



Funding Opportunities for Specialty Crops Projects

The Application Process and Timeline

... continued

On the basis of the review process in Phase 1, NMDA will invite applicants to submit a Full Grant Proposal based on the Concept Proposal submitted under Phase 1.

Specific requirements and instructions for the Full Grant Proposal will be included in the invitation letter. The full proposal will require a more detailed description of each component in the Concept Proposal with a few additional requirements set by USDA and NMSU.

PHASE 2: FULL GRANT PROPOSAL

Who?	What?	When?	How?
NMDA	Send out invitations to submit Full Grant Proposal	4/19/2010	Via mail or e-mail
NMDA	Grant Writing workshops	4/26 - 4/30/2010	Details TBD
APPLICANT	Full Grant Proposal due	5/21/2010	Must be received by e-mail no later than May 21, 2010
NMDA	State Plan due at USDA	7/29/2010	Must be submitted by NMSU through www.grants.gov
NMDA	Award letters	Aug. - Sept.	Details TBD

PHASE 3: GRANT IMPLEMENTATION

Applicants who submit Full Grant Proposals and are granted funding either through the SCBGP or NMSCP will be required to:

- Follow the work plan and budget detailed in their approved proposal.
- Keep up-to-date records on all project expenses including matching/in-kind funds.
- Provide progress reports to NMDA quarterly (depending on project length).
- Provide NMDA a final report upon successful completion of the project.

Applicants receiving funds from either the federal or state grant program will be paid on a reimbursement basis only, but not until reporting and documentation requirements have been met.

For More Information on these funding opportunities contact:

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PURPOSE ...

“To solely enhance the competitiveness of New Mexico’s specialty crops in either domestic or foreign markets.”

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MSC 5600, P.O. Box 30005
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8005

Federal Funding - Specialty Crops Block Grant Program (SCBGP)

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), through the Specialty Crops Competitive Act of 2004, is authorized to provide grants to state departments of agriculture solely to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in either domestic or foreign markets.

Consideration for grants that increase the competitiveness of specialty crop farmers, including Native American and disadvantaged farmers, will be addressed. Increasing competitiveness may include developing local and rural food systems and improving food access in underserved communities.

Specialty crops are defined as **"fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture)."**

The 2008 Farm Bill has authorized the release of approximately **\$400,000 to New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) in 2010** for the purpose of funding projects that meet this goal. These projects can be up to three years in length.

For more information on the SCBGP, visit www.ams.usda.gov. Look for AMS Grant Programs and then click on "More information on the SCBGP." Here you can find a detailed list of eligible crops and projects, restrictions and limitations of grant funds, etc.

The funding cycle follows the federal fiscal year beginning **October 1, 2010, and ending September 30, 2011.**

State Funding - New Mexico Specialty Crops Program (NMSCP)

As mandated by the New Mexico Specialty Crops Act of 1983, NMDA receives limited state funding (**approximately \$135,000**) for supporting **marketing projects, promotional activities, market potential surveys, and specialty crop demonstration projects.** Similar to the SCBGP, the goal of each project is to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops grown in the state. Subsequent objectives are **agricultural growth, rural stability, market development and growth, creating value-added opportunities, and new product development.**

All projects approved for NMSCP funding must be completed within NMDA's fiscal year beginning **July 1, 2010, and ending June 30, 2011.**

In efforts to streamline the application process for both federal (SCBGP) funding and state (NMSCP) funding, **NMDA has developed an application and review process that will help determine what funding source best fits each project.**



The Application Process and Timeline

PHASE 1: CONCEPT PROPOSAL

Who?	What?	When?	How?
NMDA	Send out a Request for Concept Papers	2/19/2010	Through a press release, a posting on NMDA's web site, and industry gatherings
Applicant	Deadline to Submit Concept Paper to NMDA	4/2/2010	Must be received by e-mail no later than April 2, 2010. A hard copy may be mailed in addition to the electronic file
NMDA	Review Concept Papers	4/5 - 4/16/2010	A committee will review all concept papers for fit, clarity, and impact on New Mexico's agricultural industry

About the CONCEPT PROPOSAL

The Concept Proposal should be no more than two pages in length (including budget) and must briefly describe the following:

- **Project Title**
 - *Should be short and descriptive*
- **Applicant Details**
 - *Applicant Name and/or Company Name*
 - *Type of Business/Organization*
 - *Contact Information*
 - *Is this a new funding request? A resubmission? Have you received funding through either the federal or state crops program before? If so, which program, what year, and how much assistance did you receive?*
- **Project Purpose**
 - *Objective, Problem, Importance*
- **Potential Impact**
 - *People or Operation Affected*
 - *Intended Beneficiaries*
 - *Potential Economic Impact*
- **Expected Measurable Outcomes**
 - *Outcome Goal, Benchmark, Targets, and Performance Measures*
- **Work Plan**
 - *Project Activity Including a Timeline*
- **Budget (must total)**
 - *Grant Amount Requested*
 - *Matching/In-Kind Funds (strongly encouraged)*

