



DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION

ALLIANCE GRANTS PROGRAM 2025 SOLICITATION

The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is excited to announce that the [2025 Alliance Grants Program](#) is open for applications. To support the transition to safer, more sustainable pest management practices in California, DPR annually funds Alliance Grant 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 interest. The program has a long history of [awarding diverse projects](#) that meet these goals and advance many different aspects of IPM.

The 2025 Alliance Grants Program is particularly seeking applications that address one or more of the following priority topic areas. The priority topic areas are:

- IPM for underserved or disadvantaged communities;
- Decreasing the use of pesticides of high regulatory interest (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](#):
 - Human Health and Social Equity
 - Environmental Protections
 - Economic Vitality

Please note that definitions for the terms *underserved communities*; *disadvantaged communities*; and *pesticides of high regulatory interest* are provided in the “Definitions for Priority Topic Areas” section on page three below.

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 priority 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, DPR has requested a total of \$1,900,000 for IPM grants funding with final program funding availability to be determined pending budget approval. Projects with budgets between \$50,000 and \$400,000 and timelines up to three years in length (end date of June 30, 2028) are invited to apply.

[Apply today](#) and your project may contribute to DPR's mission to protect human health and the environment by fostering sustainable pest management while also supporting the state's transition to systemwide adoption of safer, more sustainable pest management practices!

Completed proposal applications must be submitted no later than **Thursday, November 21, 2024** 11:59:59 PM Pacific Time (PT) to the DPR Integrated Pest Management Grants Program email address at IPMGrants@cdpr.ca.gov.

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

If you have any questions, please reach out to DPR staff at IPMGrants@cdpr.ca.gov.

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DEFINITIONS FOR PRIORITY TOPIC AREAS

Disadvantaged communities are defined based on [CalEPA’s current designation](#) of Disadvantaged Communities for the purpose of Senate Bill 535 as:

- Census tracts receiving the highest 25 percent of overall scores in [CalEnviroScreen 4.0](#);
- Census tracts lacking overall scores in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 due to data gaps, but receiving the highest 5 percent of CalEnviroScreen 4.0 cumulative pollution burden scores;
- Census tracts identified in the 2017 DAC designation as disadvantaged, regardless of their scores in CalEnviroScreen 4.0; and/or
- Lands under the control of federally recognized Tribes.

These disadvantaged communities can be viewed [here](#).

Underserved communities are defined based on [Assembly Bill 841](#) as communities that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Median household income less than 80% of the statewide median income (subdivision (g) of Section 75005 of the Public Resources Code);
- Census tracts with median household incomes at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income (paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 39713 of Health and Safety Code); and/or
- At least 75% of public-school students in the project area are eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program.

Pesticides of high regulatory interest are defined as pesticides listed in the following categories of interest as analyzed in DPR’s most recently released Annual Pesticide Use Report (PUR):

- carcinogens,
- cholinesterase inhibitors,
- fumigants,
- groundwater contaminants,
- reproductive toxins, and
- toxic air contaminants.

Refer to the [Pesticides of High Regulatory Interest](#) spreadsheet for additional data and details on the pesticides identified in these categories for the most recent report.

PROGRAM DATES AND DEADLINES

- **July 2024** – Solicitation period opens; DPR begins accepting proposal applications
- **Thursday, November 21, 2024** – Final application deadline
- **Thursday, May 8, 2025 (9:30 am)** – [Pest Management Advisory Committee \(PMAC\)](#) Alliance Grants proposal review meeting
- **July 2025** – Funding decision emails sent out
- **September 1, 2025** – Earliest project start date pending full execution of the grant agreement
- **June 30, 2028** – 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-\$400,000.

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](#).
15. All applicants, principal investigators, key personnel, subrecipients, subcontractors, and consultants must abide by all state and federal laws and regulations.

PROPOSAL APPLICATION PROCESS

The 2025 Alliance Grants proposal application package is now available and may be downloaded. The 2025 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 IPMGrants@cdpr.ca.gov.

The proposal application package consists of the following documents:

- Department of Pesticide Regulation Alliance Grants Program 2025 Solicitation (PDF – this document),
- Alliance Grant Proposal Application Form (Microsoft Word document),
- Alliance Grants Program 2025 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, November 21, 2024, 11:59:59 PM Pacific Time (PT)** to the DPR Integrated Pest Management Grants Program email address at IPMGrants@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 the Scope of Work and Budget.
- **Submit the Budget Tables Worksheet and any needed Subaward Budget Tables Worksheets as Microsoft Excel Worksheets.** *(Note: Submitted proposal applications containing worksheets with changes made to locked portions of these worksheets are subject to disqualification without further review.)*
 - 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).

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 above. **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 May 8, 2025. 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 considers both PMAC and DPR rankings and funding recommendations in making the final funding decisions. Applicants will be notified of funding award decisions via email by July 2025. 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 [DPR website](#).

For awarded proposals, certain aspects of the proposal application may be requested for revision during grant agreement drafting for accuracy or due to changing conditions since the proposal was submitted.

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
- [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 IPMGrants@cdpr.ca.gov or consider scheduling an appointment with DPR staff during DPR-hosted office hours to review specific questions. For more information, see the "DPR-Hosted Office Hours" section below.

DPR-HOSTED OFFICE HOURS

DPR's Grants Program hosts "office hours" for potential applicants to be able to reserve 30-minute appointments to discuss various aspects of 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 outreach plans. A list of competitively ranked criteria can be found in the "Ranking Considerations for Reviewers" section of the solicitation.

For information on competitively ranked criteria for which DPR staff cannot provide applicant guidance, please consider reviewing the [Alliance Grants Guidance Document](#) or watching the recorded videos described in the "Informational Videos" section above.

To sign up for an appointment, please fill out the [2025 DPR Grants Program Office Hours Form](#). Note that when requesting a scheduled appointment, you will be prompted to include a specific set of questions or topics for discussion. After submitting the form, you will receive an email confirming your appointment and providing a Zoom link for the meeting.

To maximize time, DPR staff highly recommend that you complete the sections of the proposal application for the [Alliance Grants Program](#) that you want to discuss **in advance** to the best of your ability, including the required Budget Table Worksheet(s).

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 area(s) 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 Topic Areas and the [SPM Roadmap](#) (10 Percent)**
 - Does the project address one or more of the DPR priority topic 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 (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 interest through the proposed project’s implementation, expansion, or adoption of the 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? Will implementation of the project lead to reductions of public health risks or environmental damage associated with the use of pesticides of high regulatory interest?

- 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?

- 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?
- If provided, do the illustrative graphics make sense?