



DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION

RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM 2024 SOLICITATION

The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is excited to announce that the 2024 [Research Grants Program](#) is open for applications. To support the use of effective, safe, sustainable pest management practices in California, DPR annually funds research grant projects that advance integrated pest management (IPM) knowledge 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 Research 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);
- Meeting the IPM needs of small growers; and/or
- **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 provide strong evidence of high-risk or high concern pesticide usage and support for the project’s potential to reduce or eliminate this usage. Highly ranked projects typically include economic analyses of the proposed IPM tools or practices to demonstrate their utility. The most competitive Research Grant projects are those that address the topic areas listed above, can serve as a model for similar situations, and have a high potential for wide adoption.

This year, the Program has up to \$800,000 in funding for projects up to three years in length (end date of June 30, 2027). Projects with budgets between \$50,000 and \$500,000 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 practices 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, September 14, 2023** to the DPR Pest Management Grants Program email address at DPRpmGrants.Solicitation@cdpr.ca.gov.

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Program Dates and Deadlines.....	3
Eligibility Requirements	3
Proposal Application Process.....	5
Review and Notification Process	6
Informational Videos	7
DPR-Hosted “Office Hours”	7
Ranking Considerations for Reviewers	8

PROGRAM DATES AND DEADLINES

- **Early July 2023** – Solicitation period opens; DPR begins accepting proposal applications
- **Thursday, September 14, 2023** – Final application deadline
- **Thursday, February 8, 2024 (9:30 am)** – [Pest Management Advisory Committee \(PMAC\)](#) Research Grants proposal review meeting
- **Late March 2024** – Funding decision emails sent out
- **July 3, 2024** – Earliest project start date pending full execution of 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. Research team members must have the appropriate background and technical experience to complete the project.
6. The funding requested must be within the minimum and maximum funding limits of \$50,000-\$500,000.
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 research team members are allowed.
8. The project goals and objectives must be directed towards developing methods or practices to reduce risks associated with pesticides of high regulatory concern or that are considered high-risk and which can be incorporated into an IPM system.
9. The project must demonstrate the economic feasibility and efficacy related to scalable implementation of the proposed IPM practices to be promoted.
10. The project must focus primarily on research; however, outreach regarding research outcomes should be a final component included in the overall project. Projects focusing primarily on outreach, not research, are encouraged to apply to DPR's [Alliance 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 research team; however, other State employees may receive funds and participate as part of the research team.
14. PMAC members or their alternates involved in a Research Grant proposal application must abide by the conflict-of-interest requirements contained within the [PMAC Charter](#).

PROPOSAL APPLICATION PROCESS

The 2024 Research Grants proposal application package is now available and may be downloaded. The 2024 Research 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.

The proposal application package consists of the following documents:

- Department of Pesticide Regulation Research Grants Program 2024 Solicitation (PDF – this document),
- Research Grant Proposal Application Form (Microsoft Word document),
- Research 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, September 14, 2023** to the DPR Pest Management Grants Program email address at 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 Research Grant Proposal Application Form, including:
 - Completed Section 1: Project Information;
 - Completed Section 2: Research 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.

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)¹, 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 February 8, 2024. DPR staff will also rank the proposal applications and the independent DPR and PMAC rankings will be evenly-weighted and combined. DPR staff use the combined DPR and PMAC rankings to provide their funding recommendations to the Director. The Director therefore 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 Research Grants Program Lead, Mr. Jordan Weibel, by mid-April 2024. Feedback for applicants whose projects were not selected for funding will be provided after awards are announced.

¹ 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
- [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 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. The "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 Research 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 Research Grant Program’s mission to advance IPM knowledge in agricultural, urban, or wildland settings?
 - 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 that are of high regulatory concern or are considered high-risk if project findings are adopted?
 - 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 those who would be involved in adopting the proposal’s findings if proven effective included and what is their stakeholder reach?
 - What are the risks from current pesticide use practices this project seeks to address?

QUESTION 2 – INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (15 PERCENT WEIGHT)

Will this project aid in the development and enhancement of IPM systems?

- What pest management practices and IPM systems does this project seek to develop to minimize risk to public health and the environment?
- Is the pest problem or situation that this project addresses a significant issue or widespread in California?
- How does the proposed project show the ability to reduce pesticide use and reliance if adopted?
- Does this project help develop or research an IPM system 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?

- What is the project doing to show economic feasibility?
- What are the identified economic benefits of the project?
- From an economic standpoint, how do the practices proposed in the proposal application compare to current practices?
- How does the project propose to show the ability to overcome economic barriers to implementation in the relevant agricultural, urban, or wildland setting?
- How does the project propose to collect cost information of the IPM practices it explores?

QUESTION 4 – SCIENTIFIC METHODS (20 PERCENT WEIGHT)

What are the proposed scientific methods for research and analysis of the proposed IPM system?

- What is the scientific hypothesis being tested and has preliminary support for the hypothesis been shown?
- Do the illustrative graphics to show the project's experimental methods make sense?
- Are the experimental units defined and appropriate for each treatment group?
- Does the experimental design include randomization and repeated measures; if not, is there a reason why?
- How does the project propose to analyze the data collected and are the methods appropriate?

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 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?