



DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION 2026 SUSTAINABLE PEST MANAGEMENT GRANTS PROGRAM

2026 SOLICITATION

To support the transition to safer, more sustainable pest management (SPM) practices in California, the Department of Pesticide Regulation's (DPR's) 2026 Sustainable Pest Management Grants Program (SPM Grants Program) annually funds projects that advance SPM practices through integrated pest management (IPM) research, knowledge, tools, outreach, and implementation in agricultural, urban, or wildland settings. Projects should focus on reducing impacts to public health or the environment from pesticides of high regulatory interest.

Successful proposal applications will demonstrate strong research, partnerships, outreach, and/or educational or training components to promote SPM and the broad application of the proposed SPM practices. The most successful SPM grant projects are those that are likely to strongly decrease usage of pesticides of high regulatory interest, serve as a model for similar situations, and have a high potential for wide adoption.

As part of DPR's commitment to safer, more sustainable pest management, the historical Research Grants and Alliance Grants Programs have been combined and renamed to the SPM Grants Program. For examples of projects funded under previous DPR grants programs, please visit the [Funded Pest Management Research Grants](#) and [Funded Pest Management Alliance Grants](#) webpages.

DPR's 2026 SPM Grants Program is particularly seeking proposal applications that also address one or more of the following priority topic areas:

- Weed management
- Rodenticide use
- Fumigant use
- Use of pesticides that are of [high regulatory interest](#) (based on DPR's Pesticide Use Reporting data) or are present on DPR's [Continuous Evaluation and Mitigation Update](#) report
- Two or more of the three sustainability pillars in the [SPM Roadmap](#):
 - Human Health and Social Equity
 - Environmental Protections
 - Economic Vitality

This year, DPR has requested a total of \$4,900,000 for SPM Grants Program funding with final funding availability pending budget approval. DPR invites projects with budgets between \$50,000 and \$1,000,000 and timelines up to three years in length (start date of July 1, 2026; end date of June 30, 2029) to apply.

Please note that applicants may not submit more than two proposal applications to the 2026 SPM Grants Program. This limit applies only to proposal applications where an applicant serves as the lead principal investigator; an applicant may participate on more than two proposal applications in other roles.

[Apply today](#) – your project can 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 are due by **Tuesday, October 14, 2025, 11:59:59 PM** Pacific Time (PT) to the SPM Grants Program’s email address at SPMGrants@cdpr.ca.gov.

To receive updates on DPR’s SPM Grants Program, please sign up for [our subscriber list](#).

For any questions, please reach out to DPR Grants Program staff at SPMGrants@cdpr.ca.gov.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	3
Definitions	4
Program Dates and Deadlines.....	4
Eligibility Requirements.....	5
Proposal Application Process	6
Review and Notification Process	7
DPR-Hosted Office Hours.....	8
Considerations for Reviewers	8
Scoring and Ranking Criteria	8
Proposal Application Development Guidance	11
Getting Started with Your SPM Grants Program Proposal Application.....	11
Considerations for Developing Your Proposal Application	11
Frequently Asked Questions	14
General Questions about DPR’s SPM Grants Program	14
Questions About Who Can Apply.....	14
Questions About Funding Priorities, Funding Decisions, and Specific Project Type.....	15
Questions Relating to Federal, Tribal, or Nonprofit Entities	16
Questions About What Can Be Included in a Budget	16
Questions About How to Complete/Develop a Budget	18
Questions About Subcontracts/Subawards/Subrecipients	20

Definitions

Integrated pest management is defined in Food and Agricultural Code Section 11401.7 as “an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties. Pesticides are used only after monitoring indicates they are needed according to established guidelines and treatments are made with the goal of removing only the target organism. Pest control materials are selected and applied in a manner that minimizes risks to human health, beneficial and nontarget organisms, and the environment.”

Sustainable pest management is defined in Food and Agricultural Code Section 11412 as “a holistic, whole system approach applicable to agricultural and other managed ecosystems and urban and rural communities that builds on the concept of integrated pest management to include the wider context of the three sustainability pillars: human health and social equity; environmental protection; and, economic vitality.” Additional context can be found in the [Sustainable Pest Management \(SPM\) Roadmap](#).

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
- 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. The most successful proposal applications will demonstrate research, partnerships, outreach, education, or training approaches that facilitate rapid and/or broad change to pest management practices that rely on pesticides of high regulatory interest. For further information, review “Scoring and Ranking Criteria” below, particularly for Question 1 and Question 2 of the proposal application.

Program Dates and Deadlines

- **Summer 2025** – Solicitation period opens; DPR begins accepting proposal applications
- **Tuesday, October 14, 2025, 11:59:59 PM PT** – Proposal application deadline
- **Thursday, March 12, 2026, 9:30 AM** – [Pest Management Advisory Committee \(PMAC\)](#) SPM Grants Program proposal application review meeting
- **Spring 2026** – Funding decision emails sent out
- **July 1, 2026** – Earliest project start date pending full execution of the grant agreement

- **June 30, 2029** – Latest project end date

Eligibility Requirements

DPR staff will conduct an initial screening of received proposal applications to ensure all eligibility criteria are met. Proposal applications that do not meet all eligibility criteria will be disqualified without further review.

1. The project intends to advance SPM practices through IPM research, knowledge, tools, outreach, and implementation in agricultural, urban, or wildland settings.
2. The project must primarily benefit the people of California.
3. Applicants who are manufacturers of a pest control product must complete the associated declaration in the proposal application.
4. Proposal application materials must not include mentions of pest control brands or trade names except in resumes, curriculum vitae (CV), and/or organizational affiliations. Use active ingredient names or descriptions instead.
5. All applicants, principal investigators, key personnel, subrecipients, subcontractors, and consultants must meet all eligibility requirements and be eligible to contract with DPR.
6. 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.
7. The funding requested must be within the minimum and maximum funding limits of \$50,000-\$1,000,000.
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 project team members are allowed.

9. 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.
10. 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.
11. DPR employees are not eligible to receive funds or participate as part of the project team except for the grant manager; however other state employees may receive funds and participate as part of the team.
12. PMAC members or their alternates involved in a proposal application must abide by the conflict-of-interest requirements contained within the [PMAC Charter](#) and described in the [PMAC Handbook](#).
13. All applicants, principal investigators, key personnel, subrecipients, subcontractors, and consultants must abide by all state and federal laws and regulations.
14. Applicants may serve as the lead principal investigator for a maximum of two proposal applications to the 2026 SPM Grants Program. Any proposal applications submitted after the first two submissions will be disqualified.
15. Submitted proposal applications must be complete and include all required components.

Proposal Application Process

The 2026 SPM Grants Program proposal application package consists of the following documents:

- 2026 SPM Grants Program Solicitation (PDF – this document)
- 2026 SPM Grants Program Proposal Application Form (Microsoft Word document)
- Budget Tables Worksheet (Microsoft Excel Worksheet)
- Terms and Conditions for UC/CSU grantees (PDF)
- Terms and Conditions for Non-UC/CSU grantees (PDF)

Submit the following documents:

- **Submit the following as a combined single PDF.**
 - ☐ Completed Proposal Application Form, including:
 - Completed Section 1: Project Information;
 - Completed Section 2: Proposal Application Questions (*Note: Answers to Questions 1 – 3 should not exceed one page each*);

- Completed Section 3: Scope of Work, and;
- Completed Section 4: Budget Narrative (*Note: The Budget Narrative should not exceed four pages for each of the main budget and any subawards*).
- ☐ Letters of support from expected beneficiaries of the SPM practices and from others who can attest to the quality or effectiveness of the applicant's similar work.
- ☐ Letters of commitment from team members and other appropriate individuals who would be involved in implementing, expanding, and/or adopting the proposal application's goals and objectives.
- ☐ Curriculum vitae or resumes of principal investigators (PIs) and key personnel. (*Note: Curriculum vitae or resumes should not exceed three pages for each individual.*)
- ☐ (OPTIONAL) Illustrative graphics that enhance the proposal 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 demonstrate the basis for the project.
- **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).

Completed proposal applications must be submitted no later than **Tuesday, October 14, 2025, 11:59:59 PM Pacific Time (PT)** to SPMGrants@cdpr.ca.gov.

Review and Notification Process

After you submit your proposal application, DPR staff screen the submitted materials for satisfaction of eligibility requirements. Eligibility requirements can be found in the "Eligibility Requirements" section above.

Complete proposal applications that meet all eligibility requirements in DPR's initial screening advance to review by DPR staff. DPR reviewers will score proposal applications according to the criteria found in "Considerations for Reviewers."

Based on DPR reviewer scores and alignment with SPM Grants Program priority topic areas, DPR's Deputy Director of SPM and Director will select a subset of the proposal applications to be

reviewed by the Pest Management Advisory Committee (PMAC)¹, a diverse pest management stakeholder group that assists DPR in proposal application review. This subset of proposal applications will be no more than 25 proposal applications.

All eligible proposal applications will be passed to PMAC for consideration; however, the meeting agenda will primarily focus on discussion of the identified subset of proposal applications. PMAC will discuss and rank proposal applications during a [public meeting](#) on March 12, 2026. There, PMAC will make a recommendation to the Director regarding proposal application funding via a consensus-based process. Using recommendations from DPR staff and PMAC, DPR's Director selects proposal applications for funding.

Applicants will be notified of funding award decisions via email in Spring 2026. Feedback for applicants whose projects were not selected for funding will be provided after awards are announced.

DPR-Hosted Office Hours

DPR's SPM Grants Program hosts "office hours" for potential applicants to be able to reserve 30-minute appointments to discuss various aspects of the SPM Grants Program. 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 topic, quality of ideas, or project plans. A list of competitively ranked criteria can be found in the "Considerations for Reviewers" section of the solicitation.

To sign up for an appointment, please fill out the [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 link to the meeting.

To maximize time, DPR staff highly recommend that you complete the sections of the proposal application that you want to discuss **in advance** to the best of your ability.

Considerations for Reviewers

Scoring and Ranking Criteria

The following criteria will be used by DPR staff to develop scores for each eligible proposal application. PMAC members will rank projects according to these guidelines to assist in developing recommendations to DPR's Director (see "Review and Notification Process" above).

¹ PMAC advises DPR in evaluating and recommending SPM grant awards. Its membership includes academia, public interest, and industry representatives. For more information, visit [DPR's Committees webpage](#).

Alignment with SPM Grants Program Priority Topic Areas (15 percent of score)

- Does the project address one or more of the priority topic areas?
- Which priority topic areas are addressed, and how?
- What is the expected scale of impact on pest management practices in the priority topic areas?

Question 1 – Benefits to Californians (15 percent of score)

Is there a need for this project and will the people of California and expected beneficiaries of the SPM practices significantly benefit from the project?

- Does the project primarily benefit the people of California?
 - If private interests are present, do they outweigh benefit to the people of California?
- How does the project align with the SPM Grants Program's mission to advance SPM practices through IPM research, knowledge, tools, outreach, and implementation 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?
- Is the potential reduction in the usage of pesticides of high regulatory interest significant?
- Are the specific SPM practices being advocated ready for implementation, expansion, or adoption?
- For projects based on known SPM practices, does the proposal application effectively demonstrate the efficacy of SPM practices or describe how efficacy will be demonstrated?
- What are the risks from current pesticide use practices this project seeks to address?
- 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?

Question 2 – SPM Practices and Adoption, Team Formation, and Implementation (15 percent of score)

Will this project advance SPM practices through IPM research, knowledge, tools, outreach, and implementation? Will implementation of the project lead to current or future reductions of public health risks or environmental damage associated with the use of pesticides of high regulatory interest?

- How will this project advance SPM practices through IPM research, knowledge, tools, outreach, and implementation and lead to a reduction in public health or environmental risks?
- Who are the project team members and what are their roles and expectations for the successful completion of the project?
- Are letters of commitment from team members and any other appropriate people who would be involved in implementing, expanding, and adopting the proposal application's goals and objectives included?

- If commitments of in-kind resources are included, do letters of commitment demonstrate this?
- What are the project goals and objectives and how will the team accomplish these goals and objectives?
- What are the processes that are proposed to achieve the project goals and objectives (e.g., assays, field trials, surveys, trainings, online courses, etc.)?
- What is the project's research and/or outreach/communication framework?
- What is the potential for expansion of the project results?
- What methods are being used to measure the success of the project?
- Does this project aid in the advancement of SPM practices that would otherwise remain unfunded or underfunded?

Question 3 – Economic Benefits and Feasibility (15 percent of score)

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

- How will the project show economic feasibility to pest management decisionmakers?
- What are the economic benefits of the project?
- From an economic standpoint, how do the proposed SPM practices compare to others currently available or in use?
- Does the project consider current or future economic barriers to implementation, expansion, or adoption in the relevant agricultural, urban, or wildland setting(s)?

Scope of Work (25 percent of score)

Is the project's scope of work clear and does it appear likely to achieve stated goals?

- Are the project goals, objectives, tasks, and deliverables clearly stated and reasonably achievable within the grant period?
- What methods are proposed to achieve the project goals and objectives, whether by research, outreach, surveys, trainings, online courses, etc.?
 - Do they appear likely to succeed?
- Do the methods support the completion of the project's goals and objectives?
- Will the successful completion of the tasks achieve the objectives?
- Do the principal investigators and key personnel have the background, technical experience, and commitment needed to complete the project?
- Who are the team members and what is their expertise and role in the project?
- Is the proposed schedule for conducting work clear?
- Are the target audiences and/or settings clearly identified?
- Are planned metrics for measuring success of the project clear and appropriate?
- If provided, do the illustrative graphics strengthen the proposal application?

Budget Narrative (15 percent of score)

- Is the requested budget reasonable for the work described, or does the requested budget seem significantly under-costed or over-costed?
- Do all described portions of the budget have a clear purpose within the project?
- Does the budget omit anything that would be critical for the project's successful completion?
- Does the budget narrative and the budget tables worksheet (including any needed subaward budget tables worksheets) appropriately justify project expenses?

Proposal Application Development Guidance

Getting Started with Your SPM Grants Program Proposal Application

Here are some tips and recommendations to help you get started with your proposal application:

- Carefully review the 2026 SPM Grants Program Solicitation (this document).
- Visit the SPM Grants Program webpage to find all necessary documents to apply, as well as to review past funded projects.
- Review the “Considerations for Developing Your Proposal Application” section of this document for additional information that will aid you in creating a high-quality proposal application.
- Familiarize yourself with the “Considerations for Reviewers” section of this document to identify the criteria that will guide DPR staff when developing scores and Pest Management Advisory Committee (PMAC) members when placing proposal applications in rank order.
- Complete all mandatory documents, and any desired optional documents, and submit them with the proposal application.
- Please contact SPMGrants@cdpr.ca.gov with any additional questions you may have, or consider requesting a DPR-hosted office hour to discuss your proposal application using [this form](#).

Considerations for Developing Your Proposal Application

The following additional information and/or consideration points may assist you in developing a complete and competitive proposal application.

- 1. Proposal applications must be a good fit for the funding priorities stated in the solicitation.**

DPR is soliciting SPM grant proposal applications that advance SPM practices through IPM research, knowledge, tools, outreach, and implementation in agricultural, urban, or wildland settings. Examples of projects include but are not limited to: researching emerging pest management techniques; promoting effective alternatives for replacement of pesticides of high regulatory interest; offering trainings in proven IPM techniques; and disseminating SPM practices through multimedia approaches, such as producing guides, developing video series, or hosting field days and workshops.

Quality of fit within the 2026 priority topic areas determines 15 percent of a proposal application's ranking (see "Scoring and Ranking Criteria" above). For more information on specific funding priority topic areas for the 2026 SPM Grant Solicitation, please refer to topic 7 on funding priorities in the "Frequently Asked Questions" section below.

2. For research-based projects, the project's design and methods must be clearly stated in sufficient detail for reviewers to evaluate their feasibility and the likelihood of successful implementation.

Descriptions of key elements of the experimental design and methods should be clear and concise for a research-focused project. We recommend including the optional experimental design and methods illustrative graphics as appropriate.

Please note that it is not sufficient to state general methods such as "the data will be evaluated using ANOVA" or "the results will be analyzed using a randomized complete block design."

3. For outreach-based projects, prioritize project team formation, SPM adoption, and implementation.

Assembling an effective project team is essential to the success of an outreach-focused project. Project team members should include active participants such as: commodity group representatives, growers, academic and private researchers, school district representatives, representatives of public health entities, urban or industry representatives, sustainability or certification programs, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other entities with a regional scope. Roles and expectations for each member should be developed, along with the project goals and objectives, to ensure project team members have a significant stake in the project.

A needs assessment survey can be an efficient and useful way to begin and plan for a new project. It can provide beneficial insights, and the results can be used to modify project plans. Depending on the complexity of the project, a needs assessment may be an important first step in planning the project.

The creation of training programs should include time and travel funds for trainers to meet and practice as part of the scope of work and budget. The creation of online courses requires experienced online course designers and a realistic estimate of time required.

Content must come from those who are “experts,” and their costs, if any, must be included in the scope of work and budget.

4. Ensure the budget aligns with the work being performed and is fully justified.

Reviewers sometimes find it difficult to reconcile the amount of money being requested with the work proposed to be performed. In some cases, the amount may seem inadequate; and in others, overestimated. Please be clear and thorough in justifying the project’s budget in the budget narrative section of the scope of work and double check all calculations in the budget tables worksheet and any needed subaward budget tables worksheets. Note that DPR cannot fund out-of-state travel.

5. Ensure all personnel and staff belong to the same organization as the grant’s lead principal investigator.

To receive grant funds as personnel, staff must be paid through the same organization as the lead principal investigator (see the [Terms and Conditions for UC/CSU applicants](#) or the [Terms and Conditions for non-UC/CSU applicants](#) for who can be a principal investigator). If staff cannot receive funds through the lead principal investigator’s organization, they must instead be listed as subcontractors. Team members who are members of an entity submitting a budget and who will donate their time, resources, etc. in-kind and will not be receiving grant funds can be listed as personnel for that entity.

6. The proposed project must be a ‘stand-alone’ project even if it is a component of a larger project.

If all external aspects of the project were removed, the DPR-funded project must still be able to achieve all objectives and deliverables with the amount funded under the grant agreement. Additionally, the project budget should not contain funds that support activities outside of the described scope of work. Please note that this requirement precludes any sources of matching funding.

7. The full text of each key cited reference (limited to a maximum of five references) supporting the proposal application’s merits, whether the reference is an unpublished report or a published paper, must be provided as a PDF document. Key cited documents supporting your proposal application are an important way to show the viability of your idea. Key cited documents that show the efficacy of an idea, economic feasibility, and potential value to the public can significantly strengthen a proposal application’s merits.

Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions about DPR's SPM Grants Program

1. Can work be conducted outside the state of California?

Yes. However, work conducted outside of California must be in California-like conditions and the project must benefit Californians. Additionally, note that only travel within California can be funded. Travel originating outside California or departing California cannot be funded.

2. Did DPR historically have different Grants Programs?

Yes. Until 2025, DPR awarded grants via two Grants Programs – the Research Grants Program and the Alliance Grants Program.

Since 2025, DPR has unified these programs into the SPM Grants Program.

3. Can multiple proposal applications for different projects be submitted?

Yes. Lead principal investigators may submit a maximum of two proposal applications for funding. Please note that this cap does *not* apply to grantee organizations – for example, a large research institution could submit more than two proposal applications so long as they are not all under the same lead principal investigator.

Principal investigators should be mindful of capacity and ensure they are capable of successfully completing the required tasks for all proposal applications submitted and any ongoing work consistent with DPR's "Reasonable Efforts" term. Please see the [Terms and Conditions for UC/CSU applicants](#) or the [Terms and Conditions for non-UC/CSU applicants](#).

Questions About Who Can Apply

4. Am I eligible to apply for an SPM Grant?

All principal investigators, key personnel, subrecipients, subcontractors, and consultants must meet all eligibility requirements laid out in the "Eligibility Requirements" section of this document.

5. Can a project have multiple lead principal investigators?

No. The lead principal investigator's role is unique, bearing responsibility for the scientific and administrative success of the project.

If desired, applicants may designate other key personnel as co-principal investigators (co-PIs). Please note that this designation does not allow a co-PI to assume any responsibilities of the lead principal investigator without a project amendment.

6. Can private entities apply?

Yes. Note that applicants must demonstrate that public benefit to Californians outweighs private benefits. This will be evaluated by reviewers through the applicant's response to Question 1 in the proposal application. See "Scoring and Ranking Criteria" above for more specific criteria.

If an entity – typically private – is a manufacturer of pest control products, they must complete the associated declaration in the proposal application.

Please note that private entities awarded grant funding are bound by the terms and conditions laid out on our website [for non-UC/CSU applicants](#), including provisions concerning public use of data and project results. Please review all terms and conditions carefully before applying.

Questions About Funding Priorities, Funding Decisions, and Specific Project Type

7. Are there any funding priorities?

DPR's 2026 SPM Grants Program is particularly seeking proposal applications that also address one or more of the following priority topic areas:

- Weed management
- Rodenticide use
- Fumigant use
- Use of pesticides that are of [high regulatory interest](#) (based on DPR's Pesticide Use Reporting data) or are present on DPR's [Continuous Evaluation and Mitigation Update](#) report
- Two or more of the three sustainability pillars in the [SPM Roadmap](#):
 - Human Health and Social Equity
 - Environmental Protections
 - Economic Vitality

We recommend reviewing past funded projects to better understand the breadth of projects DPR has historically funded. Prior to this solicitation, DPR maintained two grants programs – the Alliance Grants and Research Grants programs.

To view previously awarded DPR Alliance Grants, please visit the [funded Alliance Grants page](#).

To view previously awarded DPR Research Grants, please visit the [funded Research Grants page](#).

8. How many projects are expected to be funded?

Project budgets may range from \$50,000 to \$1,000,000.

The number of proposal applications funded varies according to many factors such as the number of proposal applications received, the available funding pool, DPR reviewer scores, and PMAC ranks. Note that funding decisions are made at the sole discretion of DPR's Director.

9. Are cannabis projects allowed?

Yes, we consider all projects that focus on advancing SPM practices through IPM research, knowledge, tools, outreach, and implementation, including those related to cannabis.

Questions Relating to Federal, Tribal, or Nonprofit Entities

10. My institution is a federal or tribal entity and cannot agree to certain non-UC/CSU terms and conditions. What should I do?

Please carefully review the Non-UC/CSU Terms and Conditions and contact DPR at SPMGrants@cdpr.ca.gov with any questions or concerns regarding terms and conditions. Additionally, please check the appropriate box on page 4 of the proposal application form ("Applicant Type") noting that you have contacted DPR regarding this issue prior to submitting your proposal application.

11. I'm a federal or tribal entity applicant and must abide by a specific travel policy. What should I do?

Review topic 16 below relating to allowable travel to identify any concerns relative to your travel policy and reach out to DPR staff to discuss specifics prior to submitting a proposal application.

Questions About What Can Be Included in a Budget

12. Should I include funding for continuing education application fees for DPR licensing?

Likely not. If a continuing education course is conducted using DPR grant funds, DPR will waive the application fee.

13. Is match funding allowed?

No, the entire set of project objectives, tasks, and deliverables must be completed with funds from the proposed budget. No outside funding is allowed to support project activities. However, please note that in-kind contributions are allowed. Allowed in-kind services include personnel time given to the project by team members, the use of team members' existing equipment or facilities, and donations of materials by team members.

14. Can I pay for work conducted outside my organization?

Yes, either through other direct cost (ODC) or subcontract/subaward mechanisms. For further information, please review topics 17 and 32 below as well as the terms and conditions ([UC/CSU Applicants – Exhibits C and G](#), [Non-UC/CSU Applicants – Exhibit C](#)).

15. What purchases qualify as equipment?

Equipment is defined as having a useful life of at least one year, having an acquisition unit cost of at least \$5,000, and purchased with grant funds. Equipment is also defined as any products, objects, machinery, apparatus, implements, or tools purchased, used, or constructed within the grant, including those products, objects, machinery, apparatus, implements, or tools from which over thirty percent (30%) of the equipment is composed of materials purchased for the grant.

16. What travel is allowable?

Only travel within the state of California is allowable. Travel costs associated with visits to sites outside of California, including scientific conference locations, are not allowed. Additionally, any travel originating or ending out of the state is not allowed.

Any travel must be included in the approved budget.

No travel outside the State of California is permitted under this grant agreement.

Travel and reimbursement for university employee travel costs shall be in accordance with the university's travel policy in effect as of the date the cost is incurred. The travel policies for UC and CSU applicants can be found at:

[UC] <https://www.ucop.edu/central-travel-management/resources/index.html>

[CSU] <https://calstate.policystat.com/policy/14626378/latest/>

For non-UC/CSU applicants, travel and reimbursement for travel costs associated with lodging and meal and incidental expenses (per diem) shall be in accordance with the California Department of Human (CalHR) travel policy in effect as of the date the cost is incurred. The CalHR travel policy is found at

<https://www.calhr.ca.gov/employees/pages/travel-reimbursements.aspx>.

Travel by air is limited to economy airfare. First class or business class air travel is not permitted under this grant agreement. Rental vehicles are limited to mid-size/economy size cars. In a case where larger size vehicles (such as a truck) are needed to carry out the project, the Department may consider them to be reimbursable if they are identified and justified in the grant agreement.

Receipts are required for reimbursement of travel expenses associated with lodging, airfare, rental vehicles, and fuel purchases. Receipts are not required to claim meal and incidental expenses (per diem) up to the maximum allowable reimbursement rates; however, associated receipts must be maintained by the Grantee and provided upon request.

17. When should I categorize costs under the Materials and Supplies budget category rather than the Other Direct Costs budget category?

Costs listed under the Materials and Supplies budget category are costs for tangible items purchased for the project, either durable or non-durable in nature, that do not qualify as equipment. Examples include primers for DNA sequencing, flagging materials for field trials, software, and ink and paper for in-house printing.

Costs that do not fall under this definition should be listed under Other Direct Costs (ODC). Examples of ODC are DNA sequencing services, field setup labor costs, printing services, and conference fees.

Questions About How to Complete/Develop a Budget

18. Can I submit my budget and budget narrative in another format?

No, the budget tables worksheet (including any needed subaward budget tables worksheets) and budget narrative must be submitted using the provided formats.

19. Can I use my organization's internal software to calculate budgetary numbers?

Yes, any software may be used to prepare the budget calculations, as long as the values are transferred to the documents provided in the proposal application materials. Note that DPR manually reconciles amounts listed in the budget using the values provided in the budget narrative and budget tables worksheet (and any needed subaward budget tables worksheets). It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all values, including those obtained via internal software, can be reconciled manually using the values provided in the budget narrative and budget tables worksheet (and any needed subaward budget tables worksheets). Applicants may choose to include a copy of their budget software's outputs as an optional attachment; however, such materials cannot be used in lieu of the provided proposal application materials.

20. Rather than providing specific numbers for personnel salaries, can I provide these salaries as ranges?

No, we require that proposal applications provide salaries as specific numbers. General ranges are not adequate.

21. How do I specify in-kind contributions in the budget narrative?

In-kind contributions should be specified in the applicable sections of the budget narrative. For example, if the in-kind contribution is time and service of an individual, that should be stated in the personnel section. If the in-kind contribution is equipment or materials and supplies, it should be stated in the relevant section. It is not necessary to include in-kind contributions in the budget tables worksheet and subaward budget tables worksheets.

22. What is the MTDC?

The MTDC is the modified total direct cost that is used to calculate the indirect costs associated with the grant.

23. How do I calculate the MTDC?

The MTDC is calculated for each year by totaling all the direct costs that are allowed to have associated indirect costs. The MTDC includes all salaries and wages, fringe benefits, materials, supplies, services, travel, consultants, and subcontracts (up to the first \$25,000 of each subcontract).

24. Which direct costs cannot be included in the MTDC calculation?

Certain direct costs are not allowed to have associated indirect costs and must not be included when calculating the indirect costs for the grant. These direct costs include costs associated with equipment, capital expenditures, patient care charges, tuition remission, rental costs, scholarships and fellowships, and the portion of any subcontract in excess of \$25,000. These costs cannot be included in the MTDC calculation.

25. What is the indirect cost rate?

This rate is the percentage of the MTDC that can be claimed as indirect costs. DPR limits the indirect cost rate to a maximum rate of 25%. Please use a single, percentage-based calculation for indirect cost rates.

26. How are indirect costs calculated for budgets involving multiple UC campuses or multiple CSU campuses?

In these cases, indirect costs are not calculated for individual subrecipients. Instead, the MTDC of each subrecipient is added to the main MTDC to calculate indirect costs.

For example, if the grantee for a grant is the Regents of the University of California, and there are other UC campuses and/or UC ANR listed as subrecipients, only the campus associated with the lead principal investigator may charge overhead on the costs attributed to the other campuses and/or UC ANR. In other words, all relevant UC costs must be combined into a single amount (in the main budget table) and the indirect cost rate of 25% must be calculated on that combined amount. Indirect costs for budgets involving multiple UC campuses and/or UC ANR should be denoted as 0% in each UC campus and/or UC ANR subaward table.

The Regents of the University of California is responsible for internally allocating the overhead among the various subrecipients. Applicants should refer to their UC or CSU institution to determine how indirect costs for subrecipients/subawardees are allocated, as this should be in accordance with UC or CSU policies. However, an indirect cost rate of 25% may still be charged on non-UC/UC ANR subcontracts up to the \$25,000 cap.

27. Are costs related to administration or facilities, such as salaries and fringe benefits for administrative staff, allowable in the budget?

Yes, these costs are allowable – with some caveats. Typically, these costs are considered to be indirect costs (IDC), also known as “overhead” or “facilities and administrative costs.” In most situations, these costs should not be included as direct costs. Examples of costs that are typically included in IDC include facilities operation, office space rentals and leases, administrative expenses (such as staffing for payroll, human resources, or other

general support; office supplies and furniture; and phone and internet access), and utilities. Recall that indirect costs may not exceed 25% of the MTDC. Please see topics 22-24 above for more information regarding the MTDC.

Rarely, costs typically considered to be IDC may be included in proposal application budgets as direct costs if they can be considered specific to the project. DPR will consider these inclusions on a case-by-case basis. In these cases, where costs typically considered to be IDC are instead charged as direct costs, supporting documentation that demonstrates that the costs are specific to the project may be requested before invoices are approved.

Questions About Subcontracts/Subawards/Subrecipients

28. Can subcontracts or subrecipients be outside of the state of California?

Yes. Subcontracts and subrecipients may be outside of California. As a reminder, proposal applications are assessed based on their benefit to Californians.

29. What is the difference between a subcontractor and a subrecipient?

A subcontractor is an independent entity that will be collaborating with or providing a service to the applicant to complete the objectives of the grant. Note that to receive grant funds as personnel, staff must be paid through the same organization as the lead principal investigator. If staff cannot receive funds through the lead principal investigator's organization, they must instead be listed as subcontractors.

Subrecipients are a specific classification of subcontractor that applies to UC/CSU applicants only. Applicants should refer to their UC or CSU institution for guidance on whether a subcontractor meets the criteria of a subrecipient.

30. If my project includes multiple subcontractors/subrecipients, should they each have their own line in the budget table?

Yes. For each subcontractor, the total costs per year (combined direct and indirect costs) should be entered on the respective line in the budget tables worksheet.

31. When is it appropriate to categorize costs as a subcontractor rather than listing these costs in Other Direct Costs?

When the provided services are specialized and contribute substantially to project deliverables, the service provider should be classified as a subcontractor. Alternatively, if the services are not necessarily specialized and can be completed by multiple possible entities, it is more appropriate to classify these costs under the Other Direct Costs (ODC) budget category.

32. Do subcontractors and subrecipients need their own budget table and budget narrative?

Yes, each subcontractor and/or subrecipient will need to complete a subaward budget tables worksheet and budget narrative.

33. How are subcontractors incorporated into the MTDC calculated in the main budget?

There is a \$25,000 total maximum limit allowed for each subcontract over the term of the grant that can be factored into the MTDC of the main budget.

For example, consider a budget with one subcontractor whose total costs per year are \$15,000 in year 1, \$12,000 in year 2, and \$7,500 in year 3. In year 1, the \$15,000 can be factored into the year 1 main budget MTDC. In year 2, \$10,000 can be factored into the year 2 main budget MTDC. The \$25,000 maximum limit for this subcontractor has been reached in year 2, so the remaining year 2 cost of \$2,000 cannot be included in the year 2 main budget MTDC and the year 3 cost of \$7,500 cannot be included in the year 3 main budget MTDC. Instead, these costs over the \$25,000 limit are direct costs not subject to indirect costs.

See the table below showing how this should be shown.

Cost Type	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Subcontractor total costs per year <i>(includes any IDC charged by the subcontractor)</i>	\$15,000	\$12,000	\$7,500	\$34,500
Direct costs that can be factored into the main budget MTDC	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$0	\$25,000
Direct costs that cannot be factored into the main budget MTDC	\$0	\$2,000	\$7,500	\$9,500

34. How are indirect costs calculated for subcontractors?

Indirect costs for subcontractors are calculated the same as in the main budget.