

Q&A

PEST MANAGEMENT RESEARCH GRANTS | 2017–2018

GENERAL

{QUESTION} Is the start of the grant period (July 1, 2017) flexible?

{ANSWER} July 1, 2017 is the earliest possible date that funds are available and that work may begin, assuming there are no delays in the approval of California's 2017-18 state budget or in grant execution (Projects may not begin before the budget is approved or the grant is executed). Projects may begin **later** than July 1st. Keep in mind, however, that while you may delay the start date, the end date for completing all work cannot extend past March 31, 2020.

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{Q} How much funding is available for each grant cycle and where do the funds come from?

{A} On July 1, 2017 (upon approval of California's 2017-18 state budget), a total of \$1,100,000 is expected to be available for research grants. DPR will consider proposals requesting \$50,000 to \$500,000.

The grant program is funded by DPR's Pesticide Regulation Fund, not the State general fund.

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{Q} How many projects do you expect to fund?

{A} DPR will fund two to four grant projects.

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{Q} Is there a concept phase?

{A} Yes, the grant has both a concept and a proposal phase. The proposal phase is by invitation only.

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{Q} Do I need special permission to contract with the State?

{A} No. This is a grant. Special provisions for entering into a contract do not apply.

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{Q} Is an interdisciplinary approach required?

{A} An interdisciplinary approach is not a requirement unless the project goals require it. The research team and methods should represent the disciplines and expertise needed to meet the stated goals.

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{Q} When does all project work need to be completed?

{A} All work on the project, including the final report in its final form, must be completed by March 31, 2020. Any sub-contract work must be completed by January 31, 2020. All invoicing must be completed and submitted to DPR by May 1, 2020.

{Q} Do I need to host meetings and create newsletters?

{A} Project update meetings are required, to be attended by the grant manager(s) and project team, as specified in the solicitation. Outreach meetings and outreach materials are not required. However, research grant teams may consider applying for an alliance grant in the future, which funds outreach of research results to promote implementation and adoption.



{Q} Will DPR staff meet with the principal investigator during the project?

{A} Yes. A DPR staff person(s) will be assigned to meet with principal investigator for updates, to provide data and technical expertise as needed, and help with any issues that arise.



{Q} Can the project be collaborative?

{A} Yes.

PROJECT TOPICS

{Q} Will DPR fund projects that focus on pesticides other than fumigants?

{A} A major focus of the 2017-18 Research Grants program is to fund projects that investigate IPM options to reduce risks associated with field agricultural fumigants, but projects that explore IPM to reduce risks associated with other high-risk pesticides will be considered. The focus priorities of the research grant may change each year.



{Q} Will projects be funded that do not align exactly with the priorities you listed?

{A} DPR will give priority to research projects that can reduce risks associated with field agricultural fumigants to control soil pests. However, projects that can reduce risks associated with other high-risk pesticides will be considered (see above). Projects that do not meet our stated priorities are unlikely to be funded.



{Q} Is the field agricultural fumigant priority associated with a specific crop?

{A} Any California crop that is known to use a fumigant for soil pests that poses risk to human health or the environment qualifies.

WHO'S ELIGIBLE

{Q} Can a private organization receive the grant award?

{A} Yes. Principal investigators may come from public or private institutions or organizations that have experience performing research including, but not limited to, commodity boards, marketing orders, UC Cooperative Extension, accredited institutions of higher learning, government agencies, consultants, pest control businesses, and nonprofit organizations.



{Q} Can project team members work in other states?

{A} Yes, but field work portions of projects must be conducted entirely in California, or under California-like conditions.

COMPILING THE PROPOSAL

{Q} Do I need to use the Proposal Package provided on DPRs website?

{A} Yes, there are minor but important variations in DPRs version.

SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL

{Q} What is FFAST?

{A} DPR has contracted with the State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB) to host the concept and proposal submission process through their Web-based Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FFAST). The FFAST site is composed of a series of tabs (General Information, Project Budget, Funding, Cooperating Entities, Questionnaire, and Attachments), each with an associated list of questions and response boxes.

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{Q} Can we send you a hard copy of our proposal?

{A} No. We request that you submit your proposal using the free Web-based Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FFAST). FFAST can be accessed at <https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov/>

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{Q} Will I need to submit my proposal through my contracts office?

{A} If you are with the University of California, you will need to submit your proposal through your contracts office.

RÉSUMÉ

{Q} How much detail do you want in the résumé? For example, should I include my entire publication list? Any guidelines on the amount of detail required?

{A} The intent is to provide the review committee with a sense of the relevant experience of the principal investigator(s) and key research team members. Please include publications and experience you feel are relevant to the project. Résumés should not be more than two pages long.

DEVELOPING A BUDGET

{Q} My proposal includes project planning and oversight cost estimates. However, it does not account for the cost of mandatory DPR meetings and report preparation. Will mandatory meetings and reporting be considered overhead or separate line items?

{A} Mandatory meetings and reporting are not considered overhead. If travel is involved to attend meetings, include that in the travel line item in the budget.

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{Q} What are the maximum indirect costs allowed and how are they calculated?

{A} Indirect costs cannot exceed 25 percent of the sum of all budget line items excluding the balance of subawards over \$25,000 or equipment over \$5,000.

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{Q} Are matching funds required?

{A} No.

{Q} My project is a component of a larger project funded by multiple sources. What concerns do I need to address?

{A} If the proposed project is a component of a larger project funded by multiple sources, the proposed project cannot be dependent on those other sources for completion of any task or deliverable included in the proposal. A proposed project must be complete with its own goals, outcomes, and deliverables, all of which must be completed entirely using the requested dollar amount. In-kind contributions of effort, equipment, or materials by team members are allowed, however (see below).

In-kind contributions: Project activities by team members that have been approved by their employers to be compensated with existing employer funds at the time of proposal submission.

Allowed:

- Personnel time given to project by team members.
- Use of team member's existing equipment or facilities.
- Donation of materials by team members.

Not allowed:

- Project tasks that are simultaneously funded by more than one source.
- Project tasks reliant on labor or outcomes of activities that are not part of the DPR-funded project.

The DPR-funded project must be 'stand-alone' even if it is a component of a larger research endeavor. In other words, if all aspects of the larger research endeavor were taken away, the DPR-funded project must still be able to achieve all objectives and deliverables.