

## SCBGP Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Is there a minimum or maximum numbers of pages allowed?**  
*The Project Proposal is limited to 5 pages. This does NOT include the Application Coversheet, the Budget Narrative, Line Item Budget, or other **allowable** attachments such as researcher CVs and letters of support.*
- 2. When will funds be available?**  
*We do not have a specific date from USDA, but reimbursements are made quarterly beginning with the quarter ending December 31, 2015. Contracts should be in place by November 1, 2015 so project expenditures can begin.*
- 3. Is there a minimum or maximum allowable dollar amount per proposal?**  
*No, grants can be for as much or as little as is required to complete the activity. We anticipate nearly \$2 million in total funding being available in 2015. An average award is around \$50,000, but awards have been made for projects ranging from approximately \$17,000 - \$200,000.*
- 4. Can the outcome of the research project be beyond the timeline of the grant?**  
*Yes. These grants will fund projects for up to two years. ISDA understands that for many of Idaho's specialty crops, it may take longer than two years to reach measurable outcomes. If proposing such a project, communicate what the anticipated outcomes will be by the end of the grant and a timeline for the expected end results of the project beyond the end of the grant. Some portion of the project goals must be attainable within the grant period, and it is important to communicate HOW the project will be able to continue without the SCBGP funds at the end of the granting period.*
- 5. Does the proposal need to follow exactly the outline specified in the Application Guidelines, or are those categories just suggestions.**  
*Proposals need to contain the exact categories specified in the Application Guidelines (Project Title and Abstract, Project Purpose, Potential Impact, Expected Measureable Outcomes, Work Plan, Project Commitment, and a Budget Narrative). ISDA's application to USDA is required to contain these specific categories for each project funded through the SCBGP. Additional documents such as letters of commitment from project partners may be attached.*
- 6. Are mushrooms or huckleberries a specialty crop?**  
*Yes, **if they are cultivated**. Wild harvest mushrooms and berries are NOT specialty crops.*
- 7. Are seeds eligible specialty crops?**  
*Seeds of specialty crops are eligible, seeds for non-specialty crops are not eligible.*
- 8. Can SCBGP funds be used to purchase a green house?**  
*No, SCBGP funds cannot be used to purchase buildings. It could be used to purchase equipment and technology needed to run the green house.*

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**9. Can SCBGP funds be used to purchase equipment?**

*They can be used to purchase “specific use” equipment, but not general use equipment. See the grant guidelines for more information about the difference between specific and general use equipment. Equipment over \$5,000 must have prior approval. The proposal must specify who will take ownership of the equipment at the end of the grant period.*

*If a piece of equipment will **ever** be used to benefit **anything** other than specialty crops, it is not eligible.*

**10. Can other documents be submitted with the application packet?**

*Every Application must include the (1) Application Cover Sheet, (2) Project Proposal, (3) Budget Narrative, and (4) the Line Item Budget. Letters of commitment are encouraged from project partners, individuals, and organizations that will be contributing any kind of support or match to the project, and any other entity that is supportive of the proposed activity. Additional documents providing background or supporting information are not recommended and will **not** be included in the review process.*

**12. The project calls for the purchasing of many parts that will be used to make one piece of equipment, should this be listed as supplies or equipment?**

*The total amount of the parts and inputs should be totaled and listed as one item under equipment.*

**13. Equipment of \$5,000 requires prior ISDA/USDA-AMS approval – is that process difficult?**

*No. The equipment must be listed in the budget. ISDA will include it in the state plans to USDA-AMS. This is the approval process.*

**14. The proposal entails a multi-state project that will be submitted to another state for partial funding as well, how does this effect my application to Idaho?**

*In the proposal, specify that it is a multi-state project, the total amount of the project, and the portion/percent that will be funded through the Idaho program. Idaho staff will work together with the other state(s) to reach a funding decision.*

**15. What regulations are to be used when calculating travel expenses for the grant?**

*Travel expenses must comply with the State of Idaho travel regulations listed on [www.sco.idaho.gov](http://www.sco.idaho.gov).*

**16. If a project benefits more than just specialty crops, is it still eligible?**

*It may still be eligible. The applicant can use other monies to fund the portion of the project not relating to specialty crops. This works for project expenses that can be directly traced to specialty crops, but does not work for something like an equipment purchase which may be used to benefit both specialty and non-specialty crops.*