

**California Department of Food and Agriculture 2023
Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Program (WETA)
Frequently Asked Questions
Updated June 1, 2023**



General Questions

1. What is the maximum grant award per technical assistance provider?

The maximum award is \$500,000.

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. Can WETA awardees provide assistance to cannabis operators seeking to better understand and increase water resources and management as well as nutrient and fertility management in agroecosystems.

CDFA will not require WETA awardees to provide information on the crops grown by the producers that are offered technical assistance services through the program. The WETA Request for Grant Applications does not indicate any restrictions regarding the types of crops for which TA can be provided.

Application Procedures

1. 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 within the application platform.

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 25 percent of total direct costs. University of California applicants may claim the established indirect cost rate with CDFA.

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 15 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.

8. Can a WETA applicant develop a proprietary web-based support tool as one of the activities within the context of the three program objectives?

The development of proprietary software is not an allowable activity with WETA funding. The activities funded through the WETA program are intended to be available to California farmers and ranchers broadly and recipients of WETA funding will offer technical assistance services free-of-charge to growers.

9. When filling out the budget and narrative section for personnel costs in the WETA application portal, should the budget total be the lump sum of the costs for an individual (including wages and benefits) for each objective and activity? Should the narrative include a description of how the budget total was calculated, and how detailed should the breakdown of component costs be in the narrative?

CDFA recommends that the name of individuals (or the title of the individual) that will be working on the project is entered one time for each project objective that the individual will be working on. The total for the line-item entry will be the total cost of the individual's work on that objective. The hourly rate per individual working on the project objective can be included in the narrative.