

Healthy Soils Program (HSP) and State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) Block Grants

Funding from the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Office of Agricultural Resilience and Sustainability (OARS) to provide technical assistance to producers, select on-farm projects for financial support, and to manage the projects over an implementation period of up to three years.

Opportunity and Funding Overview:

- Total Funding Available: \$50 million for HSP and \$34 million for SWEEP
- Award Range: \$2-\$4 Million
- Project Duration: Maximum of 4 years
- Funding Split: At least 80% must fund on-farm practices/projects, up to 20% can be used for project administration and technical assistance

Eligibility Requirements:

- Block Grant Recipients (BGRs): Eligible entities include public/local agencies, 501(c)(3) nonprofits, special districts, joint powers authority, public utilities, local publicly owned utilities, mutual water companies, and California Native American Tribes
- Technical Assistance Providers (TAPs): BGRs may lead technical assistance if they are an RCD, UC Cooperative Extension, public college/university, nonprofit, groundwater sustainability agency, irrigation district. Otherwise, they MUST partner with one of these entities
- Tribal Set-Aside: Up to \$4 million is set aside for SWEEP and HSP

Key Applicant Obligations:

- Two-Phase Application: Applicants must first submit a Concept Proposal. Selected organizations will be invited to submit a Full Proposal
- Common Objectives: BGRs must complete eight specific objectives, including developing a selection process, performing outreach, providing technical assistance, and verifying on-farm project completion
- Equity Targets: Competitive applications should align with the Climate Bond Targets:
 - 40% of funds providing benefits to Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) and Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs), and vulnerable populations
 - [Locate Disadvantaged Communities Mapping Tool Link](#)
 - 25% of technical assistance funding dedicated to supporting Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (SDFRs)
- Administrative Requirements: BGRs must maintain a public webpage, host at least one demonstration field day, develop case studies and media materials, and conduct monthly check-in calls with OARS staff

