

USDA, AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT

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Overview Specialty Crop Program Review

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Project Requirements

Funding Priorities

Application Review

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SPECIALTY CROPS:

Fruit

Tree nuts

Vegetables

Culinary Herbs & Spices

Medicinal Herbs &
plants

Nursery, floriculture &
horticultural crops

Honey

Turfgrass

Tea leaves

Annual bedding plants,
flowering plants,
potted plants

Cut flowers

Kelp



The USDA maintains a list of eligible specialty crops on its website:
www.ams.usda.gov/scbgp.

NON-SPECIALTY CROPS

- Grains
- Dairy
- Livestock
- Eggs
- Corn
- Hay
- Sugar beets
- Hemp



FUNDING

USDA

Specialty Crop Block Grant
Program

Division of Agriculture

YOU



WHAT IS NEW

Reminders

- Indirect costs are no longer allowed
- No match requirement or recommendation



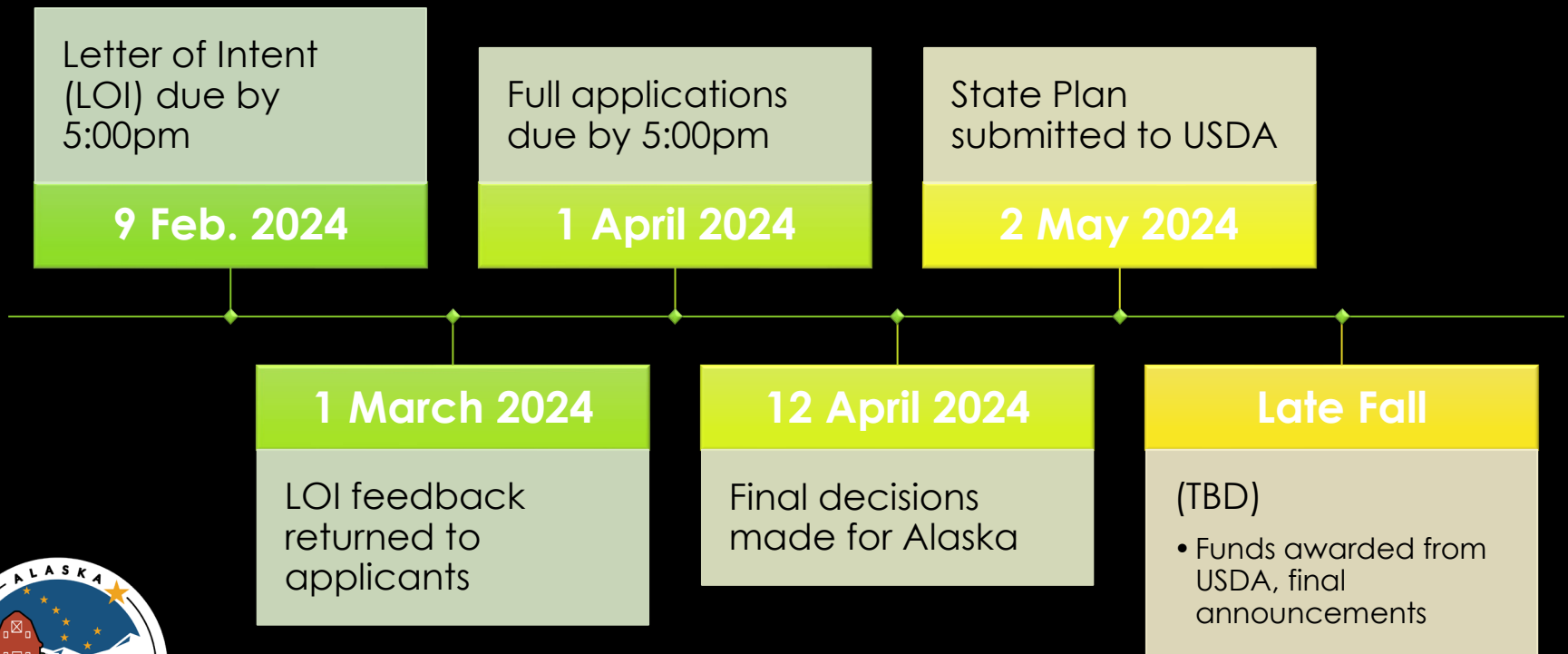
TBD

- Minor changes should be anticipated by the USDA for final approval of projects

New

- Outcomes and Indicators have been updated by the USDA
- [SCBG Performance Measures](#)
- New USDA Project Profile Template

APPLICATION TIMELINE





TYPE OF PROJECTS FUNDED:
INVESTIGATIVE AND RESEARCH BASED

MUST ADVANCE SPECIALTY CROP INDUSTRY

Maximum Funding: \$60,000 (dependent on project type)

Minimum Number of Producers Impacted: 5

Maximum duration of project: 3 years

Letter of Support: At least one letter REQUIRED

Industry Professional Partner: REQUIRED, must be identified in the LOI



PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

Types of Recipients

Potential recipients might include universities, producer groups, extension services, soil and water conservation districts, or schools working with in cooperation with a business or non-profit.

Projects Must:

Enhance the competitiveness of Alaska Grown specialty crops, sustain farmers' livelihoods, and strengthen local communities.

All projects must be wider in scope than just one operation or entity and aim to improve and benefit Alaskan agriculture as an industry overall.



FUNDING PRIORITIES:

Food Safety

Specialty crop research, including research focused on conservation and environmental outcomes

Developing new and improved seed varieties and specialty crops

Pest and disease control

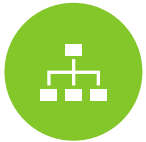
Increasing child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops

Improving efficiency and reducing costs of distribution systems

Sustainability

[2024 SCBG Funding Priorities Survey](#)

FULL APPLICATION



Project Title and Summary



Duration of Project



Project Partner



Project Purpose



Expected Measurable Outcomes



Budget



Work Plan



Summary

- 250 words or less
- Outline including applicant organization
- Include project's purpose, deliverables, and expected outcomes
- Description of the general tasks/ activities to be completed during the project period to fulfill this goal



Project Purpose

- Issue, problem or need to be addressed by the project
- Identify project objectives
- Does this project continue efforts of a previously funded SCBGP project?
- Is the project self sustaining?
- Are there other funding sources?

Potential Impact

- Who are the beneficiaries?
- How many beneficiaries?
- What is the potential economic impact?

Expected Measurable Outcomes

- Distinct, quantifiable, measurable outcomes and indicators
- Use USDA Performance Measures found in RFP or USDA website.
- Monitoring
- Data collection



Project Partner Support

For all projects, an industry professional as a partner on the project is required.

Letters of support from project partners are **REQUIRED**. Include contact information.

It is expected that projects will also have the support of other industry organizations, groups of farmers, and individual specialty crop producers.

Letters of support from industry members are encouraged.



BUDGET TABLE

Visit USDA Terms and Conditions for list of eligible and ineligible costs and activities beginning on Page 9:

[USDA AMS
General Terms
and Conditions](#)



CATEGORY	SCBG Request	TOTAL
Personnel		
Fringe Benefits		
Travel		
Equipment		
Supplies		
Contractual		
Other		
TOTAL		



USDA EVALUATION PLAN

Outcome Measure (at least one)

1. Increasing consumption and consumer purchasing of specialty crops
2. Increasing access to specialty crops and expanding specialty crop production and distribution
3. Increase food safety knowledge and processes
4. Improve pest and disease control process
5. Develop new seed varieties and specialty crops
6. Expand specialty crop research and development
7. Improve environmental sustainability of specialty crops

Quick Guide:

- [SCBG Performance Measures Quick Guide](#)

APPLICATION SCORING: 100 POINTS





GRANT MANAGEMENT & REPORTING

Grant Agreement Contract:

September 30, 2024, to September 29, 2027

Fund Distribution:

25% up front to start project

Remaining funds on reimbursement basis

Reporting requirements:

Annual reports

Final reports

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORTS



Expenditures to Date



Activities Performed



Challenges and Developments



FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Project Impact and Findings

Beneficiaries

Activities Performed

Lessons Learned

Outcomes and Indicators

Contact Person

Expenditures to Date

Additional Information



QUESTIONS?

DNR.SCBG@ALASKA.GOV



OR

MARY ROWLAND
907-761-3851

LINKS:

[HTTPS://WWW.AMS.USDA.GOV/SERVICES/
GRANTS/SCBGP](https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbgbp)

[HTTPS://DNR.ALASKA.GOV/AG/AG GRAN
TS.HTM](https://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_grants.htm)

