

2025 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

Grant Proposal Instructions

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE 10.170

Released:

December 2, 2024

Grant Proposals Due:

By 5:00 p.m. PT on January 13, 2025

Late submissions will not be accepted.



California Department of Food and Agriculture

Office of Grants Administration

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About the Program

Purpose

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is pleased to invite successful Concept Proposal applicants to participate in Phase II of the 2025 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) process, submission of a Grant Proposal.

Grant Proposals must enhance the competitiveness of California specialty crops within local, national, and international markets by leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops; assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops; expanding availability of and access to specialty crop; and addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers. Specialty crops are fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops (including floriculture). Visit the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) [What is a Specialty Crop website](https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbgp/specialty-crop) (<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbgp/specialty-crop>) for a list of eligible and ineligible commodities and a comprehensive definition of specialty crops.

Funding and Duration

CDFA anticipates that up to \$23 million will be awarded to projects enhancing the competitiveness of California specialty crops. Grant amounts range from \$100,000 to \$500,000. The maximum grant duration is two (2) years, eight (8) months. Grant funds cannot be expended before November 1, 2025, or after June 30, 2028*. CDFA reserves the right to offer an award amount different than the amount requested.

*Note, no-cost extensions beyond June 30, 2028, will not be available.

Eligibility

Only applicants invited to submit a Grant Proposal are eligible to participate in this phase of the solicitation process. Non-profit and for-profit organizations; local, state, and federal government entities, including Tribal governments; and public or private colleges and universities are eligible to receive funding. Individuals are not eligible to receive funding.

Additional notes to help determine eligibility:

- Grant funds will not be awarded for projects that directly benefit or provide a profit to a single organization, institution, or individual. For example, the program will not fund a project to start or expand a farm or business venture.
- Grant funds cannot be used to compete unfairly with private companies that offer equivalent products or services.

- Projects must enhance the competitiveness of California specialty crops. Projects primarily or substantially benefiting non-specialty crops will not be selected for funding.
- Grant funds will not be awarded to applicants with an active exclusion or delinquent federal debt according to the federal System for Award Management (SAM). Reference the [Requirements and Limitations section](#) on page 14 and visit [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) (<https://sam.gov/SAM/>) for additional information and to verify the status of the applicant organization.
- Grant funds cannot be used to duplicate activities funded by other federal or state grant programs.

Timeline

Schedule for Phase II: Grant Proposal (by invitation only)

Phase II	Date
Invitation to submit Grant Proposals	December 2, 2024
Webinars	December 11, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. PT December 17, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. PT
Grant Proposals due	January 13, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. PT
Grant Proposals to USDA for approval	May 2025

Schedule for Awards

Awards	Date
Announce and Award Funding	Fall 2025

How to Apply

Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST)

Grant Proposals must be submitted electronically using the [FAAST system](https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov) (<https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov>) hosted by the State Water Resources Control Board.

The FAAST system is organized into various tabs and utilizes a question-and-answer format. Questions are answered in either a text box or as a document attachment.

Responses to all questions must be submitted in the manner and format required by the Grant Proposal application in the Questionnaire tab in FAAST without exception. Applications that do not follow the required format and/or incomplete submissions will be deemed ineligible.

The FAAST website contains a Frequently Asked Questions section and a User Manual for the FAAST system. For questions about the FAAST System, please contact FAAST customer service at (866) 434-1083, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or via email faast_admin@waterboards.ca.gov.

Computer System Recommendations

To ensure Grant Proposals and attachments are submitted successfully, CDFA strongly encourages all applicants to comply with the computer system recommendations provided by FAAST. CDFA cannot guarantee that the FAAST system or the required templates will be compatible with other browsers or operating systems. Use of other browsers or operating systems may limit the ability of CDFA staff to provide applicants with technical assistance, should any issues arise. FAAST recommends that applicants:

- Use a Personal Computer (PC) and Microsoft Edge;
- Disable pop-up blocking software while using FAAST;
- Save work often – the system will time out after 90 minutes and any unsaved work will be lost.

Grant Proposal Questions and Scoring

Applicants must apply using the [FAAST system](https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov) (https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov). Responses to questions that carry over from the Concept Proposal should be expanded to reflect the fully developed Grant Proposal. Failure to answer one or more application questions may result in disqualification. The following questions and descriptions are provided as a preview of the application, accessible only in FAAST:

General Information:

Project Title:

Concisely describe the project in 15 words or less to create a unique and descriptive project title.

Project Description:

Also known as the abstract. Summarize the need for the project, describe the goals and outcomes, and present a plan for evaluating and measuring the success of the project. This section should be updated as needed. The Project Description should be appropriate for dissemination to the public (maximum of 1000 characters).

Applicant Organization:

Legal name of the organization that will serve as lead for the project and will receive and oversee the use of grant funds.

Submitting Organization Information:

If another organization is submitting the proposal on behalf of the applicant, enter the legal name of the organization submitting the proposal.

Project Budget:

Funds Requested:

The total amount of SCBGP funds requested for the project should be entered into the “Funds Requested” box on the Project Budget tab. This number must match the amount listed on the Budget Narrative template. Funds requested must range from \$100,000 to \$500,000; requests outside of this range may result in disqualification.

Cash Match and In-Kind Match Contributions:

Cost sharing (cash match or in-kind match contributions) is allowed but is not a requirement of the SCBGP and is discouraged by USDA. CDFA includes the ability to outline cost share in proposals so that unallowable costs and/or activities (such as projects that also benefit non-specialty crops) can demonstrate that SCBGP funds will not be used for these costs.

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI):

Enter the applicant's UEI number, if known. To obtain a UEI, please visit [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) (<https://sam.gov/SAM/>). If awarded SCBGP funds, recipients will need to obtain a UEI and register in SAM.gov before a grant agreement can be executed.

Project Management:

Project Director and Project Manager:

Please enter contact information for the individual who is authorized to execute a funding agreement and receive grant funds, as well as a backup if that individual should be unreachable.

Legislative Information:

California Senate and Assembly Districts:

Using the drop-down menus, select the districts where the applicant and project are located. More than one district can be selected, if needed. If the project covers all of California, select "Statewide." If the program/project is outside of California, choose "00."

Cooperating Entities:

Identify the name of any cooperating entities and provide a brief description of what their role and contribution to the project will be in the text box provided.

Application Questionnaire:

Project Purpose (10 Points):

All of the following must be addressed within the text boxes provided:

- Identify the specific and existing issue, problem, or need the project will address (maximum of 500 characters).
- Explain why the proposal is important and timely for the specialty crop industry (maximum of 500 characters).
- Identify at least one of the 2025 SCBGP program priorities. Explain how the project addresses the selected priority or priorities (maximum of 1,500 characters). The program priorities are described in the [Request for Concept Proposals](https://www.cdffa.ca.gov/Specialty_Crop_Competitiveness_Grants/pdfs/2025_SCBGP_RFCP.pdf) (https://www.cdffa.ca.gov/Specialty_Crop_Competitiveness_Grants/pdfs/2025_SCBGP_RFCP.pdf)

Scoring Criteria: Scoring will be based on how clearly the proposal explains the specific issue, problem, or need the project will address; the timeliness and relevance to the

California specialty crop industry; and the demonstrated link to the 2025 SCBGP program priorities.

Project Objectives and Work Plan (20 Points):

Download and complete the required [Project Objectives and Work Plan template](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Specialty_Crop_Competitiveness_Grants/docs/form_1-6-2-1-_scbgp_project_objectives_and_work_plan.docx) (https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Specialty_Crop_Competitiveness_Grants/docs/form_1-6-2-1-_scbgp_project_objectives_and_work_plan.docx) and upload it to the application in FAAST. The Project Objectives and Work Plan attachment must be submitted as a Microsoft Word Document (do not submit a PDF), must use the required Microsoft Word Document template (do not alter the template in any way, except to add or remove project objectives as needed), and must not exceed five pages. For a completed example of the Project Objectives and Work Plan template, reference [Appendix A](#) on page 21.

All of the following must be addressed in the Project Objectives and Work Plan template:

- **Application Name/Title and Applicant Organization:** Ensure that each match the application name/title and applicant organization listed on the Grant Proposal.
- **Project Start Date and Project End Date:** Enter the date project activities will begin and the date project activities will end. Projects may not start before November 1, 2025, or end after June 30, 2028.
- **Objective:** Identify the main goals the project is seeking to accomplish. All projects must have at least one objective. If more than six objectives will be achieved, copy and paste additional sections as needed.
- **Objective Activities:** In the tables provided, describe the tasks necessary to accomplish each of the identified project objectives. If more than six activities will be required for any of the objectives, add additional rows as needed.
- **Performed by:** In the tables provided, identify which members of the project team will do the work for each activity listed (e.g., personnel, project participants, contractors, and/or subrecipients, etc.). List individuals by their titles; if multiple individuals have the same title, distinguish them in some way (e.g., Graduate Student 1, Graduate Student 2; or with last names after the title). All individuals for whom SCBGP funding is requested in the Budget Narrative template must be responsible for at least one activity listed in the Project Objectives and Work Plan template.
- **Timeline:** In the tables provided, indicate the estimated beginning and end dates for when each activity will be accomplished using the three-letter abbreviated month and the four-digit numerical year (e.g., May 2026 - Oct 2026, Jun 2026, etc.). Only include activities occurring within the grant period (November 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028).

Scoring Criteria: Scoring will be based on the relevance of the project objectives and activities to the project purpose, the importance of the objectives to California’s specialty crop industry, the clarity of the work plan, and the likelihood that the objectives will be successful.

Project Beneficiaries (10 points):

All of the following must be addressed within the text boxes provided:

- Estimate the number of project beneficiaries directly impacted by the project. The number cited should be a reasonable estimate of the number of individuals that could realistically be directly impacted by the results of the project. All estimates should be trackable and reportable within the duration of the grant.
- Identify and quantify the project beneficiaries and describe how they will benefit from the project objectives (list the specific specialty crops that will be affected, if possible) (maximum of 1,000 characters).
- Address how the proposal benefits the specialty crop industry, rather than directly benefiting a single individual or organization, such as the applicant (maximum of 1,000 characters).

Scoring Criteria: Scoring will be based on how clearly and reasonably the proposal identifies and quantifies the beneficiaries and explains how they will directly benefit, as well as the relevance and significance of the anticipated project benefit(s) to the specialty crop industry.

Specialty Crop Enhancement (not a scored question):

SCBGP funds must enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops as [defined by USDA](#)

(https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/USDA_Specialty_Crop_Definition.pdf).

Projects that may have the potential to benefit ineligible products or commodities (e.g., farmers’ markets, ‘buy local’ campaigns, general nutrition projects such as those related to MyPlate, etc.) must address how SCBGP funding will be used to enhance the competitiveness of eligible specialty crops.

- Select “No” from the dropdown menu if the project does not have the potential to enhance the competitiveness of non-specialty crops.
- If the project does have the potential to enhance the competitiveness of non-specialty crops, select “Yes” from the dropdown menu and describe in detail what tracking mechanisms and processes are in place or will be implemented to verify all SCBGP funds are expended on activities and costs that enhance the competitiveness of eligible California specialty crops. If cost sharing will be used to cover activities and/or costs that are unallowable under the program, describe

the specific funds or contributions that will be used (including their source) and detail the activities and costs they will cover (maximum of 1,000 characters).

Prior Year SCBGP Projects (not a scored question):

Please indicate if this project builds upon a prior-year project. If “No,” please select “No” from the dropdown menu. If “Yes,” all of the following must be addressed within the text boxes provided:

- Provide the specialty crop block grant agreement number(s) (e.g., SCB13090, 17-0275-001-SC, or 22-0001-001-SF) for any and all prior SCBGP grants (maximum of 1,000 characters).
- Describe how the project differs from and builds upon the previous work (maximum of 1,000 characters).
- Provide a summary of the outcomes of the prior SCBGP grants (maximum of 1,000 characters).
- Describe how lessons learned from the prior project will be implemented including potential improvements (maximum of 1,000 characters).
 - If a prior-year project has recently begun, please address how the proposed project’s goals and/or planned activities differ from those of the recently started project(s).
- Describe how lessons learned and improvements will be incorporated into the project to make the ongoing project more effective and successful at meeting goals and outcomes (maximum of 1,000 characters).

Project Sustainability (10 Points):

SCBGP projects should have a long-term impact without relying indefinitely on grant funding. In this section, describe:

- The likelihood of the project becoming self-sustaining and not indefinitely dependent on SCBGP funds, and/or;
- The benefit(s) to California’s specialty crop industry resulting from the project that will continue beyond the grant duration (maximum of 1,000 characters).

Scoring Criteria: Scoring will be based on the extent to which the proposal demonstrates the project will become self-sustaining and/or that the benefit of the project will continue beyond the grant duration without relying indefinitely on SCBGP funding.

Other Support from Federal or State Grant Programs (not a scored question):

Activities funded under the SCBGP cannot duplicate activities funded by another federal or state grant program. Please indicate if this project has been or will be submitted to or

funded by another federal or state grant program other than the SCBGP. If “No,” please select “No” from the dropdown menu. If “Yes,” all of the following must be addressed:

- Identify the federal or state grant program and the agency administering the program (maximum of 500 characters).
- List the amount of grant funds requested or awarded by the program (maximum of 500 characters).
- Describe how the proposed SCBGP project supplements rather than duplicates efforts funded by the other federal or state grant program (maximum of 1,000 characters).

Note: SCBGP will not fund duplicative projects. Failure to disclose other support from federal or state grant programs, whether applied for or received, will result in a proposal not receiving funding or having an award reduced or terminated. If, at any time, an applicant is awarded funds from another federal or state grant program, it is the responsibility of the applicant to notify CDFA immediately.

External Project Support (10 Points):

Proposals must demonstrate that the specialty crop industry approves of/endorse the project objectives. In this section, identify at least one specific specialty crop stakeholder and explain why they believe the project is important and timely. Stakeholders included in the external project support section should:

- Be individuals or organizations involved in the specialty crop industry (e.g., specific growers, companies, certified crop advisors, pest control advisors, commodity boards or commissions, trade associations, etc.). Do not include members of the general public, legislators, or any organizations that are not affiliated with the specialty crop industry.
- Be supportive of what the project will accomplish.
- Not be directly involved in the project. The applicant, employees of the applicant, contractors, or any other entity that will receive project funding should not be included. Similarly, organizations that will contribute cost share to the project should not be included under the external project support section, as their participation in the form of project support is apparent and addressed directly in the [Cost Sharing summary](#); reference on page 11.

In addition to the narrative response provided in FFAST, applicants may choose to attach optional letters of support (LOS) to their Grant Proposals. LOS should be written on official letterhead and should explain why the stakeholder supports the project. Applicants should attach LOS in PDF format using the following file naming convention: LOS1, LOS2, LOS3, etc. All LOS must be attached to the Grant Proposal application in

FAAST; letters received via mail or email will not be considered (maximum of 1,000 characters).

Scoring Criteria: Scoring will be based on the relevance and timeliness of the project as demonstrated by the support for and commitment to the project from California's specialty crop industry.

Outcome Measures (20 points):

Download and complete the [Outcome Measures template](#)

(https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Specialty_Crop_Competitiveness_Grants/pdfs/OGA-1.6.1.1._SCBGP_Outcome_Measures_Form.docx), select one or more of the applicable Outcome Measure(s), indicator(s) and, if applicable, sub-indicator(s). All of the following must be addressed in the Outcome Measures section:

- **Outcome:** Using the check boxes provided, select one or more of the seven outcome measures.
- **Indicator:** Using the fillable text fields, complete one or more indicators for each selected outcome. If there are multiple sub-indicators under a selected indicator, enter a value for one or more.
- **Description:** Within the description section for each outcome selected, describe the data collection methods for the outcome(s) and indicator(s) selected. The description of data collection methods must apply specifically to the Outcome Measure selected and not to other aspects of the project.

Please note that all selected outcome measures and related indicators/sub-indicators must be achievable during the grant duration. For a completed example of the Outcome Measures application form, reference [Appendix B](#) on page 22.

Outcome measures and the associated indicators were developed by the USDA and the Office of Management and Budget and cannot be altered or amended in any way. For additional information on the required outcomes and indicators, reference the [Outcome Measures supplement](#) (https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Specialty_Crop_Competitiveness_Grants/docs/outcome_measures_supplement.pdf).

*Note: All marketing and promotion projects, as well as all proposals submitted to the Grown in California funding category, **must** identify one or more sub-indicator(s) (a, b, or c) from Outcome 1, Indicator 1.5: Increasing Consumption and Consumer Purchasing of Specialty Crops.*

Scoring Criteria: Scoring will be based on the significance of the anticipated project outcome, the relevance to the project activities, soundness of methodology, and likelihood of success. The number of outcomes selected is not a factor in scoring

criteria. Applicants should not overstate outcomes or select outcomes and indicators that cannot reasonably be achieved within the grant duration in an effort to improve the likelihood of funding. Failure to successfully achieve outcome measures may adversely affect an applicant's ability to receive funding in the future.

Budget Narrative (20 Points):

Download and complete the required [Budget Narrative template](#) (https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Specialty_Crop_Competitiveness_Grants/docs/form_1-6-2-2_scbgp_budget_narrative.docx) and upload it to the application in FFAST. The Budget Narrative attachment must be submitted as a Microsoft Word Document (do not submit a PDF) and must use the required Microsoft Word Document template (do not alter the template in any way, except to add or remove rows in the tables as needed). For a completed example of the Budget Narrative template, reference [Appendix C](#) on page 23.

Instructions on required information for each budget section are provided in the Budget Narrative template. Reference the [Supplemental Guidance section](#) on page 13 and the [Requirements and Limitations section](#) on page 14 to ensure all costs requested comply with program requirements.

Scoring Criteria: Scoring will be based on the reasonableness of the budget and relevance to the project activities and goals.

Cost Sharing (not a scored question):

If matching funds and/or in-kind contributions have not been secured, select “No.” If matching funds and/or in-kind contributions have been secured, select “Yes” and download and complete the required [Cost Sharing template](#), (https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Specialty_Crop_Competitiveness_Grants/docs/form_1-6-2-3_scbgp_cost_sharing.docx), and upload it to your application in FFAST. The Cost Sharing attachment must be submitted as a Microsoft Word Document (do not submit a PDF) and must use the required Microsoft Word Document template (do not alter the template in any way, except to add or remove rows in the table as needed). For a completed example of the Cost Sharing template, reference [Appendix D](#) on page 33.

If cost sharing has been secured, all of the following must be addressed in the Cost Sharing template:

- **Application Name/Title and Applicant Organization:** Ensure that each match the application name/title and applicant organization listed on the Grant Proposal.
- **Total Amount of Cost Share Committed to the Project:** Enter the grand total of all matching funds and in-kind contributions committed to the project.

- **Amount:** In each row of the table, list the amount of cost share committed from a contributing organization. Add or remove rows in the table, as needed.
- **Type of Cost Share:** Specify whether the cost share is in the form of matching funds or an in-kind contribution. Matching funds refers to a dollar amount committed to a project from a source other than the SCBGP. An in-kind contribution is the estimated dollar value of any time, property, or supplies donated to a project.
- **Source:** Specify the name of the organization that will be contributing the cost share.
- **Summary of Activities or Costs Covered with Matching Funds or In-kind Contributions:** Describe what costs or activities the cost share will cover.

Note: The Cost Sharing template is the only document necessary to evidence matching funds and/or in-kind contributions to a project. Letters of commitment or other evidence of cost sharing are not required.

Project Oversight (not a scored question):

Attach a current resume or curriculum vitae (CV) for the Project Director(s), Project Manager(s), Principal Investigator(s), and any collaborators who will receive a portion of the project funds. Attach resumes or CVs in PDF format and name each document: R1, R2, R3 or CV1, CV2, CV3, etc.

**Total number of points achievable for the Grant Proposal Application:
100 Points**

Supplemental Guidance

Outcome Measures

USDA and the Office of Management and Budget have developed SCBGP national outcomes measures mandatory to the program beginning in Federal Fiscal Year 2016. CDFA has developed an [Outcome Measures supplement](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Specialty_Crop_Competitiveness_Grants/docs/outcome_measures_supplement.pdf) (https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Specialty_Crop_Competitiveness_Grants/docs/outcome_measures_supplement.pdf) with additional information on these requirements and to assist applicants in complying with the SCBGP outcome measures.

Enhancing the Competitiveness of Specialty Crops

SCBGP funds must be used to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops grown in the United States or United States territories, in either domestic or foreign markets.

Procuring Goods and Services Using Federal Funds

Federal regulations require that all procurement transactions, including contracting for services, must be conducted in a manner that provides full and open competition and is consistent with the standards described in [2 CFR 200.317 – 200.327](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-200/subject-group-ECFR45ddd4419ad436d) (<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/part-200/subject-group-ECFR45ddd4419ad436d>) CDFA has developed a [Procuring Goods and Services Using Federal Funds supplement](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Specialty_Crop_Competitiveness_Grants/pdfs/SCBGP_Procuring_Goods_and_Services.pdf) (https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Specialty_Crop_Competitiveness_Grants/pdfs/SCBGP_Procuring_Goods_and_Services.pdf) with additional information on fee structures.

Guidance for Developing the Budget Narrative

In developing the Grant Proposal Budget Narrative, applicants should ensure that all costs are reasonable, necessary to meet the objectives of the project, allowable, and incurred in a manner consistent with the applicant organization's established practices. Both the Budget Narrative and the activities that the requested funds will support must conform to the appropriate cost principles for the applicant organization, USDA program requirements, and the requirements established by CDFA in the [Request for Concept Proposals](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Specialty_Crop_Competitiveness_Grants/pdfs/2025_SCBGP_RFCP.pdf) (https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Specialty_Crop_Competitiveness_Grants/pdfs/2025_SCBGP_RFCP.pdf). Unallowable costs and activities will be removed from a project as a condition of receiving an award. Excessive unallowable costs or activities may result in the disqualification of a Grant Proposal during the administrative review process.

Requirements and Limitations

Farm Bill and USDA Guidance

Authorization for this program was established under the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 and continues under authorization from the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (commonly referred to as the “Farm Bill”). The Farm Bill was recently extended through September 2024. CDFA anticipates continued funding for the program; however, grant awards will only be made if funds are made available by USDA, AMS.

As of the date of this publication, USDA has not provided CDFA or any other state department of agriculture with a Request for Applications or Terms and Conditions for the 2025 SCBGP. If necessary, CDFA will attempt to prepare and make available a supplement to this document to advise applicants of any changes to the program upon receipt of USDA's Request for Applications. CDFA and all proposals will be subject to the terms of USDA's Request for Applications and Terms and Conditions and substantial changes could potentially affect the feasibility of proposals.

Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act

If selected for an award, recipients of 2025 SCBGP funds must comply with the [Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 \(FFATA\)](#)

(https://www.fsrs.gov/documents/ffata_legislation_110_252.pdf). This includes disclosing the names and total compensation of the five most highly compensated officers of the entity if:

- 1) The entity in the preceding fiscal year received 80 percent or more of its annual gross revenues in Federal awards; and
- 2) \$25,000,000 or more in annual revenues from federal awards; and
- 3) The public does not have access to information about the compensation of the senior executives of the entity through periodic reports filed under section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

System for Award Management

All entities applying for funding, including past recipients, must have a UEI. UEIs are automatically issued to all entities that register in [SAM.gov](#) (<https://sam.gov/SAM/>). Failure to register and maintain an active SAM account will prevent the applicant organization from receiving federal funds. SAM accounts must be renewed annually.

Entities will be required to provide their organization's UEI, be registered in SAM, and have no active exclusions before CDFA can enter into an agreement. The registration

process can take several months; therefore, applicants are highly encouraged to begin the registration process now.

Federal Cost Principles

Federal cost principles are regulations, based on organization type, used to determine allowable costs and ensure consistent treatment of costs. In addition to CDFA and USDA program requirements, applicants are responsible for identifying the federal cost principles appropriate to their organization, ensuring the consistent application of cost principles to SCBGP grant funds, and ensuring contractors or consultants comply with federal cost principle requirements.

- State, local, or Tribal governments; non-profit organizations; and colleges and universities will be subject to [2 CFR 200](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200) (https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200).
- For-profit organizations will be subject to [48 CFR Subpart 31.2](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-48/chapter-1/subchapter-E/part-31/subpart-31.2) (https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-48/chapter-1/subchapter-E/part-31/subpart-31.2).

Unallowable Costs

CDFA has developed an [Allowable and Unallowable Costs and Activities Table](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Specialty_Crop_Competitiveness_Grants/docs/allowable_and_unallowable_cost_activities.pdf) (https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Specialty_Crop_Competitiveness_Grants/docs/allowable_and_unallowable_cost_activities.pdf) to assist applicants in preparing their proposal budget. The table provides overall guidance for handling of common costs and includes USDA and CDFA requirements specific to this program. Proposals with unallowable costs may be subject to disqualification. Reference the [Review and Notification section](#) on page 18.

Indirect Costs

The indirect cost rate for SCBGP is limited by federal statute. The rate published in this solicitation document ensures conformity to the federal statute. 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 a proposal.

The maximum indirect cost rate is 8 percent of total personnel costs (budget category *A. Personnel* plus category *B. Fringe Benefits*).

Applicants are responsible for presenting costs incurred for the same purpose in like circumstances consistently and must not include costs associated with an established indirect cost rate agreement as direct costs. In addition, applicants cannot allocate a

cost as a direct cost if it is also incurred as an indirect cost for the same purpose and vice versa.

Direct costs are costs that can be identified specifically with a particular award, project, program, service, or other organizational activity or that can be directly assigned to such an activity relatively easily with a high degree of accuracy. Typically, direct costs include, but are not limited to, compensation of employees who work directly on the award, to include salaries and fringe benefits, travel that is necessary for the project, equipment and supplies used for the project to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops, and the hiring of qualified contractors to achieve project objectives.

Indirect costs (also known as “facilities and administrative costs”) are costs incurred for common or joint objectives that cannot be identified specifically with a particular project, program, or organizational activity. The salaries of administrative and clerical staff should normally be treated as indirect costs. Direct charging of these costs may be appropriate where all of the following conditions are met:

- administrative or clerical services are integral and directly related to a project or activity;
- individuals involved can be specifically identified with the project or activity;
- such costs are explicitly included in the budget or have the prior written approval of the federal awarding agency; and
- the costs are not also recovered as indirect costs.

The following are considered indirect costs and should not be included in the Budget Narrative template as direct costs:

- Information technology services
- Rent
- Utilities and internet service
- Telephone service (mobile and landline)
- General office supplies
- Insurance
- Maintenance

Travel

Consideration should be given to the use of alternative technologies, such as teleconferencing or videoconferencing, if available, appropriate, and less costly.

Domestic Travel

The maximum allowable travel rates are the lesser of the rates in effect at the time of travel, as established by the [U.S. General Services Administration \(GSA\)](#)

(<https://www.gsa.gov/travel/plan-book/per-diem-rates>) or the Recipient's established travel policy. Applicants should apply the [current government mileage rate](#) (<https://www.irs.gov/tax-professionals/standard-mileage-rates>) for personally-owned vehicles used for travel related to the project.

International Travel

The maximum allowable travel rates are the lesser of the rates in effect at the time of travel and must comply with the [Fly America Act, 49 U.S.C. 40118](#) (<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2011-title49/pdf/USCODE-2011-title49-subtitleVII-partA-subpartI-chap401-sec40118.pdf>) and the [U.S. Department of State Standardized Regulations](#) (https://aoprals.state.gov/web920/per_diem.asp).

Review and Notification

Review Criteria

CDFA's intent is to fund projects that can produce the highest degree of measurable benefits to California specialty crop producers in relation to each dollar spent. CDFA also seeks to ensure that funded projects represent all Californians and the entirety of California's diverse specialty crop industry. Applicants' Grant Proposals will be evaluated on the criteria set forth in the [Grant Proposal Questions and Scoring section](#) on page 4.

Review Process

CDFA will conduct two levels of review during the Grant Proposal process. The first level is an administrative review to determine whether Grant Proposal requirements are met, to confirm the project activities and costs are allowable, and, if applicable, to assess the applicant's past CDFA grant performance.

The second level is a technical review to evaluate the merits of the Grant Proposals. The CDFA SCBGP Technical Review Committee (TRC) will perform the technical review. The TRC is comprised of growers and representatives from industry, universities, public agencies, and non-profits with an interest and expertise in specialty crops and agricultural systems. The scores and feedback of the TRC will be the basis of a funding recommendation subject to the approval of the Secretary of CDFA and final approval by USDA. In determining which proposals will be included in CDFA's state plan application to USDA, CDFA may consider several factors beyond the final scores of the TRC. These factors may include, but are not limited to:

- Developing an overall application with the highest likelihood of USDA approval.
- Ensuring a representative distribution of funding across California's specialty crop industry, including by region and commodity.
- Ensuring a representative distribution of funds across funding areas and funding categories.
- Providing adequate representation of California's socially disadvantaged farmers as defined by the [California Farmer Equity Act of 2017](#) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB1348).
- Providing adequate support for nutrition education and improved access in California's underserved communities.

Notification and Feedback

Projects that are disqualified utilizing the criteria below will be notified within 21 days of the Grant Proposal due date. All other applicants will be notified regarding the status of their Grant Proposals by Fall 2025. Successful applicants will receive an award letter with further instructions on the grant agreement process. Applicants not awarded funds will receive administrative and technical review feedback on their Grant Proposals which will be emailed directly to applicants with the formal funding decision announcements.

Disqualifications

The following may result in the disqualification of a project proposal:

- Incomplete proposals, including proposals with one or more unanswered questions necessary to conduct administrative or technical review.
- Incomplete proposals, including proposals with missing, blank, unreadable, corrupt, or otherwise unusable attachments.
- Proposals that include activities outside the grant duration.
- Proposals that include additional content or documentation of any kind to circumvent the character limitations within the FFAST system.
- Proposals for less than the minimum award amount or more than the maximum award amount.
- Proposals with unallowable costs or activities necessary to complete the project objectives, including indirect costs that exceed the 8 percent limit set forth in this document.

Appeal Rights: Any discretionary action taken by the Office of Grants Administration (OGA) may be appealed to CDFA's Office of Hearings and Appeals within 10 calendar days of receiving a notice of disqualification from CDFA. Email notification shall serve as the date of service. The appeal must be in writing and signed by the responsible party named on the grant application or their authorized agent. It must state the grounds for the appeal and include any supporting documents and a copy of the OGA decision being challenged. The submission must be sent to the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Office of Hearings and Appeals, 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 or emailed to CDFA.LegalOffice@cdfa.ca.gov. If submissions are not received within the time frame provided above, the appeal will be disqualified from consideration.

Assistance and Questions

Grant Proposal Webinars

CDFA will conduct two webinars for applicants invited to the Grant Proposal phase, as noted in the [Timeline](#) on page 2. The webinars will provide additional information on developing a Grant Proposal, including allowable and unallowable costs, and participant questions will be addressed. All applicants are encouraged to participate in one of the two webinars. Please visit the [CDFA SCBGP website](#) (https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Specialty_Crop_Competitiveness_Grants/) for links to register.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The general SCBGP FAQ can be found on the [CDFA SCBGP website](#) (https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Specialty_Crop_Competitiveness_Grants/).

Questions and Answers (Q&A)

CDFA will conduct four rounds of Q&A to address general questions about the Grant Proposal phase. Email all questions about the solicitation process to: grants@cdfa.ca.gov. Responses to all questions received during the webinars or by email will be posted to the [CDFA SCBGP website](#) (https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Specialty_Crop_Competitiveness_Grants/) according to the following schedule:

Questions Received by:	Responses Posted by:
December 16, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. PT	December 20, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. PT
December 23, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. PT	December 27, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. PT
December 30, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. PT	January 3, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. PT
January 6, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. PT	January 10, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. PT

January 6, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. PT is the final deadline to submit questions for the Grant Proposal phase.

In order to maintain the integrity of the competitive grant process, CDFA is unable to advise and/or provide individuals with any information regarding specific proposals during the solicitation process.

Appendix A:

Project Objectives and Work Plan Example

Application Name/Title	Specialty Crops are Amazing
Applicant Organization	The California Department of Food and Agriculture
Project Start Date	11/1/2025
Project End Date	06/30/2028

Objective 1: Develop a California specialty crop nutrition campaign, “Cooking with Parents,” aimed at encouraging children to try one new California specialty crop each month and cook with their parents.

Objective 1 Activities	Performed by	Timeline
Develop overall campaign goals and objectives.	Project Director	Nov 2025 - Dec 2025
Create educational poster to be distributed to local schools.	Designer	Jan 2026 – Mar 2026
Prepare take home kits for children to use with their parents.	Project Manager	Mar 2026 – May 2026

Objective 2: Identify local partnerships.

Objective 2 Activities	Performed by	Timeline
Identify local schools that want to participate in the campaign.	Education Manager	May 2026 – Jul 2026
Identify a local chef willing to conduct cooking demonstrations.	Project Manager	May 2026 – Jul 2026
Schedule classroom instruction time.	Project Manager	Jul 2026 – Aug 2026
Conduct a pre-survey to determine children’s knowledge and interest in consuming fruits and vegetables.	Project Evaluator	Aug 2026 – Oct 2026

Objective 3: Conduct “Cooking with Parents,” in local schools.

Objective 3 Activities	Performed by	Timeline
Conduct “Cooking with Parents,” demonstrations in local schools, once a month.	Chef, Nutrition Coordinator	Oct 2026 – Oct 2027
Distribute take home learning kits and encourage students to cook with their parents.	Nutrition Coordinator	Oct 2026 – Oct 2027

Objective 4: Track and publish project results.

Objective 4 Activities	Performed by	Timeline
Conduct a post-project survey and track project results.	Project Evaluator	Oct 2027 – Dec 2027
Publish project results on the company website and social media.	Web Designer	Dec 2027 - Apr 2028

Appendix B: Outcome Measures Example

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program - Outcome Measures
 Form 1.6.1.1. (11.2024)
 State of California
 California Department of Food and Agriculture
 Office of Grants Administration

Application Name/Title:	Specialty Crops are Amazing
Applicant Organization:	The California Department of Food and Agriculture

Select at least one of the seven outcome measures and at least one indicator for each selected outcome. Complete the fillable text fields for the indicator(s) selected. (Note: If there are multiple sub-indicators under the selected indicator, applicants must enter a value for at least one.) Within the Description section, describe the data collection methods for the outcome(s) and indicator(s) selected. Applicants may delete or leave blank any outcomes not applicable to their proposal. Outcome measures and the associated indicators were developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Office of Management and Budget and cannot be altered or amended in any way. Altering the language of the outcomes or indicators or providing responses in a format other than that described in the document will result in disqualification of a proposal.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outcome 1: Increasing Consumption and Consumer Purchasing of Specialty Crops
<input type="checkbox"/> Indicator 1.1: Total number of consumers who gained knowledge about specialty crops Enter number. 1.1a Adults: Enter number. 1.1b Children: Enter number.
<input type="checkbox"/> Indicator 1.2: Total number of consumers who consumed more specialty crops Enter number. 1.2a Adults: Enter number. 1.2b Children: Enter number.
<input type="checkbox"/> Indicator 1.3: Number of additional specialty crop customers counted Enter number.
<input type="checkbox"/> Indicator 1.4: Number of additional business transactions executed Enter number.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indicator 1.5: Increased sales measured in: 1.5a Dollars \$4.5 million. 1.5b Percent change 90. 1.5c Combination of volume and average price as a result of enhanced marketing activities. Volume: Enter number. Average Price: Enter number.
Description of data collection methods: A sales baseline and value of sales increase will be determined in target markets during registration for the following activities: two virtual trade shows, Fresh Produce outbound trade mission, and two in person trade shows. Specialty crop companies will be surveyed and indicate the dollar value of current sales to the respective country the respective trade activity is focused on. This initial survey information will be compiled to establish an average dollar value baseline. Post-mission/promotion surveys will be conducted immediately following each activity and again at 30, 60, and 90 days to ascertain new direct exports sales and dollar value percentage increase in each market. Actual sales dollars will be used to measure progress toward achieving this outcome.

Appendix C:

Budget Narrative Example

Application Name/Title	Specialty Crops are Amazing
Applicant Organization	The California Department of Food and Agriculture
Total Amount of SCBGP Funds Requested	\$181,251

Applicants should review the Grant Proposal Instructions and Allowable and Unallowable Costs and Activities Table available on the [SCBGP website](https://www.cdffa.ca.gov/specialty_crop_competitiveness_grants/) (https://www.cdffa.ca.gov/specialty_crop_competitiveness_grants/) prior to developing their budget narrative.

All expenses described in this budget narrative must be specifically identified and easily and accurately traced to project activities that enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. Only include costs that will be covered by the SCBGP. Do not include any costs/activities that will be covered by cost sharing.

For categories A through H, complete the tables provided below by filling in the requested information; applicants may add or remove rows as needed. In addition, provide a written justification of the costs listed for categories A, C, D, E, F, and G, ensuring justifications address all the specified criteria.

A. Personnel

Personnel Table:

List the employees whose time and effort can be specifically identified and easily and accurately traced to project activities that enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops.

For each employee, provide:

- The individual's name. If not yet identified, enter "To Be Determined" or "TBD".
- The title (e.g., Graduate Student Researcher) or role on the project (e.g., Principal Investigator, Project Manager, etc.).
- The level of effort on the project. For hourly employees, provide the total number of hours to be worked over the entire grant duration. For salaried employees, provide the percent full time equivalent (% FTE).
- The total amount of funds requested for the individual.

IMPORTANT: All individuals listed under category A. Personnel must be listed in the Project Objectives and Work Plan.

#	Name/Title	Level of Effort (# of hours or % FTE)	Funds Requested
1	Jane Scientist, Postdoctoral Researcher	50% FTE	\$55,000
2	To Be Determined, Graduate Student Researcher	25% FTE	\$16,750
3	To Be Determined, Undergraduate Student Assistant	500 Hours	\$6,500
Personnel Subtotal			\$78,250

Personnel Justification:

For each individual listed in the table above, provide a brief summary of their duties and identify the project objective number(s) from the Project Objectives and Work Plan that they will be responsible for completing.

Employee 1: Postdoctoral Researcher, Jane Scientist. The Postdoctoral Researcher will finalize development of the field monitoring design and coordinate with growers, oversee field work, manage curation and identification of specimens, analyze data, and integrate data into the decision model, implement grower field days, prepare the grower newsletter, and conduct project outreach. (Objective 1–7)

Employee 2: Graduate Student Researcher, To Be Determined. The Graduate Student Researcher will help collect field data, curate, and help to identify specimens and enter data, maintain test plots, and participate in project outreach. (Objective 3, 4, and 7)

Employee 3: Undergraduate Student Assistant, To Be Determined. The Undergraduate Student Assistant will help with specimen curation and data entry and will work closely with the Postdoctoral Researcher and the Graduate Student Researcher and perform tasks as needed. (Objective 3)

B. Fringe Benefits

In the table below, provide the fringe benefit rate for each employee that will be paid with SCBGP funds. Fringe benefits are calculated as a percentage of an individual’s Personnel (salary and wages) and should be determined according to the applicant organization’s established fringe benefits policy.

For each employee, provide:

- The individual’s name. If not yet identified, enter “To Be Determined” or “TBD”.
- The title (e.g., Graduate Student Researcher) or role on the project (e.g., Principal Investigator, Project Manager, etc.).
- The fringe benefit rate.
- The total amount of funds requested for the individual.

#	Name/Title	Fringe Benefit Rate (% of salary or wages)	Funds Requested
1	Jane Scientist, Postdoctoral Researcher	19%	\$10,450
2	To Be Determined, Graduate Student Researcher	36%	\$6,030
3	To Be Determined, Undergraduate Student Assistant	2%	\$130
Fringe Subtotal			\$16,610

FRINGE BENEFITS POLICY: The applicant confirms that the organization’s established fringe benefits policy was used in determining the fringe benefits costs listed above.

C. Travel

Travel Table:

Provide a description of all travel in support of project activities that will be covered by SCBGP funds.

Project participants must use the lowest reasonable commercial airfare. Allowable travel costs may not exceed those established by the Federal Travel Regulation, issued by the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), including the maximum per diem and subsistence rates prescribed in those regulations. This information is available at <http://www.gsa.gov>.

For each project related trip, provide:

- The trip destination (city or county, and state). The type of travel expense incurred (e.g., lodging, airfare, mileage, etc.). Add additional rows as needed.
- The unit of measure for each expense (e.g., nights, round trip flights, miles, gallons, etc.).
- The number of units for each expense (e.g., 1 night, 1 round trip flight, 250 miles, 10 gallons, etc.).
- The cost per unit for each expense (e.g., \$96 per night, \$500 per roundtrip flight, \$0.67 per mile, \$5.00 per gallon, etc.).
- The number of individuals claiming each expense.
- The total funds requested.

#	Trip Destination	Type of Expense	Unit of Measure	Number of Units	Cost per Unit	Number Claiming Expense	Funds Requested
1	Monterey, CA	Mileage	Miles	360	\$0.67	1	\$241
		Lodging	Nights	3	\$191.00	2	\$1,146
		Per Diem (first/last)	Days	2	\$69.00	2	\$276
		Per Diem	Days	2	\$93.00	2	\$372
2	Madera, CA	Rental Vehicle	Days	1	\$55.00	1	\$55
		Parking	Days	1	\$16.00	1	\$16
		Fuel	Gallons	10	\$6.00	1	\$60
		Train	Days	1	\$33.00	1	\$33
		Per Diem (first/last)	Days	1	\$60.00	2	\$120
3	Philadelphia, PA	Airfare	Round Trip	1	\$625.00	1	\$625
		Lodging	Nights	3	\$218.00	1	\$654
		Per Diem (first/last)	Days	2	\$69.00	1	\$138
		Per Diem	Days	1	\$92.00	1	\$92
						Travel Subtotal	\$3,828

Travel Justification:

For each trip listed in the table above, provide the approximate dates of travel, the purpose of the trip, a justification for how the trip will achieve the objectives and outcomes of the project, and the title of the person(s) traveling. All trips must correlate with the activities outlined in the Project Objectives and Work Plan. List the project objective number(s) associated with each trip at the end of the justification. Multiple trips to the same destination for the same purpose may be grouped together rather than providing separate, duplicative justifications. If a location for a trip is not known (e.g., the location of a future conference) use the location of a previous year's conference or best, educated estimate.

Trip 1 (11/2025): The Postdoctoral Researcher and the Graduate Student Researcher will travel from Sacramento, CA, to Monterey, CA to conduct a focus group. (Objective 1)

Trip 2 (12/2025): The Postdoctoral Researcher and the Graduate Student Researcher will travel from Sacramento, CA, to Madera, CA for sample collection. (Objective 1, 3-4)

Trip 3 (03/2027): The Postdoctoral Researcher will travel from Sacramento, CA, to Philadelphia, PA to present the project results at the Specialty Crop Research Conference. The conference cost does not include meals. (Objective 7)

SCBGP TRAVEL POLICY: The applicant confirms that the organization will adhere to the travel costs established by the Federal Travel Regulation issued by GSA when completing the above-mentioned trips, including the maximum per diem and subsistence rates prescribed in those regulations. This information is available at <http://www.gsa.gov>.

D. Equipment

Equipment Table:

List any special purpose equipment to be purchased with SCBGP funds. Equipment refers to tangible, nonexpendable, personal property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost that equals to or exceeds \$10,000 per unit, and is used only for research, medical, scientific, or other technical activities.

For each individual unit of equipment, provide:

- The name of the item and manufacturer.
- The grant year in which the equipment will be purchased (e.g., Year 1, Year 2-3).
- The total funds requested per unit (must equal or exceed \$10,000 per unit).

#	Item Description	Acquire When?	Funds Requested
1	Thermo Scientific 8000 AquaMate UV-Vis Spectrometer	Year 1	\$10,995
Equipment Subtotal			\$10,995

Equipment Justification:

For each piece of equipment listed in the table above, provide a description of the item and a justification for how it will be used to achieve the objectives and outcomes of the project. List the project objective number(s) from the Project Objectives and Work Plan associated with each piece of equipment at the end of the justification.

Item 1: A Thermo Scientific 8000 AquaMate UV-Vis Spectrometer is required for processing the water samples needed to achieve Objective 3. This project team does not own or have access to this equipment. (Objective 3)

E. Supplies**Supplies Table:**

List the materials, supplies, and fabricated parts to be purchased with SCBGP funds. Supplies are items costing less than \$10,000 per unit. This does not include general use office supplies.

For each supply, provide:

- The type of supply (do not include office supplies for general use).
- The cost per unit.
- The number of units to be purchased.
- The grant year in which the supply will be purchased (e.g., Year 1, Year 2-3).
- The total funds requested for the supply (must be less than \$10,000 per unit).

#	Item Description	Cost Per Unit	Number of Units	Acquire When?	Funds Requested
1	Sample containers (20/pack)	\$5.00	4	Year 1-2	\$20
2	Pipettes (100/unit)	\$4.00	1	Year 1	\$4
3	Gloves (100/box)	\$15.00	2	Year 1	\$30
4	Glassware	\$100.00	1	Year 1	\$100
5	Petri dishes (500/pack)	\$167.00	1	Year 1	\$167
6	Notebooks	\$2.00	10	Year 1-3	\$20
7	Binders	\$5.00	100	Year 3	\$500
Supplies Subtotal					\$841

Supplies Justification:

For each supply listed in the table above, provide a description of the item(s) and a justification for how it will be used to achieve the objectives and outcomes of the project. All supplies must be tied to specific project activities; do not include general use office supplies. List the project objective number(s) from the Project Objectives and Work Plan associated with each expense at the end of the justification.

Supply 1-6: Supplies needed for collecting and processing samples. (Objective 3)

Supply 7: Binders are needed to provide handouts, worksheets, and other materials to workshop attendees. (Objective 7)

F. Contractual

Contractual Table:

Provide an overview of the contractual costs to be covered with SCBGP funds. Contractual costs are the expenses associated with purchasing goods and/or procuring services performed by an individual or organization other than the applicant in the form of a procurement relationship.

For each contractor that will conduct project activities and receive grant funds, provide:

- The contractor name/organization.
- The fee structure of the contractor (e.g., Salary and Wages, Fees for Professional Services, Flat-Rate). Additional information on fee structures is available in the Procuring Goods and Services Using Federal Funds supplement available on the [SCBGP website](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/specialty_crop_competitiveness_grants/) (https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/specialty_crop_competitiveness_grants/).
- The total funds requested for the contractor.

IMPORTANT: All organizations listed under category F. Contractual must be listed in the Project Objectives and Work Plan.

#	Contractor Name/Organization	Hourly Rate/ Flat Rate	Funds Requested
1	Information Management, Inc.	Hourly Rate	\$27,538
2	Agricultural Imaging Services	Flat Rate	\$30,000
Contractual Subtotal			\$57,538

Contractual Justification:

For each contractor listed in the table above, provide a description of the project activities the contractor will accomplish to achieve the objectives and outcomes of the project.

Provide a justification for any of the following circumstances:

- If the contractor's salary/hourly wages or fee for professional services exceeds the General Schedule Grade 15 Step 10 (GS 15 Step 10) for the locality in which work will occur.
- If the contractor will utilize a flat-rate structure, provide a more detailed description of the activities that will be conducted, provide a justification for the use of a flat-rate fee, and describe the steps taken to determine the rate is reasonable and consistent with fees in the marketplace for similar services.

All activities must correlate with the activities outlined in the Project Objectives and Work Plan. List the project objective number(s) associated with each contractor at the end of the description and justification.

Complete the appropriate budget subcategories for each contractor (except for contractor's using a flat-rate fee structure). Copy additional rows if needed.

Contractor 1: Information Management, Inc. will update the interactive web-based specialty crop decision support system. The hourly rate for the Systems Analyst exceeds the GS 15 Step 10 rate for the Sacramento, CA area. This expense is justified due to the highly specialized nature of the work to be performed and that rates for three Systems Analysts with similar skill sets were obtained showing that this rate is reasonable and consistent with fees in the marketplace for similar services. (Objective 3)

Contractor 1: A. Personnel (Salary and Wages / Fees for Professional Services)

#	Name/Title	Level of Effort (# of hours or % FTE)	Funds Requested
1	Jane Programmer, Systems Analyst	265 Hours	\$18,000
Personnel Subtotal			\$18,000

Personnel Justification:

Employee 1: Systems Analyst, Jane Programmer. The Systems Analyst will update the interactive web-based specialty crop decision support system. (Objective 3)

Contractor 1: B. Fringe Benefits

#	Name/Title	Fringe Benefit Rate (% of salary or wages)	Funds Requested
1	Jane Programmer, Systems Analyst	40%	\$7,200
Fringe Subtotal			\$7,200

FRINGE BENEFITS POLICY: The applicant confirms that the organization's established fringe benefits policy was used in determining the fringe benefits costs listed above.

Contractor 1: C. Travel

#	Trip Destination	Type of Expense	Unit of Measure	Number of Units	Cost per Unit	Number Claiming Expense	Funds Requested
1	Los Banos, CA	Mileage	Miles	240	\$0.67	1	\$161
		Lodging	Nights	1	\$110.00	1	\$110
		Per Diem (first/last)	Days	1	\$51.00	1	\$51
Travel Subtotal							\$322

Travel Justification:

Trip 1 (01/2025): The Systems Analyst will travel from Sacramento, CA, to Los Banos, CA to conduct a workshop. (Objective 7)

SCBGP TRAVEL POLICY: The applicant confirms that the organization will adhere to the travel costs established by the Federal Travel Regulation issued by GSA when completing the above-mentioned trips, including the maximum per diem and subsistence rates prescribed in those regulations. This information is available at <http://www.qsa.gov>.

Contractor 1: D. Equipment

No costs requested

Contractor 1: E. Supplies

No costs requested

Contractor 1: F. Contractual

No costs requested

Contractor 1: G. Other

No costs requested

Contractor 1: H. Indirect Costs

Total Personnel and Fringe Benefits	Indirect Cost Rate	Funds Requested
\$25,200	8%	\$2,016

Contractor 2: Agricultural Imaging Services

Agricultural Imaging Services will obtain airborne multispectral and thermal imagery over selected orchards during the first two growing seasons of the project duration. The purpose is to derive the orchard characteristics including tree density, leaf area index, flowering intensity and duration, and cultivar overlap to be coupled with bee activity and weather data for yield prediction. The intensive flight will be conducted to collect daily bloom imagery over two weeks in February over selected orchards to cover the right mix of factors from south to north. Given the complexity of the task, the contractor could not provide the cost of service on the basis of hourly rate and estimated number of hours. Instead, the cost was calculated based on 75,000 acres of aerial imagery with a flat rate of \$15,000 per year for Year 1 and 2. Quotes were obtained from three vendors. This rate is reasonable and consistent with fees in the marketplace for similar services. The project team has conducted similar work previously at a comparable cost. (Objective 1-3)

PROCUREMENT STANDARDS: The applicant confirms that the organization followed the same policies and procedures used for procurements from non-federal sources, which reflect applicable state and local laws and regulations and conform to the federal laws and standards identified in [2 CFR Part 200.317 through.326](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/retrieveECFR?gp=&SID=313c76bda61d220f0d91e48c3906d090&mc=true&n=sp2.1.200.d&r=SUBPART&ty=HTML#se2.1.200_1317) (https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/retrieveECFR?gp=&SID=313c76bda61d220f0d91e48c3906d090&mc=true&n=sp2.1.200.d&r=SUBPART&ty=HTML#se2.1.200_1317), as applicable. If the contractors are not already selected, the organization will follow the same requirements.

G. Other

Other Table:

List any expenses to be covered with SCBGP funds that are not covered in the previous budget categories. Expenses in this category may include, but are not limited to, fees for meetings and conferences, stipends, advertisements, publication costs, and data collection.

For each expense listed under other, provide:

- The type of expense.
- The cost per unit.
- The number of units to be purchased.
- The grant year in which the supply will be purchased (e.g., Year 1, Year 2-3).
- The total funds requested.

#	Item Description	Cost Per Unit	Number of Units	Acquire When?	Funds Requested
1	Conference registration fee	\$500.00	1	Year 3	\$500
2	Graduate Student Researcher tuition	\$1,700.00	3	Year 1-3	\$5,100
Other Subtotal					\$5,600

Other Justification:

For each expense listed above, provide a description of the expense and a justification for how it will be used to achieve the objectives and outcomes of the project. List the project objective number(s) from the Project Objectives and Work Plan associated with each expense at the end of the justification.

Non-travel related meal costs must include an adequate justification to support that these expenses are not entertainment costs.

Expense 1: Conference registration fees are requested for the Postdoctoral Researcher to present the project results at the Specialty Crop Research Conference. (Objective 7)

Expense 2: A mandatory fee remission for the Graduate Student Researcher (to be hired) is a benefit of employment and is in accordance with University policy. (Objective 1-7)

H. Indirect Costs

Indirect Table:

The indirect cost rate must not exceed 8 percent of: category A. Personnel plus category B. Fringe Benefits.

Indirect costs are any costs that are incurred for common or joint objectives that cannot be readily identified with an individual project, program, or organizational activity. These costs generally include facilities operation and maintenance costs (such as rent, internet, electric, gas, etc.), depreciation, and administrative expenses.

In the table below, provide:

- The total of applicant A. Personnel + B. Fringe Benefits.
- The indirect cost rate to be charged (8 percent maximum).
- The total indirect funds requested.

Total Personnel and Fringe Benefits	Indirect Cost Rate	Funds Requested
\$94,860	8% maximum	\$7,589

I. Program Income

Program income is gross income earned by a recipient or subrecipient under a grant that is directly generated by the grant-supported activity (or earned only because of the grant agreement) during the grant period of performance. Program income includes, but is not limited to, income from fees for services performed, the sale of commodities or items fabricated under an award (this includes items sold at cost if the cost of producing the item was funded in whole or partially with grant funds), registration fees for conferences, etc.

In the table below, provide:

- A description of the source/nature of the program income.
- A detailed explanation of how program income will be reinvested into the project. Note, program income is subject to the same guidelines and restrictions as SCBGP grant funds; therefore, program income must be reinvested into the project to further enhance the project objectives and must be expended on allowable project costs that enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops.
- The total estimated program income.

Source/Nature of Program Income	How will Program Income be Reinvested into the Project to Enhance Specialty Crops?	Estimated Program Income
Nominal fee for general public cooking class.	Income will be used for allowable activities for the program to enhance specialty crops (e.g., purchase of extra specialty crops for cooking classes, production of additional promotional materials, extra supplies for youth intern presentations or enrolling additional ambassadors/guest speakers to teach classes). Estimate based on 30 classes.	\$1,500

Appendix D: Cost Sharing Example

Application Name/Title	Specialty Crops are Amazing
Applicant Organization	The California Department of Food and Agriculture
Total Amount of Cost Share	\$176,448

Instructions:

Amount: Indicate the dollar amount of cost share for each specific type of Cost Share and Source of Cost Share.

Type of Cost Share: Indicate either ‘**matching funds**’ or ‘**in-kind contribution**’.

- Matching funds refer to a dollar amount committed to the project from a source other than the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program.
- An in-kind contribution is the estimated dollar value of any time, property, or supplies donated to your project.

Source: Indicate where the cost share is coming from. This may be the applicant organization or any other organizations contributing to the project.

Summary of Activities or Costs Covered: Explain how the cost share will contribute to the project.

Amount	Type of Cost Share	Source	Summary of Activities or Costs Covered
\$15,000	In-Kind Contribution	California University	Lab Manager Jane Doe will donate 15 percent of her time for two years to supervise plant storage conditions and oversee plant analysis by the Student Assistants.
\$15,000	Matching Funds	California University	California University will pay for travel costs incurred to carry out Objectives 2-3.
\$20,000	In-Kind Contribution	Sprouts Nursery	Sprouts Nursery will donate greenhouse space to be utilized by the Lab Manager Jane Doe to conduct plant analyses. Rental costs of greenhouse space are valued at \$20,000.
\$5,000	Matching Funds	Sprouts Nursery	Sprouts Nursery will pay for 10 percent of salary for a nursery assistant to help with Objectives 1-2.
\$20,000	Matching Funds	Plant Commission	The Plant Commission will purchase field equipment needed for Objectives 1-2 and will pay the publication costs for outreach materials.

*Add additional rows as needed.