

**2017 SPECIALTY CROP MULTI-STATE PROGRAM
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

1. Q. How much funding is available for Specialty Crop Multi-State Program (SCMP) and what are the minimum and maximum award amounts?
A. The United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA, AMS) anticipates that up to \$7 million will be awarded to Multi-State Partners for projects ranging from \$250,000 to \$1,000,000.
2. Q. What is the maximum grant duration?
A. SCMP proposals may have a duration of up to three years from the date of award.
3. Q. When can SCMP projects begin?
A. USDA, AMS currently anticipates that awards will be announced sometime between December 2017 and Spring 2018. If awarded funds, recipients may begin their projects once awards are announced and grant agreements are executed.
4. Q. What is the deadline for SCMP proposals?
A. Multi-State Partners must submit SCMP proposals to California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) by 1:59 PM PDT on September 25, 2017. Late submissions will not be accepted.
5. Q. How should applicants submit proposals; will CDFA use the Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST) system utilized for the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP)?
A. Multi-State Partners must submit a complete application package by email as a PDF attachment to grants@cdfa.ca.gov by deadline specified in question 2, above. The FAAST system will not be used for SCMP.
6. Q. Will CDFA submit all applications received for SCMP to USDA AMS?
A. CDFA will accept all applications submitted from Multi-State Partners. All applications deemed complete and appropriate for SCMP will be submitted by CDFA to USDA AMS. The criteria for determining if an application is appropriate are defined by USDA AMS and are described on USDA AMS's [Request for Applications](#), beginning on page 12.
7. Q. Will CDFA provide assistance to Multi-State Partners in developing SCMP proposals?
A. To assist prospective Multi-State Partners, CDFA has developed an instruction page and templates for SCMP proposals. Also, CDFA will conduct a webinar on September 7, 2017 to provide an overview of SCMP application and facilitate a question and answer session. Prospective Multi-State Partners are also encouraged to submit questions regarding the program by email to grants@cdfa.ca.gov. Regrettably, CDFA cannot help Multi-State Partners complete the actual SCMP application or match organizations to other prospective organizations interested in partnering on a project.
8. Q. What are "Participating States" and "Multi-State Partners?"
A. Participating States are state departments of agriculture that will accept applications for the SCMP, submit proposals received to USDA, AMS and administer grants if funds are awarded. Multi-State Partners are entities or organizations that will develop SCMP proposals for submission to Participating States.

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9. Q. Can organizations outside of a Participating State submit or partner on a SCMP proposal?
A. Proposals will be accepted from Multi-State Partners in any state or U.S. Territory. It is not necessary for an organization to reside in a Participating State to submit, or partner on, a proposal.
10. Q. Does each Multi-State Partner develop their own application and budget and submit their proposal to their own Participating State?
A. Multi-State Partners should develop a single application and submit their application to a single Participating State. Multi-State Partners may develop a budget for each partner, however, one Multi-State Partner will act as the primary applicant and the other Multi-State Partners will be incorporated into the budget template as contractors.
11. Q. Does CDFA have program priorities for SCMP?
A. Priorities for SCMP are developed at the national level. The project types appropriate for SCMP are described on USDA, AMS's [Request for Applications](#), beginning on page six. State departments of agriculture cannot establish additional priorities beyond the project types established by USDA, AMS.
12. Q. Can SCMP proposals benefit a specialty crop that is grown in only one state?
A. SCMP proposals are expected to benefit more than one geographic area. It may not be possible to accomplish this goal with a project focused on a specialty crop grown primarily or exclusively in one state. However, such a project may be appropriate for the [Specialty Crop Block Grant Program \(SCBGP\)](#).
13. Q. Can Multi-State Partners submit a proposal to any Participating State?
A. Multi-State Partners may submit their proposals to any Participating State. However, Multi-State Partners are encouraged to submit their proposals to their own state when possible, or a Participating State that is geographically nearby to reduce the administrative burden and cost.
14. Q. What is the maximum indirect cost rate for SCMP?
A. Indirect costs are limited by federal statute to 8% of the total project budget. This amount includes both indirect costs for Multi-State Partners and any costs necessary for Participating States to administer the program if funds are awarded. CDFA anticipates that approximately 1% of the total project may be necessary for costs to administer the program. For this reason, CDFA encourages all Multi-State Partners to request the maximum indirect cost.
15. Q. Can Multi-State Partners outside the state of California be the lead Principal Investigator (PI) of a project?
A. It is up to the Multi-State Partners to determine the best person to lead the project. In other words, the California entity or the entity from another state may be the lead PI.
16. Q. Does CDFA's email system have a file size limitation when submitting a single PDF?
A. Yes, CDFA's email system can accept a single PDF file up to 10 MB.