

2026 CalAgPlate Grant Program

Frequently Asked Questions

1. When are CalAgPlate Grant Proposals due?

Applicants are required to complete and submit the 2026 CalAgPlate Grant Proposal Application online using the [Grant Opportunity and Administration and Tracking System \(GOATS\)](https://applications.cdfa.ca.gov/grants/s/) (<https://applications.cdfa.ca.gov/grants/s/>) no later than 9:00 a.m. PT on November 2, 2026. Late submissions will not be accepted.

2. Is there a user guide for the CDFA Grant Opportunity and Administration and Tracking System (GOATS) application?

Yes, a GOATS application User Guide can be found on the [CalAgPlate Website](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/egov/calagplate/) (<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/egov/calagplate/>).

3. Are CalAgPlate Grant Proposal applications available as a Word document?

All 2026 CalAgPlate Grant Proposals must be submitted using [GOATS](https://applications.cdfa.ca.gov/grants/s/) (<https://applications.cdfa.ca.gov/grants/s/>). Other submission methods will not be accepted and will result in disqualification of the proposal.

4. Can changes be made to the Grant Proposal before the application deadline?

Changes can be made to Grant Proposals that have already been submitted via GOATS. Please refer to the [GOATS User Guide](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/egov/calagplate/) (<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/egov/calagplate/>) for directions on how to recall an already submitted Grant Proposal and make the necessary changes. Please note that applications cannot be recalled or changed after the submission deadline.

5. Where can applicants find the character limits for each question?

The character limit for each question is provided in GOATS. This limit includes letters, numbers, punctuation, spaces, and special characters. The character limits are also available in the [RFP](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/egov/calagplate/) (<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/egov/calagplate/>).

6. Can an organization submit multiple Grant Proposals for the CalAgPlate grant?

No, applicant organizations may only submit one Grant Proposal to the CalAgPlate Program. If multiple proposals are submitted, CDFA will only consider the first proposal received and any additional proposals will be disqualified.

7. What is the maximum grant duration for any proposed project?

The maximum grant duration is one (1) year, six (6) months, and grant funds cannot be expended before January 1, 2027, or after June 30, 2028.

8. Who is eligible to apply for CalAgPlate funding?

Under Tier 1, eligibility is restricted to the California Future Farmers of America (FFA) Association, the nonprofit organization that represents state-adopted Agricultural Education Programs.

Under Tier 2, eligibility is restricted to non-profit organizations, as well as state, local, and Indian tribal government agencies within California that promote and administer agricultural education and leadership programs.

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- 9. Are recipients who were awarded previous CalAgPlate funding eligible to apply for 2026 CalAgPlate?**
Yes, recipients awarded previous CalAgPlate funding are eligible to apply for 2026 CalAgPlate.
- 10. Are organizations other than the California FFA Association eligible for Tier 1 funding?**
Yes, organizations other than the California FFA Association are eligible for Tier 1 funding; however, organizations need to coordinate directly with the California FFA Association to be eligible. You can contact the California FFA Association at (209) 744-1600 or by email at: mpatton@calagteachers.org or mfreitas@californiaffa.org.
- 11. What is the definition of post-secondary and adult education?**
For the purposes of the CalAgPlate Program, post-secondary and adult education includes, but is not limited to, academies, colleges, seminaries, institutes of technology, vocational schools, trade schools, and foundations.
- 12. Are Universities eligible to apply under adult education?**
No, universities are ineligible to directly apply* for CalAgPlate funding, however, they can partner with eligible organizations on a proposed CalAgPlate project.
- *Note: Nonprofit programs administered or managed by a university, such as the 4-H Youth Development Program, are exempt from this limitation.*
- 13. Can CalAgPlate funds be used to train agriculture educators?**
Yes, CalAgPlate funds may support the training of agriculture educators under Tier 2 funding.
- 14. Can CalAgPlate funds be used for a scholarship program?**
No, CalAgPlate funds cannot be used to support, augment, or create scholarship programs.
- 15. Can CalAgPlate funds be used for technology costs?**
Yes, technology costs may be allowable if costs are necessary to accomplish CalAgPlate project goals and objectives.
- 16. Can CalAgPlate funds be used to promote the CalAgPlate Program and the purchase or renewal of California Agricultural specialized license plates?**
Yes, up to \$500 in CalAgPlate funds may be used to promote the awareness of the CalAgPlate Program and the purchase and renewal of the plate from the California Department of Motor Vehicles.
- 17. What is considered program income?**
Program income refers to net income generated during the grant period by a supported project activity or earned as a direct result of the awarded grant. If a project will generate program income, applicants must provide a description in the Budget Narrative of how it will be generated and how it will be used to further the CalAgPlate project. Program income cannot be used for unallowable costs or activities.

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18. Will the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) provide answers to specific questions regarding the eligibility of grant proposals or assist applicants with selecting a funding category?

To maintain the integrity of a competitive grant process, CDFA is unable to advise or provide individuals with feedback on specific proposals during the solicitation process. CDFA cannot advise applicants on the most appropriate funding category for a specific Grant Proposal. Applicants are responsible for determining whether their proposed project meets the eligibility requirements and criteria established for the CalAgPlate program.

19. Will recipients of CalAgPlate funds have to submit invoices to be reimbursed?

Yes. If awarded, CalAgPlate recipients will be subject to all applicable State regulations and will be required to submit invoices with adequate supporting documentation for expenditures at least quarterly, but no more frequently than monthly, to seek reimbursement.

20. Will recipients of CalAgPlate funds be able to request advance payments?

Yes, non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations may be eligible to receive an advance payment. Advance payments may not exceed 25 percent of the total award. Advance payment requests must be submitted to CDFA for approval.

21. Will recipients be required to submit progress reports throughout the grant duration?

No, progress reports are not required throughout the grant duration. However, recipients must submit a Final Performance Report at the end of the project that identifies goals and objectives achieved, including quantifiable results, successes, project delays or lessons learned, and any other pertinent information.