



2024 Texas Specialty Crop Block Grant

RFGA Highlights and Instructions

November 30, 2023



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

Purpose

- To provide an overview of the Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) Program and requirements for the 2024 Request for Grant Applications (RFGA)
- Due date for applications is 11:59 p.m. Central Time on **January 24, 2024**
- The 2024 RFGA is available at:
 - [2024 Request for Grant Applications](#) (pdf)
 - [TX SCBG Website](#)



Agenda

- ① Specialty Crop Block Grant Overview
- ② RFGA Highlights
- ③ TDA-GO!
- ④ Q & A



Specialty Crop Block Grant

Purpose:

The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBG) is to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops such as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, and horticulture and nursery crops.

Texas' SCBG program provides funding for five critical needs that have industry-wide impact:

- 1) Food safety
- 2) Value added and industry development
- 3) Marketing domestically and internationally
- 4) Nutrition
- 5) Plant health

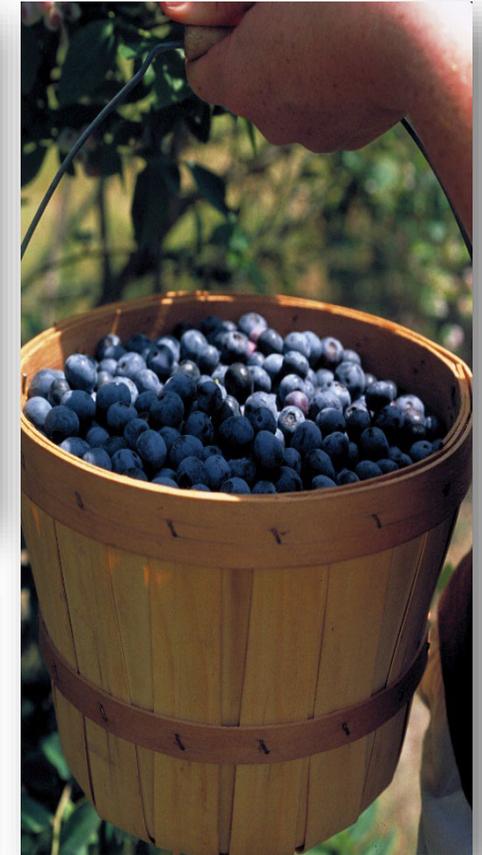


Photo courtesy of Patricia Escobedo
(YFG 2018 Recipient)



Photo courtesy of Aaron Reeves
(YFG 2019 Recipient)

Specialty Crop Block Grant

Type: Competitive

Availability: Once per year. Application currently available.

Award Amount: No minimum or maximum set

Funding: Reimbursement only

Eligibility: Responses are accepted from Texas state agencies, universities, institutions, and producer, industry, or community-based organizations involved with, or that promote specialty crops.

Duration: 20 months: December 1, 2024 – September 30, 2026

Project Timeline of Events

- **Application Availability**
- **Application Deadline**
- **Preliminary Selection of proposals to be included in State Plan**
- **Selected Projects submitted to USDA**
- **Final Award Announcements**
- **Application Scores and Comments Released**
- **Start Date of Project**
- **End Date of Project**
- **November 2023**
- **January 24, 2024**
- **Late April 2024**
- **May 2024**
- **September 2024**
- **September 2024**
- **December 1, 2024**
- **September 30, 2026**

Project Eligibility

- Proposed projects:
 - Must enhance the competitiveness of a Texas specialty crop industry.
 - ❖ [Eligible Specialty Crops](#)
 - Must only be used for activities benefiting specialty crops.
 - Must benefit more than one individual, institution, or organization.
 - May not solely benefit a particular commercial product or provide a profit to a single organization, institution, or individual.

Application Structure

- **Applicant Contact Information**
- **Project Characteristics**
- **Project Profile** – Must address the following information:
 - Primary Applicant
 - Partner Organization(s)–list name(s) of organization(s) assisting on the project
 - Project Title
 - Duration of Project
 - Project Summary
 - Project Purpose
 - Objectives
 - Project Beneficiaries
 - External Project Support
- **Project Outcomes**
 - [SCBG Program Outcomes and Indicators](#)
- **Work Plan**
- **Budget Narrative/Justification**
- **Accounting System and Financial Capability Questionnaire**



Photo courtesy of Priscilla Carbajal (YFG 2020 Recipient)

Evaluation and Selection

Applications evaluated on comprehensiveness, completeness, and overall quality.

- Team of external and internal reviewers
- Reviewed by key focus area

Proposals are selected to be included in the Texas State Plan which is submitted to the USDA. The USDA makes final selection.

Evaluations will consider:

- **Project Purpose**
- **Measurable Objectives**
- **Project Impact and Beneficiaries**
- **Project Sustainability**
- **External Support**
- **Project Work Plan**
- **Outcome/Indicator Performance Measures**
- **Budget**

Application Submission

Must be submitted online via TDA-GO.

Mailed, faxed, emailed or hand-delivered applications will not be accepted.

Deadline: 11:59 P.M. on Wednesday January 24, 2024

Hot Tip: Do not wait until the last minute to begin or submit your application. Late applications due to technical problems or errors will not be accepted

TDA-GO!

TDA's Grant Management System

- <https://tda-go.intelligrants.com/>
- Step-by-Step Instructions on how to register and access the application are included in the RFGA
- If you are with a university or organization with multiple staff who will be TDA-GO users, contact TDA for assistance on setting up your TDA-GO account.
- Please allow 48-72 business hours for TDA-GO account approval.

Other Requirements

Required Action	Timing to Obtain/Submit
Create a TDA-GO Profile (see TDA-GO Access Instructions)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Obtain Your Organization's UEI Number and establish an Active SAM.gov Account (if you do not already have one)	up to 2 weeks
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Obtain a TIN/EIN (if you do not already have one) *	up to 2 weeks
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Request Access to TDA-GO by creating a TDA-GO profile (if you do not already have one)*	At least 48-72 hours ahead of the application submission deadline for TDA to approve account.
TDA Deadline to receive final application and all supporting materials through TDA-GO!	January 24, 2024 – 11:59 p.m. Central Time
* Text hyperlinks will direct you to applicable websites	

Questions?



Contact Information



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