



DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM 2023 SOLICITATION

The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is excited to announce that the 2023 [Research Grants Program](#) is open for applications. To support the use of safe, effective, sustainable pest management practices in California, DPR annually funds Research Grants 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 concern and/or considered high-risk. The Program has a long history of [awarding diverse projects](#) that meet these goals and advance many different aspects of IPM.

Successful applications will provide strong evidence of high-risk or high concern pesticide usage and support for the project's potential to reduce or eliminate this usage. Highly ranked projects typically include economic analyses of the proposed IPM tools or practices to demonstrate their utility. The most successful Research Grant projects are those that can serve as a model for similar situations and have a high potential for wide adoption.

This year, the Program has \$3.15 million in funding for projects up to 2.5 years in length (end date of December 31, 2025). Projects with budgets between \$50,000 and \$3.15 million are invited to apply.

[Apply today](#) and your project may contribute to DPR's mission to protect human health and the environment by fostering reduced-risk pest management practices and supporting the State's transition to system-wide adoption of sustainable pest management practices!

Completed Proposal Applications must be submitted no later than **Thursday, September 22, 2022** to the DPR Pest Management Grants Program email address at DPRpmGrants.Solicitation@cdpr.ca.gov.

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

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PROGRAM DATES AND DEADLINES

- **Early July 2022** – Solicitation period opens; DPR begins accepting Proposal Applications
- **Thursday, September 22, 2022** – Final application deadline
- **Thursday, February 9, 2023 (9:30 am)** – [Pest Management Advisory Committee \(PMAC\)](#) Research Grants proposal review meeting
- **Late March 2023** – Funding decision emails sent out
- **Monday, July 3, 2023** – Earliest project start date pending full execution of grant agreement
- **Wednesday, December 31, 2025** – 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, subawardees, 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/CSUS)** grantees, principal investigators, key personnel, subawardees, subcontractors, and consultants must abide by all of the provisions of the applicable [UC/CSUS Terms and Conditions](#), including overhead capped at 25%. We highly recommend UC/CSUS applicants have grant administration staff review application materials to ensure that the Terms and Conditions can be met.
5. All **Non-UC/CSUS** grantees, principal investigators, key personnel, subawardees, subcontractors, and consultants must abide by all of the provisions of the [Non-UC Terms and Conditions](#), including overhead capped at 25%. We highly recommend applicants have any

relevant grant administration personnel review application materials to ensure that the Terms and Conditions can be met.

6. Research team members must have the appropriate background and technical experience to complete the project.
7. The funding requested must be within the minimum and maximum funding limits of \$50,000-\$3.15 million.
8. 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.
9. The project goals and objectives must be directed towards developing methods or practices to reduce risks associated with pesticides of high regulatory concern and/or considered high-risk and which can be incorporated into an IPM system.
10. The project must demonstrate the economic feasibility and efficacy related to scalable implementation of the proposed IPM practices to be promoted.
11. 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](#).
12. 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.
13. 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, subawardees, subcontractors, and consultants must not have outstanding fines or penalties with DPR or with any County Agricultural Commissioner.
14. 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.
15. 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](#).

PROPOSAL APPLICATION PROCESS

The 2023 Research Grants Proposal Application Package is now available and may be downloaded. The 2023 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 the Research Grants Program Lead, Mr. Jordan Weibel, at DPRpmGrants.Solicitation@cdpr.ca.gov.

The Proposal Application Package consists of the following documents:

- [Department of Pesticide Regulation Research Grants Program 2023 Solicitation \(PDF – this document\)](#),
- [Research Grant Proposal Application Form \(Microsoft Word document\)](#),
- [Terms and Conditions for UC/CSUS grantees \(PDF\)](#), and
- [Terms and Conditions for non-UC/CSUS grantees \(PDF\)](#).

Completed Proposal Applications must be submitted no later than **Thursday, September 22, 2022** to the DPR Pest Management Grants Program email address at DPRpmGrants.Solicitation@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 all documents as a combined single PDF. Additionally, submit the Scope of Work and Budget Information as a Microsoft Word Document.**

REQUIRED

- 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.
- Full-text versions of up to five Key Cited Documents that document the effective and proven IPM systems or practices that your project will build upon.
- A list of pesticides or active ingredients that will likely be affected if the proposed IPM systems or practices are adopted.

OPTIONAL

- Illustrative graphics that enhance the application (e.g. flow charts).

Please note that Proposal Application submissions that are incomplete or are missing required components are subject to disqualification without further review.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the Research Grants Program Lead, Mr. Jordan Weibel, at DPRpmGrants.Solicitation@cdpr.ca.gov.

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. **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 stakeholder group with members from diverse affiliations with expertise and/or interest in pest management that assists DPR's Grants Programs with Proposal Application review.

PMAC will make grant funding recommendations to the Director via a consensus-based Proposal Application ranking process that occurs during a [public meeting](#) on February 9, 2023. DPR staff will also rank the Proposal Applications and provide funding recommendations to the Director. The Director considers both PMAC and DPR rankings and funding recommendations in making the final funding decisions.

Funding award decisions for individual Proposal Applications will be sent to applicants via an email from the Research Grants Program Lead, Mr. Jordan Weibel, by late March 2023. Feedback for applicants whose projects were not selected for funding will be provided after awards are announced.

VIRTUAL INFORMATION MEETINGS FOR APPLICANTS

Virtual information meetings will take place via Zoom to provide applicants with additional information and to answer questions. Each meeting has a general topic and will include a presentation by DPR staff with time at the end for any questions.

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

There is no registration process – attendance is open to anyone interested in attending. If you are unable to attend, sessions will be recorded and uploaded to DPR's [Research Grants website](#).

TOPIC: RESEARCH/ALLIANCE GRANT SOLICITATION PERIOD KICKOFF SESSION: PROGRAM GOALS, COMMONLY FUNDED PROJECTS, ELIGIBILITY, RESEARCH GRANTS VS. ALLIANCE GRANTS

Agenda: 40-minute Presentation, 20-minute Question and Answer

Date and Time: July 28, 2022, from 10:00 – 11:00 AM PDT

Hosted by: Tory Vizenor (Alliance Grants Lead) and Jordan Weibel (Research Grants Lead)

Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82321718080?pwd=aEZLK0pvdVgvcUUwWTREWU4yY1BYUT09>

Meeting ID: 823 2171 8080

Passcode: 720599

TOPIC: CRAFTING A SCOPE OF WORK; WRITING OBJECTIVES, TASKS, AND DELIVERABLES

Agenda: 40-minute Presentation, 20-minute Question and Answer

Meeting 1 of 2:

Date and Time: August 11, 2022, from 10:00 – 11:00 AM PDT

Hosted by: Jordan Weibel (Research Grants Lead)

Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84731527564?pwd=WIM0TVV3cGs3ckpVWHliL2lnOE94dz09>

Meeting ID: 847 3152 7564

Passcode: 012757

Meeting 2 of 2:

Date and Time: September 1, 2022, from 10:00 – 11:00 AM PDT

Hosted by: Tory Vizenor (Alliance Grants Lead)

Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87421818938?pwd=WHZ0TS81eTUrZDZLaWpzUU51NUILQT09>

Meeting ID: 874 2181 8938

Passcode: 596125

TOPIC: BUDGETS AND BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS

Agenda: 40-minute Presentation, 20-minute Question and Answer

Meeting 1 of 2:

Date and Time: August 18, 2022, from 10:00 – 11:00 AM PDT

Hosted by: Tory Vizenor (Alliance Grants Lead)

Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86064502062?pwd=Vk5TWU1ScTBaRC9uYVZlcGtjVWp4QT09>

Meeting ID: 860 6450 2062

Passcode: 362331

Meeting 2 of 2:

Date and Time: September 8, 2022, from 10:00 – 11:00 AM PDT

Hosted by: Jordan Weibel (Research Grants Lead)

Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86443614486?pwd=b0JxRWo3bU9EbE1ZZ0Z6dVJxOG5wdz09>

Meeting ID: 864 4361 4486

Passcode: 740669

TOPIC: GENERAL QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Agenda: 15-minute Presentation covering frequently asked questions, 45-minute Question and Answer

Date and Time: September 15, 2022, from 10:00 – 11:00 AM PDT

Hosted by: Jordan Weibel (Research Grants Lead)

Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84640391506?pwd=bzd3ZkttU1FoekFxeWVMOEZIRXIUT09>

Meeting ID: 846 4039 1506

Passcode: 557159

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 (20 PERCENT WEIGHT)

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?

- 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 concern or are considered high-risk 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 (20 PERCENT WEIGHT)

Will this project aid in the development and enhancement of IPM systems?

- What pest management practices and IPM systems does this project seek to develop to minimize risk to public health and the environment?

- Is the pest problem or situation that this project addresses a significant issue or wide-spread 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 an 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 (20 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?
- Do the illustrative graphics to show the project’s experimental methods make sense?
- Are the experimental units defined and appropriate for each treatment group?
- 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?

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?

- What are the methods described and are they sufficient to support the completion of the project goals and objectives?
- 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 Principal Investigator and Key Personnel have the background, technical experience, and commitment to complete the project?
- Is the Budget reasonable to complete the project?
- Does the Budget Justification appropriately justify project expenses?
- Has the budget been completely and accurately filled out and calculated?