Order of Presentations:

- Specialty Crop Block Grant Program Solicitation Process
- Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST)
- Grant Proposal Development
- Audits of Federal Grant Funds

*Questions will be answered following each presentation*
2015 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program Solicitation Process
2015 Request for Concept Proposals

- About the Program
- Solicitation Process and Timeline
- Funding Categories and Program Priorities
- How to Apply
- Concept Proposal Questions
- Requirements and Limitations
- Review and Notification
- Assistance and Questions
- Helpful Tips and Reminders
About the Program

• Annual competitive solicitation process conducted by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).

• Purpose is to award funds for projects that solely enhance the competitiveness of California specialty crops.

Projects must focus *solely* on specialty crops
What are Specialty Crops?

- Fruits, vegetables, and tree nuts
- Culinary and medicinal herbs and spices
- Nursery, floriculture, and horticulture crops

For a list of eligible specialty crops, visit: [www.ams.usda.gov/scbgp](http://www.ams.usda.gov/scbgp)
Funding and Duration

• Project Grant Amounts:
  $50,000 - $450,000

• Project Duration:
  October 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018

• Specialty Crop Block Grant funding is authorized by the Farm Bill.
Eligibility

- Non-Profit and For-Profit Organizations
- Local, State, Federal and Tribal Governments
- Public and Private Colleges and Universities

*Funds cannot benefit a single organization, institution, or individual*
Solicitation Process

**Phase I**
- Concept Proposals submitted
- Admin. review
- Technical review
- Successful applicants invited to Phase II
- Unsuccessful applicants notified

**Phase II**
- Grant Proposals submitted
- Admin. review
- Technical review
- Successful proposals submitted to USDA
- Unsuccessful applicants notified

**Award**
- Proposals approved by USDA
- Successful applicants notified and grant agreements initiated
# Solicitation Timeline

## Phase I: Concept Proposal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Release Request for Concept Proposals</td>
<td>October 30, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops and Webinars</td>
<td>November 4–14, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concept Proposals Due</td>
<td>December 5, 2014, 5:00 pm PST</td>
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</table>

## Phase II: Grant Proposal *(by invitation only)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Invitation to Submit Grant Proposals</td>
<td>February 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Proposals Due</td>
<td>March 22, 2015, 11:59 pm PST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Proposals to USDA for Approval</td>
<td>July 2015</td>
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## Award

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Announce and Award Funding</td>
<td>October 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Funding Categories and Program Priorities

• Market Enhancement
• Specialty Crop Access and Nutrition Education
• Equipping Current and Next Generation Specialty Crop Farmers
• Environmental Stewardship and Conservation
• Plant Health and Pest Management
• Food Safety (separate proposal solicitation)
Market Enhancement

• Projects that increase or develop long-term sales and competitiveness of specialty crop products.

• Program Priorities:
  
  ○ *Enhance the marketability and competitiveness of specialty crops through the development of markets (local, domestic, and international) for all California producers to leverage the work and commitment of a diversity of stakeholders.*
Specialty Crop Access and Nutrition Education

- Projects that improve access to and consumption of specialty crops.
- Projects that improve knowledge of the benefits of specialty crops to the health and well-being of all Californians.

Program Priorities:
  - Expand access to healthy, safe California specialty crops at school, at work, and in neighborhoods.
Equipping Current and Next Generation Specialty Crop Farmers

• Projects that benefit current and future specialty crop farmers through education and training.

• Program Priorities:
  o *Ensure the viability of California specialty crops by investing in the next generation of operators.*
Environmental Stewardship and Conservation

• Projects that enhance soil health and conservation of agricultural land, water, habitat, and biodiversity.

• Projects that address specialty crop agriculture’s contribution to adaptation and/or mitigation of climate change.

• Program Priorities:
  o Expand stewardship practices, natural resource conservation, and the development of ecosystem services to improve the environmental and financial performance of California specialty crop growers.
Plant Health and Pest Management

• Projects that address pests and diseases that affect the production or marketability of California’s specialty crops.

• Program Priorities:
  
  ○ *Applied research related to the probability and impact of invasive pests, disease, and weed threats to specialty crops, and research to develop tools to detect, eradicate, and control pests and diseases.*
Food Safety

- Partnership with the Center for Produce Safety (CPS)
- Separate solicitation

For more information, visit: cps.ucdavis.edu
How to Apply

- Partnership with State Water Resources Control Board
- Online application form: FAAAST
- User account needed

Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAAST)

https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov
Review and Notification

- 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
  - Administrative: Internal
  - Technical: External
Elements of the Concept Proposal

- Organization Type
- Funding Category
- Project Description
- Project Purpose
- Prior Year SCBGP Projects
- Sustainability
- Potential Impact
- Socially Disadvantaged/Beginning Farmers
- Expected Measurable Outcome(s)
- Project Duration
- Work Plan
- Budget
## Concept Proposal Budget

**2015 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program**  
**Concept Proposal Budget**

**Instructions:** Complete each budget category by entering the amount of grant funds budgeted for each category and corresponding grant year. Sections H and J will automatically calculate, no entry is required. Please note: The "Total Grant Funds" listed in the concept proposal budget must match the amount listed in FAAST under "Funds Requested."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Categories</th>
<th>Year 1 (10/2015 - 09/2016)</th>
<th>Year 2 (10/2016 - 09/2017)</th>
<th>Year 3 (10/2017 - 06/2018)</th>
<th>Total Grant Funds</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Personnel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Fringe Benefits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Travel¹</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>D. Special Purpose Equipment (&gt; $5,000)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>E. Supplies (&lt; $5,000)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Contractual²</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>H. Total Direct Costs (sum of sections A-G)</strong></td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Indirect Costs³</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Total Grant Funds (sum of sections H+I)</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>K. Program Income⁴</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


3. Cannot Exceed 5% of Personnel + Fringe Benefits. If Indirect Costs exceed 5%, the cell will alert applicant by turning red and adjustments must be made.

4. If applicable, estimate the amount of program income that will be generated by the project for each year of the grant.
Federal Administrative Requirements and Cost Principles

• Projects awarded funding in the 2015 SCBGP will begin after the implementation of the Office of Management and Budget’s Uniform Guidance (“Supercircular”).

• State, local or Indian tribal governments, non-profit organizations, colleges and universities will be subject to 2 CFR 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards.

• For-profit organizations will be subject to 48 CFR Subpart 31.2.

• All organization types are subject to 7 CFR 3015 and 7 CFR 3052.
Unallowable Costs

• The 2014 USDA Request for Proposal and Grant Award Terms and Conditions included substantial changes in the unallowable costs and activities for this grant program.

• The Request For Concept Proposals provides a detailed summary of the costs and activities prohibited in this program.
Frequently Asked Questions

- Email questions to: grants@cdfa.ca.gov
- Questions posted to CDFA website: www.cdfa.ca.gov/grants
## Resources

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CDFA, Federal Funds Management Office</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Website</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/grants">www.cdfa.ca.gov/grants</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Email</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:grants@cdfa.ca.gov">grants@cdfa.ca.gov</a></td>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Website</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://cps.ucdavis.edu">cps.ucdavis.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Telephone</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(530) 757-5777</td>
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</table>

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<tr>
<th>USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Website</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.ams.usda.gov/scbgp">www.ams.usda.gov/scbgp</a></td>
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</table>