- Request for Proposals –

(Effective December 1, 2026)

The California Department of Food and Agriculture's Pierce's Disease and Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Board is accepting proposals for research and outreach projects on the serious pests and diseases of winegrapes listed below. While applications addressing any of these pests and diseases will be considered, funding will be prioritized for those designated as Tier 1.

Board Name Change: *Effective January 1, 2027, the Pierce's Disease and Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Board will become the Winegrape Pest and Disease Prevention Board (CDFA PD Board), following the passage of industry-supported legislation. The new name reflects the Board's expanded focus on protecting California winegrapes from a broader range of pests and diseases, while continuing to prioritize Pierce's disease and the glassy-winged sharpshooter.*

Tier 1:

- Pierce's disease and its vectors, especially the glassy-winged sharpshooter
- Grapevine leafroll disease
- Grapevine red blotch disease
- Mealybug pests of winegrapes

Tier 2:

- Brown marmorated stink bug
- Grapevine fanleaf disease
- Spotted lanternfly

Priority for funding will be given to high-scoring proposals addressing the following topics:

- Development of practical solutions to pest and disease problems affecting California growers
- Understanding the latency period between virus inoculation and symptom expression
- Filling critical knowledge gaps regarding disease vector biology and transmission ecology
- Development and evaluation of area-wide management strategies including regional vector and disease data sharing
- Data-driven recommendations for roguing and replanting strategies
- Education on disease prevention that encourages adoption of best management practices, including vector management, rouging infected vines, and using clean planting stock
- Improved viral laboratory diagnostics that are affordable, reliable, and consistent across testing facilities

It is recommended that all applicants with projects involving grapevine leafroll virus, grapevine red blotch virus, and mealybug pests of winegrapes read and reference the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) consensus study, "Advancing Vineyard Health." The report is available online at: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/pdcp/avhr.html.

Proposals are due via electronic submission by **January 31, 2027**. Grants will be awarded for one to three years, beginning with California state fiscal year 2027-28 (July 1, 2027 to June 30, 2028). For projects awarded two or three years of funding, receipt of a subsequent year of funding will be contingent on satisfactory progress during the prior year and the continuing relevance and importance of the project's objectives.

Timeline

- Request for Proposals Released ..... December 1, 2026
- Proposals Due ..... January 31, 2027
- Award Notifications ..... approx. May 15, 2027
- Start Date for Grants ..... July 1, 2027

Funding

- The CDFA PD Board's Research and Outreach Program is funded by a special assessment paid by the California winegrape industry.
- As the California winegrape industry faces challenging market conditions and the CDFA Pierce's Disease Control Program responds to glassy-winged sharpshooter pressure in new areas, proposals that demonstrate prudent use of limited resources are appreciated.
- Prior awards have ranged from $4,300 to $383,000 per year, with projects lasting one to three years.

General Information

- This RFP document and additional information about the program is available online at https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/pdcp/grants/.
- Funding preference will be given to projects deemed likely to lead to practical solutions to winegrape pest and disease problems in California.
- Multi-disciplinary, collaborative team projects which incorporate extension activities are encouraged.
- Applicants are responsible for obtaining all governmental permits required for conducting their proposed activities. For more information, please visit the following websites:
  - California research permits: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/permitsandregs.html
  - Federal research permits: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/efile
- Confidential information and materials should not be submitted.
- Every funded project must submit periodic progress reports, a comprehensive final report, a summary final report, and a five-minute project summary video. ADA-compliant report files are preferred.

- Proposals representing a continuing project currently funded by the PD Board must submit a progress report as a separate document by the January 31, 2027 deadline as well as a five-minute project progress video.
- Funded Project Leaders are expected to attend PD Board-sponsored research symposia or other relevant meetings as appropriate to share project progress and outcomes.
- Information on past and currently funded projects is available on the following websites. Applicants are encouraged to review this information to ensure proposed activities represent new ideas or approaches.
  - Current Research Projects: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/pdcp/Documents/Current_and_Recent_Research_Projects.pdf
  - Annual Research Project Reports: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/pdcp/board/annual_research_project_reports.html

Eligibility

- Any individual or group with expertise in winegrape pest and disease research and/or outreach and who is affiliated with a non-profit institution is eligible and encouraged to submit proposals.

Format and Content of Proposals

- See "Proposal Format and Guidelines" starting on page 5.
- Applicants at the University of California and the California State University may submit their proposals in the AB 20 Model Agreement Template format but must include all elements in this RFP (https://www.ucop.edu/research-policy-analysis-coordination/policies-guidance/state-of-california/cma-templates.html).

Definitions of Participant Responsibilities

- **Project Leader**: The Project Leader is the person with overall responsibility for the conduct of the project and for expenditure of funds. Each project has only one Project Leader.
- **Co-Project Leader**: A Co-Project Leader is a person who receives support or material of significant value from the project. A project may have more than one Co-Project Leader.
- **Cooperator**: A Cooperator is a person who provides advice, materials, or data to the project, advances project activities, uses results developed in the project, and/or carries out activities in parallel to the project which are mutually beneficial. A Cooperator does not receive support or material of significant value from the project. A project may have more than one Cooperator.

Review Process and Criteria

Review panels and/or individual reviewers will review proposals. In addition, the PD Board's Research Screening Committee will review and make recommendations to the PD Board on the funding of proposals. The PD Board will then make funding recommendations to the CDFA Secretary.

Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated in the following areas (100 points):

- **Objectives and Relevance** – Are the objectives clearly stated, justified, worthwhile, and reasonable? Are the proposed objectives likely to contribute significantly to solving the problem? Does the proposed project unproductively overlap with other projects? (15 points)
- **Industry Deliverables** – Is there a clear explanation of how the findings would lead to practical applications in California winegrape production? Is there sufficient description of the further steps beyond the current project that may be necessary to achieve field application? (5 points)
- **Activities to Accomplish Objectives** – Is the workplan reasonable, feasible, and capable of meeting the stated goals and objectives? For research, is the work plan of good scientific merit? For outreach, is the work plan likely to lead to positive change in grower practices? (40 points)
- **Project Leader, Co-Project Leaders, and Others** – Do they have appropriate backgrounds, expertise, experience, and capabilities for the proposed tasks? For multidisciplinary projects dealing with both pathogens and vectors, is expertise sufficiently represented in the research team? Is the team missing any critical capabilities? (10 points)
- **Resources and Likelihood of Accomplishing Objectives** – Assuming the requested funds are awarded, will the Project Leader and associates have the resources, including facilities, to achieve the objectives? (10 points)
- **Project Timetable** – Are the milestones appropriate and achievable? (10 points)
- **Budget** – Is the budget reasonable, appropriate, and a good use of grower dollars? (10 points)

Due Date for Submissions

- Proposals should be **submitted as attachments via email by January 31, 2027** to pdresearch@cdfa.ca.gov. Please do not submit printed copies. Incomplete or late proposals may be eliminated from consideration. Acceptable document formats: PDF (.pdf), Word (.doc, .docx).

Additional Information

- California state law requires that grantees receiving research grants from California state agencies provide free public access to any publication of a peer-reviewed manuscript describing state-agency-funded knowledge. See California Government Code sections 13989 - 13989.6 for more information.
- California state law requires that any entity that contracts with a state or local entity for the provision of electronic or information technology or for the provision of related services shall agree to respond to, and resolve, any complaint regarding accessibility of its products or services that is brought to the attention of the entity. See California Government Code section 7405 for more information.
- With limited exceptions, the content of proposals may be subject to Public Records Act requests and is not considered confidential.

Questions

Questions about this RFP may be directed to the CDFA Pierce's Disease Control Program at 916-900-5024 or pdresearch@cdfa.ca.gov.

PROPOSAL FORMAT AND GUIDELINES
for submissions to the CDFA PD Board

- Proposals should not exceed the maximum page length (15 pages + title page, biographies, citations, budget, and current/planned/pending/recent support for related activities).
- Please use 12-point font and one-inch margins.
- Please spell out all acronyms and abbreviations when first used.
- **Submit via email to pdresearch@cdfa.ca.gov with the completed proposal as an attachment.** Acceptable document formats: PDF (.pdf), Word (.doc, .docx).
- Submissions are due by **January 31, 2027**.
- Applicants from the University of California and the California State University may submit their proposals in the AB 20 Model Agreement Template format but must include all elements outlined below.

Project Title
Please give the title of the proposal. If this is a continuing project and you are changing the title, please explain why.

Project Leader
Indicate the Project Leader, i.e., the person responsible for overall project management, coordination, and execution. Include institutional affiliation, which must be a non-profit, as well as address, phone number, and e-mail address.

Co-Project Leaders
Please include institutional affiliations, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses. Indicate each Co-Project Leader's role, and ensure each Co-Project Leader is aware of their proposed participation.

Cooperators
Please indicate the roles of each Cooperator and make sure they are aware of their proposed participation.

Expected Duration of Project
Please indicate the number of years for which funding is requested (maximum of three years).

Budget Summary
Please provide the budget total for each requested year. (Note: more information on the proposed budget, including detail and justification, is requested below.)

Keywords
Please supply important keywords that characterize this project.

Project History

Please indicate if this is a new or continuing project. If this is a continuing project, include a clear description of when it began, the number of years of activity, and source(s) of funding. Also, indicate how this project relates to other past, current, and anticipated future projects. Summarize previous work in this area.

Clarification about Progress Reports: Progress reports should not be included as part of your submission. Instead, use the section titled "Project History" to briefly discuss any previous work on your project that is relevant to the present proposal.

Layperson Summary (400 words maximum)

Provide a clear, easy-to-understand summary of your proposed research for California winegrape growers and others without a scientific background. Use plain, everyday language and avoid scientific jargon and unnecessary technical details. Focus on the research's practical value and its potential benefits to California's winegrape industry.

Explain:

- **Why it matters:** What pest, disease, or industry challenge does this project address, and why is it important to winegrape growers?
- **What you plan to do:** What are the main goals of the project and what will be your approach?
- **What you expect to learn:** What questions will the project help answer, and what results do you anticipate?
- **How growers could benefit:** How might the findings help growers manage pests and diseases, protect their vineyards, reduce costs, or make better decisions? When might these potential benefits be realized?

This summary may be adapted for PD Board outreach materials to help growers understand the value of the research and outreach the Board supports.

Objectives of Proposed Project and Path to Application

Following sections *a-d* below, please state the aim or broad goal of the proposal, followed by a numbered list of specific objectives. After the specific objectives, provide a summary of the potential impact, relevance, and outcomes of the proposed project. Cite relevant literature.

a. *Background and Justification for the Proposed Project*
   State the aim or broad goal of the project.
b. *Main Goals and Specific Objectives*
   Include a numbered list of specific objectives.
c. *Path to Application*
   Describe how the project's findings will lead to practical applications in California winegrape production and describe the steps that must be taken to achieve field application. Provide an estimated timeframe. Describe how the overall project and each objective address the fundamental goal of protecting winegrape production in California.

d. Deliverables

Describe any concrete products, outcomes, or activities that will come out of this project. These might include public presentations, field days, research or extension publications, etc. Progress reports to CDFA are required for all funded projects as described above under "General Information" and need not be mentioned here.

Methodology to Accomplish Objectives

Discuss the methodology for each objective. For research, discuss laboratory experiments or plot design, expected results, statistical analyses, methods to be used, data-collection parameters, including sampling methods and potential pitfalls and limitations. For research that has a field component, discuss site selection and how the field component will help accomplish the stated objectives. Cite relevant literature.

Timetable

Please outline the project timeline, including start dates, activity periods, and completion dates for each activity and objective, as well as for the entire project.

Resources and Likelihood of Accomplishing Objectives

Please summarize how the resources of the Project Leader and associates (i.e., dedicated financial sources, computer facilities, laboratory and field resources, and human resources) and previous work make the proposed work feasible and increase the likelihood of accomplishing the stated objectives. Project Leaders conducting field research should indicate who will maintain the field site and include a statement describing how the site will be maintained following standard sustainable farming practices for the viticulture region.

Intellectual Property

Please describe any intellectual property, other than copyrighted publications, that this project is likely to produce, and provide information or a URL describing your institution's policies for managing intellectual property. In addition, Project Leaders should make reasonable efforts to describe any proprietary technologies, including methodologies, that your project will necessarily use or incorporate and the steps, if any, that may be required in order to use these proprietary technologies for practical field applications of the project's results.

Literature Cited

Please include a list of literature cited in the proposal. Provide complete citations (authors, year published, full title, journal or book title, and page numbers). Within the proposal, cite references by author and year.

Current, Planned, Pending, and Recent Support

Please use the following format to identify support for your current, planned, pending, and recent projects that have any component related to the proposed project in your submission.

- Provide information on all current, planned, pending, and recent projects, whether or not there is a specific time commitment by a Project Leader or Co-Project Leader. Where there is a time commitment (with or without a salary provision) indicate the

percentage of time on an annual basis. If there are no current, planned, or pending projects, please state “NONE.”

- Explain any connections and/or overlaps between existing and/or pending support and this submitted proposal. How will the total support package tie together? If there is overlap, provide a short narrative describing which activities overlap and the percentage of effort on the proposed project that is to be devoted to the overlapping activities. If no overlap is expected, please state “NONE.”

Related current projects:

Name	Supporting agency & project number	Total budget	Effective & expiration dates	Percent of time committed	Project title
(Project Leader & Co-Project Leaders)					

Related projects that are planned (within the next six months) or for which funding is pending, and recent projects (past five years) for which funding was received:

Name	Supporting agency & project number	Total budget	Proposed effective & expiration dates	Percent of time committed	Project title
(Project Leader & Co-Project Leaders)	This proposed project				
(Project Leader & Co-Project Leaders)					

Biographical Sketches

Please include a brief biographical sketch for each Project Leader and Co-Project Leader. List up to 15 of their most recent publications (not just those relating to the current project). Maximum of two pages per Project Leader or Co-Project Leader, excluding the list of publications.

Budget Request and Justification

- Please present the budget request on a separate page, in the format provided on the following page. Do not put amounts in shaded areas.
- In addition to the budget table, provide a narrative explanation and justification of budget items broken down by budget line.
- Indirect cost charges should not be included in submitted proposals. Applicants from the University of California and the California State University institutions may refer to this link for more information about the exclusion of indirect costs: https://www.ucop.edu/research-policy-analysis-coordination/policies-guidance/indirect-cost-recovery/indirect-costs-and-agriculture-marketing-boards.html.
- Amounts for student fees, tuition, etc. should not be included unless your organization requires them to be included. If you include such charges, please include a statement certifying that your organization requires them.
- CDFA retains the right to claim ownership of any equipment purchased using CDFA PD Board funds.
- Services of private subcontractors must be obtained through a competitive bidding process.
- Funded Project Leaders are expected to report on their progress at PD Board-sponsored research symposia or other relevant meetings as appropriate to share project progress and outcomes. Project Leaders are advised to include budget amounts to cover registration charges and travel costs to attend meetings.

Budget Request Format for Submissions to the CDFA PD Board

	FY 2027-28		FY 2028-29		FY 2029-30		
	% of Time on Project	Amount ($)	% of Time on Project	Amount ($)	% of Time on Project	Amount ($)	**TOTAL**
Salaries & Wages							
Professional							
SRA/Tech							
Lab Assistant							
Other							
Employee Benefits							
SUBTOTAL (Salaries, Wages, & Benefits)							
Supplies & Expenses							
Equipment							
Travel							
Other							
SUBTOTAL (Supplies, Expenses, Equipment, etc.)							
TOTAL							

Notes for Budget Request Format

- Indirect cost charges should not be included in submitted proposals.
- Amounts for student fees, tuition, etc. should not be included unless your organization requires them to be included.
- A narrative explanation and justification of budget items must accompany the above budget table.