



2026 SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

Request for Proposals

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE 10.170

Released:

January 15, 2026

Specialty Crop Block Grant Applications Due:

February 28, 2026

No late submissions accepted

Submit Applications via Euna Grants platform:

RI DEM Division of Agriculture
235 Promenade Street
Suite 370
Providence, RI 02908
(401) 222-2781
www.dem.ri.gov/programs/agriculture

Table of Contents

About the Program	3
Solicitation Process and Timeline	4
Review and Notification	4
Requirements and Limitations	5
Expected Measurable Outcomes and Indicators.....	7
Outcome 1: Increasing Consumption and Consumer Purchasing of Specialty Crops.....	7
Outcome 2: Increasing Access to Specialty Crops and Expanding Specialty Crop Production and Distribution	8
Outcome 3: Increase Food Safety Knowledge and Processes	9
Outcome 4: Improve Pest and Disease Control Processes	9
Outcome 5: Develop New Seed Varieties and Specialty Crops.....	10
Outcome 6: Expand Specialty Crop Research and Development.....	10
Outcome 7: Improve Environmental Sustainability of Specialty Crops.....	10
Completing the RI DEM SCBGP Project Application and Proposal	11
Other Federal Grant Programs.....	16

About the Program

Purpose

The RI DEM Division of Agriculture (DEM) is pleased to announce a competitive solicitation process to award Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) funds for projects that enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. Specialty crops are defined as fruits and vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts, horticulture, and nursery crops, including floriculture. Please visit USDA's web site at <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbgp> to view a comprehensive list of eligible specialty crops, ineligible commodities, and examples of projects that enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops under the SCBGP.

Funding and Duration

DEM anticipates that approximately \$270,000 will be awarded to projects enhancing the competitiveness of Rhode Island specialty crops. A maximum grant award does not exist and neither DEM nor the SCBGP requires a cost sharing or matching requirement.

During the 2024 and 2025 funding cycles, the average amount of funding, per award, totaled \$43,785 and \$41,756 respectively. All projects are subject to the availability of funds. Grant funds for SCBGP projects cannot be expended before September 30, 2026, and a Purchase Order issued to the recipient from the State of Rhode Island. No funds can be expended after September 29, 2029. DEM reserves the right to offer an award amount less than the amount requested.

Eligibility Requirements

Projects must enhance the competitiveness of U.S. or U.S. territory-grown specialty crops in either domestic or foreign markets. Each project must identify at least one expected measurable outcome and indicator that specifically demonstrates the project's impact in enhancing the competitiveness of eligible specialty crops. Funds will not be awarded for projects that benefit a particular commercial product or provide a profit to a single organization, institution, or individual. In addition, grant funds cannot be used to compete unfairly with private companies that provide equivalent products or services. Single organizations, institutions, and individuals are encouraged to participate as project partners. Proposals should be initiated by organizations, industry groups, or academic institutions, or should involve collaboration or partnerships between producers, industry groups, academics, or other organizations. Applicants may cooperate with any public or private organization, or two or more individuals or organizations may propose a joint project. Applicants should describe how the project potentially affects and produces measurable

outcomes for the specialty crop industry and/or the public rather than a single organization, institution, or individual.

Solicitation Process and Timeline

Competitive Grant Application Review Process

DEM's competitive solicitation process will rely on submission of Grant Proposals. All Grant Proposals must fully describe the project's purpose, objectives, beneficiaries, external support, measurable outcomes, indicators, data collection, budget narrative, oversight, and commitment. An applicant's failure to meet eligibility criterion by the application deadline may result in DEM's rejection of the proposal prior to or after the application review.

Grant Proposal

The Specialty Crop Block Grant Application review panel will make recommendations to the Chief of Agriculture as to which applicants received the highest rubric scores and which will be included in DEM's 2026 SCBGP State Plan. The Director will ultimately decide which projects will be approved.

Review and Notification

Review Criteria

DEM's intent is to fund projects that can produce the highest degree of measurable benefits to Rhode Island specialty crop producers in relation to each dollar spent. Concept Proposals will be evaluated on the criteria set forth by the RI DEM Division of Agriculture.

Review Process

DEM will conduct two levels of review during the Grant Proposal review process. The first level is an administrative review to determine whether Grant Proposal requirements are met and will assess applicants' past DEM grant performances (if any). The second level is a technical review to evaluate the merits of the Grant Proposals. The DEM SCBGP Review Panel will perform the technical review. This panel is comprised of a collective representation of growers and industry personnel from public agencies and non-profit entities with an interest and expertise in specialty crop food and agricultural systems. The panel will rank proposals against the evaluation criteria and questions listed on the SCBGP Evaluation Criteria Score Sheet.

Notification and Feedback

Applicants not selected to participate in 2026 SCBGP Rhode Island State Plan may contact DEM and request feedback on their Proposals (if available).

Assistance and Questions

Questions regarding this grant and/or the competitive solicitation process should be directed to DEM at (401) 222-2781 or DEM.SpecialtyCrop@dem.ri.gov

Requirements and Limitations

Federal Cost Principles

Federal cost principles are regulations based on organization type used to determine allowable costs and ensure consistent treatment of costs. Applicants are responsible for identifying the federal cost principles appropriate to their organization and consistent application of cost principles to the SCBGP grant funds. They are used to ensure contractors or consultants comply with federal cost principal requirements.

- State, local or Indian tribal governments, non-profit organizations, colleges and universities will be subject to 2 CFR 200.
- For-profit organizations will be subject to 48 CFR Subpart 31.2.

Allowable and Unallowable Costs

Please visit the USDA link below for a full list and justification of allowable and unallowable costs for the SCBG program: [usda-general-terms-conditions-2025.pdf](#)

Indirect Costs

The maximum indirect cost rate is eight percent (8%) of the project's budget.

Applicants are responsible for presenting costs incurred for the same purpose in like circumstances consistently and must not include costs associated with an established indirect cost rate agreement as direct costs. In addition, applicants cannot allocate a cost as a direct cost if it is also incurred as an indirect cost for the same purpose and vice versa.

Direct costs are costs that can be identified specifically with a particular award, project, program, service, or other organizational activity or that can be directly assigned to such an activity relatively easily with a high degree of accuracy. Typically, direct costs include, but are not limited to, compensation of employees who work directly on the award to include salaries and fringe benefits, travel that is necessary for the project, and equipment and supplies used for the project to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops.

Indirect costs (also known as “facilities and administrative costs”) are costs incurred for common or joint objectives that cannot be identified specifically with a particular project, program, or organizational activity. Below are typical indirect costs for specific types of organizations. The salaries of administrative and clerical staff should normally be treated as indirect costs. Direct charging of these costs may be appropriate where all of the following conditions are met:

- Administrative or clerical services are integral to a project or activity;
- Individuals involved can be specifically identified with the project or activity;
- Such costs are explicitly included in the budget or have the prior written approval of the federal awarding agency; and
- The costs are not also recovered as indirect costs.

The following are considered indirect and should not be included in the Projected Budget as direct costs:

- Information Technology services;
- Rent;
- Utilities and internet service;
- Telephone service (mobile and land-line);
- General office supplies; and
- Insurance.

Disqualifications

The following will result in the disqualification of a project proposal:

- Proposals from applicants with an active exclusion on the federal System for Award Management (SAM). Visit <https://www.sam.gov/SAM/> for additional information to register your organization or to verify the status of your organization;
- Incomplete proposals, including proposals with one or more unanswered question and/or missing, blank, unreadable, corrupt, or otherwise unusable attachments;
- Proposals that include activities outside the grant duration; and

- Proposals with unallowable costs or activities necessary to complete the project. Visit: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/usda-general-terms-conditions-2025.pdf> for additional information regarding allowable and unallowable costs.

Expected Measurable Outcomes and Indicators

Each project submitted must include at least one of the eight outcomes listed below and at least one of the indicators listed underneath the selected outcome(s). If there are multiple sub-indicators under the selected indicator, select at least one.

If the indicator(s) below the selected outcome(s) are not relevant to a project, a project specific indicator(s) may be developed, which will be subject to approval by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS).

Applicants must clearly explain how they will collect the required data to report on the outcome(s) and indicator(s). The progress of each indicator must be reported in the Annual Performance Report and the result in the Final Performance Report.

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will aggregate the data collected to assess the overall impact of the program and report to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and Congress on these national outcome measures.

AMS will review the quality of the information received in subsequent performance reports and modify the outcomes and indicators as needed over time to lead to better results in showing the impact of the SCBGP.

Outcome Measures and Indicators:

- Please Only use the Outcome Measures and Indicators below**

Outcome 1: Increasing Consumption and Consumer Purchasing of Specialty Crops

Indicators

1.1 Total number of consumers who gained knowledge about specialty crops ____.

1.1a Adults ____.

1.1b Children ____.

1.2 Total number of consumers who consumed more specialty crops ____.

1.2a Adults ____.

1.2b Children ____.

1.3 Number of additional specialty crop customers counted ____.

1.4 Number of additional business transactions executed ____.

1.5 Increased sales measured in:

1.5a Dollars ____.

1.5b Percent change ____.

1.5c Combination of volume and average price as a result of enhanced marketing activities ____.

Outcome 2: Increasing Access to Specialty Crops and Expanding Specialty Crop Production and Distribution

Indicators

2.1 Number of stakeholders that gained technical knowledge about producing, preparing, procuring, and/or accessing specialty crops ____.

2.2 Number of stakeholders that reported producing, preparing, procuring, and/or accessing more specialty crops ____.

2.3 Total number of market access points for specialty crops developed or expanded ____.

Of those:

2.3a Number of new online portals created to sell specialty crops ____.

2.3b Number with expanded seasonal availability ____.

2.3c Number of existing market access points that expanded specialty crop offerings ____.

2.3d Number of new market access points that established specialty crop offerings ____.

2.4 Number of stakeholders that gained knowledge about more efficient and effective distribution systems ____.

2.5 Number of stakeholders that adopted best practices or new technologies to improve distribution systems ____.

2.6 Total number of partnerships established between producers, distributors, and/or other relevant intermediaries related to distribution systems ____.

Of those established:

2.6a Number formalized with written agreements (i.e. MOU's, signed contracts, etc.) ____.

2.7 Total number of new/improved distribution systems developed ____.

Of those, the number that:

2.7a Stemmed from new partnerships ____.

2.7b Increased efficiency ____.

2.7c reduced costs ____.

2.7d Increased specialty crop grower participation ____.

2.7e Expanded customer reach ____.

2.7f Increased online presence ____.

2.8 Number of specialty crop-related jobs:

2.8a Created ____.

2.8b Maintained ____.

2.9 Total number of new individuals who went into specialty crop production as a result of marketing ____.

Of those, the number who are:

2.9a Beginning farmers or ranchers ____.

2.9b First time specialty crop producers ____.

2.10 Number of market access points that reported increased:

2.10a Revenue ____.

2.10b Sales ____.

2.10c Cost-savings ____.

Outcome 3: Increase Food Safety Knowledge and Processes

Indicators

3.1 Number of stakeholders that gained knowledge about prevention, detection, control, and/or intervention food safety practices, including relevant regulations (to improve their ability to comply with the Food Safety

Modernization Act (FSMA) and/or meet the standards for aligned third party food safety audits such as Harmonized GAP/GHP) ____.

3.2 Number of stakeholders that:

3.2a Established a food safety plan ____.

3.2b Revised or updated their food safety plan ____.

3.3 Number of specialty crop stakeholders who implemented new/improved prevention, detection, control, and intervention practices, tools, or technologies to mitigate food safety risks (to improve their ability to comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and/or meet the standards for aligned third party food safety audits such as Harmonized GAP/GHP) ____.

3.4 Number of prevention, detection, control, or intervention practices developed or enhanced to mitigate food safety risks ____.

3.5 Number of stakeholders that used grant funds to:

3.5a Purchase ____.

3.5b Upgrade food safety equipment ____.

Outcome 4: Improve Pest and Disease Control Processes

4.1 Number of stakeholders that gained knowledge about science-based tools to combat pests and diseases ____.

4.2 Number of stakeholders that adopted pest and disease control best practices, technologies, or innovations ____.

4.3 Number of stakeholders trained in early detection and rapid response practices to combat pests and diseases _____. Of those:

4.3a the number of additional acres managed using integrated pest management ____.

4.4 Number of stakeholders that implemented new diagnostic systems, methods, or technologies for analyzing specialty crop pests and diseases ____.

4.5 Total number of producers/processors that enhanced or maintained pest and disease control practices _____. Of those, the number that reported:

4.5a Reduction in product lost to pest and diseases ____.

4.5b Improved crop quality ____.

4.5c Reduction in labor costs ____.

4.5d Reduction in pesticide use ____.

4.6 Number of producers/processors improving the efficiency of pest and disease control diagnostics and response testing, as reported by:

4.6a Improving speed ____.

- 4.6b Improving reliability ____.
- 4.6c Expanding capability ____.
- 4.6d Increasing testing (i.e., survey work for pests) ____.

Outcome 5: Develop New Seed Varieties and Specialty Crops

Indicators

- 5.1 Number of cultivar and/or variety trials conducted _____. Of those:
 - 5.1a The number that advanced to further stages of development _____.
- 5.2 Number of cultivars and/or seed varieties developed _____.
- 5.3 Number of cultivars and/or seed varieties released _____.
- 5.4 Number of growers adopting new cultivars and/or varieties _____.
- 5.5 Number of acres planted with new cultivars and/or varieties _____.

Outcome 6: Expand Specialty Crop Research and Development

Indicators

- 6.1 Number of research goals accomplished _____.
- 6.2 For research conclusions, the number that:
 - 6.2a Yielded findings that supported continued research _____.
 - 6.2b Yielded findings that led to completion of study _____.
 - 6.2c Yielded findings that allow for implementation of new practice, process or technology _____.
- 6.3 Number of industry representatives and other stakeholders who engaged with research results _____.
- 6.4 Total number of research outputs published to industry publications and/or academic journals _____. For each published research output, the:
 - 6.4a Number of views/reads of published research/data _____.
 - 6.4b Number of citations counted _____.

Outcome 7: Improve Environmental Sustainability of Specialty Crops

Indicators

- 7.1 Number of stakeholders that gained knowledge about environmental sustainability best practices, tools, or technologies _____.
- 7.2 Number of stakeholders reported with an intent to adopt environmental sustainability best practices, tools, or technologies _____.
- 7.3 Number of producers that adopted environmental best practices or tools _____.
- 7.4 Number of new tools/technologies developed or enhanced to improve sustainability/conservation or other environmental outcomes _____.
- 7.5 Number of additional acres managed with sustainable practices, tools, or technologies that focused on:
 - 7.5a Water quality/ conservation _____.
 - 7.5b Soil health _____.

7.5c Biodiversity ____.

7.5d Reduction in energy use ____.

7.5e Other positive environmental outcomes (optional) ____.

7.6 Number of additional acres established and maintained for the mutual benefit of pollinators/specialty crops ____.

Additional information:

- Difference between "jobs" and "careers": jobs are net gain of paid employment; new businesses created or adopted can indicate new careers.
- Beginning Farmer is an individual or entity that has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years and substantially participates in the operation.

Completing the RI DEM SCBGP Project Application and Proposal

Applicants must respond to the following questions in the eCivis Grant Portal. All questions and the Project Proposal Template are required. Failure to fully complete the Application and Project Proposal will result in disqualification.

Potential applicants are advised to review all sections of this request, and to follow instructions completely, as failure to make a complete submission as described elsewhere herein will result in non –consideration of the proposal.

All costs associated with developing or submitting a proposal in response to this request, or to provide oral or written clarification of its content are not eligible expenses and shall be the sole responsibility of the applicant. The State assumes no responsibility for these costs.

Proposals misdirected to other State locations, or which are otherwise not present in the eCivis portal by the date stated in this offering will be determined to be late and will not be considered.

Applicants are advised that all materials submitted to the State of Rhode Island for consideration in response to this Request for Grant Proposals will be considered to be public records, as defined in Title 38 Chapter 2 of the Rhode Island General Laws, without exception, and will be released for inspection immediately upon request, once an award has been made.

Project Title:

Concisely describe the project in 15 words or less.

Requested Grant Amount:

Enter the total amount of SCBGP funds requested for the project. The number must match the amount listed in the Projected Budget.

Project Coordinator, Phone Number, and Email:

Name of the individual overseeing the project and provide his/her phone number and email.

Has the Organization Previously Received Grant Funds through the Rhode Island Division of Agriculture?

Answer yes or no.

Has the Organization Previously Received Specialty Crop Block Grant Program Funds?

Answer yes or no.

Multi-State Partnership?

Is the application a multi-state partnership? Answer yes or no.

If a Multi-State Partnership, Name the Other State(s):

If the application is a multi-state partnership, name the other state(s).

Funding Area:

Select the most appropriate funding area for the project. Failure to select a funding area will result in disqualification.

Project Partner and Summary:

The project summary (250 words or less, one sentence if possible) should be suitable for dissemination to the public and include:

- The name of the applicant organization that will establish an agreement with the State Department of Agriculture
- The project's purpose, deliverables, and expected outcomes
- A brief description of the general activities to be completed during the project period.

Project Purpose:

In this section you will elaborate on the reason for the project. Describe the problem or need and how the project will address it. Keep the focus on proposed project-related activities and impacts (5000 Character Limit).

Scoring Criteria: Scoring will be based on how clearly the proposal states the specific issue, problem, or need the project will address, the timeliness and relevance to the

specialty crop industry, if it will provide a direct benefit to the specialty crop industry, and if the approach is rational and sound.

Objectives:

Objectives should be specific tasks or activities that the project wishes to finish in the period of performance and can report as either “completed” or “not completed” at the time of reporting. Objectives are different from Outcomes.

Duration of Project:

All projects will begin no earlier than September 30, 2026, and end no later than September 29, 2029. There is no penalty if projects end prior to September 2029.

Expected Measurable Outcomes:

- Select at least one of the SCBGP Performance Measures (Outcome Indicators). We suggest no more than three.
- Select an Outcome to expand the indicator drop-down lists. Click the N/A box for unused Indicators.
- Choose Outcome Indicators that can be measured and reported within the project’s period of performance.
- Marketing projects must use at least one Outcome 1 indicator.
- If an Indicator has a sub-indicator (a, b, c, etc.), select at least one sub-indicator.
- Estimate a reasonable, directly measurable value for selected Indicators as a whole number. In the unlikely event that the Outcomes and Indicators are not relevant to your project, you must develop a project-specific outcome(s) and indicator(s) and enter it in the Miscellaneous Outcome Measure section.

Scoring Criteria: Scoring will be based on the outcome selected and the project’s likelihood of success and relevance to the specialty crop industry.

Date Collection to Report on Outcomes and Indicators:

Describe in detail how the project will collect the data needed to report on selected performance measures (e.g., use of surveys to establish a baseline and measure change over time). Use the SCBGP Performance Measures Quick Guide for data collection tips for each outcome indicator.

Scoring Criteria: Scoring will be based up on how the data will be collected and how well the project will accomplish the outcome and indicator selected.

Budget Narrative:

Complete the budget template. All budget items should enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops and correlate to the purpose of the project.

Complete each budget category by entering the amount of grant funds budgeted for each category. Failure to complete the required budget template may result in disqualification. Cost sharing is not a requirement for SCBGP. Do not include

such funds in the Budget Narrative. The Budget Summary table will automatically calculate funds requested from inputs in the sub-categories of the budget narrative.

Please note that matching funds are not a requirement of the SCBGP. However, matching funds are encouraged and may serve as evidence to demonstrate industry commitment to, or support for, the project.

Scoring Criteria: Scoring will be based on the extent to which the budget is reasonable and consistent with the project's purpose, outcome, and indicator. Are matching funds or in-kind contributions anticipated? Is it feasible that the proposed work can be accomplished given the proposed budget?

Personnel: Enter employees whose time and effort can be accurately traced to project activities. Respond to all fields in the table. If the listed employee effort will not be paid with SCBGP funds, list \$0.00 in the Funds Requested column.

In the personnel justification enter each individual listed in the personnel table. Describe each individual's project-specific responsibilities and approximately when activities will occur.

Fringe Benefits: Estimate the fringe benefit cost, with percentages, for each of the employees described in the Personnel section if applicable

Travel: Enter project travel costs. Respond to all fields in the table. For 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 for lodging and meals and incidental expenses (M&IE) and mileage rates prescribed in those regulations.

List each cost item (airfare, car rental, meals, hotel, etc.) on separate lines.

In the Travel Justification, describe the purpose of each trip and how it will achieve the project objectives and outcomes. Also include approximately when and where the trip will occur and who will be traveling. If you are not using GSA rates, please include how you arrived at the rate numbers. For example, a cost might include tax for the hotel or reflect organizational travel policy.

Equipment and Equipment Justification: Estimate and complete a line of the table for each item. In the equipment justification enter the items listed in the equipment table and describe how the equipment will be used to achieve the project objectives and outcomes.

Equipment is tangible property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost that equals or

exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level 4 established by the recipient for financial statement purposes, or \$10,000. See the RFA section on Allowable and Unallowable Costs and Activities for further guidance. Rental of general purpose equipment should be described here. Leasing (rent-to-own) or purchase of general purpose equipment is not allowable under SCBGP. Purchase of special purpose equipment is allowable for research, medical, scientific, or other technical activities under the award terms and conditions.

Supplies and Supplies Justification: Enter materials, supplies, and parts costing less than \$10,000 per unit on separate lines. If the actual cost per unit or number of units is not known, please use your best estimate. Respond to all fields in the table. See the RFA section on Allowable and Unallowable Costs and Activities for further guidance. If you are combining costs (for example combining 15 items into one cost in the supplies table), provide a breakdown of items in the justification and how you arrived at the price listed in the table.

In the Supplies justification section describe the purpose of each supply and how it is necessary to achieve the project objectives and outcomes.

Contractual/Consultant and Contractual Justification: Provide a list of contractors/consultants, providing the name, hourly or flat rate, and overall cost of the services performed. If there is more than one contractor or consultant, each must be described separately. In the Contractual Justification section enter a description and timeline of the project activities each contractor will accomplish to meet the objectives and outcomes of the project. If the Contractor has not yet been identified or is TBD, please indicate how you will announce the opportunity, evaluate candidates, and select the contractor for the position/work to be completed.

Other and Other Justification: Include here any expenses not covered in any of the previous budget categories (meetings and conferences, communications, rental expenses, advertisements, publication costs, data collection, etc.). Respond to all fields in the table. In the Other Justification section, please describe the purpose of each item listed and how it is necessary for the completion of the project's objective(s) and outcome(s).

Indirect Costs: Indirect cost rate should not exceed 8 percent of the total project budget. Indirect costs are any costs incurred for common or joint objectives that cannot be readily identified with an individual project, program, or organizational activity. They generally include facilities operation and maintenance costs, depreciation, and administrative expenses.

Program Income: Enter program income in this section. Program income is income earned as a direct result of grant supported activities. Program income includes, but is not limited to: fees for services performed, sale of commodities or items fabricated under an award, registration fees for conferences, etc. Describe how program income

will be used on allowable expenses to further the objectives of this project during the performance period. Any program income generated must be reinvested back into the project and not set aside or reserved for future expenses after the grant ends.

Grant Proposal Submission Instructions

Interested applicants can apply by completing the Grant Proposal application, which is accessible via DEM’s web site at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/agriculture/grantsspecialty-crop.php>. Applications must be submitted using the format provided in the Grant Proposal Application. All Grant Proposals must be emailed to DEM.SpecialtyCrop@dem.ri.gov . **Please save Grant Proposals as a Microsoft Word .docx or .pdf file type extension.**

Grant Proposal Timeline	
RFP open to Submit Grant Proposals	January 15, 2026
Grant Proposals Due to DEM	February 28, 2026
Grant Proposals Sent to USDA for Approval	May 1, 2026
Award	
Announcement of Award Funding	Fall 2026

Other Federal Grant Programs

Projects More Relevant to Other Grant Programs

The Specialty Crop Multi-State Program (SCMP) offers grants to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops by funding collaborative, multi-state projects that address the following regional or national level specialty crop issues: food safety; plant pests and disease; research; crop-specific projects addressing common issues;

and marketing and promotion. Multi-state projects must provide solutions to problems that cross state boundaries and must explain the impact the projects will have on a multi-state or national level. For more information, visit <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scmp>.

Projects that support the increase of fruits and vegetables in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by providing incentives at the point of purchase and/or include technologies for benefit redemption systems should consider submitting those projects to the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP) at <https://nifa.usda.gov/program/gus-schumacher-nutrition-incentive-grant-program>.

Projects that support domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs, agritourism activities, other direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities, or local and regional food business enterprises that process, distribute, aggregate, or store locally or regionally produced food products should consider submitting those projects to the Farmers Market Promotion Program (<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/fmpp>) or the Local Food Promotion Program (<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/lfpp>).

Projects designed to solve critical United States specialty crop issues, priorities, or problems through the integration of research and extension activities that use systems-based, trans-disciplinary approaches can also apply for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's (NIFA) Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI). The intent of the SCRI program is to solve the needs of the various specialty crop industries through the promotion of collaboration, open communication, the exchange of information, and the development of resources that accelerate application of scientific discovery and technology. The SCRI program will give priority to projects that are multi-state, multi-institutional, or trans-disciplinary, and include clearly defined mechanisms to communicate results to producers and the public. For more information, go to <https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/specialty-crop-research-initiative-scri>.

Projects designed to explore new market opportunities for U.S. food and agricultural products, and encourage research and innovation aimed at improving the efficiency and performance of the U.S. agricultural marketing system and have an applied research and marketing focus should consider applying for a Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP) grant. For more information, go to <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/fsmip>.