Background

The Sustainable California Grown Cannabis (SCGC) pilot study is a grant application process administered by the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation (OEFI), funded through the CA General Fund.

The grant will fund projects to develop best management practices (BMPs) for sustainable outdoor cannabis cultivation.

OEFI's Vision Statement
To be a trusted and valued resource for scientific analysis and support to stakeholders and state agencies in the development and implementation of economically viable agricultural practices that optimize environmental and public health.

Primary Objectives

✓ Identify, test, and promote BMPs which encourage environmentally sustainable practices in outdoor cannabis cultivation.

✓ Provide funding to incentivize licensed outdoor cannabis growers to participate in the collection of data to develop the BMPs and participate in demonstration projects.

Funding & Deliverables

- $7.5 million available
- **Project Grant Amounts:** Not to exceed $2,500,000
    - *Partnership with a minimum of 10 cultivators*
- **Project Duration:** Not to exceed 36 months

❑ Demonstration projects & educational events

❑ Quarterly reports and participation in workshops

❑ Best Management Practices Manual (i.e., 3-year post project outcome report)

❑ Areas for future research

Key Dates

Activity	Tentative Dates
Application period begins	November 7, 2022
Applications due	December 30, 2022, by 5:00 p.m. PT
Review of applications received	January 2023
Announcement of awards	February 2023
Execution of grant agreements	February - May 2023
Sustainable California Grown Cannabis Pilot Study Implementation	June 1, 2023 - June 30, 2026

SCGC Website & Resources

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/scgc/

Mailing List Subscription

Request for Grant Application

Budget Worksheet

Application Portal

THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL FARMING & INNOVATION

sustainable california grown cannabis program

CDFA Home : OEFI : Sustainable California Grown Cannabis Pilot Program

Sustainable California Grown Cannabis Pilot Program

The SCGC Pilot Program is currently accepting applications now through December 30, 2022 at 5 p.m. PT.

Background

The Sustainable California Grown Cannabis Pilot Program (SCGC Pilot Program) was created to improve the state's access to data related to outdoor cannabis cultivation to formulate best management practices that can be used by cultivators statewide. One of the primary goals of regulating cannabis in California is to help address environmental benefits and concerns associated with its cultivation. For example, greenhouse gas emission (GHG) reduction potential, sustainable land use, soil health benefits, ecological health benefits, pesticide use, and water resource management, are some of the many environmental interests associated with cannabis agriculture.

Senate Bill 170 (Skinner, Budget Act of 2021, Chapter 240) included $9 million in funding to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to develop and administer a Sustainable California Grown Cannabis (SCGC) pilot study. The program will fund research that develops environmentally sustainable best management practices (BMPs) in outdoor cannabis agriculture. Funding will also be provided to incentivize licensed legacy outdoor cannabis growers to participate in the collection of data to benchmark BMPs. The study will focus on sustainable water and energy use; pest management and fertilizer practices; and overall ecological health. Applicants may focus on specific practices associated with one or more of these areas.

Funding and Duration

CDFA will award up to $7.5 million to eligible organizations.

✉ **Sign Up for the Sustainable California Grown Cannabis Pilot Program Updates**

☑ **Sign Up for the SCGC Pilot Program Mailing List.**

Email Address *
Enter email

First Name
Enter your first name

Last Name
Enter your last name

Subscribe

⚠ An email notice will be sent to you. Please respond to the message to confirm your subscription.

⌛ **Program Status**

OPEN

The SCGC Pilot Program is accepting applications now through December 30, 2022 at 5 p.m. PT

Eligibility
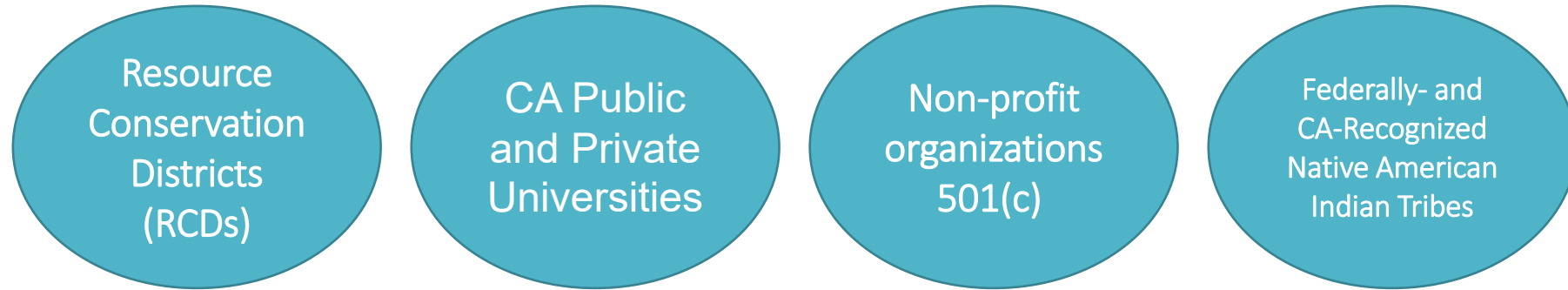
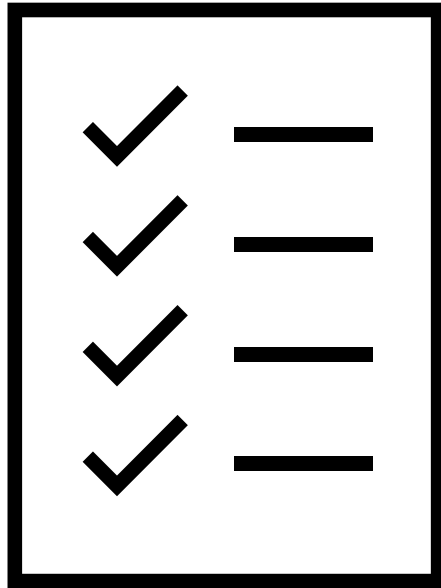| Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) | CA Public and Private Universities | Non-profit organizations 501(c) | Federally- and CA-Recognized Native American Indian Tribes |

- Must have demonstrated expertise in cannabis cultivation or the practices proposed for study

- Lead applicants are encouraged to partner with groundwater sustainability agencies, cannabis growers, irrigation districts, and/or water quality coalitions

- California-based entities

Awardee Requirements

- Partner with a minimum of 10 licensed outdoor cultivators*

- Quantify proposed BMP benefit in CO2e reduction when applicable

- Include at least 1 demonstration project

- Applicant may be the lead applicant for only one grant application
  - *Multiple organizations can partner on a single application*

- Must participate in quarterly workshops

Interested farmers may email CannabisAg@cdfa.ca.gov to be considered for partnerships with grant recipients.

Program Restrictions

TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT TO
A SINGLE CULTIVATOR MUST
NOT EXCEED $25,000/YEAR

UNLICENSED CULTIVATORS
MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN
THE PROGRAM AT ANY TIME

Priority Funding

CDFA will factor participation with the following cultivator groups into the technical review scoring criteria:

Socially Disadvantaged farmers as defined in the 2017 Farmer Equity Act

Priority Populations as identified in the CA Air Resources Board Mapping tool

Cannabis Equity Businesses as approved as such by the Department of Cannabis Control (DCC) or relevant local authority
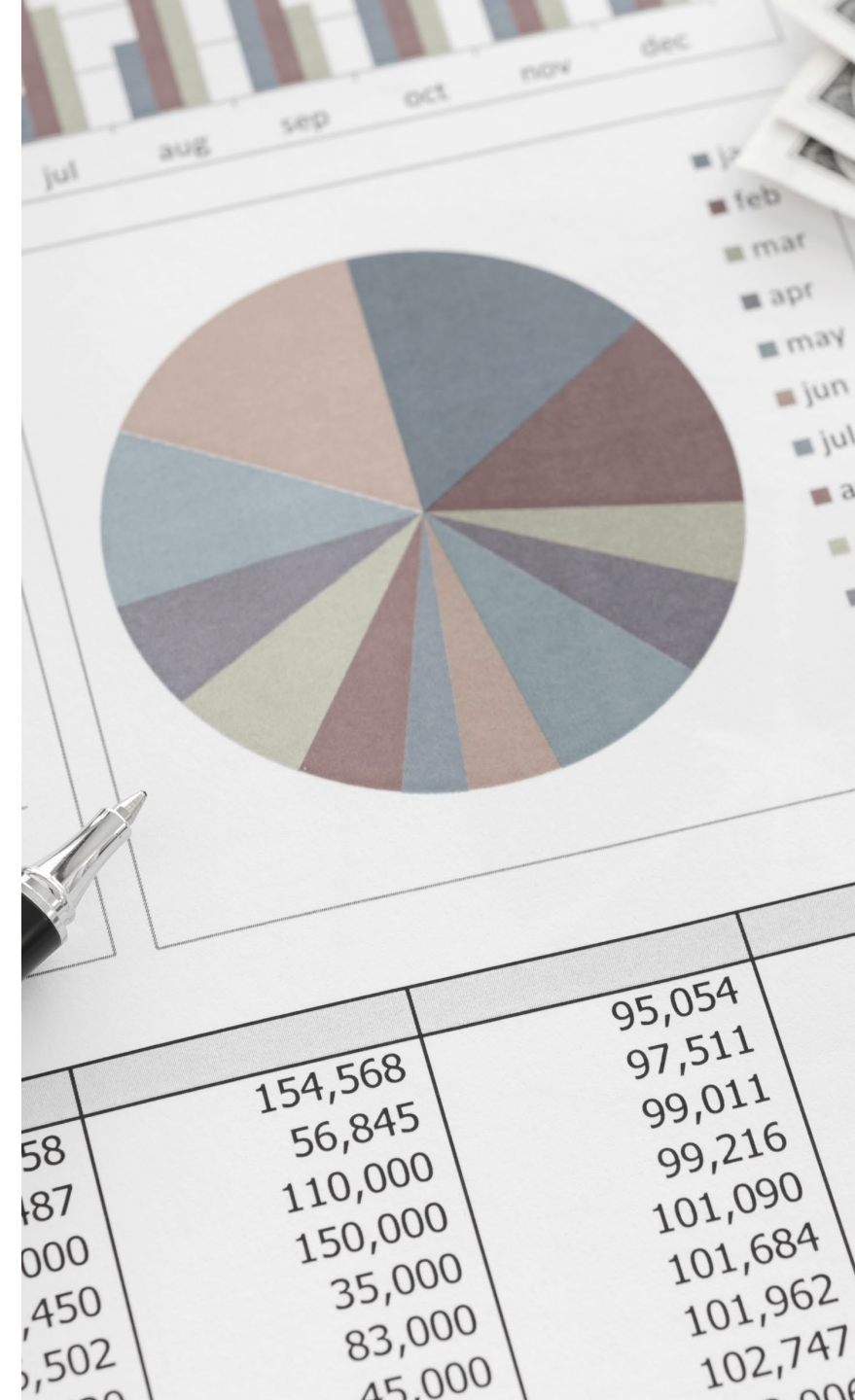
Budget Worksheet

Itemize all allowable costs related to project by category:

- Equipment/Supplies

- Labor

- Travel Expense

- Other

Must be consistent with project proposal

See Request for Grant Applications for a list of allowable & unallowable costs
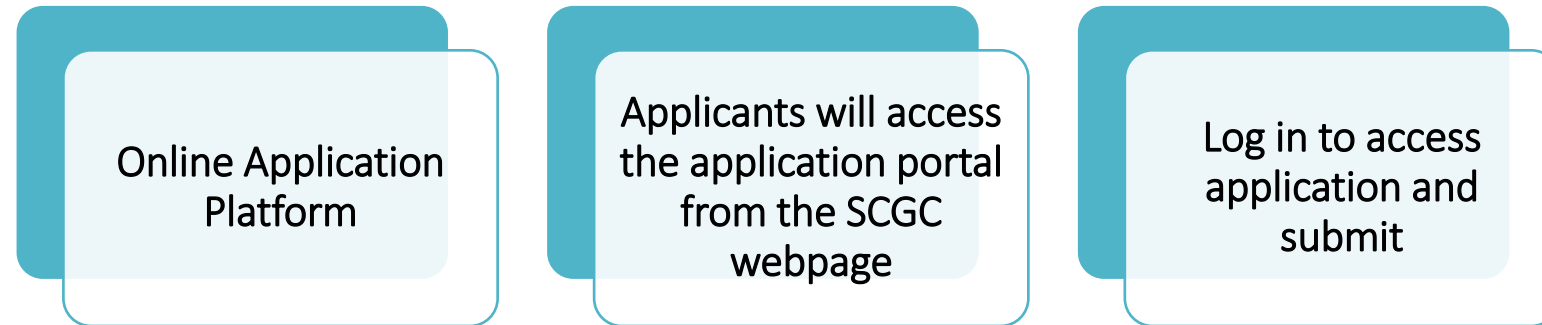
Review and Evaluation Process

- Administrative Review
    - Incomplete applications
    - Activities outside grant duration
    - Unallowable costs or activities
    - Requests more than max award
    - Does not meet eligibility/program requirements
- Technical Review
    - Inter-agency technical review with a focus on scoring criteria outlined in RGA

Scoring Categories

Category	Maximum Points
Statement of Qualifications	30
Prioritization of Collaboration with Cannabis Cultivators	15
Workplan	35
Budget	20
Total	100

How To Apply

Online Application Platform	Applicants will access the application portal from the SCGC webpage	Log in to access application and submit

Have questions during the application submittal window?

Questions Received By:	Responses Provided By:
November 23, 2022	December 2, 2022

Notification & Feedback

All applicants will be notified regarding the status of their grant applications

- Successful applicants will receive specific instructions regarding the award process
- Applicants not selected for funding may request feedback within 60 days after receiving notification

CDFA will post an updated list of awarded projects on SCGC webpage
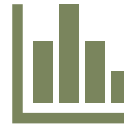
Recipient Information

Grant Agreement

Project Implementation

Payment Process

Reporting

Critical Project Review

Q&A +
Comments