

**California Department of Food and Agriculture  
Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Grant Program**

**Frequently Asked Questions  
Updated December 15, 2021**

**General Questions**

1. What is the maximum grant award per technical assistance provider?  
The maximum award is \$500,000.

2. What is the grant term?  
The grant term with awarded technical assistance providers will be three years from the start date of the grant agreement. CDFA anticipates that grant agreements will begin in June 2022. Work cannot begin before the grant agreement start date.

3. How many technical assistance projects will CDFA fund from this solicitation?  
Approximately \$5 million is available for Water Efficiency Technical Assistance grants in the 2021-2022 fiscal year. With a maximum award of \$500,000, CDFA expects to fund at least ten projects.

**Eligibility**

1. Which universities are eligible to apply for funding?  
California public universities and colleges are eligible for funding including University of California, California State Universities, California community colleges.

2. Who is eligible to apply for technical assistance funding?  
Resource Conservation Districts, non-profit organizations, University of California, California State University, California Community Colleges, and California and Federally Recognized Native American Indian Tribes are eligible to apply.

3. Can more than one application be submitted from a university system?  
Multiple applications may be submitted from within the university system if the applications are led by different individuals and propose to provide technical assistance within different service areas. No more than one application may be submitted from an individual location or technical assistance lead person within the university system.

4. Can an organization be the lead applicant on one application and listed as a cooperating entity/partner on another application?  
Yes, an organization may take the lead role on one application and be a partner on another.

5. Are there limitations on the types of agricultural operations that can be provided assistance through a Water Efficiency Technical Assistance grant?

Water Efficiency Technical Assistance awardees may not provide technical assistance to growers of medicinal or recreational cannabis.

## **Application Procedures**

1. What attachments are required to be submitted with the application?

Applicants are required to complete the online application questionnaire and to attach a Workplan and Budget Worksheet and resumes.

2. Is an applicant able to save an application as a draft even if all the required questions are not completed?

Yes, an applicant may save their application at any time after the application is initiated. To save the application, click "Save Draft".

## **Workplan and Budget**

1. What percentage of the budget should be made available to the various technical assistance activities?

Technical assistance applicants may propose to provide technical assistance through any or all three of the program's primary objectives. Applicants who provide sufficiently detailed and accurate work plans and budgets will be evaluated more competitively during review. After a technical assistance grant agreement is executed there is some flexibility for line-item shifts to the budget, upon approval by CDFA.

2. Are matching funds required?

Matching funds are not required but are encouraged to increase the impact of the project.

3. What is the allowable indirect rate?

Non-profits and Resource Conservation Districts may claim an indirect cost rate of 20 percent of total direct costs. University of California applicants may claim the established indirect cost rate with CDFA. These indirect rates are built into the Workplan and Budget templates.

4. How many individual farmers and ranchers are technical assistance providers expected to assist?

The applicant organization for technical assistance funding may make this estimate based upon the award cap, the organizations capacity, resources, and strategy. CDFA does not have a minimum requirement for the number of individuals that technical assistance providers must assist.

5. Is an organization required to provide assistance statewide?

Organizations may work within their service area or provide assistance at the statewide level. Applicants will define their service area within the application. CDFA will consider geographic coverage of technical assistance when selecting technical assistance awards.

6. What level of expertise is expected or required for a technical lead?

CDFA has not set minimum qualifications for technical leads. Lead individuals must demonstrate their expertise through their experience, coursework, trainings etc. to the technical reviewers of the Water Efficiency Technical assistance applications. The level of expertise will be a factor in the application scoring criteria.

7. What information will technical assistance providers be required to report to CDFA?

Page 13 of the Request for Grant Applications outlines the minimum reporting metrics. Confidential information about farmers and ranchers who are assisted will not be reported but should be retained in records by technical assistance providers. CDFA will require quantifiable metrics to be reported whenever possible.