



USDA SPECIALTY CROP H.R. 133 GRANT FUNDS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
ENHANCING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF SPECIALTY CROPS IN NEVADA
TO ASSIST WITH THE IMPACTS OF COVID 19

Guidelines, Instructions and Application

Federal Fiscal Year 2023

Administered by The Nevada Department of Agriculture

Full Application due on August 5, 2022

All applications being accepted via email sent to

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www.agri.nv.gov/scbgp

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THE USDA SPECIALTY CROP and H. R.133 COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM

Background/Overview

The Agriculture Act of 2018 (Farm Bill) authorized the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to partner with state departments of agriculture to enhance the competitiveness of growers of fruits, vegetables, and other horticultural crops in areas such as marketing, promotion, education, research, trade and nutrition. A state department of agriculture is the agency, commission, or department of a state government responsible for agriculture within the state. Examples of initiatives that enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops include:

- (1) Leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops (not a business, but crops themselves).
- (2) Assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops.
- (3) Expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and
- (4) Addressing local, regional and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers.

In addition to traditional Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) funding, H.R. 133 stimulus funds have been authorized by congress to provide additional support to specialty crop producers and the food supply in response to COVID-19 impacts.

This Request for Proposal (RFP) invites applicants to apply for the H.R. 133 SCBGP funds made available.

Specialty Crops are defined as (link to complete list)

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbgp/specialty-crop>

- Fruits and vegetables,
- Tree nuts,
- Dried fruits, and
- Nursery crops (including floriculture).

Part I: Qualifications and Requirements

The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) is pleased to announce a competitive solicitation process to award funds for specialty crop projects in Nevada by way the H.R. 133 funds awarded by congress. The sole purpose of this program is to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops through research, education or promotion and aid in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Applications for H.R. 133 funds will include, but are not limited to, the activities listed in the table below.

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H.R. 133 funds were congressionally allocated for COVID-19 response and support for Nevada specialty crop producers. This may include the following:

- Recovering from impacts of COVID-19.
- Providing education and research for producers to improve stability through business practices such as business planning.
- Increasing adaptability by developing skills and resources to manage future emergencies.
- Improve operational diversification of specialty crop farms to reduce risk and increase stability.
- COVID-19 specific supplies and resources may include:
 - Purchase and provide certain supplies (including PPE) costing less than \$5,000 per unit.
 - Make certain facility adjustments (rearrangement and reconversion costs) to protect employees and the public from potential COVID-19 exposure.
 - Implement market adaptations related to COVID-19 for projects that benefit a variety of businesses.
 - Vaccination costs, such as paying stipends to cover leave and travel time.
 - Worker housing to protect employees from COVID-19 exposure, as a direct cost connected to the purpose of the SCBGP and the objectives of the project. This does not include construction or expansion of facilities.

Definition of A project

A project is a set of interrelated tasks with a cohesive, distinct, specified and defined goal. It follows a planned, organized approach over a fixed period of time and within specific limitations (cost, performance/quality, etc.). Additionally, it uses resources that are specifically allocated to the work of the project and usually involves a team of people. Projects are different from other ongoing operations in an organization because, unlike operations, projects have a definitive beginning and end - they have a limited duration. One way to think about this is that a project has an overarching goal that the applicant wants to accomplish through a series of individual activities or tasks.

Activities or tasks that could be a part of such projects might include:

- Hiring personnel
- Holding an educational workshop
- Planting specialty crops
- Distributing product promotional materials

The requirement of multiple beneficiaries in a traditional Specialty Crop Project does not apply to H.R.133 funds in that PPE or COVID-19 response activities for individual entities can be

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applied for and could be covered through these funds.

Program Changes

Key program changes that have occurred in recent years include the following:

- Advances may be permitted on an as needed basis with appropriate justification as determined by the NDA.
- If an advance is approved all advanced funds will need to be reconciled prior to paying any requests for reimbursement (RFR).
- Matching funds are no longer required.
- Indirect costs are only allowed for entities that have an existing federal indirect rate agreement. The amount that can be claimed for indirect is limited to 8% of the project budget (excluding contractual and equipment) per the federal grant requirements.
- Project performance measures and evaluations requirements have changed, particularly involving marketing focused projects. The new requirements are outlined at [USDA SCBGP Outcome Measures and Indicators](#)

The requirement of multiple beneficiaries does not apply to H.R.133 funds in that PPE or COVID-19 response activities aforementioned could be covered through these funds

Applications and submissions

The NDA will **not** accept any submission of incomplete applications. Deadline extensions will **not** be provided to applicants that miss the posted application deadline. Any applicant that fails to satisfy the deadline requirement will be considered non-responsive and will not be considered for funding under this announcement.

The application template is required and is available at www.agri.nv.gov/scbgp. Failure to use this template will result in your application not being accepted. Thoroughly review this RFP and complete all questions within the provided template. Questions involving the program can be directed to Alexa Johnson at a.johnson@agri.nv.gov or 775-353-3615.

The full application is due 5:00 p.m. PST August 5th, 2022. An electronic copy is required and must be submitted to Alexa Johnson at a.johnson@agri.nv.gov with a subject line beginning with H.R. 133 SC Application.

Funding availability

Nevada is eligible to receive an estimated grant of \$364,070.07 (H.R. 133 stimulus funds). Funding allocation for individual projects may increase or decrease and is dependent on the number of qualified applicants.

Terms of grant

All projects must be completed by **September 29, 2025**. Projects that are anticipated to be completed in less than the award period are still eligible to apply. All project leads/coordinators will be required to submit annual progress reports and a final report. The final report is to be submitted no more than sixty days after the completion of the project. The expenditure of grant funds must occur within the

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authorized sub-grant period. Failure to fulfill reporting requirements may be cause for withholding funding, withdrawal of funding, or possible rejection of future proposals.

Projects can be up to three years and the anticipated award period would start in 2022 to September 29, 2025.

Eligible recipients

All entities, organizations or individuals must be in good standing. Debarred or suspended organizations are not eligible. Poor performance from previous SCBGP awards may also impact eligibility. Additional eligibility information includes the following:

- Applications will be accepted from non-profits, tribal organizations, minority groups, disadvantaged farmers, agricultural associations, industry groups, community-based organizations, individual producers (*cannot be for sole-proprietorship purposes*) and academia that seek to improve the competitiveness of specialty crops in Nevada.
- Applicants must be in good standing with all grant funds and required reports associated with the NDA to be eligible to apply.
- Any individual/organization that has been disbarred or had funding revoked with any state/federal entity will not be considered.
- Applicant projects ***must*** benefit more than one individual or organization.

Note: Previous sub-grantees with poor performance may not be considered for funding. The review committee is provided background sheets on previously funded projects by program management which allows a collective determination to be made on whether the project should be considered for funding. Poor performance may include late/incomplete reports, failure to respond to correspondence from SCBGP management staff in a timely manner, mismanagement of SCBGP funds, among other activities.

Eligible/Ineligible crops

- Eligible specialty crops:
Fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and nursery crops (including floriculture) are eligible specialty crops. This list is not all inclusive. If unsure whether your crop would qualify contact the program coordinator Alexa Johnson at a.johnson@agri.nv.gov. Any crop that is federally illegal to produce and distribute is not eligible for this federal program. Fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and nursery crops (including floriculture) are eligible specialty crops. A full list of eligible crops can be found at:
<http://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbgp/specialty-crop>

Ineligible Crops	
Alfalfa	Peanuts
Amylomaize	Pod corn
Barley	Primrose
Buckwheat	Quinoa
Camelina	Rapeseed oil
Canola	Range grasses
Canola Oil	Rice
Clover	Rye
Cotton	Safflower meal
Cottonseed oil	Safflower oil
Dairy products	Shellfish (marine or freshwater)
Dent corn	Sorghum
Eggs	Soybean oil
Field corn	Soybeans
Fish (marine or freshwater)	Striped Maize
Flax	Sugar beets
Flaxseed	Sugarcane
Flint corn	Sunflower oil
Flower corn	Tobacco

Example of an eligible project

- A company or event requests funds to expand the protection measures in place to prevent the spread of diseases like COVID-19. This could include purchase of handwashing stations or additional tables to allow for social distancing.
- Purchase of special equipment that would allow for business diversification that could improve sustainability in the case of another emergency.
- Purchase of PPE for staff.

Examples of unacceptable projects:

- A company requests grant funds to purchase starter plants or equipment used to plant, cultivate, and grow a specialty crop for making a profit, or to expand production of a single business that.
- A State requests grant funds to issue project funds to an individual specialty crop businesses or roadside stand to promote their individual business.
- A sole proprietor requests grant funds to redesign her/his logo to make her/his specialty crop value-added product stand out at the local farmers’ market.
- A company that develops specialty crop value-added products requests funds to train its employees how to make its value-added products.
- A specialty crop producer requests funds to promote their asparagus at a roadside stand.

Active and good standing and Nevada State Business License requirements

Applicant agencies that are a Nevada corporation, LLC, LP, LLP, or LLLP must have a current Nevada State Business License. Organizations or individuals that are exempt from having a business license must provide proof that they have been exempted. Non-profit corporations must show that their corporation is active and in good standing. Satisfactory proof may include one of the following from the applicant:

- A copy of the certificate of good standing.
- A copy of an unexpired business license; A print-out from the Nevada’s Secretary of State’s free Business Entity Search showing active status; or
- A copy of the exemption status which can be obtained through the Secretary of State’s office.

Federal suspension and debarment

Organizations or individuals that are suspended or debarred cannot apply for or be paid from NDA grants during the period of the suspension or debarment. If an organization or individual is debarred, another entity from within the county, an adjoining county, or regional provider can compete for the program dollars. As a result, the entity awarded the grant, cannot contract and/or hire the debarred agency in any capacity. Any expenditure charged to this grant for such individuals or agencies will be disallowed.

Applicants with ongoing non-compliances or that are in default with the State will not be awarded grant funding.

Applicants are required to disclose to the NDA if any of the following conditions apply to the agency or agency personnel:

1. Applicant has been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them within the three-year period preceding the application for NDA funding for any of the following:
 - a. Fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public transaction or contract under a public transaction.
 - b. Violation of a federal or state antitrust statute.
 - c. Embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, or
 - d. False statements or receipt of stolen property.
2. Applicant is presently indicted or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (federal, state, or local) with the commission of any of the offenses enumerated above.
3. Applicant has had any public transaction (federal, state or local) terminated for cause or default within the three-year period preceding the application for NDA funding.

Part II: Fiscal requirements and terms

Advances and cash reimbursement

Advances may be permitted on an as needed basis with appropriate justification as determined by the NDA. If an advance is approved, all advanced funds will need to be reconciled prior to paying any RFR.

Program income

Program income is gross income directly generated by USDA Specialty Crop Block grant activity or earned only because of the grant agreement during the grant period of performance. Program income includes, but is not limited to: income from fees for services performed; the sale of commodities or items fabricated under this award (this includes items sold at cost if the cost of producing the item was funded in whole or partially by SCBGP funds); registration fees for conferences, workshops, etc.

If program income will be earned, indicate the nature of the source of the income, the estimated amount, and how the income will be used to further enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in Nevada. (For example, if registration fees are being collected at a conference or workshop, indicate the estimated amount, and how that amount will be used once collected.) **Note:** Program income **must** be reinvested into the SCBGP.

Cost principles

The costs included in proposed budgets must conform to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Uniform Guidance: Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, and all applicable state laws and regulations. OMB’s objective is to ensure federal funds meet the following general criteria:

- Be necessary and reasonable and allowable for proper and efficient performance and administration of the sub-grant. Cost should not exceed that which would be incurred by a prudent person under the circumstances prevailing at the time the decision was made to incur the cost. When determining reasonableness of a given cost, the following should be considered:
 - The cost must be a type generally necessary for the organization’s operations or the grants performance.
 - The cost must follow Federal, State and your organization’s own established policies for incurring a cost or charge.
 - Consideration must be given for market prices for comparable goods or services in the geographic area.
 - Individuals responsible for the expenditure must act with due prudence in carrying out their responsibilities to the Federal and State government, the public at large, as well as to the organization.

- Be allocable to the USDA SCBGP purposes, project goals and objectives. If cost is shared for a good or service, then that portion of the costs allocable to the grant must be in

accordance with the relative benefits received. A cost is allocable to a grant if it:

- Is incurred solely to advance work under the grant.
- Benefits both the grant and other work of the organization, including other grant-supported projects and programs and can be distributed in proportions that may be approximated using reasonable methods; and
- Is necessary to the overall operation of the organization under similar circumstances and is deemed to be assignable, at least in part, to the grant.
- Be authorized or not prohibited under state or local laws and regulations.
- Be consistent in assigning cost to cost objectives and must treat costs consistently for all work of the organization under similar circumstances, regardless of the source of funding, to avoid duplicate charges.
- Be in conformance with limitations and exclusions contained in the terms and conditions of this award.

Allowable costs

A comprehensive list of eligible/unallowable costs is available at [AMS Grants Division General Terms and Conditions \(usda.gov\)](#). The NDA does not allow SCBGP applicants to request indirect costs due to the USDA indirect cap for state awards needed to recover management costs.

Examples of allowable costs may include, but are not limited, to the following:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advertising/Public Relations-Selling and marketing cost of an eligible specialty crop (example “Buy Fresh Local Melons”) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Participant support costs-stipends or subsistence allowances, etc. in connection with approved conferences, training projects and focus groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advertising/Public Relations-Promotion of specialty crop activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Publication and printing costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Audio/visual activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Registration fees
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Audit Costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rental or lease costs of buildings, vehicles, land and equipment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Communication costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Salaries, wages, fringes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conferences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Scholarships and student aid costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Contractual and consultant costs (Professional Services). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supplies and materials
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Equipment-special purpose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Training and education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Invention, patent and licensing costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Travel

Unallowable costs

Examples of unallowable cost may include, but are not limited to the following:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advertising/Public Relations-Promotion of an organization’s image, logo or brand name. (example “Buy Lahontan Melons”) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Depreciation or use allowances
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertising/Public Relations-Promotion of non-specialty crop activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entertainment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertising/Public Relations-Gifts, prizes, memorabilia and souvenirs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment-General purpose
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertising-Sponsorships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fines, penalties, damages, and other settlements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertising/Public Relations-Coupons, incentives, or other price discounts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fundraising
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertising/Public Relations-Use of meeting rooms, space, exhibits for non-specialty crops. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goods and services for personal use
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alcoholic beverages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information technology systems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction and renovation and land or building acquisition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment management cost
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contingency provisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobbying
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributions or donations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most meal expenses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction of debts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobbying expenses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs for receptions, parties, fund raising benefits, and other hospitality funds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indirect costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs associated to fiscal services, building maintenance, agency general program costs, etc.

Additional information on allowable and unallowable costs and project activities can be found in the document available at [4.7.2 ALLOWABLE AND UNALLOWABLE COSTS AND ACTIVITIES](#)

Financial Management

Accounting system requirements

Financial records, statistical records, supporting documents and other records pertinent to this award shall be retained for a period of three years from submission of the Final Project Report. Records that relate to audits, appeals, litigation or settlement of claims arising out of the performance of the project shall be retained until such audits, appeals, litigation or claims have been disposed of, but not earlier than three years from submission of the Final Project Report. The Program Manager, Division of Plant Health and Compliance staff of the NDA, or any of their duly authorized representatives, shall have access to any pertinent documents, books, papers and records of the recipient organization to make audits, examinations, excerpts and transcripts.

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Co-mingling of Funds

In no case shall USDA SCBGP funds be commingled with the personal funds of, or be used for personal purposes by, any officer, employee or agent of the recipient; nor will any of these funds be deposited in personal bank accounts for disbursement by personal check.

Financial Supplanting

Requests that seek to replace operational funding for ongoing projects that have suffered losses of state or federal funding, or to supplant other local, state or federal funding are not allowed. If there is a potential presence of supplanting, the subgrant organization will be required to supply documentation demonstrating that the reduction in non-federal resources occurred for reasons other than the receipt or expected receipt of federal funds.

Violations may result in a range of penalties, including suspension of current and future funds under this program, suspension, or debarment from federal grants, repayment of monies provided under a grant, civil and/or criminal penalties.

Fraud, waste and abuse

Anyone who becomes aware of the existence (or apparent existence) of fraud, waste or abuse related to the AMS SCBGP grants, or use of grant funds, should report this information to the NDA and to USDA.

Fraud, waste and abuse includes, but is not limited to, embezzlement, misuse, or misappropriation of grant funds or property, and false statements, whether by organizations or individuals. Examples are theft of grant funds for personal use, using funds for non-grant related purposes, theft of federally owned property or property acquired or leased under a grant, charging inflated building rental fees for a building owned by the recipient, submitting false financial reports, and submitting false financial data in bids submitted to the NDA.

Unique Entity Identifier requirement

All recipients of SCBGP funds must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number through [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov). The UEI is [replacing](#) the former Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) provided DUNS number required to register with the US Federal Government for contracts or grants. To obtain a UEI, visit [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov), click "Get Started," then choose "Get Unique Entity ID." View the [Transitioning to the New Unique Entity ID fact sheet](#) for more information.

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Conflict of interest

Sub-recipient's grantee agencies shall avoid any action that might result in or create the appearance of:

- Giving preferential treatment to any person.
- Losing complete independence or impartiality; or
- Adversely affecting the public confidence in the integrity of the program.

No sub-recipient employees may participate in the process of contracting or sub-granting out Federal funds if any real or apparent conflict of interest would be involved. Sub-recipient employees are to neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors or anything of value from contractors or parties to sub-agreement.

Part III: Application Process

Application and submission instructions

All applicants must submit proposals according to the instructions provided in this announcement. Applications not submitted in the manner prescribed in this announcement will be considered non-responsive. Non-responsive applications will not be considered for funding. A Full application are required to be submitted **no later than 5:00 p.m. PST August 5th, 2022**. The application included in this RFA must be used. Do not edit or modify the application in any way. When submitting the application, the subject of your email **must** include the following: **H.R. 133 SC Application**. A blank application template to complete can be found here: [Blank SCBG H.R.133 Application](#)

Application Deadline 5:00 p.m. PST August 5th, 2022.

The full application must be submitted via email.

Send applications to:

a.johnson@agri.nv.gov

Applications must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. PST August 5th, 2022.

Please Do not forget to include H.R. 133 SC Application in the subject of your email

An example of the template can be found starting on the next page.

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Part IV – Application Template

SCBGP PROJECT PROFILE TEMPLATE

HR 133 SCBGP Funds

AWARD YEARS 2022 FORWARD

The State Plan should include a series of project profiles that detail the necessary information to fulfill the goals and objectives of each project. The acceptable font size for the narrative is 11 or 12 pitch with all margins at 1 inch. The following information must be included in each project profile.

Project Title

Provide a descriptive project title in 15 words or less in the space below.

Duration of Project

Start Date: Start Date

End Date: End Date

Project Partner and Summary

Include a project summary of 250 words or less suitable for dissemination to the public. A Project Summary provides a very brief (one sentence, if possible) description of your project. A Project Summary includes:

- 1. The name of the applicant organization that if awarded a grant will establish an agreement or contractual relationship with the State Department of Agriculture to lead and execute the project,*
- 2. The project's purpose, deliverables, and expected outcomes and*
- 3. A description of the general tasks/activities to be completed during the project period to fulfill this goal.*

FOR EXAMPLE:

The ABC University will mitigate the spread of citrus greening (Huanglongbing) by developing scientifically-based practical measures to implement in a quarantine area and disseminating results to stakeholders through grower meetings and field days.

Project Purpose

Provide the Specific Issue, Problem or Need that the Project will Address

Provide a Listing of the Objectives that this Project Hopes to Achieve

Add more objectives by copying and pasting the existing listing or delete objectives that aren't necessary.

Objective 1

Objective 2

Objective 3

Objective 4

Add other objectives as necessary

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Project Beneficiaries

Estimate the number of project beneficiaries: Enter the Number of Beneficiaries

Does this project directly benefit socially disadvantaged farmers as defined in the RFA? Yes

No

Does this project directly benefit beginning farmers as defined in the RFA? Yes No

Statement of Enhancing Specialty Crops

By checking the box to the right, I confirm that this project enhances the competitiveness of specialty crops in accordance with and defined by the Farm Bill.

Further information regarding the definition of a specialty crop can be found at

www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbgp.

Continuation Project Information

Does this project continue the efforts of a previously funded SCBGP project? Yes No

If you have selected "yes", please address the following:

Describe how this Project will differ from and build on the Previous Efforts

Provide a Summary (3 to 5 sentences) of the Outcomes of the Previous Efforts

Provide Lessons Learned on Potential Project Improvements

What was previously learned from implementing this project, including potential improvements?

How are the lessons learned and improvements being incorporated into the project to make the ongoing project more effective and successful at meeting goals and outcomes?

Describe the Likelihood of The Project becoming Self-Sustaining and not Indefinitely Dependent on Grant Funds

Other Support from Federal or State Grant Programs

The SCBGP will not fund duplicative projects. Did you submit this project to a Federal or State grant program other than the SCBGP for funding and/or is a Federal or State grant program other than the SCBGP funding the project currently?

Yes No

If Your Project is receiving or will Potentially receive Funds from another Federal or State Grant Program

Identify the Federal or State grant program(s).

Describe how the SCBGP project differs from or supplements the other grant program(s) efforts.

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External Project Support

Describe the specialty crop stakeholders who support this project and why (other than the applicant and organizations involved in the project).

Expected Measurable Outcomes

Select the Appropriate Outcome(s) and Indicator(s)/Sub-Indicator(s)

You must choose at least one of the seven outcomes listed in the [SCBGP Performance Measures](#), which were approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to evaluate the performance of the SCBGP on a national level.

Outcome Measure(s)

Select the outcome measure(s) that are applicable for this project from the listing below.

- Outcome 1:** Increasing Consumption and Consumer Purchasing of Specialty Crops
- Outcome 2:** Increasing Access to Specialty Crops and Expanding Specialty Crop Production and Distribution
- Outcome 3:** Increase Food Safety Knowledge and Processes
- Outcome 4:** Improve Pest and Disease Control Processes
- Outcome 5:** Develop New Seed Varieties and Specialty Crops
- Outcome 6:** Expand Specialty Crop Research and Development
- Outcome 7:** Improve Environmental Sustainability of Specialty Crops

Outcome Indicator(s)

Provide at least one indicator listed in the [SCBGP Performance Measures](#) and the related quantifiable result. If you have multiple outcomes and/or indicators, repeat this for each outcome/indicator.

FOR EXAMPLE:

Outcome 1, Indicator 1.1a

Total number of consumers who gained knowledge about specialty crops, Adults 132.

Miscellaneous Outcome Measure

In the unlikely event that the outcomes and indicators above the selected outcomes are not relevant to your project, you must develop a project-specific outcome(s) and indicator(s) which will be subject to approval by AMS.

Data Collection to Report on Outcomes and Indicators

Explain how you will collect the required data to report on the outcome and indicator in the space below.

Budget Narrative

All expenses described in this Budget Narrative must be associated with expenses that will be covered by the SCBGP. If any matching funds will be used and a description of their use is required by the State department of agriculture, the expenses to be covered with matching funds must be described separately. Applicants should review the Request for Applications section 4.7 Funding Restrictions prior to developing their budget narrative.

Budget Summary

Expense Category	Funds Requested
Personnel	
Fringe Benefits	
Travel	
Equipment	
Supplies	
Contractual	
Other	
Direct Costs Sub-Total	
Indirect Costs	
Total Budget	

Personnel

List the organization's employees whose time and effort can be specifically identified and easily and accurately traced to project activities that enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. See the Request for Applications section 4.7.2 Allowable and Unallowable Costs and Activities, Salaries and Wages, and Presenting Direct and Indirect Costs Consistently under section 4.7.1 for further guidance.

#	Name/Title	Level of Effort (# of hours OR % FTE)	Funds Requested
1			
2			
3			
4			

Personnel Subtotal:

Personnel Justification

For each individual listed in the above table, describe the activities to be completed by name/title including approximately when activities will occur. Add more personnel by copying and pasting the existing listing or deleting personnel that aren't necessary.

Personnel 1:

Personnel 2:

Personnel 3:

Add other Personnel as necessary

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Fringe Benefits

Provide the fringe benefit rates for each of the project's salaried employees described in the Personnel section that will be paid with SCBGP funds.

#	Name/Title	Fringe Benefit Rate	Funds Requested
1			
2			
3			
4			

Fringe Subtotal:

Travel

Explain the purpose for each Trip Request. Please note that travel costs are limited to those allowed by formal organizational policy; in the case of air travel, project participants must use the lowest reasonable commercial airfares. For recipient organizations that have no formal travel policy and for-profit recipients, allowable travel costs may not exceed those established by the Federal Travel Regulation, issued by GSA, including the maximum per diem and subsistence rates prescribed in those regulations. This information is available at <http://www.gsa.gov>. See the Request for Applications section 4.7.2 Allowable and Unallowable Costs and Activities, Travel, and Foreign Travel for further guidance.

#	Trip Destination	Type of Expense (airfare, car rental, hotel, meals, mileage, etc.)	Unit of Measure (days, nights, miles)	# of Units	Cost per Unit	# of Travelers Claiming the Expense	Funds Requested
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							

Travel Subtotal:

Travel Justification

For each trip listed in the above table describe the purpose of this trip and how it will achieve the objectives and outcomes of the project. Be sure to include approximately when the trip will occur. Add more trips by copying and pasting the existing listing or delete trips that aren't necessary.

Trip 1 (Approximate Date of Travel MM/YYYY):

Trip 2(Approximate Date of Travel MM/YYYY):

Trip 3(Approximate Date of Travel MM/YYYY):

Add other Trips as necessary

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Conforming with Your Travel Policy

By checking the box to the right, I confirm that my organization’s established travel policies will be adhered to when completing the above-mentioned trips in accordance with [2 CFR 200.474](#) or [48 CFR subpart 31.2](#) as applicable.

Equipment

Describe any special purpose equipment to be purchased or rented under the grant. “Special purpose equipment” is tangible, nonexpendable, personal property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost that equals or exceeds \$5,000 per unit and is used only for research, medical, scientific, or other technical activities. See the Request for Applications section 4.7.2 Allowable and Unallowable Costs and Activities, Equipment - Special Purpose for further guidance

Rental of “general purpose equipment” must also be described in this section. Purchase of general purpose equipment is not allowable under this grant. See Request for Applications section 4.7.2 Allowable and Unallowable Costs and Activities, Equipment - General Purpose for definition, and Rental or Lease Costs of Buildings, Vehicles, Land and Equipment.

#	Item Description	Rental or Purchase	Acquire When?	Funds Requested
1				
2				
3				
4				

Equipment Subtotal:

Equipment Justification

For each Equipment item listed in the above table describe how this equipment will be used to achieve the objectives and outcomes of the project. Add more equipment by copying and pasting the existing listing or delete equipment that isn’t necessary.

Equipment 1:

Equipment 2:

Equipment 3:

Add other Equipment as necessary

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Supplies

List the materials, supplies, and fabricated parts costing less than \$5,000 per unit and describe how they will support the purpose and goal of the proposal and enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. See Request for Applications section 4.7.2 Allowable and Unallowable Costs and Activities, Supplies and Materials, Including Costs of Computing Devices for further information.

Item Description	Per-Unit Cost	# of Units/Pieces Purchased	Acquire When?	Funds Requested

Supplies Subtotal:

Supplies Justification

Describe the purpose of each supply listed in the table above purchased and how it is necessary for the completion of the project’s objective(s) and outcome(s).

Contractual/Consultant

Contractual/consultant costs are the expenses associated with purchasing goods and/or procuring services performed by an individual or organization other than the applicant in the form of a procurement relationship. If there is more than one contractor or consultant, each must be described separately. (Repeat this section for each contract/consultant.)

Itemized Contractor(s)/Consultant(s)

Provide a list of contractors/consultants, detailing out the name, hourly/flat rate, and overall cost of the services performed. Please note that any statutory limitations on indirect costs also apply to contractors and consultants.

#	Name/Organization	Hourly Rate/Flat Rate	Funds Requested
1			
2			
3			
4			

Contractual/Consultant Subtotal:

Contractual Justification

Provide for each of your real or anticipated contractors listed above a description of the project activities each will accomplish to meet the objectives and outcomes of the project. Each section should also include a justification for why contractual/consultant services are to be used to meet the anticipated outcomes and objectives. Include timelines for each activity. If contractor employee and consultant hourly rates of pay exceed the salary of a GS-15 step 10 Federal employee in your area, provide a justification for the expenses. This limit does not include fringe benefits, travel, indirect costs, or other expenses. See Request for Applications section 4.7.2 Allowable and Unallowable Costs and Activities, Contractual and Consultant Costs for acceptable justifications.

Contractor/Consultant 1:

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Contractor/Consultant 2:

Contractor/Consultant 3:

Add other Contractors/Consultants as necessary

Conforming with your Procurement Standards

By checking the box to the right, I confirm that my organization followed the same policies and procedures used for procurements from non-federal sources, which reflect applicable State and local laws and regulations and conform to the Federal laws and standards identified in [2 CFR Part 200.317 through.326](#), as applicable. If the contractor(s)/consultant(s) are not already selected, my organization will follow the same requirements.

Other

Include any expenses not covered in any of the previous budget categories. Be sure to break down costs into cost/unit. Expenses in this section include, but are not limited to, meetings and conferences, communications, rental expenses, advertisements, publication costs, and data collection.

If you budget meal costs for reasons other than meals associated with travel per diem, provide an adequate justification to support that these costs are not entertainment costs. See Request for Applications section 4.7.2 Allowable and Unallowable Costs and Activities, Meals for further guidance.

Item Description	Per-Unit Cost	Number of Units	Acquire When?	Funds Requested

Other Subtotal:

Other Justification

Describe the purpose of each item listed in the table above purchased and how it is necessary for the completion of the project's objective(s) and outcome(s).

Indirect Costs

The indirect cost rate must not exceed 8 percent of any project's budget. Indirect costs are any costs that are incurred for common or joint objectives that therefore, cannot be readily identified with an individual project, program, or organizational activity. They generally include facilities operation and maintenance costs, depreciation, and administrative expenses. See Request for Applications section 4.7.1 Limit on Administrative Costs and Presenting Direct and Indirect Costs Consistently for further guidance.

Indirect Cost Rate	Funds Requested

Indirect Subtotal:

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Program Income

Program income is gross income—earned by a recipient or subrecipient under a grant—directly generated by the grant-supported activity or earned only because of the grant agreement during the grant period of performance. Program income includes, but is not limited to, income from fees for services performed; the sale of commodities or items fabricated under an award (this includes items sold at cost if the cost of producing the item was funded in whole or partially with grant funds); registration fees for conferences, etc.

Source/Nature of Program Income	Description of how you will reinvest the program income into the project to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops	Estimated Income

Program Income Total:

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Work Plan

Please format as a table, see below for an example

- *Does the work plan adequately describe the activities necessary to accomplish the project objectives?*
- *Does the work plan indicate who will do the work of each activity, including sub grantees, and/or contractors?*
- *Does the work plan include the performance monitoring/data collection plan activity described in the expected measurable outcome section?*
- *Does the work plan include timelines for each activity (at least month and year) and beginning and end dates for the project?*

<i>• Does the timeline show that the project will be completed within the grant period? Project Activity</i>	<i>Who is responsible</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
Circulate survey for baseline data of SC sales	John Doe	January 2022

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FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT

Address the following questions for the entity responsible for the financial management of the project.

1. Please detail your organization's current sources of funding (including other NDA contracts and grants), identify the funding agency, the program name, the types of funds (i.e., Federal, State, local, private, etc.).
2. Are you currently seeking other funds from the Nevada Department of Agriculture through RFA's or RFP's? If yes, please list.
3. Has your organization administered programs like your current grant proposal? If yes, please list and explain.
4. How many years has your organization been in existence?
5. How many total Full Time Equivalents (FTE)s is there in your organization?
6. How many total FTE perform accounting functions within your organization?
7. How are the financial records maintained to identify the source/revenue and program/expenditure of funds?
8. How will sub-grant funds have accounted for separately from other funding sources in your organization's accounting records?
9. This sub-grant will be on a cash reimbursement basis. What will your organization's source of cash be and how will your organization manage its cash flow between the time costs are incurred and reimbursed?

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Authorization

By signing this Application, the Authorizing Agent is guaranteeing that the information contained in this Application is correct and verifiable. The Authorizing Agent is also affirming that the funds requested herein will be used for the specific purpose outlined in this Application and for no other purpose. (Attach a resolution of the governing body of the applicant organization, authorizing this person to submit the application in the name of the organization.)

Name of Requesting Entity:

Name of Authorizing Agent:

Title of Authorizing Agent:

Address of Authorizing _____ Telephone Number: _____

Signature of Authorizing
Agent: _____

Date:

Date and Initial _____

Disclosure: By signing this section you are certifying that all the enclosed information is not in conflict with any other federal funding, dually funded, or previously funded by any other federal source.

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Part V: Application review and selection process

Letters of Intent are utilized for assessing the eligibility for proposed projects. If determined to be eligible, applicants receive approval for submitting a full application.

Technical and fiscal review

Applications will be reviewed internally by the Department's fiscal staff who provide a financial and technical review for eligibility, completeness, accuracy and compliance with the requirements outlined in this announcement. If an applicant grant packet is deemed ineligible, fiscal staff will provide information about the components or elements that did not meet State eligibility requirements.

Evaluation committee/Criteria

During the application review process, clarification regarding application content may be requested. In addition, budget modification may be requested to align individual project budgets with total funding availability.

If applicants would like to review a summary of their evaluation criteria, a request can be submitted to the Program Coordinator within 30 days of receiving written notice of application review status. Proprietary information involving proposals will not be released. This may include income, trade secrets, patent information, personal identification details, etc.

The evaluation process will include the use of an independent review panel of experts or qualified individuals, overseen by State department of agriculture officials, to evaluate and score applications and recommend project proposals for selection. The review panel should also provide a recommended award amount for project proposals.

This includes the factors and reasons for selecting an applicant and any changes in project proposal ranks/scores that may occur during the review process. All documentation affecting the decision to approve, disapprove, defer, or otherwise not fund an application should be maintained in an accessible, centralized program file.

Review panel members must be free from conflicts of interest and conduct fair and impartial reviews. The SCBGP encourages State departments of agriculture to require and keep on file written conflict of interest disclosures from their review panel members.

Individuals that have a conflict of interest may have:

- Served as advisors/advisees of the applicant.
- Collaborated with the applicant over a designated amount of time; currently affiliated with, previously employed by, or are being considered for employment at the institution(s) of the applicant(s).

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- Hold a personal/familial relationship with the applicant(s); or
- In recent years, participated in a consulting/financial arrangement with the applicant.

Program staff who are directly involved with the management of the grant program or who meet any of the criteria above, should also not participate in the review panel. Conflicts of interest have the potential to diminish the credibility of the selection process and leave the State vulnerable to challenges about the fairness of their competitive review process

NDA's project evaluation scoring sheet can be found at:

http://agri.nv.gov/Plant/SpecialtyCrop/Specialty_Crop_Block_Grant_Program/

Appeal process

If an application is not funded, the applicant may appeal if the applicant demonstrates one of the following:

1. provided misinformation; or
2. Department staff failed to follow existing policies.

Notice of Appeal must be made in writing on the applicant agency's letterhead to the Fiscal Administrator of the NDA within seven (7) calendar days of the Intent to Award announcement on the Department's website. The Notice of Appeal must be signed by the same Authorized Representative who signed the application submittal cover letter.

USDA final approval

All NDA-approved projects will be developed into a single grant submission to the USDA. They will review applications according to federal grant requirements and specific parameters of SCBGP, and the NDA will provide any request for follow-up information. Upon approval from USDA, the NDA will notify applicants of their status. Awards will not be made to any sub-grantee until a final grant award is made to the NDA by the USDA and approved by the State of Nevada's Interim Finance Committee.

Part VI: Grant award and post-award process

Grant acceptance and Grant management process

Upon final approval, all sub-grant recipients must sign a Notice of Sub-Grant Award Agreement stating that funds shall be used as described in the final scope of work. A signed and initialed grant guidelines document must also be submitted to demonstrate acknowledgement and understanding of sub-grant requirements.

Post-award management

By signing the sub-grant award agreement, you agree to the terms in the Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations, complete activities outlined in your approved proposal, all state and federal laws, approved budget, NDA policies/procedures, and award terms and

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conditions of parent award. Refer to the clauses in your sub-award, be aware of federal guidelines available via websites provided above or ask program staff for clarification.

Sub-grant award document /contract

- Disclose conflicts.
- Use award funds for purposes only as specified in agreement.
- You must comply with all labor laws, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the American Disabilities Act.

Budget or programmatic changes

All requests for programmatic and budget changes to grant awards must be submitted in writing. Grantees cannot make changes to the grant award without written prior approval from the NDA. Proposed programmatic and budget changes can be emailed to Alexa Johnson at a.johnson@agri.nv.gov.

Proposed programmatic and budget changes will be reviewed by program staff for their reasonableness. A final decision will be issued in writing to the grantee.

Written prior approval is necessary, but limited to the following as they are anticipated:

- Revision to the scope, objectives, location, or methodology of the sub-grant award.
- Change in key personnel when as specified in application package and sub-grant award.
- Cumulative transfers among direct cost categories, or, if applicable, among separately budgeted activities or projects; or
- Change in contractors.

Requests must be in writing and approved by the program manager prior to initiating the change. They will be accepted via e-mail and should include a description, justification, and the project lead signature (who signed the agreement).

Extensions to the award dates will not be approved beyond the three-year award.

Request for reimbursement

Funds are disbursed on a reimbursement basis and upon submission of a Request for Reimbursement (RFR) form and adequate supporting documentation. Reimbursement requests must be turned in on a quarterly basis. Supporting documentation includes receipts, invoices and copied checks of approved purchases. If receipts do not clearly specify what items were purchased and utilized for grant activities, you must specify. Itemized expense reports are strongly encouraged.

Payments will be made within 30-45 days after receipt of properly completed reimbursement requests. Advances will not be issued. All requests for reimbursements must include documentation verifying expenses.

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Expenses must be submitted at least quarterly per the federal parent award requirements.

All funds must be expended by the expiration date listed on the sub-grant agreement.
Final reports are due 30 days after project completion.

Reimbursement request quarterly.

Withholding payments

The NDA reserves the right, upon written notice, to withhold future payments if the recipient fails to comply with the conditions of the award, including reporting requirements. In addition, if sub-grantees fail to respond to program staff correspondence in a timely manner, funds will be put on hold and could ultimately be revoked.

Project monitoring and site-inspections

Program staff or their authorized representatives have the right, at all reasonable times, to make site visits to review project accomplishments and management control systems, and to provide such technical assistance as may be required. Site inspections may be performed to ensure the following:

- Adequate progress is being made toward achieving the grant project's goals, objectives and targets (reference your work plan).
- Activities follow your signed contract, all Federal and State laws or statutes, AMS regulations and policy, NDA policies/procedures.
- Grant records are kept and accessible by staff for three years after the final report deadline; and
- Use of Federal funds are handled ethically and responsibly.

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Reporting requirements

Performance reports are required.

- All projects must complete two annual performance reports and one final report.
- If your project was approved to end early you may submit a final report in lieu of the 2nd annual report.
- If you need your specific dates, please contact the NDA program staff. Generally, a 1st annual report is due one year into the project and a 2nd annual report at the end of the 2nd year. Final Reports are due 30 days after the expiration of your project.
- You will receive notification from the NDA program staff reminding you a report is due. The notice will be issued approximately 30 days prior to being due.

- Reports are required to be submitted and timely per your contract.

Use the checklist and report examples provided in the reminder. These are also available on the [USDA SCBGP webpage](#).

- Reports will only be accepted via e-mail (a digital copy is required).
- The reporting function mainly serves as a report of activities during that period.
- Reports that are approved become public record.
- Your audience is the United States Government and officials of it, including Congress.
- Use a concise business writing format.
- More information will be sent outlining the reporting requirements and content within 30 days of report due dates.
- Sub-grantees must report on the activities outlined in their approved scope of work to ensure federal funds are being utilized appropriately.

Report checklist and format

Examples and checklists are available on the [USDA SCBGP webpage](#).

Acknowledgement of support

An acknowledgement of the program funding **must** appear in any publication or at any

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significant event based on this project. Terms should include “This project was funded (or funded in part) by the Nevada Specialty Crop Block Grant Program.” The USDA logo is **not** to be utilized in any publications. The NDA logo may be used if approval is received.

Project close out

All funds must be expended by the expiration date listed on the sub-grant agreement. Final reports are due 30 days after project completion. Report notifications will be sent by program staff along with reporting requirements.