

The Healthy Soils Program

Request for Proposals: Consideration of New Management Practices for Funding through the Healthy Soils Program

Released:

November 6, 2017

Proposals Due:

By 5:00 p.m. PST on December 18, 2017

Late submissions will not be considered.



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Background

The Healthy Soils Program (HSP) stems from the California Healthy Soils Initiative, a collaboration of state agencies and departments that promotes the development of healthy soils on California's farmlands and ranchlands. The program has two components: the HSP Incentives Program and the HSP Demonstration Projects. Objectives of the HSP are to build soil organic carbon and reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases (GHGs) by (1) providing financial incentives to California growers and ranchers for agricultural management practices that sequester carbon, reduce atmospheric GHGs and improve soil health, (2) funding on-farm demonstration projects that showcase conservation management practices that mitigate GHG emissions and increase soil health, and (3) creating a platform promoting widespread adoption of conservation management practices throughout the state. The HSP Incentives Program addresses Objective 1 and the HSP Demonstration Projects addresses Objectives 2 and 3. The HSP is currently funded by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF).

As part of the program development process, CDFA identified specific management practices¹ that would be eligible for funding through the HSP and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) developed the quantification methodology (QM) to calculate GHG emissions reduction achieved through the implementation of these practices. As a result of public comments and stakeholder engagement at a public meeting of the [Environmental Farming Act – Science Advisory Panel \(the Science Panel\) on May 18, 2017](#), a process to allow stakeholders and interested parties to submit proposals for consideration of additional agricultural management practices to be eligible for funding through the program has been established. This Request for Proposals outlines the process and requirements for consideration of additional new agricultural management practices for the HSP.

Proposal Submission Guidelines

All interested parties must submit proposals that adhere to the following guidelines:

- A submission must include the full name, organizational affiliation (if applicable) and contact information (phone number and email at a minimum) of the submitting individual or entity.
- All proposals must be emailed to cdfa.oefi@cdfa.ca.gov no later than 5:00 p.m. PST on Monday, December 18, 2017.
- Practices proposed for consideration must not be proprietary or involve the usage of exclusive, proprietary products, materials or equipment.
- Proposals must include peer-reviewed and publicly available research literature in support of the practice(s) being proposed, demonstrating that implementing these practices will achieve GHG benefits, such as nitrous oxide emissions reduction or carbon sequestration.

¹ A list of practices eligible for funding through the HSP can be found on pages 6-7 of the [Request for Grant Applications for the HSP Incentives Program](#) and on pages of [the Request for Grant Applications for the HSP Demonstration Projects](#).

- Field study design and research findings submitted in support of the practice must be statistically sound and significant (e.g. randomized experimental design with minimum three replicates and statistical analysis).
- The proposal must be submitted in PDF format, single-spaced with font size of 11 or larger, and maximum three pages, excluding supporting information such as research papers and data.

Evaluation Process

There will be a multi-step evaluation process. CDFA HSP staff will review submitted proposals on the agronomic and scientific soundness of the proposed practices and the potential to sequester carbon and achieve GHG reductions. CDFA, in consultation with CARB, will then evaluate the proposed practices to determine if sufficient scientific information is available to estimate GHG reductions from implementation of proposed practices under California conditions. An updated list of selected practices will then be presented at a public meeting of the Science Panel. An approximate timeline for this process is outlined below:

Activity	Tentative Dates (subject to change)
Request for Proposals released	November 6, 2017
Proposals due	December 18, 2017
CDFA evaluation of proposals	December - January 2017
Agency review	February 2018
Presentation to the Science Panel	March 2018