

## 2021 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 \$10 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. SCMP awards will be announced in the Fall of 2022. 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 November 4, 2021. Late submissions will not be accepted.
5. Q. How should applicants submit proposals?  
A. Multi-State Partners must submit a complete application package to [grants@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:grants@cdfa.ca.gov) by 1:59 PM PDT on November 4, 2021. Note that the Financial AAST system will not be used for SCMP.
6. Q. Will CDFA submit all applications received for SCMP to USDA AMS?  
A. CDFA must screen all proposals to ensure that they:  
Materially adhere to the requirements of the Request for Applications (RFA);  
Fit into at least one of the RFA's project category types;  
Meet the RFA's definition of a multi-state project;  
Differ from and/or supplement but do not duplicate projects currently or previously funded by the SCBGP or another Federal award program; and  
Do not name any partner with current performance and compliance violations relating to a SCBGP-funded project.  
All complete and appropriate SCMP applications will be submitted by CDFA to USDA, AMS.
7. Q. Will CDFA assist Multi-State Partners in developing SCMP proposals?  
A. To assist prospective Multi-State Partners, CDFA has developed templates for SCMP proposals available on CDFA's SCMP website at:  
[https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Specialty\\_Crop\\_Competitiveness\\_Grants/SCMP.html](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Specialty_Crop_Competitiveness_Grants/SCMP.html). CDFA will conduct two webinars on October 12, 2021 and October 21, 2021 providing an overview of SCMP application. A replay of the webinar will be available on the CDFA YouTube page: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC96Fqn\\_OMC907uCEd\\_23f5A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC96Fqn_OMC907uCEd_23f5A) after the second webinar is completed. Questions can also be submitted by email to [grants@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:grants@cdfa.ca.gov) through 5:00pm PDT on October 29, 2021.

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8. Q. What are “Participating States”, “Non-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. Non-Participating States are state departments of agriculture that have declined to accept SCMP applications. Multi-State Partners are entities or organizations in any state or U.S. territory that will develop SCMP proposals.
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, if selected for funding one Multi-State Partner will act as the primary applicant and the other Multi-State Partners will be incorporated into the budget 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 five.
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 in a Participating State must submit their proposal to the state in which they reside. Multi-State Partners in Non-Participating States may opt to submit their applications to a participating state, or to USDA directly through grants.gov.
14. Q. What is the maximum indirect cost rate for SCMP?  
A. Total indirect costs (including indirect for project partners and contractors) are limited by federal statute to 8% of the total federal award. Applicants that might ordinarily be eligible to receive a higher indirect rate from other state or federal programs are responsible for ensuring that their organization/institution will allow an exception for this program **before** submitting an application.
15. Q. Can Multi-State Partners outside the state of California be the lead Principal Investigator (PI) of a project?  
A. It is not necessary that the Multi-State Partner within California act as the lead PI on a project. It is up to the Multi-State Partners to determine the best person or organization to lead the project.

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16. Q. Does CDFA's email system have a file size limitation?  
A. CDFA's email system cannot accept email attachments greater than 10 MB (approximately 5,000 pages of text only).
17. Q. Can a Multi-State Partner submit more than one application?  
A. There is no prohibition against submitting multiple applications. However, each application should be for a unique project. Additionally, Multi-State Partners cannot submit the same application to multiple Participating States.
18. Q. Are matching funds a requirement of the SCMP?  
A. Matching funds are not a requirement of the SCMP; however, matching funds may be useful in demonstrating industry support for a proposal, or to offset any potentially unallowable costs in a project.
19. Q. Are individuals eligible to apply to the SCMP?  
A. Individuals are not eligible to apply to the SCMP. Projects must benefit the specialty crop industry in more than one state and cannot benefit a single individual or entity.
20. Q. Where can applicants view prior SCMP awarded grants?  
A. Project descriptions of previously awarded SCMP grants can be found on the USDA, AMS SCMP website: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scmp/awarded-grants>
21. Q. Where can applicants view information on allowable costs and activities for the SCMP?  
A. Information on allowable costs and activities for the SCMP can be found on the USDA, AMS Grants Division General Terms and conditions: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/FY2020GDTermsandConditionsUpdates.pdf>.
22. Q. Can a proposal address multiple priorities/project types as outlined in the USDA, AMS RFA?  
A. Applications must address at least one project type but may address more than one.
23. Q. Does the SCMP application have a page limit?  
A. The SCMP Project Narrative must be typed, single-spaced, in an 11-point font, not to exceed 15 8.5 x 11 pages. The Fiscal Plan and Resources (budget), Letters of Commitment, and Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable) do not count toward the 15-page limit. Personnel Qualifications do not count toward the 15-page limit; however, resumes or curriculum vitae provided cannot exceed two pages per person.
24. Q. Are there any additional requirements for applications submitted to CDFA for the SCMP?  
A. Applications submitted to CDFA are subject to the prohibition on state-funded and state-sponsored travel to states with discriminatory laws. Additional information, including a current list of affected states can be found on the State of California, Office of Attorney General's website: <https://oag.ca.gov/ab1887>. Additionally, if selected for funding, Multi-State Partners must designate one partner as the primary recipient with the others listed as contractors on the grant agreement as CDFA cannot execute multiple agreements for a single project.