

## Questions and Answers

### Establishing Large Forests – Open Application

Closes Thursday January 2, 2025 and will be posted every week on SFS Grants Management throughout the application period on the Search for Grant Opportunities page for ELF [Search for Grant Opportunities](#)

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#### Week 6 Questions

**Question: Does the following statement apply to tree stock purchased in New York State, as well? *Any tree stock purchased outside New York State must be USDA approved. Nurseries must comply with federal inspections.***

**Answer:** This line comes from some federal language and was aimed at making sure projects use quality growing material from reputable dealers. Licensed nurseries(etc.) in NYS will have to be certified through NYS Ag & Markets, which generally is pretty closely aligned with the USDA standards. To find a certified grower within NYS, please use the NYS Ag & Markets webpage:  
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/e2ee347eab874ce8b7b51f895f002403/>.

**Question: Is it okay to include a small area that would not be planted with trees if it reduces the overall linear feet of fence required for the project?**

**Answer:** Yes, the ELF Grant will allow for fencing to cover small areas not planned for planting, if it allows for a more cost-effective project design.

**Question: Can we include the cost of purchasing native seed mixes for short stature herbaceous species to seed the area after tilling and planting the trees?**

**Answer:** ELF Grant funding can cover the costs of purchasing and planting herbaceous material to limit soil erosion and prevent the encroachment of invasives or undesirable vegetation. Providing justification throughout the bid application for any project decision can provide valuable insights to the review team.

**Question: For the grant proposals we are working on, the landowners are very interested in native fruit trees, specifically pawpaw, persimmon and American plum. Are these allowed?**

**Answer:** These species could fit into the 10% shrub category that ELF allows for, and therefore would be permissible. However, looking at the native ranges for both pawpaw and persimmon, their planting in NY might be a stretch when looking at achieving the ELF Grant's survivability rates. Understandably though, with species migration spurred on by climate change, an increased presence of both in NY could be on the horizon. A thorough justification for their inclusion in the planting project would need to be provided and may still be subject to inquiry during review. American plum, based on its native range and without knowing any site specifics, would probably fit more appropriately than either of the others. A project may run into issues if it was considering planting an amount of all three (3) species as trees above that 10% shrub threshold.

**Question: We are a landscape company potentially performing the installation and maintenance for the ELF grant. In the estimate we provide for equipment and labor, should we include sales tax?**

**Answer:** ELF Grant Awardees will receive a State Aid Voucher form that can be used to waive State sales tax when purchasing/renting services and materials. Applicants should complete the budget part of the bid without including sales tax, but if the contractor's estimate includes sales tax, reviewers will understand the difference.

## Week 5 Questions

**Question: Does this have long term effects on the property owners rights, regarding how they wish to use the land as they see fit? Does this in some way restrict the landowners use, and is such an agreement permanently attached to the deed?**

**Answer:** Grant Awardees will need to adhere to the contract terms during the 3-year (30months really) contract window, and there is a 10-year monitoring and maintenance window (for both the Feds and NYS that run concurrently) that requires landowners to maintain planting survival rates. These terms start on page 18 of the ELF RFB, in #7. Grant Opportunity General Information and Conditions, part I) Federal Requirements, bullet three (3) states:

*Must maintain the project for at least 10-years following project approval and final sign off. In the event that land ownership must change for an unforeseen, unavoidable circumstance within this 10-year period, the landowner is expected to comply with the following requirements:*

- a. *The Grantee and/or landowner agrees to notify the Department prior to entering into any Real Property Sales Agreement or any other contract for landowner to otherwise quit ownership.*
- b. *The landowner agrees to transfer maintenance responsibilities via a new Letter of Agreement to be signed by the new landowner and submitted to the Department, and if applicable, to the non-land-owning Grantee as a party to the letter of agreement, prior to closing.*
- c. *Should the new landowner not agree to adopt maintenance responsibilities, this must be documented in writing and submitted to the Department.*

Beyond the contract period and subsequent 10-year monitor and maintenance period, the ELF grant does not place any additional restrictions on future management or use of the land.

**Question: I am confused by what is meant in Appendix 3, Section 3 'Slope' - does that mean the percentage total of any land within the grant that is sloped or the grade percentage?**

**Answer:** This item is looking at collecting the specific project area's grade percentage, and not the total percentage of any land that has a slope within the bid.

**Question: For the grant proposals we are working on, the landowners are very interested in native fruit trees, specifically Pawpaw and Persimmon. How do we go about seeking approval? Would American Plum be considered a 'shrub' by the ELF Grant's parameters, as well?**

**Answer:** Pawpaw and persimmon would be considered in the 10% shrub category that ELF allows for, and wouldn't need any additional approval. However, looking at the native ranges for both species, their planting in NY might be a stretch when looking at achieving the grant's survivability rates. American plum would also be considered in the shrub category, and based on its native range, would probably fit more appropriately than either pawpaw or persimmon. Again, that's simply based on current climate conditions and without knowing any site specifics that might alter things. A project may run into issues if it was submitted with plantings of these species listed in an amount above the 10% shrub threshold. That being said, with species migration spurred on by climate change, an increased presence of these species could be on the horizon for NYS. A thorough justification for their inclusion in a planting project would need to be provided, and may still be subject to debate during contract review, if awarded.

## Week 4 Questions:

**Question: In circumstances where there is no address for the property, can we use the tax map number when filling out forms? Or what would you recommend?**

**Answer:** The tax map number for the project property(ies) will work if there is no current physical address. Also, it may be helpful down the road for reviewers and staff tasked with inspecting project work to have a brief property description, in lieu of the address.

**Question: How do I identify, within the EQIP rates the line that corresponds to my specific activity? What does “HU” mean? If I search for fence there are multiple practices and components described with different costs, how do I identify the one that is what I am doing?**

**Answer:** We appreciate you trying to make sure to use the NRCS EQIP rates appropriately. The 2024 NRCS Practice Scenarios document is a great reference to use when determining which practice line item to use for estimates and has been posted to the ELF webpage. The reason the NRCS rates were used was to provide bidders with a broad but standardized way to determine reasonable costs for planning projects across NYS. As a reminder, please refer to page 7 of the RFB, the 2nd paragraph states, *“Note\* NRCS EQIP Rates are only based on 75% of the full cost of practice installation, while the ELF Grant will reimburse up to 100% of the project cost, including installation, labor and materials. Please carefully consider these differences in project estimates. It is expected that bids for the ELF Grant will be above NRCS’s EQIP reimbursement rate by at least a 25% margin.”*

The HU (historically underserved producers) designation is in reference to projects that may fall within federally designated areas where producers may qualify for an increase in funding, as well as advanced payments.

**Question: Is there a difference between the terms “practice installation” and “project cost” on page 7 of the RFB in the 2nd paragraph that states, “Note\* NRCS EQIP Rates are only based on 75% of the full cost of practice installation, while the ELF Grant will reimburse up to 100% of the project cost, including installation, labor and materials. Please carefully consider these differences in project estimates. It is expected that bids for the ELF Grant will be above NRCS’s EQIP reimbursement rate by at least a 25% margin”?**

**Answer:** No, those 2 terms are meant to be interchangeable for the sake of the RFB.

**Question: Does the term “fiscal sponsor” refer to the person submitting a bid, and if so, can the fiscal sponsor also be the company performing the project work?**

**Answer:** Yes, “Fiscal Sponsor” refers to the person/entity who is submitting the bid, and they may be the same organization who will eventually be performing the project work. However, this does not need to be the case. More information on this can be in item #4 Eligible Bidders, on page 12 of the RFB. The second bulleted item specifically states, *“Companies or organizations acting on behalf of non-industrial private landowners. Examples may include quasi-government agencies (e.g., SWCD), a private forestry business, a natural resource business focused on tree planting, and not-for-profit (NFP) corporations. Companies or organizations acting on behalf of non-industrial private landowners that submit a bid must accept full responsibility for the project, including meeting post-award requirements needed for contract execution, receiving and disbursing funds related to the grant, and administering the requirements throughout the DEC grant process, including reporting of grant activity.”*

**Question: What are the penalties for not maintaining the 65% survival rate? Is there any flexibility with the 65% survival rate?**

**Answer:** If monitoring shows the project is not maintaining the necessary 65% survival rate for bare root or 75% for potted stock, grant recipients will be required to replant at their own cost to make up the difference. There is no flexibility with maintaining these survival rates. More on this subject can be found in # 7. Grant Opportunity General Information and Conditions, part a) Grant Bid Requirements

**Question: What is the reimbursement schedule? Are costs reimbursed only at end of contract term, 2028?**

**Answer:** The guideline for vouchers would be one per quarter. The request come together with a progress report, and depending on the work, a DEC field inspection. We’ve had examples where some awardees are only looking for annual reimbursements. If a voucher is needed more frequent than quarterly, we can work with the grantee to achieve their needs. There is not a minimum dollar amount for vouchers but please try to keep them over \$1,000. We’ve had previous experiences where some grantees need several vouchers in the early days for equipment etc. or intensive labor costs during tree planting.

Applicants should be aware that DEC cannot pay for sales tax and can usually only reimburse for work completed. If a contractor wants a deposit, we cannot reimburse until the amount of work being covered by that deposit has been completed. This should be reflected in the contractor invoice.

**Additional Notes:**

- We are aware that NRCS has replaced the 2024 NRCS EQIP documents with the 2025 versions, and that there are some differences. For consistency, the 2024 NRCS EQIP document has been posted to ELF’s webpage and will be the review standard for this grant opportunity. In addition, the 2024 NRCS NYS Practice

Scenarios document has been posted to the ELF webpage to provide further guidance with pricing estimates.

- We've learned that there is a 20MB size limit per pdf being uploaded to SFS GM. To limit issues please be aware of this size limit when prepping bid pdfs for upload.

### Week 3 Questions:

**Question: Will bids with multiple projects be scored as a group or individually?**

**Answer:** Please see the first Question and Answer from week 1.

**Question: For organizations applying on behalf of a private organization landowner like a land trust (ex: TNC on behalf of a land trust), should land trust salaries be used or an independent rate for calculating costs?**

**Answer:** The bidding organization would include staff costs under "salary" costs and the land trust or other private organization landowner's staff costs would count as "contracting" costs. In this case, a land trust would write an invoice to the grantee or bidding organization for the expected costs of their services. This topic is highlighted on page 27 under # 10. Eligible and Ineligible Expenditures, part a. Budget Costs Eligible for Reimbursement: *Salaries directly devoted to the project implementation are eligible for reimbursement. Landowner, **company, and/or organization salaries should be listed in this category.** Itemize salaries according to job title and roles/responsibilities on the project. Bidders will be required to document time worked, tasks, pay ratio and payment.*

**Question: Does the bidder have to go with the lowest estimate or quote when putting together their bid? Will the bidder have to go with the company they estimate costs for as part of the bid? If costs increase in the future due to inflation, can the bidder be reimbursed at a higher rate than what was originally included in the bid?**

**Answer:** Bidders are not required to hire or buy from a company that provides the lowest estimate or quote within reason, however, should note that this might impact cost effectiveness. Providing multiple quotes that demonstrate a range of costs, can help further establish estimated costs. Also, as included on page 7 of the RFB under # 3. Eligible Practice, *Note\* NRCS EQIP Rates are only based on 75% of the full cost of practice installation, while the ELF Grant will reimburse up to 100% of the project cost, including installation, labor and materials. Please carefully consider these differences in project estimates. It is expected that bids for the ELF Grant will be above NRCS's EQIP reimbursement rate by at least a 25% margin.* When it is time to conduct the work, new

quotes, formal bids, or estimates may be received from contractors, which may differ from the original estimates or companies included in the initial bid application submitted to DEC. If future quotes are higher than what is included in this bid application, depending on the contract, there may be room to move funding from other parts of the contract to cover these costs, **but will not increase the funding amount for the bid.** However, contingency funding may not be included in this bid. Most suppliers will provide at least a 12-month price (a planting season or 2).

**Question: Can we budget for an expected increase in costs for staff salaries and/or inflation?**

**Answer:** Contingency funding is not allowed as part of this bid application. Contractors are encouraged to provide bids that budget for known and expected changes to costs as part of their bid. For Salary, allowances can be made for inflation if detailed accounting is provided in the Budget Narrative and in the Work Plan.

Example: If we need to pay Mike Smith \$24/hr in 2025 with a 1.5 increase to \$24.36 in 2026 and a 1.5 increase to \$24.70 in 2026.

**Question: If a bidder is applying for multiple projects, can they include estimates for costs that cover work for the entire project (ex: tree purchases, contracting), or do they need to submit one estimate per project?**

**Answer:** Bidders may include one estimate that covers costs for multiple projects, however individual project costs should be broken out or noted on the estimate. This will allow reviewers to determine what costs are associated with which estimate.

Example: An estimate for 7,500 trees purchased from nursery for two projects should include a break-down or note on the number of trees per each project (2,500 trees for project A = \$17,500 and 5,000 trees for project B = \$35,000 for a total of \$52,500).

**Question: If a bidder is planning to use a contractor for implementation of multiple aspects of a project, do quotes need to be included for supplies, trees, and other purchases?**

**Answer:** Bidders should include estimates from at least 1 contractor for services greater than \$2,500, or at least 2 contractors for services greater than \$5,000. A break-down of costs covered by the contractor must also be provided within this estimate (ex: tree purchase, pickup and inspection fee, costs for tree planting, fence purchase cost, fence installation, etc.) Within this breakdown, each contractor should also include estimates for outside costs (ex: supplies, materials) greater than \$2,500 (1 estimate) or 2 estimates for outside costs than \$5,000. If the bidder's contractor will be buying the trees, an estimate from the nursery will need to be included, as well (see page 22, Question 12. Cost Estimates in the Eligibility questions for further explanation).

**Question: Does the Davis Bacon Act, in relation to labor standards, apply to this grant?**

**Answer:** No, the construction related wage requirements in the Davis Bacon Act do not apply to this grant.

**Unfortunately, there were a number of broken links within the RFB. We are currently working to get those and will post them to the Q&A when appropriately established.**

**Below are the page reference to where the broken links are in the RFB and the updated link.**

- Page 20 - Federal Attachment A-3 Terms and conditions are posted to the ELF webpage
- Page 30 Master Contract for Grants page:  
<https://www.budget.ny.gov/guide/bprm/h/h-1032-nys-contract-for-grants-2024.pdf>
- Page 60 Appendix 12 USDA's Farm Production and Conservation mission area Specific Terms & Conditions webpage:  
[https://www.fpacbc.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-10/general\\_terms\\_and\\_conditions\\_november\\_2022.pdf](https://www.fpacbc.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-10/general_terms_and_conditions_november_2022.pdf)
- Page 60 Appendix 12 USDA NRCS Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities Additional Specific Terms and Conditions webpage:  
[https://www.fpacbc.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-10/partnerships\\_for\\_climate-smart\\_commodities\\_addendum\\_02282023.pdf](https://www.fpacbc.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-10/partnerships_for_climate-smart_commodities_addendum_02282023.pdf)

Week 2 Questions:

No new questions the week of 11/13/2024.

Week 1 Questions:

**Question: If I submit a bid with multiple projects, is each project scored independent of the others? Or are the scores linked across the projects somehow?**

**Answer:** Each project within a bid will be individually reviewed for the purpose of determining completeness and effectiveness, however, the bid will be scored on a collective basis.



**Question: The press release said that projects had to be maintained for at least 15 years. The RFP says 10 years. Is 10 the correct number?**

**Answer:** The practice is expected to be maintained for 10 years passed project completion or sign off by DEC (roughly the 3-year contract, plus application, review and approval time, plus the 10- year maintenance window).

**Question: I might submit several projects, for different landowners, in a single bid. How do I do this in SFS? For example, several questions (2 and 10, e.g.) ask for multiple documents to be submitted in a single PDF. If I have three projects, should I submit three PDF files, one for each project? Or a single PDF with separate sections for the different projects? And in the work plan, how do I indicate which tasks and metrics relate to which project? For elements of the bid that are the same for all projects (such as price quotes), should I just submit them once, or once for each project to maintain consistency?**

**Answer:** SFS GM should allow for multiple pdf docs to be uploaded for each question. If bidders run into issues, one pdf for the entire bid can also be submitted. Eligibility will not be determined on number of pdfs submitted. If there are any issues with SFS GM, please contact the SFS GM team.

**Question: One of the projects I am considering is owned by a farmer. Technically, the owner is an LLC. As part of the owner's estate planning process, the ownership of the parcel will change, to another LLC. The farmer in question is a principal in both LLCs, and there will be no practical change in ownership or management of the land because of this transition. Is this disqualifying under section 8, question 6?**

**Answer:** As long as the DEC, it's partners, the Fed, and it's partners all maintain access for the duration of the 15 year window (bid and contract time plus 10 years of maintenance) to ensure the monitoring and maintenance are completed. Please make sure this chain of ownership is clearly delineated in the Letter of Agreement.

**Question: Is the deer fence requirement absolute? It would be a non-starter for at least one of my potential projects. We feel we have had good success against deer browse using tree tubes and deer repellents. Can we make the case for this approach in our bid? We would welcome a visit from a DEC representative to see current projects to help make our case. Alternately, would a slash wall or brush wall be acceptable?**

**Answer:** No, deer fencing is not an absolute, but it is the standard for this grant. Thorough explanation of the situation and justification for deviating from the standard would need to be approved by DEC. The standard was calculated based on overall cost-effectiveness and the time demands associated with tree tube maintenance on projects of this size. Slash walls and other innovative methods are encouraged, though with no

harvests associated with this practice the necessary biomass may likely not be available. Keep in mind, the bidder and their agents are responsible for hitting and maintaining the 65% seedling survivability rate throughout the 15-year contract and maintenance window.

**Question: How long do we have to complete the project/What is the contract term?**

**Answer:** It is anticipated that the Contract Term will begin August 1, 2025 and will finish February 2028 (28 months). There will be no contract extensions, and all payments, inspections and reporting will need to be completed by April 2028. Applicants should plan to have all tree planting completed by Fall 2027. This is an update from information listed in the RFA/Bid Document.

Week 0 Questions:

**Question: What is the Establishing Large Forests (ELF) Grant?**

**Answer:** The Establishing Large Forest [Grant Program](#) is intended to provide state financial support to establish new forested areas through reimbursement for site preparation, tree planting, protection from deer, monitoring and maintenance activities on non-industrial private lands. The goal of this grant is to target large-scale, “shovel ready” tree planting projects that will help the State reach its ambitious climate change mitigation targets.

**Question: Who is eligible for grant funding?**

**Answer:** Any non-industrial landowner private landowner planning a project on 5 acres of forestland or land suitable for establishing forestland (if planting) may apply for and receive funding. Eligibility thresholds apply to a single tax parcel or multiple tax parcels which are contiguous (adjacent) to each other. The applicant must include a plan to maintain their practices in their work plan. Bidders may also be companies or organizations acting on behalf of non-industrial private landowners. Examples may include quasi-government agencies (e.g., SWCD), a private forestry business, a natural resource business focused on tree planting, and not-for-profit (NFP) corporations. Companies or organizations acting on behalf of non-industrial private landowners that submit a bid must accept full responsibility for the project, including meeting post-award requirements needed for contract execution, receiving and disbursing funds related to the grant, and administering the requirements throughout the DEC grant process, including reporting of grant activity.

**Question: What is a Fiscal Sponsor?**

**Answer:** A fiscal sponsor is an organization including a quasi-government agency (SWCD), a private forestry business, natural resource business focused on tree planting, NFP organization that applies to DEC on behalf of individuals or unincorporated organizations or groups. For ELF, a landowner would need to provide a letter of agreement, via the Statewide Financial System, from the organization as proof that it agrees to become a landowner's fiscal sponsor. The letter of agreement will need to be uploaded to the grants gateway as part of the grant application process. Because the organization is taking on the cost of installing the practices in place of the landowner, the organization will get reimbursed instead of the landowner. Land trusts and other conservation organizations (SWCDs) that work with forest landowners may fit well as a fiscal sponsor.

**Question: How can ELF help me?**

**Answer:** The ELF grant will fully reimburse private landowners for the cost of tree planting, and any associated practices designed to establish, enhance, and protect tree plantings on their property.

**Question: Do I have to pay a matching amount?**

**Answer:** No! The ELF Grant is designed to provide the landowner with 100% of the project bid amount.

**Question: Is there anything different with the Federal Funding component to the ELF Grant?**

**Answer:** Yes! Bidders will have to complete federal requirements, including submission of a Customer Data Worksheet (AD-2047), certifying highly erodible land conservation (HEL) and wetland conservation (WC) compliance through Form AD-1026, and contact a [Farm Service Agency \(FSA\) office](#) to obtain a Farm ID, Tract ID and Field ID. After the award but before project implementation, DEC will conduct an environmental evaluation for the project (CPA-52), and highly erodible land/wetland determinations that may impact the project. Further explanation can be found under Grant Opportunity General Information and Conditions section 7, paragraph I Federal Requirements, which starts on page 18 of the RFB.

**Question: What practices qualify for ELF?**

**Answer:** An ELF project must be an afforestation project (planting project). There are a variety of practices available to aid in the planting project's success including site preparation, competing vegetation control, and deer exclosures (including slash walls).

Practice details can be found at the DEC [ELF website](#) and in the [Request for Applications](#). **All applicants must have a tree planting centric practice.**

**Question: How do I get started?**

**Answer:** Potential applicants can search and view grant opportunities by visiting [SFS Public Portal Homepage](#) or go to [sfs.ny.gov/Search](https://sfs.ny.gov/Search) for grant opportunities then search the list for “ELF”. To apply, applicants must first register for access to the Statewide Financial System. To register please follow the directions at [Register Your Organization in SFS | Grants Management \(ny.gov\)](#). **It can take a few weeks to receive access.** Once you receive a username and pin/password you are eligible to login to begin the application process. It is recommended that your forester assist you with the project details, but the landowner must be the person who starts and submits the application.

**Question: I have a Forest Stewardship Plan for part of my property, is that enough?**

**Answer:** No. While a Forest Stewardship Plan is a sound beginning for planning forestry practices, a Practice Template form and a work plan must be developed through the Grants Gateway by the landowner working closely with a consulting forester or natural resource professional (for planting projects only).

**Question: What are the elements of a work plan?**

**Answer:** A work plan is developed by the landowner and consulting forester. Basic information such as the initial condition of your project area, the desired future condition, and the methods you will use to meet the desired future condition. Other elements may be required depending on the practice and are explained further in the standards and specifications of each approved practice. A robust summary of the project is needed, as the Work Plan becomes part of the final contract, and subsequent progress reporting. This can be achieved by compiling all the answers for the scored questions and then adding items such as property history. See section 7. Grant Opportunity General Information and Conditions, part e) Work Plan and section 8. Bid Evaluation and Scoring Criteria, Step 2: Project Evaluation, Scoring and Selection in the RFB, for more information. Additionally, APPENDIX 6 – Sample Work Plan & Objective Worksheet can be used for to gather information prior to entering into SFS Grant Management.

**Question: Is there a limit to the amount of funds I can receive?**

**Answer:** Kind of. Minimum grant amount per project is \$30,000; Maximum grant amount per project is \$750,000. For further explanation please check section 2. Grant Information, c) Minimum and Maximum Award Amounts and Bid Limits, on page 4 of the RFB.

**Question: Do I need to hire a private forester or natural resource professional to qualify for an ELF grant?**

**Answer:** Yes. To be eligible for funding, a landowner needs to hire a private forester or a natural resource professional. Foresters can be hired to complete the project planning, administration, and operations-related forestry services which are reimbursable under the program. A qualified natural resources professional can be used for planning and implementing tree planting projects.

**Question: Can the landowner complete some of the work on the project?**

**Answer:** Yes. The landowner can perform some work and get reimbursed as part of the grant. Details are available in the ELF Request For Bids.

**Question: Where can I go to hire a forester or other contractor?**

**Answer:** There are several options. First, visit the [DEC Cooperating Forester Directory](#). Cornell Cooperative Extension also provides information on [working with foresters](#). Recommendations for other contractors can be made through your forester, neighbors, or others.

**Question: How long will it take until I receive my cost-share payment?**

**Answer:** As part of the contracting process, the grantees will supply a W-9 tax form to facilitate payments from New York State. Once you complete the practices, you must submit documentation of the actual costs (paid invoices, cancelled checks, receipts, landowner work log, etc.) of installing the practices. The DEC will authorize the cost share payment within 30 days of receiving all of the required documentation from the applicant. It may take an additional 30 days for the State to issue the reimbursement payment. A field inspection by DEC may be needed prior to payment.

**Question: What are the tax implications of cost-share payments?**

**Answer:** Landowners must consult with a tax professional to determine their own tax liability.

**Question: If a property is owned by a municipality but a non-profit organization has a legally binding agreement to maintain, manage and operate the property is the property eligible?**

**Answer:** No, the property is not eligible due to the property being owned by a municipality.

**Question: Why am I unable to view the grant opportunity when signed into SFS.**

**Answer:** Please ensure your roles are correct in SFS Grants Management (you may need to request these from the SFS help desk by emailing [sfs.sm.HelpDesk@sfs.ny.gov](mailto:sfs.sm.HelpDesk@sfs.ny.gov)). If you don't have the proper grant management roles you will not be able to view or start an application. You can view the grant opportunity without logging in to SFS Grants Management at [sfs.ny.gov](https://sfs.ny.gov) then go to Vendor, Search for Grant Opportunities then scroll down the list until you see "ELF".

**Question: I have a current Regenerate NY grant at the moment. Is this something I can work in concert with my current Regenerate plan?**

**Answer:** No, this grant would need to be for a separate piece of land, as you cannot have two **current** grants on the same property. Do you have a minimum of 5 open acres that you would like to plant? Have you recently closed out a RNY project that treated a site and is now ready to be reforested quickly or had a harvest 10-20 years ago, with a subsequent regeneration failure? If so, go ahead and apply.