



2014 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program Solicitation Process

Presented by :
California Department of Food and Agriculture





Presentations

1. Specialty Crop Block Grant Program Solicitation Process
2. Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST)
3. Grant Proposal Development
4. Audits of Federal Grant Funds

Questions will be answered following each presentation.



Purpose

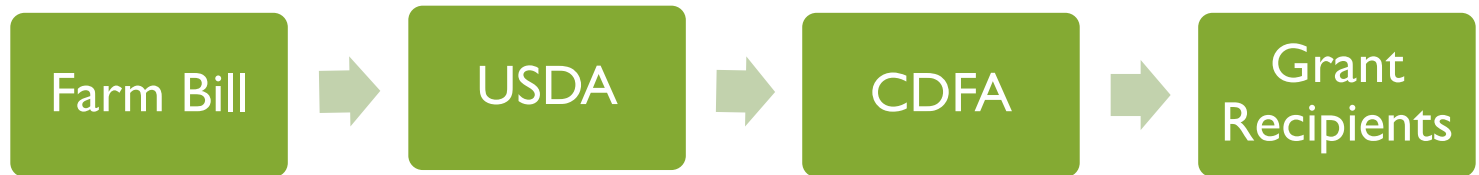
- Solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops

What are Specialty Crops?

- Specialty crops are defined by USDA as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture and nursery crops (including floriculture).
- For a comprehensive list of eligible and ineligible specialty crops:
 - www.ams.usda.gov/scbgp

Funding

- Farm Bill



- Base Grant = Value of specialty crop production



Eligibility

- Entities:
 - *Non-Profit and For-Profit*
 - *Local, State, Federal and Tribal Governments*
 - *Colleges and Universities*

Funds **cannot** benefit a single organization, institution, or individual.



2014 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)

- Purpose
- Funding
- Eligibility
- Solicitation Process
- Timeline
- Funding Categories
- Programs Goals and Objectives
- Requirements and Application Procedures



Funding Availability

- **Project Grant Amounts**
 - \$50,000 - \$400,000

- **Project Duration**
 - October 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017

Solicitation Process

- Competitive Solicitation Process:
 - Phase I – Concept Proposal
 - Phase II – Grant Proposal



Proposal
Solicitation



Review and
Recommend



USDA
Approves

Solicitation Timeline

Phase I Concept Proposal	October 28, 2013	Release Notice of Funding Availability Request for Concept Proposals
	November 6 - 19, 2013	Workshops & Webinars
	December 6, 2013 5:00 p.m. PST	Concept Proposals Due
Phase II Grant Proposal	February 2014	Invitation to Submit Grant Proposals
	March 21, 2014 5:00 p.m. PST	Grant Proposals Due
	July 2014	Grant Proposals to USDA for Approval
Award	October 2014	Announce & Award Funding



Program Goals and Objectives

- Enhance the marketability and competitiveness of specialty crops
- Expand access to healthy and safe California grown specialty crops



Program Goals and Objectives

- Expand stewardship practices, natural resource conservation, and the development of ecosystem services
- Ensure viability of California specialty crops by investing in the next generation of operators



Funding Categories

- Market Enhancement
- Agriculture Education
- Nutrition
- Environmental Stewardship and Conservation
- Plant Health and Invasive Species Impact Mitigation



Food Safety

- Partnership with the University of California, Davis' Center for Produce Safety
- Separate solicitation

Online Solicitation

- Partnership with State Water Resources Control Board
- Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST)





Review Criteria and Process

- Goal is to fund projects that produce the highest degree of measurable benefits to California specialty crops in relation to each dollar spent.
- Two Levels of Review
 1. Administrative – Internal
 2. Technical - External

Concept Proposal

- Compelling snapshot of the proposal
- Clearly and concisely conveys need and impact





Elements of a Proposal

- Organization Type
- Funding Category
- Abstract (summary)
- Project Purpose
- Program Goals and Objectives
- Prior Year SCBGP Projects
- Potential Impact
- Expected Measurable Outcome(s)
- Project Duration
- Work Plan
- Budget

Budget Attachment

PIN # Insert
PIN No.

Instructions: Complete each budget category by entering the amount of grant funds requested for each budget category and corresponding grant year. Sections H and J will automatically calculate, no entry is required.

Budget Categories	Year 1 (10/2014 - 09/2015)	Year 2 (10/2015 - 09/2016)	Year 3 (10/2016 - 06/2017)	Total
A. Personnel				\$0
B. Fringe Benefits				\$0
C. Travel				\$0
D. Equipment (>\$5,000 per unit)				\$0
E. Supplies (<\$5,000 per unit)				\$0
F. Contractual <i>Contractual hourly rates cannot exceed \$65. The hourly rate is determined by the salary of a GS-14 step 10. To access the GS-14 step 10 visit http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/#url=2013 and click on General Schedule and Locality Pay Tables.</i>				\$0
G. Other				\$0
H. Total Direct Costs (sum of sections A-G)				\$0
I. Indirect Costs <i>Cannot Exceed 5% of Personnel + Fringe Benefits</i>				\$0
J. Total Grant Funds (sum of sections H+I)				\$0



Contractual Rates

- Maximum hourly rate: GS-14 step 10 without Prior Approval

www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/#url=2013

- Justification:
 - Cost Price Analysis
 - Unique Qualifications

SALARY TABLE 2013-SAC
INCORPORATING A LOCALITY PAYMENT OF 22.20%
FOR THE LOCALITY PAY OF SACRAMENTO—ARDEN-ARCADE—YUBA CITY,CA-NV
(See <http://www.opm.gov/oca/12tables/locdef.asp> for definitions of locality pay areas.)

RATES FROZEN AT 2010 LEVELS

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2013

Hourly Basic (B) Rates by Grade and Step

Hourly Overtime (O) Rates by Grade and Step

Grade	B/O	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	Step 8	Step 9	Step 10
1	B	\$ 10.42	\$ 10.77	\$ 11.12	\$ 11.46	\$ 11.81	\$ 12.01	\$ 12.36	\$ 12.70	\$ 12.72	\$ 13.04
	O	15.63	16.16	16.68	17.19	17.72	18.02	18.54	19.05	19.08	19.56
2	B	11.72	12.00	12.39	12.72	12.86	13.24	13.62	13.99	14.37	14.75
	O	17.58	18.00	18.59	19.08	19.29	19.86	20.43	20.99	21.56	22.13
3	B	12.79	13.21	13.64	14.07	14.49	14.92	15.35	15.77	16.20	16.62
	O	19.19	19.82	20.46	21.11	21.74	22.38	23.03	23.66	24.30	24.93
12	B	35.29	36.47	37.64	38.82	40.00	41.17	42.35	43.53	44.70	45.88
	O	40.20	40.20	40.20	40.20	40.20	41.17	42.35	43.53	44.70	45.88
13	B	41.97	43.37	44.76	46.16	47.56	48.96	50.36	51.76	53.16	54.56
	O	41.97	43.37	44.76	46.16	47.56	48.96	50.36	51.76	53.16	54.56
14	B	49.59	51.25	52.90	54.55	56.20	57.86	59.51	61.16	62.82	64.47
	O	49.59	51.25	52.90	54.55	56.20	57.86	59.51	61.16	62.82	64.47
15	B	58.33	60.28	62.22	64.17	66.11	68.06	70.00	71.95	73.89	74.51
	O	58.33	60.28	62.22	64.17	66.11	68.06	70.00	71.95	73.89	74.51

*Rate limited to the rate for level IV of the Executive Schedule (5 U.S.C. 5304 (g)(1)).

<http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/2013/locality-pay-area-definitions/>



Flat Rates

- Flat Rate Estimate
- Basis for Estimate
 - Timeframe
 - Length of Service
- Prior Approval Required



Project Examples - Acceptable

- A non-profit requests funding to contract with a university to conduct research on the feasibility of planting, cultivating, and growing a specialty crop in a particular area; results of which can be shared with many growers throughout the state.
- A non-profit organization requests funds to conduct an advertising campaign to benefit specialty crop members.



Project Examples - Unacceptable

- A specialty crop producer requests funds to promote their asparagus at a roadside stand.
- A sole proprietor requests grant funds to redesign his/her logo in order to make his/her specialty crop value-added product stand out at the local farmers market.



Federal Administrative Requirements and Cost Principles

Organization Type	Administrative Requirements	Cost Principles
State, local or Indian tribal government	7 CFR 3015 and 7 CFR 3016	2 CFR 225
Private non-profit organization	7 CFR 3015 and 7 CFR 3019	2 CFR 230
Colleges and Universities	7 CFR 3015 and 7 CFR 3019	2 CFR 220
For-profit organization	7 CFR 3015 and CFR 3019	48 CFR 31.2

Frequently Asked Questions

- Email Questions
 - grants@cdfa.ca.gov
- Questions Posted to CDFA Web Site
 - www.cdfa.ca.gov/grants





Resources

CDFA, Federal Funds Management Office

Website www.cdfa.ca.gov/grants

Email grants@cdfa.ca.gov

Telephone (916) 657-3231

University of California, Davis' Center for Produce Safety

Website cps.ucdavis.edu

Telephone (530) 757-5777

USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service

Website www.ams.usda.gov/scbgp