

## Specialty Crop Block Grant Program FAQs:

Question: What is a specialty crop?

Answer: The Farm Bill defines specialty crops as “fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture).” Eligible plants must be cultivated or managed and used by people for food, medicinal purposes, and/or aesthetic gratification to be considered specialty crops. Processed products shall consist of greater than 50% of the specialty crop by weight, exclusive of added water.

A list of eligible/ineligible crops can be found at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateJ&navID=WhatareSpecialtyCrops?&rightNav1=WhatareSpecialtyCrops?&topNav=&leftNav=&page=SCBGPDefinitions&resultType=&acct=fvgrntprg>.

Question: Can funds be used to start my farming/nursery business?

Answer: No. Sole proprietorships are not eligible.

Question: Can you request funding for activities that have taken place before an award is issued?

Answer: No. All requests for reimbursements are reviewed carefully to verify that no pre-award activities are being requested for reimbursement. Only activities/expenditures that occur after a formal Notice of Sub-grant is signed by the awardee and Nevada Department of Agriculture are allowable.

Question: Can a proposal be submitted to address provisions made available through upcoming legislation?

Answer: Yes, assuming the goals align with the program priorities and eligibility criteria. If the anticipated legislation has not passed by the potential award date, the award may be reallocated to another project.

Question: How do you write a proposal?

Answer: Follow the application requirements outlined in the Request for Proposal. Ensure that all questions are addressed under the application sub-headings, the budget is feasible and appropriate for the proposed activities, and necessary stakeholders are involved.

Question: Why do I need to file for a state business license or business license exemption in order to be considered for funding?

Answer: If applying through a non-profit, business, collaborative, individual, or any other business that may not be registered with the state, a state business license or exemption is required in order to help identify whether the entity is in default or debarred. Grantors are responsible for ensuring that funds are not issued to a potentially high risk grantee and must be able to determine whether an applicant is delinquent or in default with the state, before funding can be issued. The state business license helps streamline this search.

Question: Where can I find information on filing for a state business license or an exemption?

Answer: Frequently asked questions regarding state of Nevada business licenses can be found on the Secretary of State website at <http://www.nvsos.gov/index.aspx?page=273#383>.

Question: What businesses are exceptions to or exempted from needing a State Business License?

Answer: Nevada nonprofit corporations formed under NRS Chapter 82 and Corporations Sole formed under NRS Chapter 84 are automatic exceptions to the requirement of obtaining a State Business License. If the individual or entity is exempt, the exemption form must still be complete.

In addition, specific statutory provisions exempt certain businesses from the requirements of the State Business License. These businesses must still initially submit the form, WITHOUT FEE stating the specific exemption. The Statutory exemptions are as follows:

- A governmental entity as defined by Chapter 76 of the Nevada Administrative Code.
- A nonprofit religious, charitable, fraternal or other organization that qualifies as a tax-exempt organization pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 501(c).
- A natural person who operates a business from his or her home as defined by Chapter 76 of Nevada Administrative Code and whose net earnings from that business are not more than 66 2/3 percent of the average annual wage, as computed for the preceding calendar year pursuant to NRS Chapter 612 and rounded to the nearest hundred dollars. The average annual wage generally fluctuates each year. For the average Nevada wage, go to Taxable Wage Base.
- A natural person whose sole business is the rental of four or fewer dwelling units to others.
- A business whose primary purpose is to create or produce motion pictures. As used in this paragraph, “motion pictures” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 231.020 and who is registered with the Division of Motion Pictures.
- An insurance company holding a current license or certificate of authority pursuant to NRS 680B.020 not conducting business not incidental to Title 57.

Question: If I am exempt from needing a state business license do I still need to complete the exemption form?

Yes. Although you are exempt, you will still need to complete the exemption form in order to be registered with the secretary of state's office. Information regarding exemptions can be found at <http://www.nvsos.gov/index.aspx?page=273#383>. You can register and file for the exemption through the silverflume link available at <https://www.nvsilverflume.gov/home> or you can complete the form at <http://www.nvsos.gov/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=1742> for mail-in or email. This is a requirement of all applicants and allows state agencies to identify whether the entity is a high risk for receiving federal funds. If you experience any issues with this process please contact Ashley Jeppson at [ajeppson@agri.nv.gov](mailto:ajeppson@agri.nv.gov) or (775)-353-3675. NDA will work with you, as this is a new NDA requirement.

Question: Is marijuana a specialty crop?

Answer: No.

Question: Are indirect costs eligible?

Answer: No.