



DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM 2025 SOLICITATION

The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is excited to announce that the [2025 Research Grants Program](#) is open for applications. To support the use of safer, more sustainable pest management practices in California, DPR annually funds Research Grant projects that advance integrated pest management (IPM) knowledge in agricultural, urban, or wildland settings. Projects should focus on reducing impacts to public health or the environment from pesticides of high regulatory interest. The program has a long history of [awarding diverse projects](#) that meet these goals and advance many different aspects of IPM.

The 2025 Research Grants Program is particularly seeking applications that address one or more of the following priority topic areas. The priority topic areas are:

- IPM for underserved or disadvantaged communities;
- Decreasing the use of pesticides of high regulatory interest (such as fumigants like 1,3-dichloropropene or sulfuryl fluoride);
- Advancement of urban IPM and safer, more sustainable pest management tools and strategies in urban settings;
- Advancement of IPM and safer, more sustainable pest management tools and strategies in agricultural settings adjacent to or near a school(s);
- Meeting the IPM needs of small growers; and/or
- **TWO or more** of the three sustainability pillars noted below and referenced in the [Sustainable Pest Management \(SPM\) Roadmap](#):
 - Human Health and Social Equity
 - Environmental Protections
 - Economic Vitality

Please note that definitions for the terms *underserved communities*; *disadvantaged communities*; and *pesticides of high regulatory interest* are provided in the “Definitions for Priority Topic Areas” section on page three below.

Successful applications will provide strong evidence of the usage of pesticides of high regulatory interest and support for the project’s potential to reduce or eliminate this usage. The most competitive Research Grant projects are those that address the priority topic areas listed above, can serve as a model for similar situations, and have a high potential for wide adoption.

This year, DPR has requested a total of \$1,900,000 for IPM grants funding with final program funding availability to be determined pending budget approval. Projects with budgets between \$50,000 and \$500,000 and timelines up to three years in length (end date of June 30, 2028) are invited to apply.

[Apply today](#) and your project may contribute to DPR's mission to protect human health and the environment by fostering sustainable pest management while also supporting the state's transition to systemwide adoption of safer, more sustainable pest management practices!

Completed proposal applications must be submitted no later than **Thursday, September 19, 2024, 11:59:59 PM Pacific Time (PT)** to the DPR Integrated Pest Management Grants Program email address at IPMGrants@cdpr.ca.gov.

If you would like to receive updates on DPR's Research Grants solicitation, please sign up for [our subscriber list](#).

If you have any questions, please reach out to DPR staff at IPMGrants@cdpr.ca.gov.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Defintions For Priority Topic Areas.....	3
Program Dates and Deadlines	4
Eligibility Requirements.....	4
Proposal Application Process	6
Review and Notification Process	7
Informational Videos	8
DPR-Hosted Office Hours	8
Ranking Considerations for Reviewers	9

DEFINITIONS FOR PRIORITY TOPIC AREAS

Disadvantaged communities are defined based on [CalEPA’s current designation](#) of Disadvantaged Communities for the purpose of Senate Bill 535 as:

- Census tracts receiving the highest 25 percent of overall scores in [CalEnviroScreen 4.0](#);
- Census tracts lacking overall scores in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 due to data gaps, but receiving the highest 5 percent of CalEnviroScreen 4.0 cumulative pollution burden scores;
- Census tracts identified in the 2017 DAC designation as disadvantaged, regardless of their scores in CalEnviroScreen 4.0; and/or
- Lands under the control of federally recognized Tribes.

These disadvantaged communities can be viewed [here](#).

Underserved communities are defined based on [Assembly Bill 841](#) as communities that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Median household income less than 80% of the statewide median income (subdivision (g) of Section 75005 of the Public Resources Code);
- Census tracts with median household incomes at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income (paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 39713 of Health and Safety Code); and/or
- At least 75% of public-school students in the project area are eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program.

Pesticides of high regulatory interest are defined as pesticides listed in the following categories of interest as analyzed in DPR’s most recently released Annual Pesticide Use Report (PUR):

- carcinogens,
- cholinesterase inhibitors,
- fumigants,
- groundwater contaminants,
- reproductive toxins, and
- toxic air contaminants.

Refer to the [Pesticides of High Regulatory Interest](#) spreadsheet for additional data and details on the pesticides identified in these categories for the most recent report.

PROGRAM DATES AND DEADLINES

- **July 2024** – Solicitation period opens; DPR begins accepting proposal applications
- **Thursday, September 19, 2024** – Final application deadline
- **Thursday, February 13, 2025 (9:30 am)** – [Pest Management Advisory Committee \(PMAC\)](#) Research Grants proposal review meeting
- **April 2025** – Funding decision emails sent out
- **July 1, 2025** – Earliest project start date pending full execution of grant agreement
- **June 30, 2028** – Latest project end date

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. The project must primarily benefit the people of California.
2. The project must not mention, promote, or disparage a pest control brand or trade name in a deliverable or use the image of a product in a deliverable. Active ingredient names must be used instead.
3. All applicants, principal investigators, key personnel, subrecipients, subcontractors, and consultants must meet all eligibility requirements and be eligible to contract with DPR.
4. All **University of California/California State University System (UC/CSU)** grantees, principal investigators, key personnel, subrecipients, subcontractors, and consultants must abide by all provisions of the applicable **UC/CSU Terms and Conditions**, including overhead capped at 25%.
Or:
All **Non-UC/CSU** grantees, principal investigators, key personnel, subcontractors, and consultants must abide by all provisions of the **Non-UC/CSU Terms and Conditions**, including overhead capped at 25%.

Note that an individual with delegated authority to sign grant agreements is required to sign the proposal application confirming that all terms and conditions have been reviewed and accepted.
5. Research team members must have the appropriate background and technical experience to complete the project.
6. The funding requested must be within the minimum and maximum funding limits of \$50,000-\$500,000.

7. The project must not depend on other sources of funding for the completion of any task or deliverable. However, in-kind contributions of personnel time, equipment, facilities, and materials by research team members are allowed.
8. The project goals and objectives must be directed towards developing methods or practices to reduce risks associated with pesticides of high regulatory interest and which can be incorporated into an IPM system.
9. The project must demonstrate the economic feasibility and efficacy related to scalable implementation of the proposed IPM practices to be promoted.
10. The project must focus primarily on research; however, outreach regarding research outcomes should be a final component included in the overall project. Projects focusing primarily on outreach, not research, are encouraged to apply to DPR's [Alliance Grants Program](#).
11. The project must not include activities directed toward, or used to subsidize, DPR personnel, DPR work activities, or any DPR-funded work activities delegated to others, such as county agricultural commissioners.
12. Eligible applicants may include (but are not limited to) entities such as government and tribal agencies, universities, colleges, consultants, pest control businesses, commodity groups, and nonprofit organizations. Principal investigators, key personnel, subrecipients, subcontractors, and consultants must not have outstanding fines or penalties with DPR or with any county agricultural commissioner.
13. DPR employees are not eligible to receive funds or participate as part of the research team; however, other state employees may receive funds and participate as part of the research team.
14. PMAC members or their alternates involved in a Research Grant proposal application must abide by the conflict-of-interest requirements contained within the [PMAC Charter](#).
15. All applicants, principal investigators, key personnel, subrecipients, subcontractors, and consultants must abide by all state and federal laws and regulations.

PROPOSAL APPLICATION PROCESS

The 2025 Research Grants proposal application package is now available and may be downloaded. The 2025 Research Grants proposal application package contains all required documents for preparing your proposal application. Please read and review the documents carefully and relay any questions to IPMGrants@cdpr.ca.gov.

The proposal application package consists of the following documents:

- Department of Pesticide Regulation Research Grants Program 2025 Solicitation (PDF – this document),
- Research Grant Proposal Application Form (Microsoft Word document),
- Research Grants Program 2025 Supplemental Guidance Documents (PDF),
- Budget Tables Worksheet (Microsoft Excel Worksheet),
- Subaward Budget Tables Worksheets (Microsoft Excel Worksheet, if applicable),
- Terms and Conditions for UC/CSU grantees (PDF), and
- Terms and Conditions for Non-UC/CSU grantees (PDF).

Completed proposal applications must be submitted no later than **Thursday, September 19, 2024, 11:59:59 PM Pacific Time (PT)** to the DPR Integrated Pest Management Grants Program email address at IPMGrants@cdpr.ca.gov.

Completed proposal applications should contain all the required documents listed below. Optional documents may be included as needed to support the proposal application. **Submit the documents as follows:**

- **Submit all of the following as a combined single PDF.**
 - Completed Research Grant Proposal Application Form, including:
 - Completed Section 1: Project Information;
 - Completed Section 2: Research Grant Proposal Application Questions (*Note: Answers to Questions 1 – 4 should not exceed one page each, for a total of four pages.*); and
 - Completed Section 3: Scope of Work and Budget.
 - Letters of support from expected beneficiaries of the IPM systems or practices and from others who can attest to the quality or effectiveness of the applicant’s similar work.
 - Curriculum vitae or resumes of principal investigators (PIs) and key personnel. (*Note: Curriculum vitae or resumes should not exceed three pages for each individual.*)
 - A list of active ingredients that will likely be affected if the proposed IPM systems or practices are adopted.
 - A list of active ingredients proposed to be used during the course of the project (if applicable).
 - (OPTIONAL) Illustrative graphics that enhance the application (e.g. flow charts).

- **Submit the key cited documents as a combined single PDF.**
 - Full-text versions of up to five key cited documents that establish the basis for the proposed research.
- **Submit the Scope of Work and Budget Information section of the proposal application form as an additional Microsoft Word Document.**
 - Word file of the Scope of Work and Budget.
- **Submit the Budget Tables Worksheet and any needed Subaward Budget Tables Worksheets as Microsoft Excel Worksheets. (Note: Submitted proposal applications containing worksheets with changes made to locked portions of these worksheets are subject to disqualification without further review.)**
 - Budget Tables Worksheet containing completed calculations for all applicable budget categories in the composite budget.
 - Subaward Budget Tables Worksheets containing completed calculations for all applicable budget categories for each subcontractor or subrecipient (if applicable).

REVIEW AND NOTIFICATION PROCESS

After you submit your proposal application, DPR staff will perform an initial screening of the submitted materials for completeness of the submitted application package, accuracy and completeness of budget calculations and justifications, and satisfaction of eligibility requirements. Eligibility requirements can be found in the “Eligibility Requirements” section above. **Please note that submitted proposal applications that are incomplete, missing required components, or which clearly do not meet all eligibility requirements are subject to disqualification without further review.**

Complete proposal applications that are found to meet all eligibility requirements in DPR’s initial screening will be reviewed and ranked by DPR staff and the Pest Management Advisory Committee (PMAC)¹, a diverse stakeholder group with members having expertise or interest in pest management that assists DPR’s Grants Programs with proposal application review.

PMAC will make its grant funding recommendations to the Director via a consensus-based proposal application ranking process that occurs during a [public meeting](#) on February 13, 2025. DPR staff will also rank the proposal applications and the independent DPR and PMAC rankings will be evenly weighted and combined. DPR staff use the combined DPR and PMAC rankings to provide their funding recommendations to the Director. The Director considers both PMAC and DPR rankings and funding recommendations in making the final funding decisions. Applicants will be notified of funding award decisions via email by April 2025. Feedback for applicants whose projects were not selected for funding will be provided after awards are announced.

¹ For more information about PMAC, including dates and agendas of public meetings and the current roster, visit the [DPR website](#).

For awarded proposals, certain aspects of the proposal application may be requested for revision during grant agreement drafting for accuracy or due to changing conditions since the proposal was submitted.

INFORMATIONAL VIDEOS

DPR staff have produced recorded videos on topics to assist applicants in successfully applying to our Grants Programs. These videos are available on DPR's YouTube channel at <https://youtube.com/@CaliforniaPesticides> and include sessions devoted to the following topics:

- [DPR's Grant Programs – Purpose and Priorities](#)
Reviews the basics about DPR's Grants Programs and provides a broad overview of topics that applicants should keep in mind when applying
- [Budgets and Budget Justifications](#)
Discusses the budget and budget justifications that applicants complete when applying to DPR's Grants Programs
- [Scope of Work, Objectives, Tasks, and Deliverables](#)
Discusses the Scope of Work that applicants complete when applying to DPR's Grants Programs

If you have any further questions after reviewing these videos, contact DPR staff at IPMGrants@cdpr.ca.gov or consider scheduling an appointment with DPR staff during DPR-hosted office hours to review specific questions. For more information, see the "DPR-Hosted Office Hours" section below.

DPR-HOSTED OFFICE HOURS

DPR's Grants Program hosts "office hours" for potential applicants to be able to reserve 30-minute appointments to discuss various aspects of Research Grants Program proposal applications. Please note that discussion may not focus on any of the criteria or aspects that are competitively ranked by DPR staff and Pest Management Advisory Committee (PMAC) members when reviewing and ranking proposal applications. For example, DPR staff will be unable to provide guidance on topics such as choice of proposal topic, quality of ideas, or experimental plans. A list of competitively ranked criteria can be found in the "Ranking Considerations for Reviewers" section of the solicitation.

For information on competitively ranked criteria for which DPR staff cannot provide applicant guidance, please consider reviewing the [Research Grants Guidance Document](#) or watching the recorded videos described in the "Informational Videos" section above.

To sign up for an appointment, please fill out the [2025 DPR Grants Program Office Hours Form](#). Note that when requesting a scheduled appointment, you will be prompted to include a specific set of questions or topics for discussion. After submitting the form, you will receive an email confirming your appointment and providing a Zoom link for the meeting.

To maximize time, DPR staff highly recommend that you complete the sections of the proposal application for the [Research Grants Program](#) that you want to discuss **in advance** to the best of your ability, including the required Budget Tables Worksheet(s).

RANKING CONSIDERATIONS FOR REVIEWERS

The criteria below will be used by DPR staff and PMAC members when ranking proposal applications:

QUESTION 1 – BENEFITS TO CALIFORNIANS (30 PERCENT WEIGHT)

What DPR priority topics area(s) does this project seek to address? Is there a need for this project and will the people of California and expected beneficiaries of the IPM systems or practices significantly benefit from the project?

- **Alignment with DPR Priority Topic Areas and the [SPM Roadmap](#) (10 Percent)**
 - Does the project address one or more of the DPR priority topic areas?
 - Which priority topic areas are addressed, and how?
 - What is the expected scale of impact to pest management practices in the priority topic areas?

- **Benefits to Californians (20 percent)**
 - How does the project align with the Research Grant Program’s mission to advance IPM knowledge in agricultural, urban, or wildland settings?
 - Which pesticides and pests relevant to California are being addressed by the project?
 - Which California stakeholders are expected to benefit from this project?
 - What is the expected reduction in the usage of pesticides that are of high regulatory interest if project findings are adopted?
 - Are letters of support from people who can attest to the quality or effectiveness of the applicant’s similar work included and what do these letters indicate?
 - Are letters of support from those who would be involved in adopting the proposal’s findings if proven effective included and what is their stakeholder reach?
 - What are the risks from current pesticide use practices this project seeks to address?

QUESTION 2 – INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (15 PERCENT WEIGHT)

Will this project aid in the development and enhancement of IPM systems? Will implementation of the project lead to reductions of public health risks or environmental damage associated with the use of pesticides of high regulatory interest?

- What pest management practices and IPM systems does this project seek to develop?
- How do the pest management practices or IPM systems help minimize risk to public health and the environment?
- Is the pest problem or situation that this project addresses a significant issue or widespread in California?

- How does the proposed project show the ability to reduce pesticide use and reliance if adopted?
- Does this project help develop or research a pest management practice or IPM system that would otherwise remain unfunded or underfunded?
- Does the public interest of the project outweigh any potential private interests?

QUESTION 3 – ECONOMIC BENEFITS AND FEASIBILITY (15 PERCENT WEIGHT)

Does this project have economic benefits, and will it be economically feasible to implement?

- What is the project doing to show economic feasibility?
- What are the identified economic benefits of the project?
- From an economic standpoint, how do the practices proposed in the proposal application compare to current practices?
- How does the project propose to show the ability to overcome economic barriers to implementation in the relevant agricultural, urban, or wildland setting?
- How does the project propose to collect cost information of the IPM practices it explores?

QUESTION 4 – SCIENTIFIC METHODS (20 PERCENT WEIGHT)

What are the proposed scientific methods for research and analysis of the proposed IPM system?

- What is the scientific hypothesis being tested and has preliminary support for the hypothesis been shown?
- If there are assumptions underlying the design and methods that must be satisfied to apply the methods, are there appropriate tests to determine if those assumptions are satisfied?
- Are the experimental units defined and appropriate for each treatment group?
- Are the tested main, interaction, and simple effects defined, and are they identified as fixed, random, or mixed effects?
- Is the experimental design described and does the experimental design include randomization and repeated measures; if not, is there a reason why?
- How does the project propose to analyze the data collected and are the methods appropriate?
- For studies using modeling, does the project use appropriate methods to validate and determine the goodness of fit of the model?

SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET (20 PERCENT WEIGHT)

Considering all submitted proposal application materials, are the materials and methods sufficient to support the completion of the project?

- Are the project goals, objectives, tasks, and deliverables clearly stated and reasonably achievable within the grant period?
- Will the successful completion of the tasks achieve the objectives?
- Do the methods support the completion of the project's goals and objectives?
- Do the principal investigator and key personnel have the background, technical experience, and commitment needed to complete the project?

- Is the budget reasonable to complete the project?
- Does the budget justification and the budget tables worksheet (including any needed subaward budget tables worksheets) appropriately justify project expenses?
- If provided, do the illustrative graphics that show the project's experimental methods make sense?