

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program – Additional Assistance for Historically Underrepresented Organizations Application

Form 1.6.1.3. (Rev. 08.2024)

State of California

California Department of Food and Agriculture

Office of Grants Administration

Contact Information

Submit completed application via email through grants@cdfa.ca.gov

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Project Title: _____

PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

SECONDARY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Organizational Information

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant Organization: _____

Organization Type: _____

Applicant Mailing Address:

Website: _____

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT ORGANIZATION

Provide a brief overview of the applicant organization.

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California Senate and Assembly District

Applicants can select California Senate Districts and California Assembly Districts in the boxes below. 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".

California Senate District:

California Assembly District:

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Taxpayer Identification Number (xx-xxxxxxx):

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI): _____

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Submitting Organization: _____

Submitter Name: _____

Submitter Phone Number: _____

Submitter Email:

Concept Proposal

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

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 specific to the proposed project, rather than the applicant organization as a whole.

COOPERATING ENTITIES:

If applicable, please enter the name of any cooperating entities and provide a brief description of what their role and contribution to the project will be.

FUNDING CATEGORY:

Select the most appropriate funding area and category for the project. Please refer to pages 5-7 of the [2025 SCBGP Additional Assistance for Historically Underrepresented Organizations Request for Concept Proposals](#).

Category A: Healthy Specialty Crops for All Californians

Category B: Equity, Opportunity, and Education for All California Specialty Crop Farmers

PROGRAM PRIORITIES:

Using the checkboxes, select one (or more) of the priorities for the chosen funding category. Selecting more than one program priority is not required.

Category A: Healthy Specialty Crops for All Californians

Education to increase specialty crop consumption through healthy eating habits.

Increasing knowledge of how to produce, prepare, or preserve specialty crops.

Increasing the awareness of and demand for locally sourced specialty crops.

Increasing the availability of specialty crops in homes, schools, the workplace, hospitals, prisons, and other underserved communities.

Increasing specialty crop production and/or distribution capacity into underserved urban and rural communities.

Increasing consumption of healthy California specialty crops in schools by developing connections between farmers and school nutrition directors/officials that include tools and resources for building strong partnerships.

Increasing the availability of specialty crops in underserved urban and/or rural areas with limited access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

Providing outreach and educational opportunities in underserved communities about growing, purchasing, and/or consuming specialty crops.

Category B: Equity, Opportunity, and Education for All California Specialty Crop Farmers

Introducing and recruiting young and beginning farmers, as well as members of socially disadvantaged and underrepresented groups, including women and veterans, to the variety of specialty crop career opportunities.

Providing support to specialty crop producers in adopting the requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act.

Providing training to support specialty crop producers in adopting methods to reduce water use and improve water efficiency.

Creating and implementing workforce training programs to develop and maintain the technical skills required to keep the California specialty crops sector competitive.

Providing technical assistance and training to better equip farmers to protect and conserve natural resources through on-farm practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase carbon sequestration, and adjust to a changing climate.

Assisting specialty crop farmers in adapting to ongoing impacts of COVID-19, including addressing workplace health and safety requirements and market uncertainty and by increasing equity in food systems.

Conducting outreach to increase the safety and security of the specialty crop food system.

Providing culturally appropriate outreach and training on agronomic, economic (farm business and marketing skills), and/or environmental stewardship skills to socially disadvantaged California specialty crop producers.

Providing training on historical or cultural solutions to plant health, conservation practices, and pest management concerns.

Highlighting and encouraging awareness of culturally significant specialty crops and/or cultivation practices for farmers and/or consumers.

Developing culturally appropriate networking and training opportunities for socially disadvantaged specialty crop farmers to develop business and technical skills to enhance their specialty crop business.

PROJECT PURPOSE:

This section should focus on the proposed project rather than the general activities of the applicant organization. Please provide an answer for each prompt.

Identify the specific and existing issue, problem, or need the project will address.

Explain why the proposal is important and timely for the specialty crop industry.

Explain how the project addresses the selected priority or priorities from the Project Priorities section above. The program priorities are described in the [Request for Concept Proposals](#).

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY:

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program 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.

PROJECT BENEFICIARIES:

Estimate the number of project beneficiaries. The number cited should be a reasonable estimate of the number of unique individuals that could realistically be directly impacted by the results of the project during the grant duration. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that the number of beneficiaries is trackable and reportable.

Number of Beneficiaries:

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).

Succinctly address how the proposal benefits the specialty crop industry, rather than directly benefiting single individuals, such as those who will receive education/training, or a single organization, such as the applicant.

Work Plan and Outreach

PROJECT DURATION

Within the text boxes provided, enter a start and end date for the project. Projects cannot start before November 1, 2025, or continue beyond June 30, 2028. Failure to provide a project start and end date within the allowable duration may result in disqualification.

Start Date:

End Date:

Briefly describe the project activities that are necessary to accomplish project objectives and support outcome measures. Each project activity should include an approximation of when it will occur (MON YYYY; e.g., Dec 2025, or May 2027 – Jun 2027, etc.). Include tasks for all personnel responsible for carrying out project activities. (*Only grant-funded activities occurring during the timeframe of the proposed project should be included. Do not include activities funded with matching funds and/or in-kind contributions.*)

Describe how the project results will be shared with the target audience, stakeholders, and other interested parties beyond those directly involved in the project. Examples of such outreach activities include presentations at professional conferences or producer meetings or agricultural press, educational brochures, websites, etc. Note that advertising the project to potential participants does not qualify as outreach to industry.

Outcome Measures

Select the applicable outcome measure(s), indicators(s) and, if applicable, sub-indicator(s). All of the following must be addressed:

- Outcome: Using the check boxes provided, select one or more of the seven outcome measures.
- Indicator: Using the check boxes provided, identify one or more indicators for each selected outcome. Complete the fillable text fields for each indicator selected. 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.

All selected outcome measures and related indicators/sub-indicators must be achievable during the grant duration.

For additional information reference the [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). 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.

<input 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 _____. 1.1a Adults: _____. 1.1b Children: _____.
<input type="checkbox"/> Indicator 1.2: Total number of consumers who consumed more specialty crops _____. 1.2a Adults: _____. 1.2b Children: _____.
<input type="checkbox"/> Indicator 1.3: Number of additional specialty crop customers counted _____.
<input type="checkbox"/> Indicator 1.4: Number of additional business transactions executed _____.

☐ **Indicator 1.5:** Increased sales measured in:

1.5a Dollars \$ _____.

1.5b Percent change _____.

1.5c Combination of volume and average price as a result of enhanced marketing activities. Volume: _____. Average Price: _____.

Description of data collection methods:

☐ **Outcome 2:** Increasing Access to Specialty Crops and Expanding Specialty Crop Production and Distribution

☐ **Indicator 2.1:** Number of stakeholders that gained technical knowledge about producing, preparing, procuring, and/or accessing specialty crops _____.

☐ **Indicator 2.2:** Number of stakeholders that reported producing, preparing, procuring, and/or accessing more specialty crops _____.

☐ **Indicator 2.3:** Total number of market access points for specialty crops developed or expanded _____. Of those:

2.3a Number of new online portals created to sell specialty crops _____.

2.3b Number with expanded seasonal availability _____.

2.3c Number of existing market access points that expanded specialty crop offerings _____.

2.3d Number of new market access points that established specialty crop offerings _____.

☐ **Indicator 2.4:** Number of stakeholders that gained knowledge about more efficient and effective distribution systems _____.

☐ **Indicator 2.5:** Number of stakeholders that adopted best practices or new technologies to improve distribution systems _____.

☐ **Indicator 2.6:** Total number of partnerships established between producers, distributors, and/or other relevant intermediaries related to distribution systems _____. Of those established:

2.6a Number formalized with written agreements (i.e. MOU's, signed contracts, etc.) _____.

2.6b Number of partnerships with underserved organizations _____.

☐ **Indicator 4.6:** Number of producers/processors improving the efficiency of pest and disease control diagnostics and response testing, as reported by:

4.6a Improving speed _____.

4.6b Improving reliability _____.

4.6c Expanding capability _____.

4.6d Increasing testing (i.e. survey work for pests) _____.

Description of data collection methods:

☐ **Outcome 5:** Develop New Seed Varieties and Specialty Crops

☐ **Indicator 5.1:** Number of cultivar and/or variety trials conducted _____.

Of those:

5.1a The number that advanced to further stages of development

☐ **Indicator 5.2:** Number of cultivars and/or seed varieties developed _____.

☐ **Indicator 5.3:** Number of cultivars and/or seed varieties released

☐ **Indicator 5.4:** Number of growers adopting new cultivars and/or varieties

☐ **Indicator 5.5:** Number of acres planted with new cultivars and/or varieties

Description of data collection methods:

<input type="checkbox"/> Outcome 6: Expand Specialty Crop Research and Development
<input type="checkbox"/> Indicator 6.1: Number of research goals accomplished _____.
<input type="checkbox"/> Indicator 6.2: For research conclusions, the number that: 6.2a Yielded findings that supported continued research _____. 6.2b Yielded findings that led to completion of study _____. 6.2c Yielded findings that allow for implementation of new practice, process, or technology _____.
<input type="checkbox"/> Indicator 6.3: Number of industry representatives and other stakeholders who engaged with research results _____.
<input type="checkbox"/> Indicator 6.4: Total number of research outputs published to industry publications and/or academic journals _____. For each published research output, the: 6.4a Number of views/reads of published research/data _____. 6.4b Number of citations counted _____.
Description of data collection methods:

<input type="checkbox"/> Outcome 7: Improve Environmental Sustainability of Specialty Crops
<input type="checkbox"/> Indicator 7.1: Number of stakeholders that gained knowledge about environmental sustainability best practices, tools, or technologies _____.
<input type="checkbox"/> Indicator 7.2: Number of stakeholders reported with an intent to adopt environmental sustainability best practices, tools, or technologies _____.
<input type="checkbox"/> Indicator 7.3: Number of producers that adopted environmental best practices or tools _____.
<input type="checkbox"/> Indicator 7.4: Number of new tools/technologies developed or enhanced to improve sustainability/ conservation or other environmental outcomes _____.

☐ **Indicator 7.5:** Number of additional acres managed with sustainable practices, tools, or technologies that focused on:

7.5a Water quality/conservation _____.

7.5b Soil health _____.

7.5c Biodiversity _____.

7.5d Reduction in energy use _____.

7.5e Other positive environmental outcomes (optional) _____.

☐ **Indicator 7.6:** Number of additional acres established and maintained for the mutual benefit of pollinators/specialty crops _____.

Description of data collection methods:

Budget

COST SHARING

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 or include donations) can demonstrate that SCBGP funds will not be used for these costs. Please indicate whether your project will have cost sharing:

Yes

No

If yes, please indicate the dollar amount.

BUDGET:

For each budget category described in column one below, enter the amount of SCBGP funds requested (rounded to the nearest whole dollar) in column two and a description of the costs or activities to be covered in column three. A description is required for each budget category in which funds are requested, except for category *H. Indirect Costs* and category *I. Total SCBGP Funds Requested*.

Budget Categories	Amount of Funds Requested	Description of Costs or Activities
A. Salary and Wages Cost of salary and wages for time spent working on the project by employees of the applicant organization.	\$	
B. Fringe Benefits Cost of fringe benefits for time spent working on the project in accordance with the applicant organization's established fringe benefits policy.	\$	

Budget Categories	Amount of Funds Requested	<i>Description of Costs or Activities</i>
C. Travel Cost of project related travel for all individuals except contractual personnel.	\$	
D. Special Purpose Equipment Cost to purchase special purpose equipment (for items greater than \$10,000 per unit) necessary to achieve project objectives.	\$	
E. Supplies Cost to purchase supplies (for items less than \$10,000 per unit) necessary to achieve project objectives.	\$	

Budget Categories	Amount of Funds Requested	Description of Costs or Activities
F. Contractual Cost of work by individuals/organizations other than the applicant (e.g., cooperators, consultants, contractors, partners, etc.).	\$	
G. Other Cost of all other expenses (e.g., conference registration, speaker/trainer fees, stipends, publication fees, data collection, lab analysis, rentals, subscriptions, etc.).	\$	
H. Indirect Costs Facilities and administrative costs.	\$	Must not exceed 8.00% of total personnel costs (A. Salary and Wages + B. Fringe Benefits)
I. Total SCBGP Funds Requested Sum of categories A through H.	\$	Must be within the grant funding range as specified in the Request for Concept Proposals.
J. Program Income Income (if any) that may be generated by a supported activity or earned as a result of the award.	\$	