



## Oregon Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP)

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) receives grant funding from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to enhance the competitiveness of Oregon's specialty crops. ODA accepts competitive applications for specialty crop grant funds annually.

### What are specialty crops?

For the purpose of this program, specialty crops are defined as commonly recognized fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, Christmas Trees and nursery crops (including floriculture and horticulture).

Feed crops, food grains, livestock, dairy products, seafood products and oil seed crops are NOT eligible.

For a complete list of eligible crops, the USDA specialty crop block grant website at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbgp>

### Eligible Entities

Eligible entities include non-profit organizations, for-profit organizations, local, state and federal government entities, including tribal governments, and public and private colleges and universities for proposals that solely benefit the production of and access to Oregon specialty crops.

To be eligible for a grant, the project(s) must “enhance the competitiveness of U.S. specialty crops” in either domestic or foreign markets. On the next page are the FY2020 Priorities for the Oregon Specialty Crop Grant Program (in no order of preference).

### Process

- ~\$2M/ year
- \$25,000 - \$175,000
- 2.5-year projects
- Matching encouraged but not required
- Twice yearly reporting
- 26-member industry Advisory Committee
- Funding priorities - updated in 2018

### Submission Deadline 2020 -Tentative and subject to change

| Date                    | Event  |
|-------------------------|--|
| December 2, 2019        | Open Request for Proposals (RFP)   |
| January 31, 2020 (Noon) | Close of RFA Full Grant Proposals Due to ODA   |
| Mid-December 2019       | Live Q & A - <a href="https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/248466453">https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/248466453</a> |
| Mid-January 2020        | Webinar/Outreach – Locations TBA   |
| Mid-April 2020          | Subgrantee Partners Selected by ODA  |
| October/November 2020   | Award Announcements from USDA  |

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## FY2020 Priorities for the Oregon Specialty Crop Grant Program (in no order of preference)

Based on a survey from 2012 and updated in 2016 & 2018 - of specialty crop producers, associations, commissions, and other stakeholders Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) has identified the following areas as the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program funding priorities

### 1. Market development and access,

#### a. International —

- i. Understanding and addressing trade barriers or regulatory constraints in foreign markets (e.g. tariffs, TRQs, FTAs, quotas, bilateral agreements).
- ii. Obtaining market information and providing product exposure through trade shows, conferences, seminars, market research, consumer testing, in-bound and outbound trade missions, etc.
- iii. Applying new technologies to help identify new customers and facilitate shipments (e.g. packaging configurations, customer data, logistics, transportation enhancements, etc.).

#### b. Local/farm-direct, regional and domestic markets —

- i. Obtaining market information and providing product exposure through trade shows, conferences, seminars, market research, consumer testing, in-bound and outbound trade missions, etc.
- ii. Connect farmers to consumers by enhancing direct marketing opportunities that highlight production practices, farmers, and growing locations.
- iii. Support the development and advancement of co-operatives to leverage grower and producer efforts.
- iv. Develop and enhance economic opportunities in local communities that increase the awareness and consumption of specialty crops.
- v. Increasing child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops by expanding access at schools, at work and in local neighborhoods.

2. On-farm labor needs, connecting growers with hiring resources, providing technical information about laws and compliance, or developing mechanization or methodologies for routine or repetitive labor demands. Create and implement workforce training programs or tools to maintain the technical skills required to keep the Oregon specialty crops sector competitive.
3. Promoting cross commodity collaboration on specialty crop projects that address industry wide issues faced by growers/producers. Assisting all entities in the specialty crop distribution chain through transferable results that may enhancing market access and increase sales by addressing food safety, sustainability, or other outcomes.
4. Investing in specialty crop research toward food safety compliance and traceability through implementation of practices, trainings, or systems development and preparation for and/or assistance in compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA).
5. Investing in projects that address regulatory burden on specialty crop growers. Connecting growers with resources, providing technical information about laws and compliance, or developing mechanization or methodologies for routine or repetitive laws and compliance.
6. Investing in projects that address productivity enhancements, innovation, value added products and other production efficiencies for specialty crops.
7. Agriculture and food-related priorities identified by Oregon Solutions Network Regional Solutions Centers to address rural economic development in Oregon. Projects must also comply with one or more of the required previously listed program priorities.