

GROW-OFF Evaluation Matrix: Applications will be screened for eligibility based on checklist items below. All eligible applications will be scored and awardees recommended by a selection committee of external partners. Scores range from 1- Weak; 2-Decent; 3-Good; 4-Excellent. Final decisions are up to the discretion of RurAL CAP GROW Program staff.

Eligibility checklist: Eligible applicant; Disadvantaged community status; Budget requirements met; Documentation of land use agreement signed by landowner; Visual representation/photo of land.

PROJECT TEAM	Scores-1-Weak; 2-Decent; 3-Good; 4-Excellent
Project team - Demonstrates ability to oversee and monitor the project for successful and timely completion.	
Project team score (average)	
PROJECT VISION	
Property - Suitable or plan to make suitable for agricultural production and community engagement.	
Mission and target audience - Demonstrates connection to target audience and understanding of need for food forest or community orchard.	
Scope and Feasibility - Clear identification of the limits of the project's ability to fulfill identified community need. Detailed and realistic representation of threats to project success, as well as plans to minimize risks.	
Project vision score (average)	
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION	
Planning - Adequate time and resources devoted to planning efforts to ensure community buy-in and technical success.	
Establishment - Realistic timeline and work plan for planting food forest or orchard, with clear plan for volunteer engagement.	
Monitoring and maintenance - Adequate resources allocated and clear plan for successful community engagement and monitoring and maintenance of orchard or food forest.	

Long term sustainability - Clear plan for financial sustainability and ongoing community support of community orchard or food forest, beyond the end of the project period.	
Project implementation score (average)	
TIMELINE	
Timeline - Realistic and comprehensive timeline of major project activities throughout five year funding period.	
Timeline score (average)	
BUDGET AND BUDGET NARRATIVE	
Budget and budget narrative - Reasonable estimated funding amounts for each project component/task. Applicants will be evaluated based on the adequacy of the information provided in the detailed budget and whether the proposed costs are reasonable and allowable and if they describe the cost-effectiveness and reasonableness of all costs.	
Budget and Budget narrative score (average)	
COMMUNITY SUPPORT	
Letters of support - Well-demonstrated support for project from community members, Tribal government officials, and/or community-based organizations.	
Community support score (average)	
TOTAL SCORE (average of all category scores)	

REFERENCE ONLY