

Sustainable California Grown Cannabis Pilot Program



Informational Workshop

April 12, 2022



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Background Information

Department of
Cannabis Control
created in July 2021

The Cannabis
Appellations and
Organic Cannabis
Programs remain with
CDFA

CAP housed within the
Office of Environmental
Farming and Innovation
(OEFI)

The Budget Act of 2021
included funding for
CDFA to create the
SCGC Pilot Program

Introduction to OEFI

OEFI supports agricultural production and incentivizes practices which result in a net benefit for the environment through innovation, efficient management, and science.

OEFI supports programs such as the Healthy Soils Program and the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program.



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.

About the SCGC Pilot Program

A grant application process administered by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), funded through the CA General Fund

Goals

- Develop Best Management Practices (BMPs) for sustainable outdoor cannabis agriculture
- Promote cultivator participation in the development of BMPs through data collection by providing financial incentives



Funding and Duration

- \$7.5 million available
- Solicitation will open on June 1, and will close July 1, 2022

Project Grant Amounts: Not to exceed \$2,500,000

Project Duration: 36 months



Program Timeline

Activity	Tentative Dates
Application period begins	June 1, 2022
Applications due	July 1, 2022
Review of applications received	July 2022
Announcement of awards	August 2022
Execution of grant agreements	September 2022
Sustainable California Grown Cannabis Pilot Study Implementation	September 2022 - December 31, 2025



SCGC Website & Resources

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

Mailing List Subscription

Draft RGA

Budget Worksheet

Application Portal




[CDFA Home](#) | [OEFI](#) | [Sustainable California Grown Cannabis Pilot Program](#)

Sustainable California Grown Cannabis Pilot Program

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 standards and best management practices that can be used by cultivators statewide. One of the primary goals of regulating cannabis in California is to help address many environmental issues associated with its cultivation. For example, greenhouse gas emission (GHG), sustainable land use, soil contamination, pesticide use, and water resource management, are some of the many environmental risks associated with the cultivation of cannabis.

Senate Bill (SB) 170 (Skinner, The Budget Act of 2021, Chapter 240, Statute of 2021) includes \$9 million in funding to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) for the SCGC Pilot Program. The program will provide funding to incentivize licensed outdoor cannabis growers from legacy cultivation areas to participate in the collection of data to benchmark best practices to reduce the environmental impact of outdoor cannabis cultivation. The study will focus on sustainable water and energy use; pest management and fertilizer practices; and soil health.


 Sign Up for the Sustainable California Grown Cannabis Pilot Program Updates

Sign Up for the SCGC Pilot Program Mailing List.

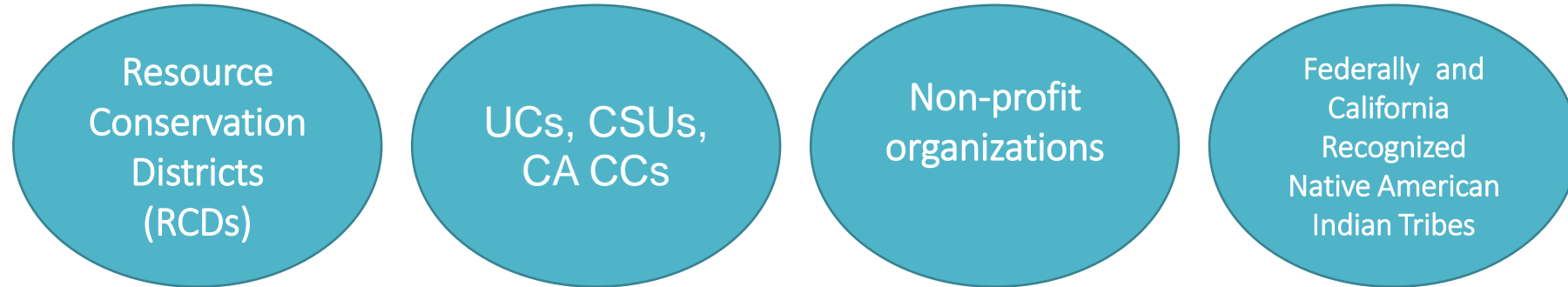
Email Address *

First Name

Last Name

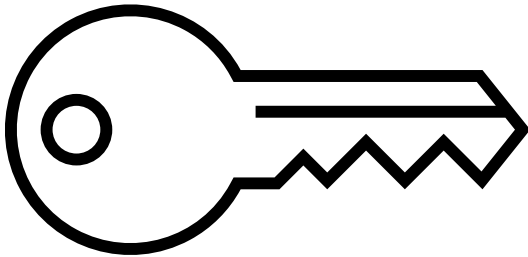
 An email notice will be sent to you. Please respond to the message to confirm your

Eligibility



- 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

Key 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 declare conflicts of interest

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

25% of the funds available for cultivator participation should go to:

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

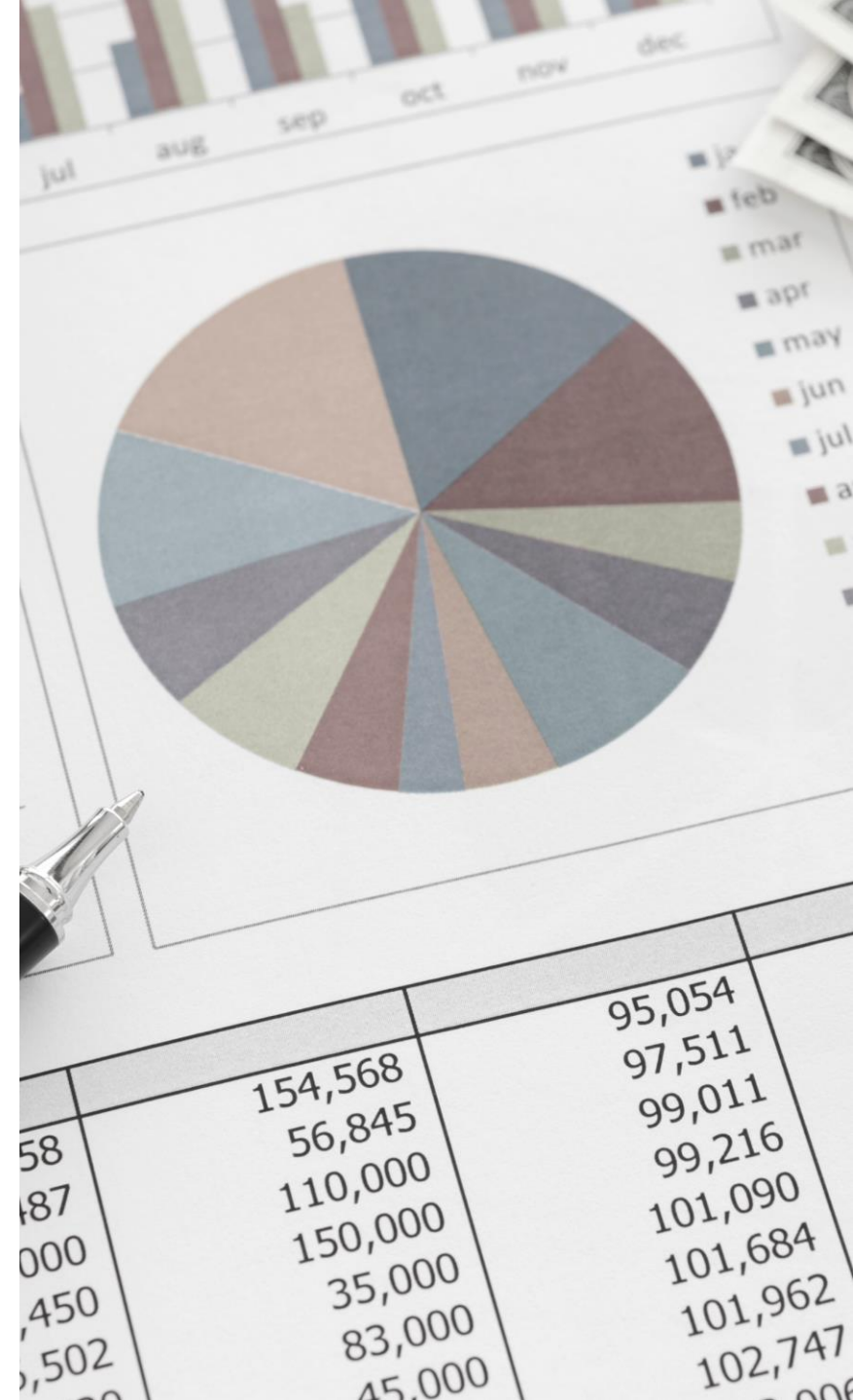
Budget Worksheet

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

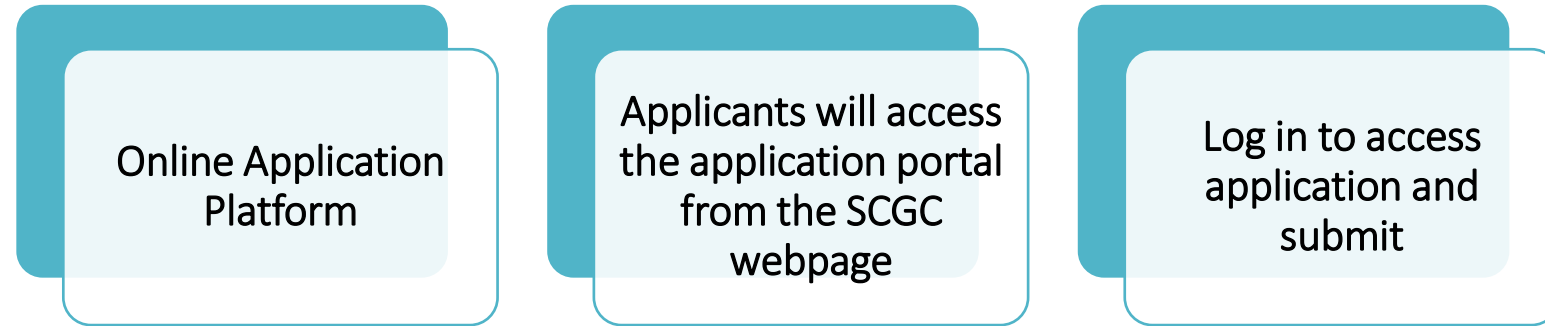
- Administrative Review
 - Incomplete applications
 - Activities outside grant duration
 - Unallowable costs or activities
 - Requests more than max award
 - Does not meet eligibility/program requirements
- Technical Review
 - Inter-agency technical review committee with a focus on criteria outlined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



Scoring Categories

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

How To Apply



Have questions during the application submittal window?

Questions Received By:	Responses Provided By:
June 8, 2022	June 16, 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 will receive 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