



ODOT accepting applications for community tree planting grants

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 22, 2011

PR# 11-028

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation is accepting applications for Tree Grant Program money totaling \$435,000. Qualified communities can receive from \$1,875 to \$25,000 with a 25 percent local match requirement.

Deadline for application is 4 p.m. Friday, July 8. There is no charge for application.

This offering marks "Round Fifteen" of the program. State or local government agencies (e.g., city parks departments, public works, municipal hospitals), public schools and universities and tribal nations are eligible.

Applicants must have a federal employer tax identification number. Individuals, corporations and nonprofit groups are not eligible.

Grant applications and instructions are available online by visiting ODOT's website, www.okladot.state.ok.us, clicking on "Highway Beautification" and following the Tree Grant Program link.

The purpose of the tree grants is to improve communities through the use of trees for such purposes as screening, aesthetics, erosion control and noise barriers.

A five-judge panel will evaluate the plans and visibility of each proposed site, the site's visibility and need for improvement, as well as the adequacy and cost effectiveness of the proposed plan, maintenance program and budget.

Judges meet in early August to discuss the applications and make their selections. Grants are awarded in the fall.

Primary consideration is given to the project's impact on transportation beautification. Projects on highway rights of way will receive highest judging scores, followed by those on city, county or tribal roads, and then projects in parks, public walkways or connecting trails.

Grant money may be used to purchase and install trees, large shrubs, tall ornamental grasses and drip irrigation systems or gater bags on public property or right of way along any public roadway or transportation corridor.

The Tree Grant Program, administered by ODOT, began in 1997 by a congressional act. More than 275 grants have been awarded statewide since the program's inception.

For more information about applying, visit the website or call ODOT's Beautification Office at 405-521-4037.

--www.okladot.state.ok.us--

(Editors and News Directors: For more information call the ODOT Media & Public Relations Division at 405-521-6000.)

INFORMATION RELEASE

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, MEDIA & PUBLIC RELATIONS DIVISION
200 N.E. 21st St. OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73105-3204 PHONE 405-521-6000

