

Sustainable California Grown Cannabis Pilot Study

DRAFT REQUEST FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

Originally Released: March 14, 2022.

Second Draft Released: July 8, 2022

Public comments due: August 5, 2022, by 5 PM PST.

Public comments may be submitted to CannabisAg@cdfa.ca.gov

California Department of Food and Agriculture
Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation
1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

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Background and Purpose

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 growers¹ 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.

Program Objectives

The SCGC pilot study has two primary objectives. Applicants may apply for funding to engage in one or both objectives:

1. **Identify, test, and promote BMPs which encourage environmentally sustainable practices in outdoor cannabis cultivation.**
2. **Provide funding to incentivize licensed legacy outdoor cannabis growers to participate in the collection of data to develop the BMPs and participate in demonstration projects.**

Eligibility

The following entities are eligible to apply for a SCGC grant:

- Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs)
- University of California, California Community Colleges, or California State Universities
- Non-profit organizations
- Private universities located within California
- Federally- and California-Recognized Native American Indian Tribes

Applicants must have demonstrated expertise in cannabis cultivation, or the practices proposed for study (e.g., on-farm irrigation water and

¹ For the purpose of this grant program, "licensed legacy outdoor cannabis growers" are those who have operated a cannabis farm under California Proposition 215, prior to Proposition 64, and are currently licensed with either an outdoor or mixed-light tier 1 cultivation license.

energy use efficiency standards, evaluation and implementation of efficient farm practices and/or on-farm nutrient management). Applicants are encouraged to partner with groundwater sustainability agencies, licensed cannabis cultivators, irrigation districts, and/or water quality coalitions to address local concerns and use existing outreach networks.

Applicants must be located in California with a physical California business address. Collaborating licensed cannabis cultivators must also be located within California.

Program Requirements and Restrictions

- The studies must focus on the development of specific BMPs for sustainable outdoor cannabis cultivation. Practices should support [CDFA's Climate Smart Agriculture \(CSA\)](#) programs' goal to promote environmental sustainability.
- When applicable, the SCGC studies must quantify the benefits in carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) reductions for each relevant practice using experimental scientific statistically significant studies with measured outcomes and data. Existing quantification tools, such as the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Comet-Planner, that estimate the CO₂e reductions, may not be used as the primary method of quantifying actual reductions for the SCGC pilot study.
- Applications must include partnership with a minimum of 10 licensed outdoor cultivators (limited to outdoor and mixed-light tier 1 license types) and will be responsible for distributing funds to cultivators participating in the study.
- An estimate of the number of cultivators participating in the study must be provided at time of application. Specific cultivators do not need to be identified; however, the applicant should list partnering organizations (e.g., non-profit local grower association).
- Studies must include at least one demonstration project for proposed practices.
- Applicants must participate in quarterly workshops with the purpose of highlighting project progress, increasing collaboration with concurrent SCGC projects, raising any issues related to project logistics or participating cultivators, and reducing the possibility of study duplication.
- The total reimbursement to a single cultivator participating in the study must not exceed \$25,000 per grant year.

- Cultivators without active cultivation licenses may not participate in the study at any time. CDFA will require a list of participating cultivators prior to starting the study.
- An applicant may not be the lead applicant for more than one SCGC grant application. Multiple organizations can partner on a single application. CDFA encourages partnerships with groundwater sustainability agencies; licensed cannabis cultivators; irrigation districts; water quality coalitions; pest management and fertilizer specialists; irrigation and energy specialists; soil scientists; resource conservation district experts; and academic scientists to develop BMPs.
- Applicants must declare all conflict(s) of interest including sponsorship or funding by any corporation that may benefit from CDFA's CSA incentives programs.

Funding and Duration

CDFA anticipates awarding up to \$7.5 million to eligible organizations.

- The grant term may be up to 36 months.
- The maximum award amount is \$2,500,000.
- CDFA reserves the right to offer an award different than the amount requested.
- Funds will be distributed on a reimbursement basis.
 - Advanced payments may be provided with appropriate justification in accordance with Title 3 California Code of Regulations (CCR) § 316.1. An advance payment shall not exceed the amount necessary for project expenses for a three-month period. Advances exceeding the FDIC insured amount cannot be granted.
 - 10% of the funds will be withheld until project completion, submission and approval of all required reports and documentation, and verification.
- Invoices and reports on work completed by the awardee must be submitted at least quarterly and no more frequently than monthly.
- Funding will be prioritized based on the following order:
 1. 25% of funds to be expended to include Socially Disadvantaged Cultivators (SDCs), Priority Populations, or Cannabis Equity Businesses (CEBs) as defined by the Department of Cannabis Control. These groups are further defined in the Scoring Criteria/Priority Funding section of this Request for Grant Application (RGA).
 2. Farm size with priority provided to smaller farms.
 3. Majority licensed legacy outdoor cultivators participating in the study.

- Grant funds cannot be expended outside of the grant agreement term.

Timeline

Activity	Tentative Dates
Draft RGA Public Comment Period	March 14, 2022 – April 14, 2022
First Public Workshop	April 12, 2022
Second RGA Release	July 8, 2022
Second RGA Public Comment Period	July 8, 2022 – August 5, 2022
Second Public Workshop	July 28, 2022
Final RGA Released	September 9, 2022
Application period begins	October 3, 2022
Applications due	December 2, 2022
Review of applications received	December - January 2022
Announcement of awards	January 2022
Execution of grant agreements	January - March 2022
Sustainable California Grown Cannabis pilot study Implementation	March 2023 - December 31, 2025

How to Apply

Online Application Platform

- The SCGC pilot study application must be submitted online.
- The application materials and a link to the application portal can be found at: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/scgc/>.
- Applicants must create a user account to submit a grant application.
- All applications, supporting documents and submissions are subject to public disclosure including posting on the CDFA Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation (OEFI) website.

CDFA requires information in the Application Questionnaire (Appendix A) for all entities involved in executing the SCGC pilot study grant objectives. If awarded, the SCGC pilot study grant agreement will be between CDFA and the lead applicant organization. The lead organization must ensure that all required and proposed tasks are fully completed by the project end date and for quarterly reporting.

In addition to completing the online application questionnaire, applicants will upload several required attachments including the workplan and budget worksheet, and resumes of the principal investigators.

Workplan and Budget Worksheet

Applicants will complete and upload a Workplan and Budget Worksheet to identify the objectives, activities, tasks, and costs associated with the project. The Workplan and Budget Worksheet (MS Excel file) is available at: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/scgc/>.

Each budget item entered in the worksheet must support a Program Objective. Applicants must clearly describe each participating organization's anticipated expenses, as applicable. All costs must be directly related to and necessary for completion of project. Awarded funds will be paid to the lead organization. The lead organization is responsible for disbursement of funds to other participating organizations and cultivators.

Budget Cost Categories

Personnel: Estimate the hourly cost of salary, wages and fringe benefits associated with each activity by individuals employed by the applicant organization.

Contractor: Estimate the cost of work on the project that will be performed by individuals/organizations other than the applicant (e.g., consultants, contractors, partner organizations, etc.). This amount should include all associated salary and wages, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, other, and indirect costs. List the services to be provided and the contractors that will work on the project and be paid with grant funds.

Supplies: Estimate the cost of supplies associated with each activity. Supplies are items with an acquisition cost less than \$5,000 per unit that are used exclusively for the objectives of the project. Categorize the types of supplies to be purchased. General use office supplies (paper, printer ink, pens, etc.), facilities costs (telephone, internet, etc.), and administrative costs are considered indirect and should not be included under Supplies.

Equipment: Estimate the cost of equipment associated with each activity. Equipment is nonexpendable, tangible personal property with a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost which equals or exceeds \$5,000. Funding for equipment will only be provided for special purpose equipment which is used only for research, scientific, or other technical activities.

Travel: Estimate the cost of project-related travel associated with each activity except contractual personnel. Describe the travel that will be necessary to accomplish the objectives of the project. Reimbursement for travel within California shall not exceed the maximum allowable rates and amounts established by the California Department of Human Resources. There will be no reimbursement for travel outside of California.

Other: Estimate the cost of all other project related expenses to support each activity. Expenses typically listed under “Other” include registration fees to attend professional education or training, meeting space or equipment rentals, subscriptions, etc. List the specific types of expenses necessary to accomplish the objectives of the project.

Indirect: Indirect costs are facilities and administrative costs that cannot easily be tied directly to the activities of the grant. Examples of common indirect costs include administrative/clerical services, rent, utilities, internet and telephone service, maintenance, and general office supplies. University of California (UC) and California State Universities (CSU) may claim the established indirect cost rate with CDFA. All other eligible organizations may claim an indirect cost rate of up to 20 percent of total direct costs.

Allowable Costs

Examples of allowable costs include:

- Personnel and/or Contractor** expenses associated with:
 - Conducting on-farm water use efficiency audits with the purpose of calculating efficiency metrics.
 - Developing, facilitating, and administering in-person and online water, pest and/or nutrient management trainings for interested parties.
 - Developing and administering on-farm demonstration projects which will inform sustainable cannabis BMPs.
 - Translation services to increase the impact of sustainability related activities, workshops, and/or trainings.
 - Reporting and invoicing.
 - Participating in professional development courses and training relevant to the study objectives.
- Travel Expenses** to farms or training venues including mileage, lodging, per diem, vehicle rental and/or leasing of a vehicle.
- Supplies and/or Equipment** needed for irrigation system or pump evaluation or training including computers, software and vehicle renting or leasing.

Unallowable Costs

Examples of unallowable costs include but are not limited to:

- Personnel or contractor hours that are not related to sustainable cannabis BMPs and/or evaluation, audits, training, administration, or other non-related fields.
- Completion of tasks that are outside of approved workplan and budget.

- Assisting cultivators as they apply for or implement other grant projects.
- Non-grant-related research.
- Food/drinks and entertainment.
- General purpose equipment such as office equipment and furnishings, modular offices, telephone networks, information technology equipment and systems, air conditioning equipment, reproduction and printing equipment, and motor vehicles.

Resumes

Upload resumes of key personnel from each participating organization and contractors and indicate the role of each person whose resume is attached. Provide in PDF format.

Questions and Answers (Q&A)

During the application period, CDFA will host an informational webinar to provide an overview of program guidelines and application materials. Visit the CDFA SCGC website for more information and to register for the webinar.

General questions regarding the solicitation process may be submitted to CannabisAg@cdfa.ca.gov. Responses to all questions received by email will be posted to CDFA's Technical Assistance website according to the following schedule:

Questions Received By:	Responses Provided By:
October 7, 2022	October 14, 2022

October 7, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. PT is the final deadline to submit questions for the SCGC pilot study grant application. To maintain the integrity of the competitive grant process, CDFA is unable to advise and/or provide individuals with any information regarding specific grant application questions during the solicitation process.

Review Process

Applications will be reviewed in a two-stage process:

Administrative Review

The purpose of the administrative review is to determine whether grant application requirements are met. During the administrative review, the following will result in the automatic disqualification of a grant application:

- Incomplete grant applications: applications with one or more unanswered questions necessary for administrative or technical review.
- Incomplete grant applications: applications with missing, blank, unreadable, corrupt, or otherwise unusable attachments.

- Applications that include activities outside the grant duration.
- Applications with unallowable costs or activities necessary to complete the project objectives.
- Requests for more than the maximum award amount.
- Applications that do not comply with Eligibility or meet Program Requirements and Restrictions

APPEAL RIGHTS: Any disqualification taken during the administrative review for the preceding reasons may be appealed to CDFA's Office of Hearings and Appeals Office within 10 days of receiving a notice of disqualification from CDFA. The appeal must be in writing and signed by the responsible party name on the grant application. It must state the grounds for the appeal and include any supporting documents and a copy of the CDFA decision being challenged. The submissions must be sent to the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Office of Hearings and Appeals, 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 or emailed to CDFA.LegalOffice@cdfa.ca.gov . If submissions are not received within the time frame provided above, the appeal will be denied.

Technical Review

Technical review will be completed by a State of California inter-agency technical review committee (including, but not limited to, the Department of Cannabis Control, State Water Resources Control Board, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Department of Pesticide Regulation) of subject matter experts. Technical review will be based on the detailed scoring criteria outlined below. The Secretary of CDFA will review the project selections prior to the announcement of funding. CDFA will select highest scoring applications for award of grant funds.

Scoring Criteria

Criteria	Maximum Points
<p>Statement of Qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Does the Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) clearly identify the capacity of the lead applicant organization to design or implement a study for the collection of data to benchmark BMPs to understand the environmental benefits and impact of cannabis cultivation? <input type="checkbox"/> Has the applicant adequately explained how the education, work history, and/or technical expertise of key personnel makes them qualified for this role? 	30

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Are roles of key personnel from each participating organization clearly described? <input type="checkbox"/> Does the application clearly identify the staff person or personnel who will be involved in each task, including alternative or secondary contacts? <input type="checkbox"/> Does the project include partnership or regional coordination among multiple organizations? <input type="checkbox"/> Do the resumes of individuals listed in the proposal align well with relevant expertise? <input type="checkbox"/> Does application clearly highlight and explain the lead organization and its partners have the physical, practical and scientific equipment and tools to evaluate BMPs for cannabis cultivation and the following; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o on-farm irrigation water use, o energy use efficiency standards, o evaluation and implementation of efficient practices and/or on-farm nutrient management, o evaluation of soil health, and o evaluation of pesticide use in cannabis cultivation operations. 	
<p>Prioritization of Collaboration with Cannabis Cultivators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Are funds allocated for providing incentives to licensed legacy outdoor cannabis cultivators? <input type="checkbox"/> Does the workplan/budget include adequate details about how the organization will collaborate with outdoor cannabis cultivators? <input type="checkbox"/> Does the application narrative clearly identify expected costs dedicated to collaborating outdoor cannabis cultivators? 	15
<p>Workplan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Are the estimated number of farmers the applicant proposes to collaborate with provided and reasonable? <input type="checkbox"/> Does the applicant provide sufficient details of all activities proposed? <input type="checkbox"/> Does the workplan include in-field demonstration pilot projects that help create a platform promoting widespread adoption of the environmental impact of cannabis? 	35

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Does the applicant discuss their plan for conducting outreach to the cannabis industry? <input type="checkbox"/> Are the activities achievable with the requested budget? <input type="checkbox"/> Does the application include a detailed reporting and evaluation component? <input type="checkbox"/> Does the applicant clearly indicate the regions that will be served by the applicant? <input type="checkbox"/> Does the applicant clearly detail the organization's case for serving the region proposed? <input type="checkbox"/> Does the applicant propose to provide assistance in languages other than English? <input type="checkbox"/> Does the application clearly identify how the organization will prioritize assistance for farms with a cannabis canopy of one acre or less? 	
<p>Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Does the proposed budget outline all anticipated expenses? <input type="checkbox"/> Is the budget at or below the maximum award? <input type="checkbox"/> Are the costs included in the budget for each activity reasonable? <input type="checkbox"/> Is the budget consistent with the Workplan? <input type="checkbox"/> Is the division of funds between activities reasonable? Are the funds used in a manner that reflects the wide array of activities involved in developing BMPs? 	20
Total	100

The SCGC program strives to ensure statewide cultivator participation. CDFA will seek to fund to the extent feasible, a representative number of studies from across the state.

Past performance of applicants in OEFI programs, if applicable, may be taken into consideration during selection. Past performance may include timely and satisfactory completion of funded activities and reporting requirements.

Priority Funding

At least twenty-five percent (25 percent), of the funds available for cultivator participation will be reserved for studies including the following cultivator participants:

Socially Disadvantaged Cultivators

CDFA encourages applications from organizations who serve small to medium sized and socially disadvantaged California food producers and farmworkers, including but not limited to BIMPOC (Black, Indigenous, Multiracial, and People of Color), LGBTQ+, women and veterans. To promote inclusion in the SCGC pilot study, applicants teaming with cultivators identifying as belonging to a socially disadvantaged group will receive priority for funding if they meet a minimum score of 30 points during the technical review. A socially disadvantaged cultivator will be defined as those groups included in the 2017 Farmer Equity Act (AB 1348 (Aguiar-Curry, 2017))² as a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities.

Benefits to Priority Populations

Priority Populations³ include disadvantaged communities, low-income communities and low-income households and can be identified using the mapping tool provided at <https://webmaps.arb.ca.gov/PriorityPopulations/>. To benefit Priority Populations, projects must be located within an area designated as a Priority Population and reduce on-site emissions of criteria pollutants through reduced combustion of fossil fuels.

Cannabis Equity Businesses

Cannabis Equity Businesses are based on local ordinances addressing inclusion and support of individuals and communities in California's cannabis industry who are linked to populations or neighborhoods that were negatively or disproportionately impacted by cannabis criminalization. To be considered a Cannabis Equity Business an applicant must be approved as such by the Department of Cannabis Control (DCC). For more information on Cannabis Equity Businesses visit the [DCC website](#).

Notification and Feedback

All applicants will be notified regarding the status of their grant applications. Successful applicants will receive specific instructions regarding the award process, including information on invoicing and reporting requirements. Applicants not selected for funding will receive feedback regarding their applications within 60 days after receiving notification. CDFA will post basic information on the SCGC webpage (<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/scgc/>) regarding the applications received at least 10 days before awarding grant funds. After projects are selected and all funds are encumbered, CDFA will post an updated list of awarded projects. Applications will be treated in accordance

² https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB1348

³ <http://www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov/priority-populations>

with Public Records Act requirements and certain information, subject to those requirements, may be publicly disclosed.

Grant Recipient Information

Grant Agreement

Applicants selected for award of funds will receive a Grant Agreement package with specific instructions regarding award requirements including information on project implementation and payment process. Once a Grant Agreement is executed, grant recipients can begin implementation of the project. Grant recipients are responsible for the overall management of their awarded project to ensure all project activities are completed no later than the end of the grant agreement term (estimated for December 31, 2025).

Agreement Stage	Completion Time
Grant packet is completed – CDFA will work with awardees to get information the state needs to execute the grant.	Variable. The timeline is dependent on when information is provided to CDFA staff.
Grant Execution	Up to 90 days

Project Implementation

Once a Grant agreement is executed the grant recipient can begin implementation of the project if it is after or on the official project start date (anticipated for March 2023). During the project implementation, grant recipients must maintain frequent communication with CDFA staff regarding BMP progress.

Payment Process

Applicants must submit invoices quarterly and include all supporting financial documentation to substantiate expenses. Funds will be allocated on a reimbursement basis. CDFA will withhold 10 percent from the total grant award until a final report is submitted to ensure grant recipients meet all reporting requirements. Invoicing and closeout of all project expenditures must be completed no later than December 31, 2025.

Reporting

Grant recipients must submit detailed quarterly Progress Reports to CDFA identifying activities accomplished in the reporting period. These progress reports will support the invoicing process and must show project progress for reimbursement of funds expended by the awardee. CDFA will provide a customized reporting template and schedule to grant recipients. Progress Reports will include, at a minimum:

- Total number of collaborating cannabis cultivators.

- Information on cultivators collaborating on project.
- Costs associated with SCGC.
- Status of in-field demonstration pilot projects.
- Status of the BMPs being tested.
- Total attendance at in-person and online workshops and trainings.
- Links and or files for digital training materials that have been created.
- Links to translated files or digital training materials that have been created.
For auditing purposes, recipients are required to maintain detailed technical assistance records on-site.

Critical Project Review

Grant recipients must agree to a Critical Project Review and audit during the project term to verify project progress as reported in Progress Reports submitted to CDFA, including number of collaborating cannabis cultivators. If it is determined by CDFA from the Critical Project Review that at that time the grant project is not meeting and is unlikely to meet certain milestones, CDFA has the right to terminate the Grant Agreement pursuant to the Terms and Conditions of the Grant Agreement. If the grant is terminated and has incurred any costs during the term, the Grantee must return any previously reimbursed funds. Termination may result in forfeiture by the grantee of any funds retained pursuant to 10 percent retention policy. Critical Project Review may be completed through an auditing process.

Executive Order N-6-22 – Russia Sanctions

On March 4, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-6-22 regarding Economic Sanctions against Russia and Russian entities and individuals. “Economic Sanctions” refers to sanctions imposed by the U.S. government in response to Russia’s actions in Ukraine, as well as any sanctions imposed under state law. By submitting a proposal, Applicant represents that it is not a target of Economic Sanctions. Should the State determine Applicant is a target of Economic Sanctions or is conducting prohibited transactions with sanctioned individuals or entities, that shall be grounds for rejection of the Applicant’s proposal any time prior to contract execution, or, if determined after contract execution, shall be grounds for termination by the State.

Appendix A: Preview of Application Questionnaire

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Legal business name of the organization that will serve as lead for the project and will receive grant funds

Lead organization's Federal Tax Identification Number

Lead organization type

Lead organization's Mailing Street Address

Lead organization's Mailing City

Lead organization's Mailing Zip Code

Lead organization's County

Legislative information: Identify your Senate and Assembly Districts

Assembly District Number

Senate District Number

Full name of the primary contact person

Title of primary contact person

Email of primary contact person

Phone number of primary contact person

Full name of secondary contact person

Title of secondary contact person

Email of secondary contact person

Phone number of secondary contact person

Other collaborating entities?

Collaborating organization name(s)

Collaborating organization's lead contact person(s)

Email of collaborating organization's lead contact person(s)

Phone number of collaborating organization's lead person(s)

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Title

Project Summary

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

In this section, the applicant must provide sufficient information to demonstrate that the lead organization and all participating organizations (if any) have the personnel, experience, knowledge, skills, time and resources to develop and deliver the project. Please limit responses to each question to 1-3 paragraphs.

Qualifications of the Organization:

Describe the lead applicant organization's background, purpose or mission as it relates to the project and address the organization's capacity to undertake the work of the project.

Provide a brief biography or summary of qualifications of the key personnel from lead applicant organization involved in the project. The biography or summary of qualifications should demonstrate key personnel have knowledge and experience in the subject area of the project.

How will this team composition and representation from within the organization(s) enable successful implementation of the proposed Sustainable California Grown Cannabis pilot study? Explain how various tasks will be managed and coordinated and how the project manager's technical expertise will help achieve the goals of the project.

Outline the organization's experience and resources available working with communities and outdoor cannabis cultivators.

Briefly describe the organizations' (lead and partner) experience with demonstration projects.

Describe the organization's experience communicating with outdoor cannabis cultivators.

Describe the organization's experience hosting workshops and trainings.

Describe the organization's experience working with Socially Disadvantaged, AB 1550 Priority Populations, or Cannabis Equity Businesses.

Does the organization have the ability to serve non-English speakers? (Y/N)

In which non-English languages can the organization provide technical assistance?

Identify any relevant certifications that members of the organization(s) hold and indicate how these certifications might be useful.

STATEMENT OF NEED

In this section, the applicant will describe the need for sustainable cannabis cultivation practices in their service area. Please limit responses to 1 to 3 paragraphs.

Which counties or geographic region (e.g., county, district, watershed, etc.) will be served by the sustainable cannabis cultivation pilot study?

Describe the target audience of the project, including the needs of the community/region including issues of local and regional urgency.

Describe your organization's ability to address the community need through the SCGC pilot study.

PRIORITIZATION OF SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED CULTIVATORS, PRIORITY POPULATIONS, OR CANNABIS EQUITY BUSINESSES

The technical review scoring criteria for SCGC offers additional points to applicants that commit to expending and tracking 25% of the awarded funds to working with Socially Disadvantaged cultivators, Priority Populations, or Cannabis Equity Businesses.

Will the organization commit to expending 25 percent of the awarded funds to working with Socially Disadvantaged cultivators, Priority Populations, or Cannabis Equity Businesses? (Y/N)

Describe the plan for your organization to achieve this target (25% of funding allocated to working with Socially Disadvantaged cultivators, Priority Populations, or Cannabis Equity Businesses)?

Describe what tools and methods the organization will use to track expenditures dedicated to Socially Disadvantaged cultivators, Priority Populations, or Cannabis Equity Businesses?

Awardees of the SCGC program should also prioritize participation of small farms (i.e., cultivators operating under a single medium, small, specialty, or specialty cottage state cultivation licenses).

Describe the strategy that will be implemented to prioritize participation of small farms (i.e., cultivators operating under a single medium, small, specialty, or specialty cottage state cultivation licenses).

WORKPLAN

Prior to completing the questions below, review and complete the Workplan and Budget Template. If planning on supporting Socially Disadvantaged cultivators, indicate in the Workplan and Budget.

Upload the completed Workplan and Budget Template (Microsoft excel file).

The Sustainable California Grown Cannabis pilot project has two primary objectives. Applicants may request funding to engage in one or both objectives. In this section, please identify which objectives the applicant organization will seek to fulfill through the proposed workplan and upload the Workplan and Budget Template.

Select the Objectives that are included in the Workplan

1. Identify, test, and promote environmentally friendly BMPs to encourage best practices in outdoor cannabis cultivation
2. Provide funding to incentivize licensed legacy outdoor cannabis growers to participate in the collection of data to develop the BMPs and participate in demonstration projects.

Objective 1: Identify, test, and promote environmentally friendly BMPs to reduce the environmental impact of outdoor cannabis cultivation

Describe the strategy to identify the cultivation practices to be studied in the SCGC pilot study.

Provide details of outreach and coordination that will be used to in both the development and implementation stages of the SCGC pilot study.

Describe the technical references, the resources (such as software) and training that the lead organization will rely upon in order to develop and coordinate the SCGC pilot study.

Describe the outreach and strategy to provide training to SCGC pilot study regarding BMPs including what type of training format(s) will be used (e.g., in-person, live remote, on-demand/webinar).

In which languages will training be made available?

What topics will be covered in the training curriculum?

Describe the reference materials or resources that will be used to develop training curriculum.

Will on-demand webinars be created?

In which languages will on-demand trainings be made available?

Objective 2: Provide funding to incentivize licensed legacy outdoor cannabis growers to participate in the collection of data to develop the BMPs and participate in demonstration projects.

Describe how the organization will oversee and coordinate the implementation of cultivation BMPs in their area of the SCGC pilot study including how cultivators will be selected, reimbursed for participation in the study, and ongoing supervision of the study.

Estimate the number of outdoor cultivators that will be participating in the SCGC pilot study.

Provide details of outreach methodologies that will be used to reach outdoor cultivators.

Describe the outreach and strategy to provide training to cultivators participating in the SCGC pilot study (e.g., in-person, live remote, on-demand/webinar).

In which languages will training be made available?

What topics will be covered in the training curriculum?

Describe the reference materials or resources that will be used to develop training curriculum.

Will on-demand webinars be created?

In which languages will on-demand trainings be made available?

Evaluation and Reporting

It is important that the applicant organization can accurately track personnel hours, expenses, and technical assistance activities conducted. At a minimum, awardees will report quarterly on the number of farmers assisted, the number of Socially Disadvantage Cultivators (SDCs), Priority Populations (PP), or Cannabis Equity Businesses (CEBs) participating in the study.

Briefly describe the system that will be used to track assistance activities and expenses associated with implementing the pilot study and number of SDCs, PP, or CEBs participating in the pilot study.

BUDGET

The maximum award for the Sustainable California Grown Cannabis pilot study is \$2,500,000 over three years, including indirect costs.

What is the total grant request? This is in cell D9 of the Workplan and Budget Template.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Please write your name in the signature box. By doing this you are indicating that all information submitted is true and current to the best of your knowledge.

Please type your name here

Date