



W E L C O M E

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



California Department of Food and Agriculture
Federal Funds Management Office

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

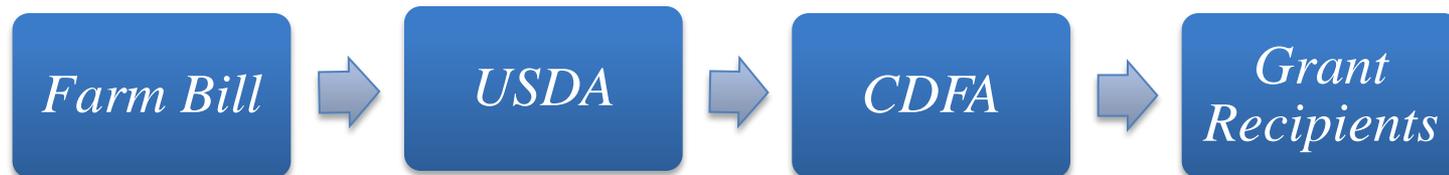
For a list of eligible specialty crops, visit:

www.ams.usda.gov/scbgp



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.



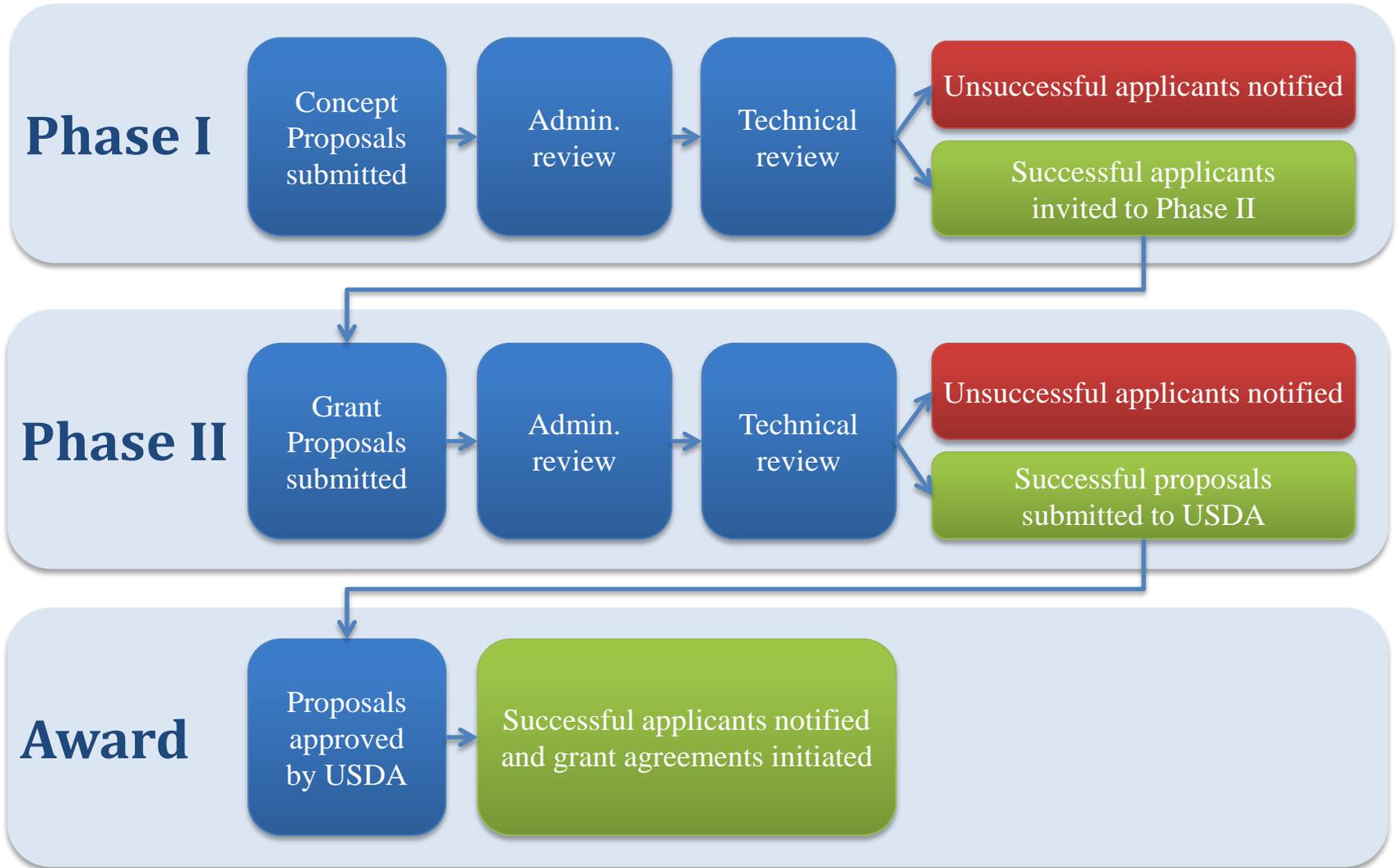


Eligibility

- 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





Solicitation Timeline

Phase I: Concept Proposal

Release Request for Concept Proposals

October 30, 2014

Workshops and Webinars

November 4–14, 2014

Concept Proposals Due

December 5, 2014, 5:00 pm PST

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

Invitation to Submit Grant Proposals

February 2015

Grant Proposals Due

March 22, 2015, 11:59 pm PST

Grant Proposals to USDA for Approval

July 2015

Award

Announce and Award Funding

October 2015



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:
 - *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:
 - *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: FFAST
- User account needed



Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FFAST)

<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."

PIN #

Budget Categories	Year 1 (10/2015 - 09/2016)	Year 2 (10/2016 - 09/2017)	Year 3 (10/2017 - 06/2018)	Total Grant Funds	Description Brief description of planned activities/costs per category
A. Personnel				\$0	
B. Fringe Benefits				\$0	
C. Travel ¹				\$0	
D. Special Purpose Equipment (>\$5,000)				\$0	
E. Supplies (<\$5,000)				\$0	
F. Contractual ²				\$0	
G. Other				\$0	
H. Total Direct Costs (sum of sections A-G)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
I. Indirect Costs ³				\$0	
J. Total Grant Funds (sum of sections H+I)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
K. Program Income ⁴				\$0	

¹ The maximum travel rates allowable are established by the California Department of Human Resources (CalHR). Exceptions: University of California applicants must comply with the University Policies and Federal applicants must comply with Federal Travel Policies. To access CalHR visit <http://www.calhr.ca.gov/emdcovees/paes/travel-meals.aspx>. For states outside of California, travel be found on the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) website at <http://www.gsa.gov/cortal/categories/104877>.

² Contractual hourly rates cannot exceed GS-15 step 10. To access the GS-15 step 10 visit the website below and click on 2014 General Schedule and Locality Pay Tables. <http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/2014/general-schedule>

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

CDFA, Federal Funds Management Office

Website

www.cdfa.ca.gov/grants

Email

grants@cdfa.ca.gov

Center for Produce Safety

Website

cps.ucdavis.edu

Telephone

(530) 757-5777

USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service

Website

www.ams.usda.gov/scbgp