere to any existing Federal grantor agency guidelines which prescribe how and whether budgeted amounts should be separately shown for different functions or activities within the program. For some programs, grantor agencies may require budgets to be separately shown by function or activity. For other programs, grantor agencies may require a breakdown by function or activity. Sections A, B, C, and D should include budget estimates for the whole project except when applying for assistance which requires Federal authorization in annual or other funding period increments. In the latter case, Sections A, B, C, and D should provide the budget for the first budget period (usually a year) and Section E should present the need for Federal assistance in the subsequent budget periods. All applications should contain a breakdown by the object class categories shown in Lines a-k of Section B.

Section A. Budget Summary Lines 1-4 Columns (a) and (b)

For applications pertaining to a *single* Federal grant program (Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog number) and *not requiring* a functional or activity breakdown, enter on Line 1 under Column (a) the Catalog program title and the Catalog number in Column (b).

For applications pertaining to a *single* program *requiring* budget amounts by multiple functions or activities, enter the name of each activity or function on each line in Column (a), and enter the Catalog number in Column (b). For applications pertaining to multiple programs where none of the programs require a breakdown by function or activity, enter the Catalog program title on each line in *Column* (a) and the respective Catalog number on each line in Column (b).

For applications pertaining to *multiple* programs where one or more programs *require* a breakdown by function or activity, prepare a separate sheet for each program requiring the breakdown. Additional sheets should be used when one form does not provide adequate space for all breakdown of data required. However, when more than one sheet is used, the first page should provide the summary totals by programs.

Lines 1-4, Columns (c) through (g)

For new applications, leave Column (c) and (d) blank. For each line entry in Columns (a) and (b), enter in Columns (e), (f), and (g) the appropriate amounts of funds needed to support the project for the first funding period (usually a year).

For continuing grant program applications, submit these forms before the end of each funding period as required by the grantor agency. Enter in Columns (c) and (d) the estimated amounts of funds which will remain unobligated at the end of the grant funding period only if the Federal grantor agency instructions provide for this. Otherwise, leave these columns blank. Enter in columns (e) and (f) the amounts of funds needed for the upcoming period. The amount(s) in Column (g) should be the sum of amounts in Columns (e) and (f).

For supplemental grants and changes to existing grants, do not use Columns (c) and (d). Enter in Column (e) the amount of the increase or decrease of Federal funds and enter in Column (f) the amount of the increase or decrease of non-Federal funds. In Column (g) enter the new total budgeted amount (Federal and non-Federal) which includes the total previous authorized budgeted amounts plus or minus, as appropriate, the amounts shown in Columns (e) and (f). The amount(s) in Column (g) should not equal the sum of amounts in Columns (e) and (f).

Line 5 - Show the totals for all columns used.

Section B Budget Categories

In the column headings (1) through (4), enter the titles of the same programs, functions, and activities shown on Lines 1-4, Column (a), Section A. When additional sheets are prepared for Section A, provide similar column headings on each sheet. For each program, function or activity, fill in the total requirements for funds (both Federal and non-Federal) by object class categories.

Line 6a-i - Show the totals of Lines 6a to 6h in each column.

Line 6j - Show the amount of indirect cost.

Line 6k - Enter the total of amounts on Lines 6i and 6j. For all applications for new grants and continuation grants the total amount in column (5), Line 6k, should be the same as the total amount shown in Section A, Column (g), Line 5. For supplemental grants and changes to grants, the total amount of the increase or decrease as shown in Columns (1)-(4), Line 6k should be the same as the sum of the amounts in Section A, Columns (e) and (f) on Line 5.

Line 7 - Enter the estimated amount of income, if any, expected to be generated from this project. Do not add or subtract this amount from the total project amount, Show under the program

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SF-424A (continued)

narrative statement the nature and source of income. The estimated amount of program income may be considered by the Federal grantor agency in determining the total amount of the grant.

Section C. Non-Federal Resources

Lines 8-11 Enter amounts of non-Federal resources that will be used on the grant. If in-kind contributions are included, provide a brief explanation on a separate sheet.

Column (a) - Enter the program titles identical to Column (a), Section A. A breakdown by function or activity is not necessary.

Column (b) - Enter the contribution to be made by the applicant.

Column (c) - Enter the amount of the State's cash and in-kind contribution if the applicant is not a State or State agency. Applicants which are a State or State agencies should leave this column blank.

Column (d) - Enter the amount of cash and in-kind contributions to be made from all other sources.

Column (e) - Enter totals of Columns (b), (c), and (d).

Line 12 - Enter the total for each of Columns (b)-(e). The amount in Column (e) should be equal to the amount on Line 5, Column (f), Section A.

Section D. Forecasted Cash Needs

Line 13 - Enter the amount of cash needed by quarter from the grantor agency during the first year.

Line 14 - Enter the amount of cash from all other sources needed by quarter during the first year.

Line 15 - Enter the totals of amounts on Lines 13 and 14.

Section E. Budget Estimates of Federal Funds Needed for Balance of the Project

Lines 16-19 - Enter in Column (a) the same grant program titles shown in Column (a), Section A. A breakdown by function or activity is not necessary. For new applications and continuation grant applications, enter in the proper columns amounts of Federal funds which will be needed to complete the program or project over the succeeding funding periods (usually in years). This section need not be completed for revisions (amendments, changes, or supplements) to funds for the current year of existing grants.

If more than four lines are needed to list the program titles, submit additional schedules as necessary.

Line 20 - Enter the total for each of the Columns (b)-(e). When additional schedules are prepared for this Section, annotate accordingly and show the overall totals on this line.

Section F. Other Budget Information

Line 21 - Use this space to explain amounts for individual direct object class cost categories that may appear to be out of the ordinary or to explain the details as required by the Federal grantor agency.

Line 22 - Enter the type of indirect rate (provisional, predetermined, final or fixed) that will be in effect during the funding period, the estimated amount of the base to which the rate is applied, and the total indirect expense.

Line 23 - Provide any other explanations or comments deemed necessary.

ASSURANCES - NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

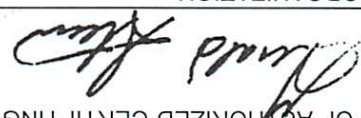
Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering, and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0040), Washington, DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

NOTE: Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the awarding agency. Further, certain Federal awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

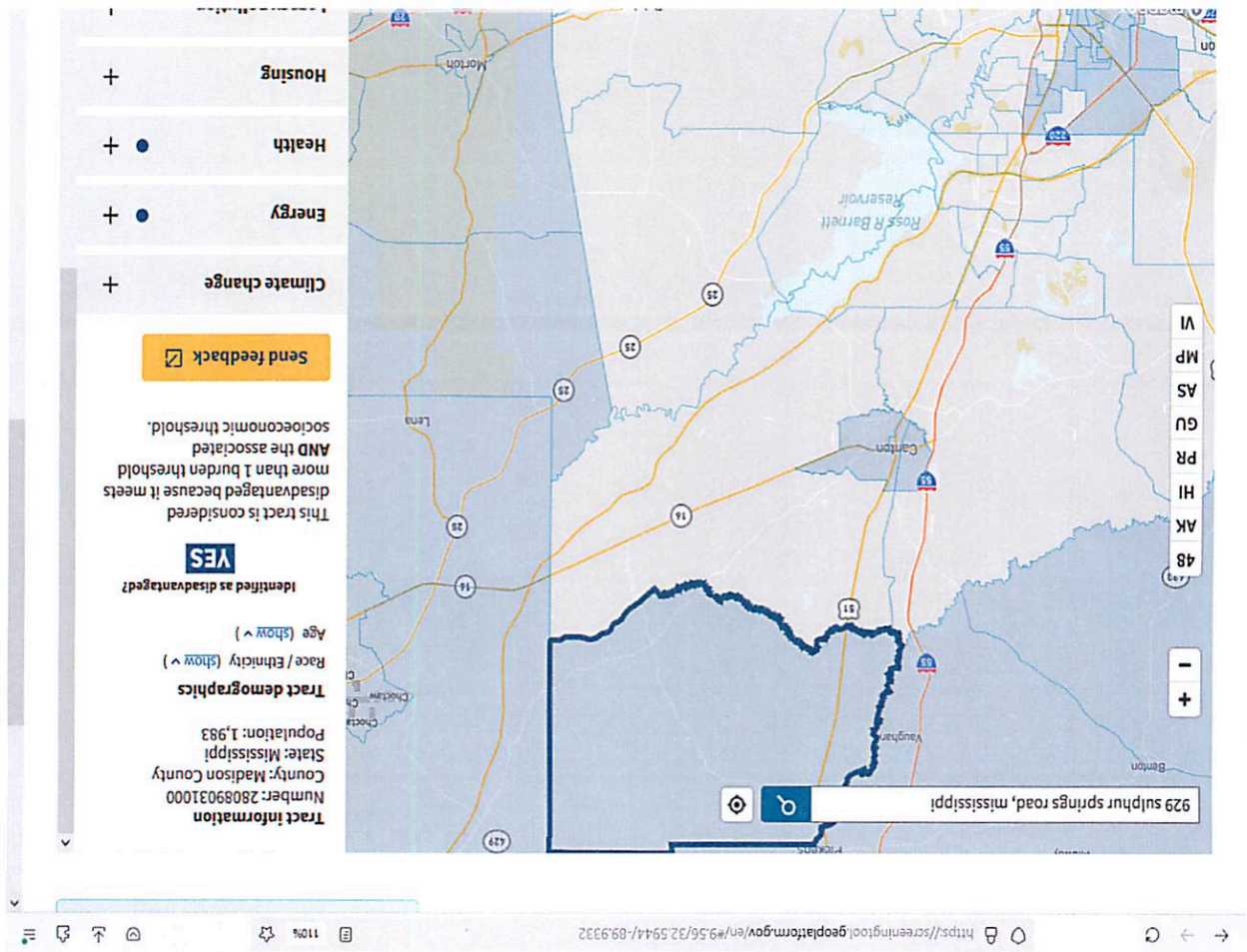
As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project cost) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of the project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
4. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
5. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 states or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
6. Will comply with all Federal states relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee-3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.
7. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal or federally assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
8. Will comply, as applicable, with provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.

DATE SUBMITTED 5/30/23	APPLICANT ORGANIZATION Madison County Board of Supervisors
TITLE Board President	SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL 

- 12. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
- 13. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).
- 14. Will comply with P.L. 93-348 regarding the protection of human subjects involved in research, development, and related activities supported by this award of assistance.
- 15. Will comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-544, as amended, 7 U.S.C. §§2131 et seq.) pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of warm blooded animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by this award of assistance.
- 16. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
- 17. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
- 18. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.

- 9. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333), regarding labor standards for federally assisted construction sub agreements.
- 10. Will comply, if applicable, with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
- 11. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) Implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).



North Madison County Economic Development Council

Dr. Pallascene B. Cole, Board Chair
929 Sulphur Springs Road * Post Office Box 1155
Canton, MS 39046

May 26, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

The North Madison County Economic Development Council (NMED), a 501 (c)(3) organization, is happy to submit this letter in support of the Board of Supervisors' USDA grant proposal for the Northeast Madison County Community Park project.

NMED was formed in 2016, to promote economic development –to access and align resources, eliminate barriers, and promote the delivery of services, programs, jobs, housing, and opportunities – to improve the quality of life in the rural, unincorporated communities of District 5, in north Madison County. NMED works with the community to identify resources, provide training, and make referrals to other services. NMED serves as the Advisory Council for the Urban Renewal/Sulphur Springs Lake Project, a restoration plan for a Federal designated blighted area, which encompasses the Northeast Madison County Community Park. In this capacity, NMED serves as a link between the Board of Supervisors and the community; offers suggestions for the development of guidelines for effective use and operation of park services and for maintaining and operating the park to best serve the community; strives to stimulates community interest in recreation and community-wellness by providing planned, family-focused activities and events, and assists in the acquisition of resources for present and future needs.

The rural communities of north Madison County represent an underserved population. Less than two-fifths of the population has adequate, high-speed internet access. School enrollment is on a steady decline. Survey results indicate lack of quality housing and recreational opportunities as the two major causes for the decline. Approximately 73% of the resident population and 99% of the community school population are African-Americans; thus, eliminating opportunities for and benefits of school diversity. The free and- reduced lunch rate, a national indicator for poverty, for the community schools exceeds ninety-three percent, compared to 36.83% for the district as a whole. At less than \$50,000, District 5 has the lowest median household income, the lowest per capita income, and the lowest education attainment of the five districts in Madison County. Each variable becomes lower as you go further north and as the area becomes more rural.

NMED supports the Board of Supervisors' proposal to enhance developments within the Urban Renewal area to continue efforts to achieve the vision of its Federal designation. The survival of this rural community depends on being able to improve the livability of the community, in an effort to overcome barriers to bringing quality housing to north Madison County, to retain and attract, businesses, young college graduates, first-time home owners, parents of school age children, growth, and other opportunities.

Sincerely,

Pollia F. Griffin, Ed.D.
2nd Vice Chair
NMED