



DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION 2027 SUSTAINABLE PEST MANAGEMENT GRANTS PROGRAM

2027 SOLICITATION

To support the transition to safer, more sustainable pest management (SPM) practices in California, the Department of Pesticide Regulation's (DPR's) 2027 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, and/or wildland settings. Projects should focus on reducing impacts to public health or the environment from pesticide applications.

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 prioritized for mitigation or evaluation by DPR (See: [Continuous Evaluation and Mitigation Update](#)) or address the other priority topic areas listed below, 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 were combined and renamed to the SPM Grants Program in the 2026 Solicitation. For examples of projects funded under the SPM Grants Program and under previous DPR grants programs, please visit the [Funded SPM Grants](#), [Funded Pest Management Research Grants](#), and [Funded Pest Management Alliance Grants](#) webpages.

DPR's 2027 SPM Grants Program is particularly seeking proposal applications that also address one or more of the following priority topic areas:

- Alternatives for weed management
- Alternatives for rodent management
- Alternatives to fumigants
- Projects that support the adoption of emerging technologies to further IPM/SPM
- Projects that address emerging pests and prevention strategies
- Alternatives to pesticides prioritized for mitigation or evaluation by DPR (See [Continuous Evaluation and Mitigation Update](#))

This year, DPR is offering up to \$4.9 million in grants (with final funding availability pending budget approval) to support the state's goal of transitioning to systemwide adoption of safer, more sustainable pest management, aligned with the [Sustainable Pest Management Roadmap](#)

objectives. DPR invites projects with budgets between \$100,000 and \$1,000,000 and timelines up to three years in length (start date of July 1, 2027; end date of June 30, 2030) to apply.

Please note that applicants may not submit more than two proposal applications to the 2027 SPM Grants Program. This limit applies only to proposal applications where an applicant serves as the lead principal investigator; an applicant may participate in 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 supporting the state’s transition to systemwide adoption of safer, more sustainable pest management practices!

Completed proposal applications are due by **Tuesday, September 1, 2026, 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.

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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](#).

Program Dates and Deadlines

Note that all times mentioned in this section refer to Pacific Time (PT).

- **Summer 2026** – Solicitation period opens; DPR begins accepting proposal applications
- **Tuesday, September 1, 2026, 11:59:59 PM** – Proposal application deadline
- **Thursday, March 11, 2027, 9:30 AM** – [Pest Management Advisory Committee \(PMAC\)](#) SPM Grants Program proposal application review meeting
- **Spring 2027** – Funding decision emails sent out
- **July 1, 2027** – Earliest project start date pending full execution of the grant agreement
- **June 30, 2030** – 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, and/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 (Pest Control Product Manufacturers) in the proposal application.

4. All applicants who intend to provide generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) as a deliverable to the State or intend to utilize GenAI, including GenAI from third parties, to complete all or a portion of any deliverable that materially impacts: (i) functionality of a State system, (ii) risk to the State, or (iii) Grant Agreement performance, must provide notification by completing the associated declaration (Generative Artificial Intelligence) in the proposal application. For more information, see the GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (GenAI) term in the relevant terms and conditions for your applicant type: UC/CSU Applicant Terms and Conditions or Non-UC/CSU Applicant Terms and Conditions.
5. All applicants, principal investigators, key personnel, subrecipients, and 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 \$100,000-\$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 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 2027 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 2027 SPM Grants Program proposal application package consists of the following documents:

- 2027 SPM Grants Program Solicitation (PDF – this document)
- 2027 SPM Grants Program Proposal Application Form (Microsoft Word document)
- 2027 SPM Grants Program Proposed Project Timeline Worksheet (Microsoft Excel Worksheet)
- 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 documents as follows:

- **Submit the following required elements as a combined single PDF.**
 - ☐ Completed Proposal Application Form, including:
 - Completed Section 1: Project Information;
 - Completed Section 2: Proposal Application Questions (*Answers to Questions 1 and 2 must not exceed one page each*);
 - Completed Section 3: Scope of Work (*The Objectives, Tasks, and Deliverables subsection (excluding Objective 1) must not exceed four pages*), and;
 - Completed Section 4: Budget Narrative (*The Budget Narrative must not exceed four pages for each of the main budget and any subawards*).
 - ☐ Letters of support from committed project participants and expected beneficiaries who can attest to the need for the project or 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.
(*Curriculum vitae or resumes should not exceed three pages for each individual.*)
- **Submit the required key cited documents as a combined single PDF.**
 - ☐ Full-text versions of one to five key cited documents that demonstrate the basis for the project, each of which is cited within the responses to proposal application questions. No specific citation format is required.
- **Submit the required Budget Tables Worksheet and any needed Subaward Budget Tables Worksheets as Microsoft Excel Worksheets.** (*Submitted proposal applications containing Budget Tables 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 using the provided Microsoft Excel template.
 - ☐ Subaward Budget Tables Worksheets containing completed calculations for all applicable budget categories for each subcontractor or subrecipient (if applicable) using the provided Microsoft Excel template.
- **Submit the Proposed Project Timeline Worksheet as a Microsoft Excel Worksheet.**
 - ☐ Proposed project timeline using the provided Microsoft Excel template.
- **Submit optional illustrative graphics that enhance the proposal application (e.g. flow charts) as a PDF.**

Completed proposal applications must be submitted no later than **Tuesday, September 1, 2026, 11:59:59 PM Pacific Time (PT)** to SPMGrants@cdpr.ca.gov. **Please note that proposal applications submitted that are incomplete or are missing required components are subject to disqualification without further review.**

To facilitate efficient review by DPR and the Pest Management Advisory Committee (PMAC), avoid redundant or duplicative narrative content throughout your proposal application and ensure adherence to page limits. **Please note that proposal applications that do not follow these instructions are subject to point deductions.** See the “Scoring and Ranking Criteria” section below for additional details.

Review and Notification Process

After the proposal application deadline of Tuesday, September 1, 2026, DPR staff screen submitted proposal application 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 “Scoring and Ranking Criteria” section

Based on DPR reviewer scores, DPR's Deputy Director of SPM and Director will select a subset of 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.

PMAC will discuss and rank proposal applications during a [public meeting](#) on March 11, 2027. 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. 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 2027.

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 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 scored and ranked criteria can be found in the "Scoring and Ranking Criteria" 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. If you are no longer able to attend a scheduled Office Hours appointment, please cancel in advance.

Scoring and Ranking Criteria

Proposal applications that do not follow stated instructions are subject to a five percent (5%) or ten percent (10%) reduction in score.

DPR and PMAC reviewers will evaluate the following six categories when scoring or ranking proposal applications:

- Organizational Capacity (5%)
 - Do the PI and key personnel have relevant experience, skills, and subject matter expertise to successfully carry out the project?

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](#).

- Are letters of support well-written and highly credible? Do they provide clear evidence with specific examples in support of the project team and/or project, and do they significantly strengthen the proposal application?
- Alignment with SPM Grants Program Priority Topic Areas (15%)
 - Is the project aligned with one or more priority topic areas?
 - Does the project present strong, clear, and compelling reasoning for expected impact?
 - Does the project have a broad or significant expected scale of impact?
- Proposal Application Question 1 – Benefits to Californians and Alignment with SPM Grants Program Purpose (15%)
 - Does the project provide benefit to the people of California?
 - Will the project result in direct SPM/IPM advancement?
 - Are practices ready for implementation, expansion, or adoption?
 - Is fully described efficacy information for projects based on known practices included?
 - Is the pesticide risk addressed significant?
 - Is there significant potential for meaningful pesticide reduction?
- Proposal Application Question 2 – Economic Benefits and Feasibility (15%)
 - Are there strong, credible economic benefits of the SPM practices compared to current practices?
 - Are economic benefits likely to be realized?
 - Are current and future barriers and practical solutions fully considered?
- Budget Narrative(s) and Budget Tables Worksheet(s) (15%)
 - Is the budget fully reasonable and aligned with the project work?
 - Do all costs have a clear project purpose?
 - Is anything critical to the scope of work omitted from the budget?
 - Is the justification strong?
- Scope of Work and Project Timeline (35%)
 - Are goals, objectives, tasks, and deliverables clear and achievable?
 - Are the project timeline and schedule clear and fully aligned?
 - Are tasks expected to achieve objectives and produce deliverables?
 - Are the target audience and settings fully identified and defined?
 - Are metrics for success clear, appropriate, and do they draw clear connections to the project goals and objectives?
 - If provided, do illustrative graphics strengthen the proposal application?

DPR staff will score proposal applications according to these six categories.

PMAC members will rank proposal applications according to these six categories to assist in developing recommendations to DPR's Director (see "Review and Notification Process" section above).

Reference – Objective 1 for DPR Grants

All funded proposal applications that result in executed grant agreements will have Objective 1 as shown below added to the Scope of Work. This text is included here for reference – there is no need to include Objective 1 in your proposal application.

Objective 1: Conduct general grant administration and deliver a project plan, required meetings, quarterly and annual progress reports, invoices, and a final report. (Do not modify Objective 1 and its associated tasks. These are required for all DPR grants.)

Task 1.1 Initial project meeting: The grant manager and the lead principal investigator will meet in person or virtually within 21 days after the grant agreement has been executed. The grant manager will provide an agenda for the meeting at least one week in advance of the meeting, which will include, at minimum, the following topics: the role of the principal investigator, the project timeline (including a schedule of project quarterly update meetings), the project deliverables, and time to discuss any questions about the objectives and tasks. The principal investigator may submit any requested additions to the agenda. The grant manager will provide meeting minutes and a schedule of project quarterly update meetings for review and approval after the meeting.

Deliverable: Meeting minutes as a Microsoft Word file, including any revisions, within 14 days of receiving the meeting minutes from the grant manager.

Due Date: Meeting within 21 days from the full execution of the grant agreement and meeting minute revisions within 14 days of receiving meeting minutes.

Task 1.2 Project plan: Provide a project plan using the provided template. For any experiments included in the project, include detailed reasoning and descriptions of experimental approaches. Identify the team members who will conduct the effort, the schedule, the methods to accomplish the effort, and measures of success. The department's review and approval will be limited to ensuring the project plan contains sufficient detail to enable DPR's understanding of the proposed efforts associated with the grant. Note that any changes to the project plan during the life of the grant require an updated project plan submission.

Deliverables: The project plan as a Microsoft Word file using the provided template.

Due Date: Within 30 days after the grant agreement is executed.

Task 1.3 Economic analysis: Collect data on economic costs associated with implementing the SPM practice(s) promoted through the grant. Conduct an economic analysis focused on determining the actual economic benefits and feasibility of adopting the SPM practice(s) promoted. The economic analysis should draw comparisons to other pest management practices currently available or in use. Submit this economic analysis as part of the final report draft (Task 1.8).

Deliverables: The economic analysis incorporated into the final report draft and inclusive of written explanations, tables, figures, or images needed to fully convey the analysis.

Due Date: June 15, 2030.

Task 1.4 Invoices: Periodic invoices, a final invoice, and an invoice for the return of the ten percent retention are required. No funds may be requested or invoiced after 90 days from the project completion date. To meet that deadline, all project work and required deliverables, including the final report, must be completed and delivered to the department by June 30, 2030.

Deliverables: Periodic, final, and ten percent retention invoices. At a minimum, quarterly invoices are required even if no expenses were incurred and, in that case, would indicate zero (\$0) expense. All invoices must use the template forms supplied by the department and include backup documentation to support the expenditures.

Due Date: Periodic invoices must be submitted no more than once a month and no less than quarterly (every three months). The final invoice is due September 14, 2030, and the ten percent retention invoice is due September 28, 2030.

Task 1.5 Quarterly meetings: Beginning after the first full quarter, project update meetings will occur by one month after the last day of every calendar quarter, in person or virtually, as scheduled during the Task 1.1 initial project meeting or subsequently revised by mutual agreement of the grant manager and principal investigator.

The grant manager will provide an agenda at least one week in advance of the meeting.

The principal investigator may submit any requested additions to the agenda. Any key personnel needed to explain project results, problems, and special situations that are explicitly related to project deliverables must attend. If requested by the grant manager, meetings should occasionally include representation by the intended end-users of the project results. The grant manager may require additional meetings as needed. The grant manager will provide meeting minutes for review and approval after each meeting.

Deliverable: Meeting minutes as a Microsoft Word file, including any revisions, within 14 days of receiving the meeting minutes from the grant manager.

Due Date: Meeting within one month after the end of every calendar quarter through April 30, 2030, and meeting minute revisions within 14 days of receiving meeting minutes.

Task 1.6 Quarterly progress reports: Quarterly reports must contain the information required on the template. The quarterly report should include relevant results, problems, and special situations that are explicitly related to project deliverables and any potential or actual effects on the deliverables or their completion dates. Submit quarterly reports to grant manager.

Deliverables: Quarterly reports (using template forms supplied by the department).

Due Date: The end of every calendar quarter through March 31, 2030.

Task 1.7 Annual progress reports: The annual reports must contain the information required on the template. The annual report should include relevant results, problems, and special situations that are explicitly related to project deliverables and any potential or actual effects on the deliverables or their completion dates. Additionally, the annual report

must include a project work plan for the coming year and any expected modifications from what was originally proposed in the grant agreement and/or the Task 1.2 project plan. Submit annual reports to grant manager.

Deliverables: Annual reports completed using the template due June 30 of each year (except for the year the final report is due) following grant execution as a Microsoft Word file via email.

Due Date: Every June 30 through June 2029.

Task 1.8 Final report draft: Use the final report template to describe in detail how project goals and objectives have been fulfilled through the completion of project deliverables, summarize and evaluate project activities and accomplishments, and include recommendations for outreach and/or future research. Grantees should strive to make the report compliant with standards set forth in the [Americans with Disabilities Act Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0](#). The report must focus on how project results are explicitly related to project deliverables and must clearly describe any potential or actual effects on the deliverables. Also, include all relevant materials, documentation, and deliverables not previously submitted. Submit draft report to the grant manager.

Deliverable: Final report draft as a Microsoft Word file via email (security settings should be unlocked, not password protected).

Due Date: June 15, 2030.

Task 1.9 Final report: Final report, incorporating any feedback, edits, or revisions to the draft final report. Grantees should strive to make the report compliant with standards set forth in the [Americans with Disabilities Act Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0](#). Submit final report to grant manager. Final reports may be published on DPR's website for review by the public.

Deliverable: Final report as a Microsoft Word file and high-resolution files (jpeg, png, tiff, etc.) of all photos, figures, and illustrations included in the final report via email (security settings should be unlocked, not password protected).

Due Date: June 30, 2030.

Task 1.10 Department presentation: The principal investigator or other key personnel will make a summary presentation, in person in the greater Sacramento area or virtually, during the last year of the project or the year after the project is completed. Grantees should strive to make the presentation compliant with standards set forth in the [Americans with Disabilities Act Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0](#). The presentation will provide information about project goals, objectives, and results. DPR retains the right to publish the presentation on DPR's website for review by the public.

Deliverables: Presentation with an electronic copy of the presentation provided to the grant manager via email at least three weeks in advance.

Due Date: Last year of the project or the year after the project is completed.

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 2027 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 “Scoring and Ranking Criteria” section of this document to identify the criteria that will guide DPR staff when developing scores and PMAC members when placing proposal applications in rank order.
- Complete all required documents, and any desired optional documents, and submit them with the proposal application as described in the “Proposal Application Process” section of this document.
- Please contact SPMGrants@cdpr.ca.gov with any additional questions you may have or consider scheduling a DPR-hosted office hour to discuss your proposal application using [this form](#).

Considerations for Developing Your Proposal Application

The following additional information 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, and/or wildland settings. Examples of projects include but are not limited to: researching emerging pest management techniques; promoting effective alternatives for replacement of pesticides present on DPR’s [Continuous Evaluation and Mitigation Update](#); 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.

Alignment with the 2027 priority topic areas determines 15 percent of a proposal application’s scoring and ranking (see “Scoring and Ranking Criteria” section above). For more information on specific funding priority topic areas for the 2027 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: tribal representatives, 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 experts, and their costs, if any, must be included in the scope of work and budget or designated as an in-kind contribution.

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. Be clear and thorough in justifying the project’s budget in the budget narrative section of the scope of work. 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; any included out-of-state travel must clearly be noted as an in-kind contribution.

5. Ensure all personnel included in the main budget belong to the same organization as the grant’s lead principal investigator. Place other personnel in appropriate subaward budgets.

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 subawardees. 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 must be listed as personnel for that entity.

Note that co-principal investigators can only be paid if they are members of the lead principal investigator’s organization and cannot be paid under a subaward.

6. The proposed project must be a standalone effort even if it is a component of a larger project and must not include matched funding.

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 (minimum of one reference, maximum of five references) supporting the proposal application 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. Key cited documents may take a variety of formats, including but not limited to: journal articles, unpublished data, news media, planning documents, or diagrams.

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 for

project purposes cannot be funded and must clearly be designated as an in-kind contribution.

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. Beginning in 2026, DPR has maintained a single SPM Grants Program. Lists of awarded projects can be seen here:

- [Funded DPR Research Grants](#)
- [Funded DPR Alliance Grants](#)
- [Funded DPR SPM Grants](#)

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 or university 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?

You are eligible to apply if you meet all eligibility criteria and have fully completed the proposal application materials. Please note that 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. Additionally, co-PIs may only receive pay if they are members of the lead principal investigator’s organization. Co-PIs that are members of subawardee institutions may not receive pay.

6. Can private entities apply?

Yes. Note that applicants must demonstrate strong public benefit to Californians that 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" section 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 Non-UC/CSU Terms and Conditions, 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 2027 SPM Grants Program is particularly seeking proposal applications that address one or more of the following priority topic areas:

- Alternatives for weed management
- Alternatives for rodent management
- Alternatives to fumigants
- Projects that support the adoption of emerging technologies to further IPM/SPM
- Projects that address emerging pests and prevention strategies
- Alternatives to pesticides prioritized for mitigation or evaluation by DPR (See [Continuous Evaluation and Mitigation Update](#))

We recommend reviewing past funded projects to better understand the types of projects DPR has historically funded. Prior to 2026, DPR maintained two grants programs – the Alliance Grants and Research Grants programs. Beginning in 2026, DPR has maintained a single SPM Grants Program.

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](#).

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

8. How many projects are expected to be funded?

Project budgets may range from \$100,000 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 applicant 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 5 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 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 contact DPR at SPMGrants@cdpr.ca.gov to discuss specifics prior to submitting a proposal application.

Questions About What Can Be Included in a Budget

12. Is matched 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 by project team members are allowed. Any costs included in a project budget category may be declared as in-kind costs.

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

Yes, either through other direct costs (ODC) or subawards. For further information, please review topic 16, the “Questions About Subawards, Including Subcontractors and Subrecipients” section of the Frequently Asked Questions, as well as the terms and conditions ([UC/CSU Applicants – Exhibits C and G](#), [Non-UC/CSU Applicants – Exhibit C](#)).

14. What purchases qualify as equipment?

Equipment is defined as either:

- Having a useful life of at least one year, having an acquisition unit cost of at least \$5,000, and that are purchased with grant funds.
- 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.

For further information concerning equipment, including post-project requirements, please review the terms and conditions ([UC/CSU Applicants – Exhibits C and G, Non-UC/CSU Applicants – Exhibit C](#)).

15. What travel is allowable?

Only travel within the state of California is allowed to be supported using grant funds. No travel outside the state of California is permitted to be paid via grant funds. This includes all travel costs associated with visits to sites outside of California, including scientific conferences. Any project-related travel originating or ending out of the state must be provided as an in-kind contribution.

All travel for project purposes must be included in the approved budget.

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/>

[Cal Poly] <https://afd.calpoly.edu/travel/>

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 Resources (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 to be paid via grant funds. Rental vehicles are limited to mid-size/economy size cars. In cases 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 Non-UC Grantee and provided upon request.

16. 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, and printing services.

Questions About How to Develop a Budget

17. 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.

Note that if any locked portions of the budget tables worksheet(s) are modified, the associated proposal application is subject to disqualification without further review.

18. 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 compares the amounts listed 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, match between 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.

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

No, salaries must be provided as specific values. General ranges are not adequate.

20. 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 any subaward budget tables worksheets.

21. What is the MTDC?

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

The MTDC is calculated by totaling all the direct costs that are allowed to have indirect cost rates applied. 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).

The MTDC does not 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.

22. 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.

23. 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 University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (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 up to 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 grantee entity is responsible for internally allocating indirect costs among the various subrecipients. Applicants should refer to their institution to determine how indirect costs for subrecipients are allocated, as this should be in accordance with internal policies.

Note that an indirect cost rate of up to 25% may still be charged on external subcontracts up to the \$25,000 cap.

24. 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 topic 21 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 Subawards, Including Subcontractors and Subrecipients

25. What is a subaward, and what is the difference between a subcontractor and a subrecipient?

Subaward is the general term encompassing subcontractors and subrecipients. 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 either a subcontractor or subrecipient.

Subcontractors are independent entities that will be collaborating with or providing a service to the applicant to complete the objectives of the grant.

Subrecipients are entities that exist within a broader institution and typically are pertinent to UC/CSU applicants and USDA applicants only. Subrecipient agreements are internal agreements while subcontract agreements are external agreements. Applicants should refer to their institution for guidance on whether a subaward meets the criteria of a subrecipient.

26. Can subawards be outside of the state of California?

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

27. If my project includes multiple subawards, should they each have their own line in the budget tables worksheet?

Yes. For each subawardee, the total costs per year (combined direct and indirect costs) should be entered on a separate line in the “Composite Budget Table” tab of the budget tables worksheet.

28. When is it appropriate to categorize costs as a subaward 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 subawardee. 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.

29. Do subawardees need their own budget tables worksheet and budget narrative?

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

30. 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 included in a budget.

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

31. How are indirect costs calculated for subcontractors?

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