

Block Grant Pilot Programs

State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program(SWEEP) and Healthy
Soils Program (HSP)

Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation

Workshop to Support Public Comment Period

November 29, 2022

Public Comment Period: November 16 – December 15, 2022



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Agenda

Welcome

CDFA Introductions

Block Grant Pilot Presentation

Questions and Discussion

Summary of Proposed Funding

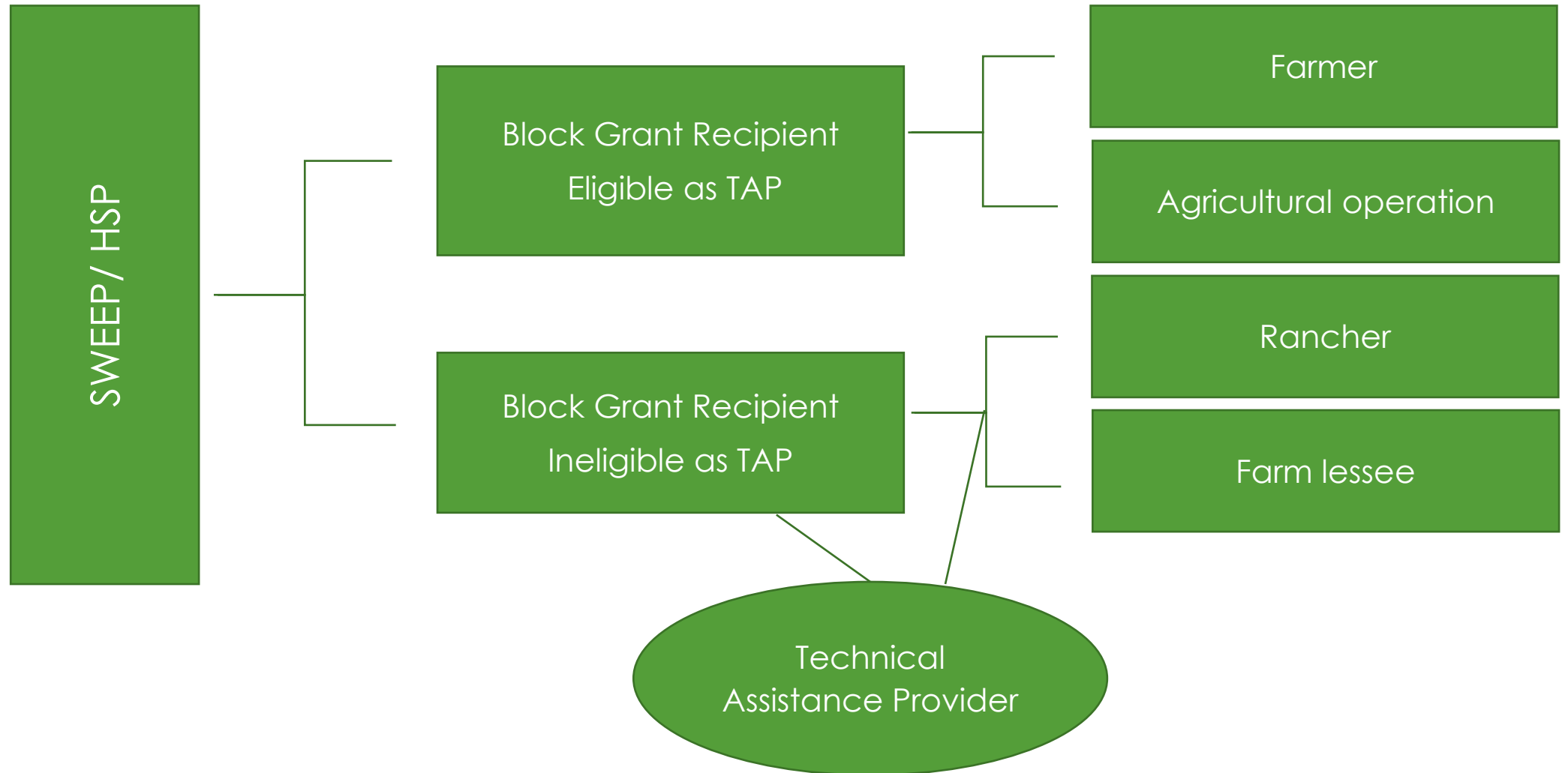
SWEEP

- Total: \$40 million
- Per Block Grant : \$2-5 million
- Admin Cost: 15%
- TAP: 5%
- Per On-farm Project: \$200,000
- Grant Term: 3 years

HSP

- Total: \$35 million
- Per Block Grant : \$2- 5 million
- Admin Cost: 15%
- TAP: 5%
- Per On-farm Project: \$200,000
- Grant Term: 4 years

Program Structure



Eligibility: Block Grant Recipient

- Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs)
- University of California (UC), California Community Colleges, or California State Universities (CSU)
- Federally- and California-Recognized Native American Indian Tribes
- Local or regional government agencies such as air pollution control districts.
- Nonprofits including, but not limited to:
 - Groundwater Sustainability Agencies
 - Irrigation districts
 - Land trusts

Eligibility: Technical Assistance Providers

- Codified in [AB 2377 \(2018, Irwin\)](#)
 - Resource Conservation Districts
 - University of California Cooperative Extension
 - Nonprofit organizations
- If Block grant recipients are not one of these organizations:
 - Must partner with one to be eligible for grant

Program Objectives

	Objective	Description	Responsible Entity
1	Outreach Plan	Block Grant Recipient will perform outreach and identify farmers and ranchers for participation	BGR
2	Project Development Technical Assistance	Work closely with the grant beneficiary, prepare a project design, GHG estimation and other project documents	TAP and Grant Beneficiary
3	Submit Project Level Data for CDFA clearance	Project level data and supporting documentation to CDFA for clearance	BGR and TAP
4	Provide Implementation	Support project implementation, find alternatives	TAP and Grant Beneficiary
5	Disbursement of Funding	Disburse funding to partners and Grant Beneficiary	BGR
6	Verify and Report Progress on HSP Projects	Collect documents, Confirm meet program requirements, submit verification reports to CDFA	BGR
7	Communication and Reporting	Attend required trainings provided by CDFA and maintain communication with CDFA	BGR

Eligibility: On-farm Project

Physical address in California

Farmers, Ranchers and business entities

Tribes

Non-profits as ag operations

One award per appropriation

Block Grant Proposal Review Process

- Two step process
 - Administrative Review
 - Review completeness of application
 - Disqualifications may be appealed
 - Technical Review
 - Evaluated and scored based on scoring criteria



Scoring Criteria: HSP

Criteria	Maximum Points
Qualification of Applicants	25
Strategic Partnerships	10
Workplan Merit and Feasibility	25
Budget	15
Statement of Need	25
Total	100

* CDFA may consider equitable regional distribution as additional criterion for selecting awards

Scoring Criteria: SWEEP

Criteria	Maximum Points
Qualification of Applicants	35
Workplan	25
Budget	15
Statement of Need	25
Total	100

* CDFA may consider equitable regional distribution as additional criterion for selecting awards

Award Process

Grant Agreement Stage	Estimated Time for Stage Completion*
Grant packet is completed – During this step, CDFA will work with awardees to get the information the state needs to execute the grant. The timeline for this step is dependent on how quickly information is provided to CDFA staff.	Variable
Grant Execution	Up to 90 days
Processing advance payments – If awardees request and are granted an advance payment, please be aware that it will take up to 4 weeks to process this payment once the grant is executed.	Up to 4 weeks

On-Farm Project Selection

Through outreach and transparent selection process, the Block Grant Recipients will determine on-farm projects to support. Details to be provided to CDFA for review and clearance

HSP

- Project specific details
- CDFA will review whether practices were previously awarded
- County, APN and practices information will be required

SWEEP

- Project specific details
- CDFA will review conflict with:
 - Program requirements
 - Award cap
 - Previously funded APNs – projects may not remove past components, but can build upon past projects

Reporting: Project selection and approval

- Letter of commitment
- Project details
- Name/ Organization
- Tax identification number or last four digits of SSN
- Mailing address
- Phone number
- SDFR status
- Farm size (acreage)



Reporting: Quarterly Progress Report



Progress status of each awarded project



Practices implemented (HSP) or components installed (SWEEP) during the reporting period



Soil organic matter reports of awarded projects (HSP, if applicable)



Geotagged pictures



Funds disbursed



Changes and delays encountered in project implementation



Technical Assistance Activities - number of projects assisted, number of SDFR, priority populations, and farms and ranches 500 acres or less.

Reporting: Final Report

Projects completed

Funds disbursed

Activities related to SDFR

TAP activities

Lesson learned



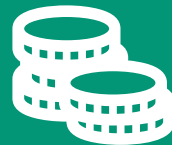
Invoicing and Payments



Advance payment and reimbursements



Up to 25% advance on recurring basis



No more \$100,000 per year for Technical Assistance (AB 2377)

Examples of Administrative and Technical Assistance Costs

Costs	Percent of Grant	Examples of Costs
Administrative	Up to 15% of Total Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Managing partnerships• Disbursing funds to partners or agricultural operations• On-farm project selection process• Tracking project progress and expenditures• Tracking metrics• Completing reporting and invoicing• Participating in required meetings with CDFA
Technical Assistance	Up to 5% of Total Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outreach• Developing plans with producers Gathering documentation• Coordinating with vendors• Providing training or support to the growers during implementation

Audit and Accounting Requirements

- Block Grant Recipients are subject to an audit 3 years after grant completion
- Maintain and make available
 - Books, paper, accounts, documents etc.
 - Evidence of payment
- Maintain good accounting systems
- After an audit, maintain all records 1 year

Tentative Timeline

Program Activity	Timeframe
Receive Public Comment on Draft Request for Grant Applications (RGA)	November 16 – December 15, 2022
Finalize RGA and Develop Application Portal	December 2022 - January 2023
Release Final Request for Grant Applications	February 2023
CDFA Grant Application Webinars	February 2023
Grant Applications Due	April 2023
Administrative and Technical Review	May 2023
Announce Awards	June 2023

Thank you

Public comments must be submitted to the respective program email inboxes by 5 PM December 15, 2022

- SWEEP: cdfa.sweeptech@cdfa.ca.gov
- HSP: cdfa.hsp_tech@cdfa.ca.gov

