Deadline for submission: January 31, 2011

Proposals must be submitted online by January 31, 2011 at the Unified Grant Management for Viticulture and Enology website http://uvegrants.ucdavis.edu (submission site opens December 1, 2010). Additionally, one hard copy of the proposal with appropriate institutional signatures must be received by March 1, 2011 or the project will not be considered for funding.

Goals of the Viticulture Consortium West (VCW)

The Viticulture Consortium West (VCW) began in 1996 to fund research projects supporting viticulture and the viticulture industry through a peer review grant program. Scientists at research institutes in the western states, Texas and Oklahoma can be assisted by this program. VCW is part of the national Viticulture Consortium, which includes a partner program, Viticulture Consortium East, administrated by Cornell University, New York. VCW is administrated through the University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR). The Viticulture Consortium is funded by a special project grant to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to supplement and encourage the viticulture industry’s funding for research and extension education.

In evaluating and ranking the proposals for funding, reviewers will consider the importance of each project to industry according to the priorities established by the National Grape and Wine Initiative (NGWI). Details of the NGWI priorities are listed at the end of this RFP under "Description of Research Areas and Priorities VCW 2011-2012", and online at http://www.ngwi.org. Proposals should briefly and clearly state how they address these priorities.

VCW funding will be coordinated with the industry funding agencies that share the Unified Grant Management for Viticulture and Enology website. Projects with a match from industry sources will have a priority.

Multidisciplinary and multi-institutional proposals are encouraged, to address specific issues and to allow the results of sponsored research projects to have broad utility. An outreach or education program to disseminate information resulting from the research is a key consideration in the proposal review.

About the Unified Grant Management for Viticulture and Enology (UGMVE) website

The Unified Grant Management for Viticulture and Enology website (UGMVE) was established in 2005 to coordinate grant application submission and review among multiple funding agencies. Principal investigators are required to use this website when applying for grants to:

- American Vineyard Foundation (AVF)
- California Competitive Grant Program for Research in Viticulture and Enology (CCGPVE)
- California Table Grape Commission (CTGC)
- California Grape Rootstock Improvement Commission (CGRIC)
Each of these funding agencies has its own Request for Proposals (RFP) which states its funding priorities. Researchers are strongly advised to obtain current RFPs from each of these agencies or from the UGMVE website, and to apply to as many agencies as are appropriate for their project. Funding agencies will work together to coordinate multiple-agency funding when appropriate.

Format for Proposals and Reports

VCW and the funding agencies listed above require the same formats for proposals and reports. This facilitates the use of the UGMVE website for researchers, reviewers and stakeholders. Please find the guidelines for these formats on both the VCW website under "The Application Process" and on the UGMVE website when you register. Formats for FY 2011-12 will be posted by December 1, 2010. Follow these guidelines carefully, including page limits.

Special Requirements -All Research Areas

All proposals must include a description of how the project addresses industry priorities. Research proposals should explain how the information developed from the project would be communicated to end users by outreach and extension providers. Outreach and Education proposals should explain how the PI will ensure information reaches end users and stakeholders.

Review Process

Each proposal received by the VCW will be evaluated by a scientific review panel in one of the following disciplines:

- Breeding, Germplasm and Evaluation
- Cultural Practices
- Disease Management
- Enology
- Outreach and Education
- Pest Management.

Research projects will be selected for awards based on scientific merit and relevance to industry priorities. Evaluation criteria for research proposals includes: the importance of the project as justified in the proposal and with respect to VCW priorities; scientific merit; experimental design; appropriateness of the budget to meet the objectives; adequacy of the personnel and facilities to ensure the successful completion of the objectives; and compliance with the proposal format instructions including length and completeness.

Outreach and Education projects will be reviewed for merit and priority by a panel of industry stakeholders and peer educators using criteria that includes: applicability of the project to multiple users, the appropriateness of the budget to meet the objectives; adequacy of the personnel and facilities to ensure the successful completion of the objectives; and compliance with the proposal format instructions, including length and completeness.
Research on Pierce’s Disease is ineligible for VCW Funding

With the creation of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Pierce’s Disease Control Board and the anticipated continuation of the University of California Pierce’s Disease Program, the VCW will not accept proposals for Pierce’s Disease and glassy-winged sharpshooter for the 2011-2012 funding cycle. Information regarding research funding from CDFA’s PD/GWSS Control Board is available at www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/pdcp. An RFP for PD/GWSS research will be issued in November 2010 for the University of California Pierce’s Disease Program. For information on the UC program, contact Melanie Caruso at (530) 752-5336 or e-mail mmcaruso@ucdavis.edu.

Eligibility

The VCW will accept proposals from land grant and non-land grant institutions in the western states, Oklahoma and Texas where appropriate expertise exists. Both mission-oriented and fundamental studies will be considered. Proposals will be considered from outside this area if a partnership for the research project has been established with participants within the stated area.

Funding and Reporting

Funding for the VCW has been provided by a special grant to the University of California from the USDA/CSREES from 1996 to 2008 and then USDA/NIFA from 2008 to 2010. It is anticipated that the VCW program will be included in future federal budgets. Allocation of funds to the selected research projects will be contingent upon final approval of the federal budget and the special grant to the University of California from NIFA. The RFP is issued at this time in preparation for maintaining the continuity of the program. Funds are expected to be available for use from approximately July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012.

Proposals for both new and continuing projects are welcome. Consideration of continuing proposals will be contingent upon receipt of progress reports from investigators funded last year and the progress documented in the reports as well as their continuing scientific merit and promise of accomplishment. For consideration of continuing projects, the progress report for the previous year must be submitted with the continuing proposal. Proposals will become the property of the University of California and will not be returned. Confidential matters should not be included in proposals nor reports. Reports may be posted on funding agencies websites and broadly distributed.

Major Budget Restrictions

Following USDA/NIFA requirements, VCW award funds cannot be used for:

- The renovation or refurbishment of research spaces; the purchase or installation of fixed equipment in such spaces; or for the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of a building or facility.

- No part of the approved funds may be utilized for tuition remission or educational fees.

- Indirect costs are not allowable and no funds will be approved for this purpose. Further, costs that are a part of the institution’s indirect cost pool, (e.g., administrative or clerical salaries), may not be reclassified as direct costs for the purpose of making them allowable.

- Requests for nonexpendable equipment or foreign travel will be forwarded to USDA/NIFA for approval before a final funding decision is made.

All budgets must be approved by USDA/NIFA after tentative approval from VCW. These budgets must be detailed or funding may be delayed or rejected by NIFA.

Certifications

Only successful applicants for VCW or CCGPVE funds will be asked to submit forms CSREES-2004[Budget], CSREES-2008 [Assurance Statement] and the National Environmental Quality Act Exclusions Form [NEPA Exclusions]. These forms are available on the VCW website under ‘Budget Forms.’
**Do not include these forms with the proposal.** Award letters will be sent out in May 2011, following the panel review meetings. Please read the award letters carefully, as they contain deadlines and instructions for submitting budget forms. It is the responsibility of the PI to provide a copy of the award letter and relevant information to the institutional personnel in charge of filling out the budget forms (if the PI doesn’t do it him/herself). VCW will gladly answer any questions, but the PI is responsible for the timely completion and submission of budget forms—including obtaining required signatures—following award notification. These forms are not required by every funding agency, and will be requested only if needed.

**Proposal Submission**
Submit the proposal electronically at the Unified Grant Management for Viticulture and Enology website [http://uvegrants.ucdavis.edu](http://uvegrants.ucdavis.edu) no later than midnight January 31, 2011. The submission site opens December 1, 2010. No exceptions will be made for late proposals.

For consideration of continuing projects, the progress report for the previous year must be submitted with the continuing proposal. Proposals will become the property of the University of California and will not be returned. Confidential matters should not be included in proposals.

**Electronic submission plus one hard copy of the proposal with appropriate institutional signatures is required by VCW.** The signed hard copy must be received by the VCW/CCGPVE office by March 1, 2011. Mail to:

- **By U.S. Postal Service**
  - Deborah Golino
  - Viticulture Consortium West
  - c/o Foundation Plant Services
  - University of California
  - One Shields Avenue
  - Davis, CA 95616-8621

- **By other carriers**
  - Deborah Golino
  - Viticulture Consortium West
  - c/o Foundation Plant Services
  - 455 Hopkins Road
  - University of California
  - Davis, CA 95616-8621

If applying to other agencies, please check their RFP and send a hard copy to them only if instructed to do so. **If you are not applying to VCW and/or CCGPVE, do not send us a hard copy of your proposal.**

**Notification of Awards**
Applicants will be notified of tentative approval in May 2011. Awards will be released after final approval by USDA/NIFA, approximately July 2011.

**Questions**
If you have questions regarding this RFP, or for website assistance, contact Vicki Klaassen, UGMVE website manager, by e-mail vaklaassen@ucdavis.edu. Technical questions should be addressed to VCW Director Deborah Golino by phone: (530) 754-8102 or e-mail dagolino@ucdavis.edu.

**Descriptions of Research Areas and Priorities**

**Viticulture Consortium West 2011-12**

**OVERALL PRIORITIES**
The Viticulture Consortium West supports the National Grape and Wine Initiative (NGWI) [http://www.ngwi.org](http://www.ngwi.org) leadership on national priorities for viticultural research. The NGWI is an industry-driven partnership with academic and government representatives designed to focus emphasis on research and extension as a means to
strengthen the competitiveness of America’s grape and grape product industries. All segments of the grape industry—table, juice, wine and raisin grape growers and producers—are represented by NGWI.

NGWI participants have created a strategic plan that outlines research priorities for immediate focus and provides a detailed list of research and extension objectives and strategies in five key areas:

- Understanding, defining and delivering quality
- Consumer, nutrition and community
- Production and processing efficiency
- Sustainability
- Extension/Education

This Strategic Plan is the result of a continual dialogue with academic and government research and extensions providers as well as industry stakeholders from the grape and grape product community. NGWI is now utilizing the strategies developed to engage scientists and facilitate targeted research efforts.

Priority will be given to proposals that address high priority NGWI 12- to 18-month deliverables as described below.

**Understanding, defining, and delivering quality**
- Provide an information baseline for current knowledge around viticultural influences on wine sensory and chemical attributes
- Develop a national interactive network among academic and industry sensory experts to standardize sensory descriptors of grapes and grape products.
- Develop and maintain a national register of grape scion and rootstock cultivars and clones available in the USA and abroad for subsequent evaluation.
- Develop a uniform trial design and standardized selection of grape germplasm (controls) to facilitate a more nationally organized and cost-effective approach to regional viticultural trials.
- Develop an information baseline of regional performance of grape varieties, clones and breeding selections.

**Sustainability**
- Develop and communicate research based “best management practices” to minimize N and pesticide leaching and runoff
- Extension of research deliverables, as they relate to vineyard floor management (tillage, cover cropping, weed management, soil health, yield and fruit quality)
- Provide extension and educational programs to communicate methods of determining grapevine and soil nitrogen status.
- Improve website knowledge base for pests and disease.
- Determine, characterize and quantify the impact of current wastewater management, water and energy conservation practices to support accurate information exchange within the regulatory arena.
- Characterize and quantify the economic costs and savings of current wastewater management, water and energy conservation best practices to accelerate further adoption of these practices.

**Extension/Education**
- Communicate fundamental knowledge and production principles
• Facilitate adoption of best management principles