



## DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION

# ALLIANCE GRANTS PROGRAM 2024 SOLICITATION

The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is excited to announce that the 2024 [Alliance Grants Program](#) is open for applications. To support the transition to safer, more sustainable pest management practices in California, DPR annually funds alliance projects that promote or increase the implementation, expansion, or adoption of effective, proven, and affordable integrated pest management (IPM) systems or practices in agricultural, urban, or wildland settings. Projects should focus on reducing impacts to public health or the environment from pesticides of high regulatory concern or that are considered high-risk. The program has a long history of [awarding diverse projects](#) that meet these goals and advance many different aspects of IPM.

The 2024 Alliance Grants Program is particularly seeking applications that address one or more of the following priority topic areas:

- IPM for underserved or disadvantaged communities;
- Decreasing the use of high-risk/high-volume pesticides (such as fumigants like 1,3-dichloropropene or sulfuryl fluoride);
- Advancement of urban IPM and safer, more sustainable pest management tools and strategies in urban settings;
- Advancement of IPM and safer, more sustainable pest management tools and strategies in agricultural settings adjacent to or near a school(s);
- **TWO or more** of the three sustainability pillars noted below and referenced in the [Sustainable Pest Management \(SPM\) Roadmap](#):
  1. Human Health and Social Equity,
  2. Environmental Protections,
  3. Economic Vitality

Successful applications will demonstrate strong partnerships, outreach, or an educational or training component to promote IPM and the broad application of the proposed IPM systems or practices. The most competitive Alliance Grant projects are those that address the topic areas listed above, can serve as a model for similar situations, have a high potential for wide adoption, and for which research has already been completed (for projects with research, please see our [Research Grants Program](#)).

This year, the program has up to \$1,100,000 in funding for projects up to three years in length (end date of June 30, 2027). Projects with budgets between \$50,000 and \$800,000 are invited to apply.

[Apply today](#) and your project may contribute to DPR's mission to protect human health and the environment by fostering reduced-risk pest management and supporting the State's transition to system-wide adoption of safer, more sustainable pest management practices!

Completed proposal applications must be submitted no later than **Thursday, January 18, 2024** to the DPR Pest Management Grants Program email address at [DPRpmGrants.Solicitation@cdpr.ca.gov](mailto:DPRpmGrants.Solicitation@cdpr.ca.gov).

If you would like to receive updates on DPR's Alliance Grants solicitation, please sign up for [our subscriber list](#).

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### PROGRAM DATES AND DEADLINES

- **Early July 2023** – Solicitation period opens; DPR begins accepting proposal applications
- **Thursday, January 18, 2024** – Final application deadline
- **Thursday, May 9, 2024 (9:30 am)** – [Pest Management Advisory Committee \(PMAC\)](#) Alliance Grants proposal review meeting
- **Late June 2024** – Funding decision emails sent out
- **September 1, 2024** – Earliest project start date pending full execution of the grant agreement
- **June 30, 2027** – Latest project end date

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. The project must primarily benefit the people of California.
2. The project must not mention, promote, or disparage a pest control brand or trade name in a deliverable or use the image of a product in a deliverable. Active ingredient names must be used instead.
3. All applicants, principal investigators, key personnel, subrecipients, subcontractors, and consultants must meet all eligibility requirements and be eligible to contract with DPR.
4. All **University of California/California State University System (UC/CSU)** grantees, principal investigators, key personnel, subrecipients, subcontractors, and consultants must abide by all provisions of the applicable **UC/CSU Terms and Conditions**, including overhead capped at 25%.  
Or:  
All **Non-UC/CSU** grantees, principal investigators, key personnel, subcontractors, and consultants must abide by all provisions of the **Non-UC/CSU Terms and Conditions**, including overhead capped at 25%.

Note that an individual with delegated authority to sign grant agreements is required to sign the proposal application confirming that all terms and conditions have been reviewed and accepted.

5. Alliance Team members must have the appropriate background and technical experience to complete the project. DPR's grant manager assigned to the grant must be a full and participating member of the Alliance Team.
6. The funding requested must be within the minimum and maximum funding limits of \$50,000-\$800,000.
7. The project must not depend on other sources of funding for the completion of any task or deliverable. However, in-kind contributions of personnel time, equipment, facilities, and materials by Alliance Team members are allowed.
8. The project goals and objectives must be clearly stated and must promote or increase the implementation, expansion, or adoption of effective, proven, and affordable IPM systems or practices that reduce pesticide impacts to public health and the environment in agricultural, urban, or wildland settings.
9. The project must demonstrate adoption of the IPM strategy is taking place (or beginning to) by the end of the grant period.
10. The project must not be contingent on additional research. Projects that focus on research are encouraged to apply to DPR's [Research Grants Program](#).
11. The project must not include activities directed toward, or used to subsidize, DPR personnel, DPR work activities, or any DPR-funded work activities delegated to others, such as county agricultural commissioners.
12. Eligible applicants may include (but are not limited to) entities such as government and tribal agencies, universities, colleges, consultants, pest control businesses, commodity groups, and nonprofit organizations. Principal investigators, key personnel, subrecipients, subcontractors, and consultants must not have outstanding fines or penalties with DPR or with any county agricultural commissioner.
13. DPR employees are not eligible to receive funds or participate as part of the Alliance Team with the exception of the grant manager; however other state employees may receive funds and participate as part of the Alliance Team.
14. PMAC members or their alternates involved in an Alliance Grant proposal application must abide by the conflict-of-interest requirements contained within the [PMAC Charter](#).

## PROPOSAL APPLICATION PROCESS

The 2024 Alliance Grants proposal application package is now available and may be downloaded. The 2024 Alliance Grants proposal application package contains all required documents for preparing your proposal application. Please read and review the documents carefully and relay any questions to [DPRpmGrants.Solicitation@cdpr.ca.gov](mailto:DPRpmGrants.Solicitation@cdpr.ca.gov).

The proposal application package consists of the following documents:

- Department of Pesticide Regulation Alliance Grants Program 2024 Solicitation (PDF – this document),
- Alliance Grant Proposal Application Form (Microsoft Word document),
- Alliance Grants Program 2024 Supplemental Guidance Documents (PDF);
- Budget Tables Worksheet (Microsoft Excel Worksheet);
- Subaward Budget Tables Worksheets (Microsoft Excel Worksheet; if applicable);
- Terms and Conditions for UC/CSU grantees (PDF), and
- Terms and Conditions for non-UC/CSU grantees (PDF).

Completed proposal applications must be submitted no later than **Thursday, January 18, 2024** to the DPR Pest Management Grants Program email address at [DPRpmGrants.Solicitation@cdpr.ca.gov](mailto:DPRpmGrants.Solicitation@cdpr.ca.gov).

Completed proposal applications should contain all the required documents listed below. Optional documents may be included as needed to support the proposal application. **Submit the documents as follows:**

- **Submit all of the following as a combined single PDF.**
  - Completed Alliance Grant Proposal Application Form, including:
    - Completed Section 1: Project Information;
    - Completed Section 2: Alliance Grant Proposal Application Questions (*Note: Answers to Questions 1 – 4 should not exceed one page each, for a total of four pages.*); and
    - Completed Section 3: Scope of Work and Budget.
  - Letters of support from expected beneficiaries of the IPM systems or practices and from others who can attest to the quality or effectiveness of the applicant’s similar work.
  - Curriculum vitae or resumes of principal investigators (PIs) and key personnel. (*Note: curriculum vitae or resumes should not exceed three pages for each individual.*)
  - A list of active ingredients that will likely be affected if the proposed IPM systems or practices are adopted.
  - A list of active ingredients proposed to be used during the course of the project (if applicable).
  - (OPTIONAL) Illustrative graphics that enhance the application (e.g. flow charts).
- **Submit the key cited documents as a combined single PDF.**
  - Full-text versions of up to five key cited documents that document the effective, proven, and affordable IPM systems or practices that your project will build upon.

- **Submit the Scope of Work and Budget Information section of the proposal application form as an additional Microsoft Word Document.**
  - Word file of Scope of Work and Budget.
- **Submit the Budget Tables Worksheet and any needed Subaward Budget Tables Worksheets as Microsoft Excel Worksheets.**
  - Budget Tables Worksheet containing completed calculations for all applicable budget categories in the composite budget.
  - Subaward Budget Tables Worksheets containing completed calculations for all applicable budget categories for each subcontractor or subrecipient (if applicable).

If you have any questions, please reach out to [DPRpmGrants.Solicitation@cdpr.ca.gov](mailto:DPRpmGrants.Solicitation@cdpr.ca.gov).

## REVIEW AND NOTIFICATION PROCESS

After you submit your proposal application, DPR staff will perform an initial screening of the submitted materials for completeness of the submitted application package, accuracy and completeness of budget calculations and justifications, and satisfaction of eligibility requirements. Eligibility requirements can be found in the Eligibility Requirements section. **Please note that submitted proposal applications that are incomplete, missing required components, or which clearly do not meet all eligibility requirements are subject to disqualification without further review.**

Complete proposal applications that are found to meet all eligibility requirements in DPR’s initial screening will be reviewed and ranked by DPR staff and the Pest Management Advisory Committee (PMAC)<sup>1</sup>, a diverse stakeholder group with members having expertise or interest in pest management that assists DPR’s Grants Programs with proposal application review.

PMAC will make its grant funding recommendations to the Director via a consensus-based proposal application ranking process that occurs during a [public meeting](#) on May 9, 2024. DPR staff will also rank the proposal applications and the independent DPR and PMAC rankings are evenly-weighted and combined. DPR staff use the combined DPR and PMAC rankings to provide their funding recommendations to the Director. The Director considers both PMAC and DPR rankings and funding recommendations in making the final funding decisions.

Funding award decisions for individual proposal applications will be sent to applicants via an email from the Alliance Grants Program Lead, Dr. Tory Vizenor, by late June 2024. Feedback for applicants whose projects were not selected for funding will be provided after awards are announced.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information about PMAC, including dates and agendas of public meetings and the current roster, visit the [PMAC website](#).

## INFORMATIONAL VIDEOS

DPR staff have produced recorded videos on topics to assist applicants in successfully applying to our grants programs. These videos are available on DPR's YouTube channel at <https://youtube.com/@CaliforniaPesticides> and include sessions devoted to the following topics:

- [DPR's Grant Programs – Purpose and Priorities](#)  
*Reviews the basics about DPR's grants programs and provides a broad overview of topics that applicants should keep in mind when applying*
- [Budgets and Budget Justifications](#)  
*Discusses the budget and budget justifications that applicants complete when applying to DPR's Grants Programs*
- [Building a Strong Alliance Team](#)  
*Discusses how to build a strong Alliance Team for applicants applying to the Alliance Grants Program*
- [Scope of Work, Objectives, Tasks, and Deliverables](#)  
*Discusses the scope of work that applicants complete when applying to DPR's grants programs*

If you have any further questions after reviewing these videos, contact DPR staff at [DPRpmGrants.Solicitation@cdpr.ca.gov](mailto:DPRpmGrants.Solicitation@cdpr.ca.gov) or consider scheduling an appointment with DPR staff during our new DPR-hosted "Office Hours" to review specific questions. For more information on "Office Hours," see below.

## DPR-HOSTED "OFFICE HOURS"

This year, DPR's Grants Program is hosting "office hours" for potential applicants to be able to reserve 30-minute appointments to discuss various aspects of the Research and Alliance Grants Program proposal applications. Please note that discussion may not focus on any of the criteria or aspects that are competitively ranked by DPR staff and Pest Management Advisory Committee (PMAC) members when reviewing and ranking proposal applications. For example, DPR staff will be unable to provide guidance on topics such as choice of proposal topic, quality of ideas, or experimental plans. A list of competitively ranked criteria can be found in the "Ranking Considerations for Reviewers" section of the solicitation. These "office hour" appointments are intended to assist applicants with the more complex sections of the proposal application such as the budget and budget justification.

For information on competitively ranked criteria that will not be able to be addressed in "office hours" appointments, please consider reviewing the Alliance Grants Guidance Document, or the recorded applicant assistance informational videos described above.

To sign up for a 30-minute appointment, use the [2024 DPR Grants Program "Office Hours" form](#). Note that when requesting a scheduled appointment during "office hours," you will be prompted to include a specific set of questions or topics for discussion.

To maximize your appointment time, DPR staff highly recommend that you complete the sections of the proposal application for the [Research Grants](#) or [Alliance Grants Program](#) that you want to discuss **in advance** to the best of your ability, including the required Excel spreadsheet for budget calculations.

## RANKING CONSIDERATIONS FOR REVIEWERS

The criteria below will be used by DPR staff and PMAC members when ranking proposal applications:

### QUESTION 1 – BENEFITS TO CALIFORNIANS (30 PERCENT WEIGHT)

What DPR priority topics areas does this project seek to address? Is there a need for this project and will the people of California and expected beneficiaries of the IPM systems or practices significantly benefit from the project?

- **Alignment with DPR Priority Areas and the [SPM Roadmap](#) (10 Percent)**
  - Does the project address one or more (more is better) of the DPR priority areas?
  - Which priority topic areas are addressed, and how?
  - What is the expected scale of impact to pest management practices in the priority topic areas?
- **Benefits to Californians Generally (20 percent)**
  - How does the project align with the Alliance Grant Program’s mission to promote or increase the implementation, expansion, or adoption of effective, proven, and affordable integrated pest management systems or practices that reduce risks to public health and the environment in agricultural, urban, or wildland settings through the utilization of an Alliance Team representing state, local, public, private, educational, and other stakeholders?
  - Which pesticides and pests relevant to California are being addressed by the project?
  - Which California stakeholders are expected to benefit from this project?
  - What is the expected reduction in the usage of pesticides of high regulatory concern or considered high-risk through the proposed project’s implementation, expansion, or adoption of the proposed IPM systems or practices?
  - How has the proposal shown the specific IPM systems or practices being advocated are ready for adoption?
  - How does the proposal show efficacy of the proposed IPM system or practices has been established?
  - Are letters of support from people who can attest to the quality or effectiveness of the applicant’s similar work included and what do these letters indicate?
  - Are letters of support from Alliance Team members and any other appropriate people who would be involved in implementing, expanding, and adopting the proposal’s goals and objectives included and what is their stakeholder reach?
  - What are the risks from current pesticide use practices this project seeks to address?



## **QUESTION 2 – IPM PRACTICES AND ADOPTION, ALLIANCE FORMATION, AND IMPLEMENTATION (15 PERCENT WEIGHT)**

Will this project aid in the implementation, expansion, or adoption of established IPM systems or practices?

- How will this project aid in the implementation, expansion, and adoption of established IPM systems or practices and lead to a reduction in public health or environmental risks?
- What are the Alliance Team members, roles, and expectations for the successful completion of the project?
- How does the proposal show the Alliance Team members are committed to fully completing their portion of the project?
- What are the project goals and objectives and how will the Alliance Team will assist in accomplishing these goals and objectives?
- What processes are proposed to achieve the project goals and objectives, whether by surveys, trainings, on-line courses, etc.?
- What is the project's outreach/communication framework?
- What is the potential for expansion of the project results?
- What methods are being used to measure the success of the project?
- Does this project aid in the implementation, expansion, or adoption of IPM systems or practices that would otherwise remain unfunded or underfunded?
- Does the public interest of the project outweigh any potential private interests?

## **QUESTION 3 – ECONOMIC BENEFITS AND FEASIBILITY (15 PERCENT WEIGHT)**

Does this project have economic benefits and will it be economically feasible to implement? Projects are encouraged to address economic considerations of the IPM practices to provide cost-benefit information needed by pest managers as they make decisions.

- How will the project show economic feasibility to pest managers?
- What are the economic benefits of the project?
- From an economic standpoint, how do the IPM systems or practices proposed for implementation, expansion, or adoption in the proposal application compare to others currently available or in use?
- How does the project propose to overcome economic barriers to implementation, expansion, or adoption in the relevant agricultural, urban, or wildland setting?

## **QUESTION 4 – OUTREACH PLAN (20 PERCENT WEIGHT)**

What is the proposed outreach plan to promote the IPM system for implementation, expansion, or adoption? What people, expertise, organizations, or networks will comprise the Alliance Team?

- Who are the Alliance Team members and what is their expertise and role in the project?
- What is the proposed schedule for conducting outreach and who is the targeted audience for each effort?
- What are the methods being used to accomplish the outreach?

- Are there any planned metrics for measuring success of the project and IPM implementation, expansion, or adoption?

### **SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET (20 PERCENT WEIGHT)**

Considering all submitted proposal application materials, are the materials and methods sufficient to support the completion of the project?

- Do the outreach methods support the completion of the project's goals and objectives?
- Are the project goals, objectives, tasks, and deliverables clearly stated and reasonably achievable within the grant period?
- Will the successful completion of the tasks achieve the objectives?
- Do the principal investigator and key personnel have the background, technical experience, and commitment needed to complete the project?
- Is the budget reasonable to complete the project?
- Does the budget justification and the budget tables worksheet (including any needed subaward budget tables worksheets) appropriately justify project expenses?