



**DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE
and NATURAL RESOURCES**

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PIERRE SD 57501-3182
danr.sd.gov

South Dakota Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources

2026 Request for Proposals

Applications Due March 22, 2026, 11:59 PM CT

Key Information	
Amount Available	Up to \$325,000
Applications Due	March 22, 2026, 11:59 PM Central Time
Who Can Apply	Non-Federal stakeholders in the South Dakota specialty crop industry, including State, Local, or Tribal governmental entities, nonprofit organizations, research institutions and institutions of higher education, for-profit businesses, and individual producers.
Proposal Submission Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Application Cover Sheet• Project Profile Template (USDA now requires all applications in <u>Fillable PDF Submitted Electronically Only</u>) including project and budget narratives• SAM.gov Unique Entity Identification number
Contact	Timothy Schoonhoven Policy Advisor Email: timothy.schoonhoven@state.sd.us Phone: 605-773-6690 Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources 523 E Capitol Ave Pierre, SD 57501

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I. About the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

a. Program Purpose

The purpose of the Fiscal Year 2026 South Dakota Specialty Crop Block Grant Program is to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops produced in South Dakota. This will be accomplished through projects that increase specialty crop consumption, production, purchasing, market access and food safety knowledge and processes, improve pest and disease control and environmental sustainability, contribute to new seed variety development, and expand specialty crop research and development.

b. Program Background

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is authorized to grant funds to state departments of agriculture for the purpose of enhancing the competitiveness specialty crops. Section 10107 of the [Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018](#) (2018 Farm Bill) amended the [text of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 \(Public Law 108-465\)](#) to stipulate that state departments of agriculture can enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops:

- “(1) by leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops;
- “(2) by assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops;
- “(3) by expanding availability and access to specialty crops;
- “(4) by addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers; and
- “(5) for such other purposes determined to be appropriate by the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with specialty crop stakeholders and relevant State departments of agriculture.”

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (SD DANR) is responsible for administering the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) in South Dakota. Each year SD DANR solicits project proposals from the South Dakota specialty crop industry. SD DANR applies for Federal grant funds allocated to the state through USDA AMS to fund a state plan containing

selected projects, and upon approval enters three-year project agreements with the selected applicants.

c. What is a Specialty Crop?

The term 'specialty crop' means fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops (including floriculture). (7 U.S.C. 1621 note, amended under section 10010 of the Agricultural Act of 2014).

The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service lists common specialty crops here:
<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbgp/specialty-crop>.

d. SCBG Program Definitions

Beginning Farmer or Rancher: an individual or entity that has not operated a farm or ranch for more than 10 years and substantially participates in the operation.

FY: The Federal Fiscal Year. This Request for Proposals will award funds for projects for FY2026, covering the project period of performance of September 30, 2026 – September 29, 2029.

Period of Performance: The three-year grant term for executing the activities approved for the grant. SD DANR is responsible for oversight of each fiscal year Specialty Crop Block Grant award for a three-year period of performance and is accountable to USDA AMS for successful state program execution. Each subrecipient is accountable to SD DANR for project performance.

SCBG/SCBGP: The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

SD DANR: The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the state entity responsible for administering the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program in South Dakota.

Subrecipient: The eligible entity that applies to the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources for funding to execute a project under the Specialty Crop Block Grant using South Dakota's Federal funding allocation. Subrecipients are responsible for complying with Federal SCBG Terms and Conditions issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service but contract directly with SD DANR for the duration of their project.

Underserved Farmer or Rancher is a farmer or rancher who is a member of an Underserved Group. An Underserved Group is a group whose members have been subject to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and, where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

USDA AMS: The United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service agency. USDA AMS administers the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, issuing a federal funding opportunity each year to receive state departments of agriculture applications for funding allocations to administer the program in their state. USDA AMS enters an agreement with SD DANR for each fiscal year Specialty Crop Block Grant Program.

e. Note on Federal Terms and Conditions

Terms and Conditions: Effective September 2025, the Agricultural Marketing Service has updated the [AMS General Terms and Conditions](#) that reflect changes to the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR §200), which the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources and its subrecipients with funded projects are obligated to meet. Successful applicants under this funding opportunity will be responsible for adherence with this version of the terms and conditions throughout the 2026 SCBG period of performance.

II. Available Funding Award Information

a. Contingency Statement

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources requests proposals for projects to enhance the competitiveness of South Dakota specialty crops. This request from SD DANR is made contingent upon the availability of Federal funds from USDA AMS and the allocation of program funds from USDA AMS to SD DANR as the recipient. Upon such allocation SD DANR will then make available program funding for subrecipient projects in South Dakota.

b. Anticipated Funding Available for South Dakota Projects

Pending federal funding, an estimated \$325,000 will be available for 2026 projects in South Dakota. Awards in previous years have ranged from \$5,000 - \$150,000. In 2025 DANR awarded \$299,087.00 to four projects at an average of \$74,771.75.

Project budgets funded under the South Dakota Specialty Crop Block Grant Program are not capped but **projects under \$75,000 are given priority**. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources reserves the right to offer subrecipient projects an award amount less than requested in the project proposal.

III. Eligible Applicants

a. Entity Types

This solicitation is open to non-Federal entities located in the state of South Dakota that are active participants or stakeholders in the South Dakota specialty crop industry. Examples of eligible applicants include State, Local, or Tribal governmental entities, nonprofit organizations, research institutions and institutions of higher education.

For-profit businesses and individual producers may apply. However, SD DANR **will not fund** projects that solely benefit an individual producer, business, or other applicant entity. Additionally, the USDA AMS Terms and Conditions prohibit subrecipient use of awarded funds to compete

unfairly with companies that provide equivalent products or services. Proposals should demonstrate a significant benefit to the broader specialty crop industry in South Dakota.

b. Limitations

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources reserves the right to limit the number of active projects awarded to any grant recipient organization or individual project lead.

c. Past Awardee Performance

Returning participant application competitiveness will be impacted by the applicant's previous track record of objective accomplishment, realization of project outcomes and breadth of project benefits, external project support, project self-sustainability beyond grant funds, compliance with program terms and conditions and reporting requirements, budgetary management and timely utilization of funds, communication with DANR staff, and other performance factors.

SD DANR encourages applications from new participants.

IV. **Eligible Project Proposals**

Past South Dakota Specialty Crop Block Grant awards can be viewed by year here:

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbgp/awards>

To view a sample filled out project profile template, see

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/SCBGPSampleStatePlan.pdf>

USDA describes a project as “set of interrelated tasks with a cohesive, distinct, specified, and defined goal. It follows a planned, organized approach over a fixed period of time and within specific limitations (cost, performance/quality, etc.). Additionally, it uses resources that are specifically allocated to the work of the project and usually involves a team of people. Projects are different from other ongoing operations in an organization because, unlike operations, projects have a definitive beginning and end – they have a limited duration.”

Applicants who have or currently are performing a project funded through the SCBG will need to ensure any new proposal meets this criterion as a distinct proposed goal and set of activities. Projects proposing to continue past work must describe how they differ from and build on past efforts and clearly differentiate proposed budget items from previous budgets. Applicants should also carefully distinguish proposed project activities from ongoing organizational operational costs.

a. Project Proposal Acceptability

i. *Ineligible Proposals*

Project proposals will not be funded if they:

- Fail to directly address and demonstratively enhance the competitiveness of eligible specialty crops,
- Focus on or primarily benefit ineligible crops, or
- Solely benefit a single producer, organization, or business.

ii. *Outreach and Specialty Crop Benefit*

Projects must enhance the competitiveness of South Dakota specialty crops without exclusively benefitting a single individual, organization, or institution. **Subrecipients should incorporate clear outreach plans into their projects to disseminate results for the benefit of the broader South Dakota specialty crop industry.** Proposals can demonstrate this benefit through the inclusion of external support letters and by describing external support for the project in the application template.

Research project proposals should explain the practical applicability of potential research results to South Dakota specialty crop producers. Proposals must demonstrate interest and involvement from producers as justification for the research project proposal and include specific plans for ensuring research results are shared with producers as part of the project objectives and timeline.

iii. *Multi-State or Regional Projects*

SD DANR may consider projects that collaborate across state lines or that will benefit the specialty crop industry beyond South Dakota, provided that the project focuses on South Dakota and the primary benefit accrues to the South Dakota specialty crop industry.

iv. *Examples of Allowable Projects*

USDA provides the following examples of allowable projects:

- A non-profit organization requests funds to demonstrate the viability of organic small fruit production and partners with Cooperative Extension to publicize the working model of diversification to other regional growers.
- A single farmer implements food safety practices or models on his/her property to meet food safety requirements and conducts a field day and training services to encourage other small family farmers to adopt the methods.

v. *Examples of Unallowable Projects*

USDA provides the following examples of unallowable projects:

- A company requests grant funds to purchase starter plants or equipment used to plant, cultivate, and grow a specialty crop to make a profit or to expand production of a single business or organization.
- A single specialty crop organization requests grant funds to market its organization so that it can increase its membership.

b. South Dakota Funding Priorities

South Dakota is prioritizing three of the [USDA AMS Outcomes](#) for proposals funded under the FY2026 solicitation:

1. Increasing Access to Specialty Crops and Expanding Specialty Crop Production and Distribution
2. Increasing Consumption and Consumer Purchasing of Specialty Crops
3. Improve Environmental Sustainability of Specialty Crops

Proposals are welcome for projects working to accomplish any of the seven AMS outcomes below. Projects that meet at least one of South Dakota's three priority areas will receive priority.

c. Outcomes

SD DANR will consider projects that address **AT LEAST ONE** of the USDA AMS Outcomes:

1. Increasing Consumption and Consumer Purchasing of Specialty Crops
2. Increasing Access to Specialty Crops and Expanding Specialty Crop Production and Distribution
3. Increase Food Safety Knowledge and Processes
4. Improve Pest and Disease Control Processes
5. Develop New Seed Varieties and Specialty Crops
6. Expand Specialty Crop Research and Development
7. Improve Environmental Sustainability of Specialty Crops

SD DANR welcomes projects that target multiple outcomes and indicators. However, DANR recommends applicants focus on two to four outcomes rather than attempting to accomplish too many objectives and track an unmanageable number of metrics. Outcomes should support the applicant's ability to demonstrate progress towards the proposed project objectives.

d. Indicators

Applicants **MUST** fill out the specific, measurable fields for **AT LEAST ONE** indicator for each outcome selected as part of the [Project Profile Template](#) submitted to SD DANR. Applicants must clearly explain how they will collect data to validate the measures detailed for each selected indicator. Program subrecipients are required to submit this information in [annual performance reports](#) to SD DANR.

The application template provides a list of the outcomes for the applicant to select. Once an outcome is selected, the associated indicator options will appear. The indicators are not visible unless the associated outcome is selected. When developing an application, applicants can use the outcomes and indicators worksheet to conveniently review of all outcome and indicator options. The applicant will select and enter desired values for the indicator(s) they will use to track the

project's progress against the outcome. For example, an applicant selecting Outcome 1 and only planning to measure progress against Indicator 1.1a and 1.1b might enter:

OUTCOME MEASURE(S)

1. INCREASING CONSUMPTION AND CONSUMER PURCHASING OF SPECIALTY CROPS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Indicators	Value	N/A
1.1 Total number of consumers who gained knowledge about specialty crops:	100	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.1a Adults	50	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.1b Children	50	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2 Total number of consumers who consumed more specialty crops:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.2a Adults		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.2b Children		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.3 Number of additional specialty crop customers counted		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.4 Number of additional business transactions executed		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.5 Increased sales measured in:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.5a Dollars		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.5b Percent change		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.5c Combination of volume and average price as a result of enhanced marketing activities		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Please see **Appendix A** for a full list of the outcomes and indicators, and find them on the USDA AMS website here:

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/SCBGPPerformanceMeasures.pdf>. For more examples and USDA data collection tips, see the [USDA SCBG Performance Measures Quick Guide](#).

All proposals submitted to SD DANR must include outcome and indicator selections.

V. Eligible Project Expenses

a. Direct and Indirect costs

Direct costs are costs directly associated with execution of the objectives of the project and which would not be incurred apart from performance of the project. Direct costs are identified specifically with the project award and easily assigned to a specific project with a high degree of accuracy. Direct costs might include supplies, contractual expenses, equipment, and travel directly benefiting the grant-supported project and compensation including salaries and fringe benefits for employees performing the project activities.

Indirect costs are described in the USDA AMS Terms and Conditions as those costs that are “incurred for a common or joint purpose not readily-identified with a particular grant, contract, project function or activity, but are necessary for the general operation of the organization and the conduct of activities it performs.” Indirect costs, also known as facilities and administrative costs, might include ongoing operational expenses such as clerical work and administrative staff compensation, general supplies, and building costs like utilities and phone or internet service. Indirect costs are “incurred for a common or joint purpose benefitting more than one cost objective, and not readily assignable to the cost objectives specifically benefitted without effort disproportionate to the results achieved.” (USDA Request for Applications). Proposed project budgets may include indirect costs. For-profit entities generally do not receive funds for indirect costs.

Please note that project budgets cannot propose to pay for an activity as both an indirect and direct cost; each budget item must either be a direct or indirect cost. See [2 CFR § 200.1](#) for definitions and [200.413](#) for more explanation of direct vs. indirect costs.

Indirect costs are capped at 8% of the total proposed project budget. The State of South Dakota is responsible for ensuring that indirect costs for all subrecipient projects funded under this RFP total less than or equal to a cumulative 8% of the State’s allocation from USDA AMS. USDA stipulates that “State-approved indirect costs in sub-applicant projects may not exceed 8 percent of that project’s budget.” Applicants may find the Total Federal Funds Awarded (TFFA) methodology helpful when calculating the 8% indirect share of their budget. The 8% cap on indirect costs does not excuse applicants with existing federal negotiated indirect cost rate agreements from following those agreements when accruing indirect costs up to the amount authorized in their applications if they are selected for funding.

Example Indirect Calculation: Completion of the direct cost budget categories yields a subtotal D.

Calculate indirect (I) as: $I = (D/0.92) - D$

For example, where Direct Costs are \$92:

Indirect Costs = $(\$92/0.92) - \92

Indirect Costs = \$100 - \$92

Indirect Costs = \$8

Total Project Budget = \$92 (direct costs) + \$8 (indirect costs) = \$100

Verify Indirect Costs are within the 8% cap: \$8 indirect costs / \$100 total project value = 8%

b. Cost-Share

Subrecipients are not required to provide cost-share or matching funds to supplement funds awarded by SD DANR through the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program.

c. Allowable and Unallowable Costs

Subrecipients should consult the [USDA AMS Terms and Conditions](#) Section 8.2 on pages 13-22 and the [Federal Cost Principles at 2 CFR § 200 Part E](#) for specific guidance on whether various planned costs are allowable for a project funded through the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The Terms and Conditions list a wide range of cost examples and explain the circumstances under

which AMS may allow or disallow them. **Please consult this list prior to submitting your application to avoid requesting ineligible budget items.**

Project budgets may include funds for the following categories:

- **Personnel:** Employee time and effort to perform planned activities that advance project deliverables of the specific grant-supported project.
- **Fringe Benefits:** Benefits associated with personnel wages.
 - o **Note:** Salaries and benefits must be incurred under formally established policies of the organization, be consistently applied, be reasonable for the services rendered, and be supported with adequate documentation.
- **Travel:** Costs such as airfare, mileage reimbursement, meals and lodging in performance of approved grant activities and in alignment with formal organizational policy. The allowable travel cost of recipients that do not have formal travel policies and for-profit entities may not exceed those established by the [Federal Travel Regulation](#), issued by [General Services Administration \(GSA\)](#), including the maximum per diem and subsistence rates prescribed in those regulations. If a recipient does not have a formal travel policy, those regulations will be used to determine the amount that may be charged for travel cost.
- **Equipment:** Special purpose equipment that costs over \$10,000 per unit and is used only for research, scientific, or other technical activities may be eligible. Purchase of general purpose equipment for uses not limited to specific technical grant activities is not allowed. See pages 15-16 of the AMS Terms and Conditions for more guidance.
- **Supplies:** General materials for your project which cost less than \$10,000 per unit.
 - o **Note:** Supply budgets must be itemized. For example, “Lab supplies” must be further broken down into separate line items for unique supplies with specific unit costs.
- **Contractual:** Procured goods and services performed by an individual who is not an employee paid for by the applicant under Personnel.
- **Other:** Various costs like speaker stipends, meeting room fees, publication and advertising costs may best fit under “Other”.
- **Indirect:** See the discussion in Section V.a. above.

The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program **will not fund the following expenses:**

- Substituting SCBGP funds to pay for existing efforts or research already funded through other sources (“supplanting”)
- Paying off debt or fines and other penalties
- Capital expenditures for buildings, land, or general purpose equipment not used exclusively for technical project activities
- Alcohol and entertainment
- Fundraising, lobbying, or other political activities
- Promotional and marketing costs that create an unfair competitive advantage for the subrecipient over other members of the specialty crop industry

Applicants are responsible for obtaining any internal approvals prior to submission for consideration to SD DANR.

d. Project Expenditure Reimbursements and Pre-Award Costs

Project costs incurred by subrecipients will be paid as reimbursements by SD DANR. Reimbursement requests should be submitted on a **quarterly** basis throughout the course of the grant and must be accompanied by documentation of the costs incurred and the associated project work done. Subrecipients will provide reports and request reimbursement using the reimbursement form provided on the DANR [SCBG webpage](#).

Successful proposals entering a signed award agreement with SD DANR may incur project costs within 90 days before the start date of the award period of performance, 9/30/2026, with written permission from SD DANR. Pre-award costs are only allowable if they would have been allowed during the project period of performance. All pre-award costs for which the subrecipient wishes to receive reimbursement must be included in the budget narrative submitted as part of the project proposal and approved by DANR. South Dakota DANR will not reimburse subrecipients for costs incurred prior to the award period of performance start date that are not included in the proposed budget, are not related to the documented objectives and activities of the project, are incurred over 90 days prior to the award start date, are incurred prior to SD DANR receipt of USDA approval of the South Dakota state plan and authorization to enter a signed agreement with the applicant, or are otherwise unallowable by AMS Terms and Conditions.

VI. 2026 Program Timeline

a. Period of Performance

Specialty Crop Block Grant awards from USDA to state departments of agriculture are for three years. The 2026 South Dakota Specialty Crop Block Grant Program Period of Performance is September 30, 2026, through September 29, 2029. Projects selected under this program will have a maximum period of performance of three years from 9/30/26 - 9/29/2029 but may propose a shorter project period if desired. Extension beyond September 29, 2029 will not be available.

Applications are due March 22, 2026.

b. Application and Project Performance Timelines

Program Activity	Party	Timeframe
<i>Project Solicitation and Selection (2026)</i>		
Release of Federal funding opportunity for states	USDA AMS	TBA
Release of South Dakota Request for Proposals	South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources	February 3, 2026
Questions about the SCBG opportunity received	SD DANR	February 3 - March 22, 2026
DANR Office Hours Q&A Session	SD DANR	February 10, 2026

Click here to join the Office Hours via Microsoft Teams or dial +1 605-679-7263,,171846672#.		3:00 – 4:00 pm CT
Submissions due for 2026 proposals	Subrecipient Applicants	March 22, 2026
Grant Review Process	Expert Review Panel and SD DANR	April 2026
Notification of subrecipients of selection conditional on USDA AMS review	SD DANR	May 2026
South Dakota State Plan submitted to USDA AMS	SD DANR	Tentatively May 1, 2026
Finalization of State Plan	SD DANR and USDA AMS	May-September 2026
Agreements signed between the State of South Dakota and successful applicants	SD DANR, Accepted Subrecipient Applicants	August-September 2026
Announcement of 2026 SCBG Projects	USDA AMS	Fall 2026
Announcement of 2026 South Dakota Projects	SD DANR	Fall 2026
<i>Project Performance Period (2026-2029)</i>		
Project Activities Begin	Accepted Subrecipient Applicants	September 30, 2026
Year 1 Annual Performance Reports Due	Subrecipients	November 15, 2027
Site Visits and Monitoring	SD DANR	Any time during the performance period
Year 2 Annual Performance Reports Due	Subrecipients	November 15, 2028
Latest possible project end date	Subrecipients	September 29, 2029
Submission of all final invoices	Subrecipients	October 31, 2029
Year 3 Final Report – Encompasses all project activity	Subrecipients	November 15, 2029

c. Panel Review of Applications

Project proposals will be reviewed by an impartial panel of experts from the South Dakota specialty crop industry. The panel will rank each project according to a set of evaluation criteria and recommend project selections to SD DANR. Criteria for review include project title, summary, purpose, work plan, potential impact and beneficiaries, expected measurable outcomes, relevance to South Dakota priorities, budget narrative, oversight and sustainability, and benefit to beginning and veteran farmers and new specialty crop producers. Panel selections will be submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources for a final decision. SD DANR will then submit accepted projects to USDA for funding approval in the 2026 South Dakota SCBG State Plan.

d. Reporting

Recipients are required to submit an annual performance report to account for their project activities and financial expenditures during that reporting period. USDA provides annual performance reporting fillable pdf forms for download, which can be found under the Grantee Documents heading on the SD DANR SCBG program page. **Annual performance reports are due November 15.**

Additionally, subrecipients should submit quarterly reimbursement reports to DANR each year at the following intervals:

Quarterly Reimbursement Reporting Period	Reimbursement Due Date
July 1 – September 30	October 31
October 1 – December 31	January 31
January 1 – March 31	April 30
April 1 – June 30	July 31

The annual reporting form, quarterly reimbursement report and request form, and annual application documents, can be accessed at the SD DANR SCBG program website here:

<https://danr.sd.gov/Conservation/SpecialtyCropBlockGrant/default.aspx>

VII. **Application Submission Requirements**

a. Submission

Applicants should take care to ensure they submit all required documents for a complete proposal.

Applicants must submit the required documents via email to Timothy Schoonhoven at

timothy.schoonhoven@state.sd.us.

Applications are due no later than **Sunday, March 22, 11:59 PM CT**.

b. Required Documents

(Resource: [Specialty Crop Block Grant Program Application Checklist](#))

Applications for funding under the South Dakota Specialty Crop Block Grant Program **must include**:

- [Application Cover Sheet](#)
- [Project Profile Template](#) – Includes Project Title, Applicant Organization, Project Narrative including summary and specific problem the project will address, Project Objectives the applicant wishes to achieve, Project Outcomes and Indicators to measure and evaluate project success, Budget Narrative and Justification
- Optional: Documentation of external partner involvement if desired, e.g., letters of support

Applicants will need:

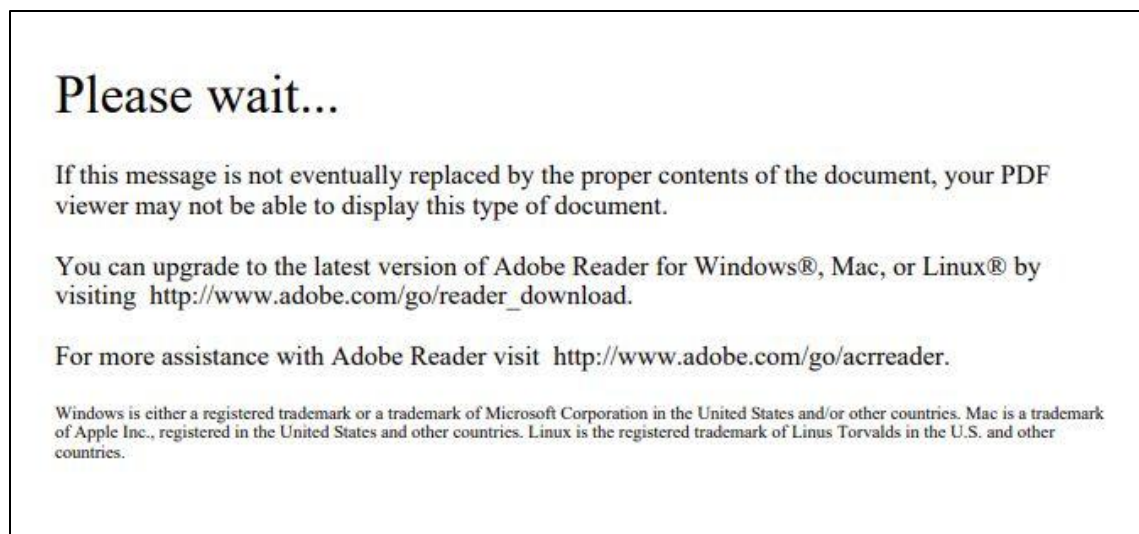
- Tax ID number or Social Security Number
- SAM.gov Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) – All recipients of federal funding awards are required to register in the System for Award Management at SAM.gov. A Unique Entity Identifier is obtained for free upon registration in SAM.gov. The U.S. Federal Government began using UEI numbers instead of the previous DUNS number system for award management in 2022. Any

organization who is registered in SAM.gov already has a UEI, including users whose registration has lapsed and become inactive. If you are not registered in SAM.gov, you may either fully register your entity (necessary to apply directly for primary receipt of federal funds) or simply apply for a UEI (sufficient if your organization only seeks subawards). For more information:

- To receive a SAM.gov UEI, visit <https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration>
- For a guide on how to view your Unique Entity ID (SAM) see https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0041254
- “What's the difference between only getting a Unique Entity ID and registering your entity?”
https://www.fsd.gov/gsafsd_sp?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0051214&sys_kb_id=dd40f4ef1b9641d0937fa64ce54bcb7a&spa=1
- **Note:** The amount of time required to obtain a UEI can be unpredictable. The process for obtaining a UEI alone is shorter than obtaining a full SAM.gov registration. DANR recommends that applicants who do not yet possess a UEI begin the process early.

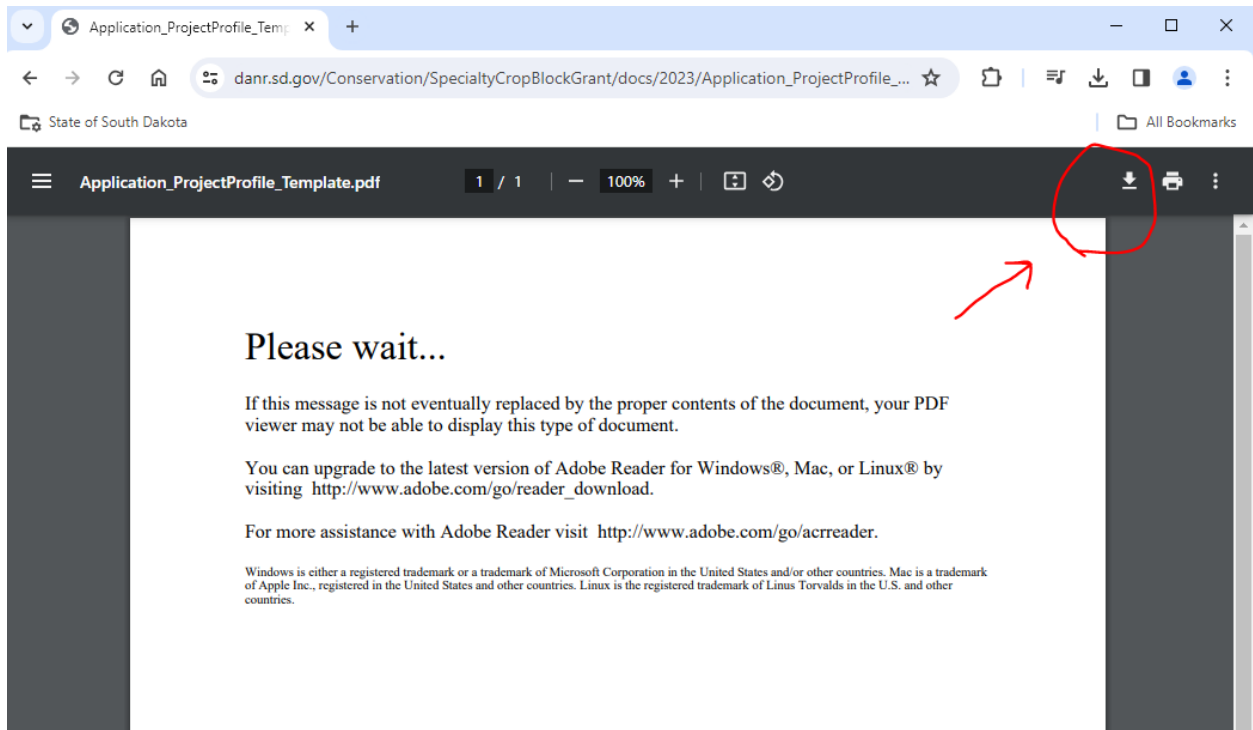
c. [How to Access the Grant Application Template](#)

The USDA Grant Application Template (“Project Profile Template”) is available from the DANR website at <https://danr.sd.gov/Conservation/SpecialtyCropBlockGrant/default.aspx>. Some applicants may find that selecting the template link opens the document in a new tab in their web browser but generates the resulting message:

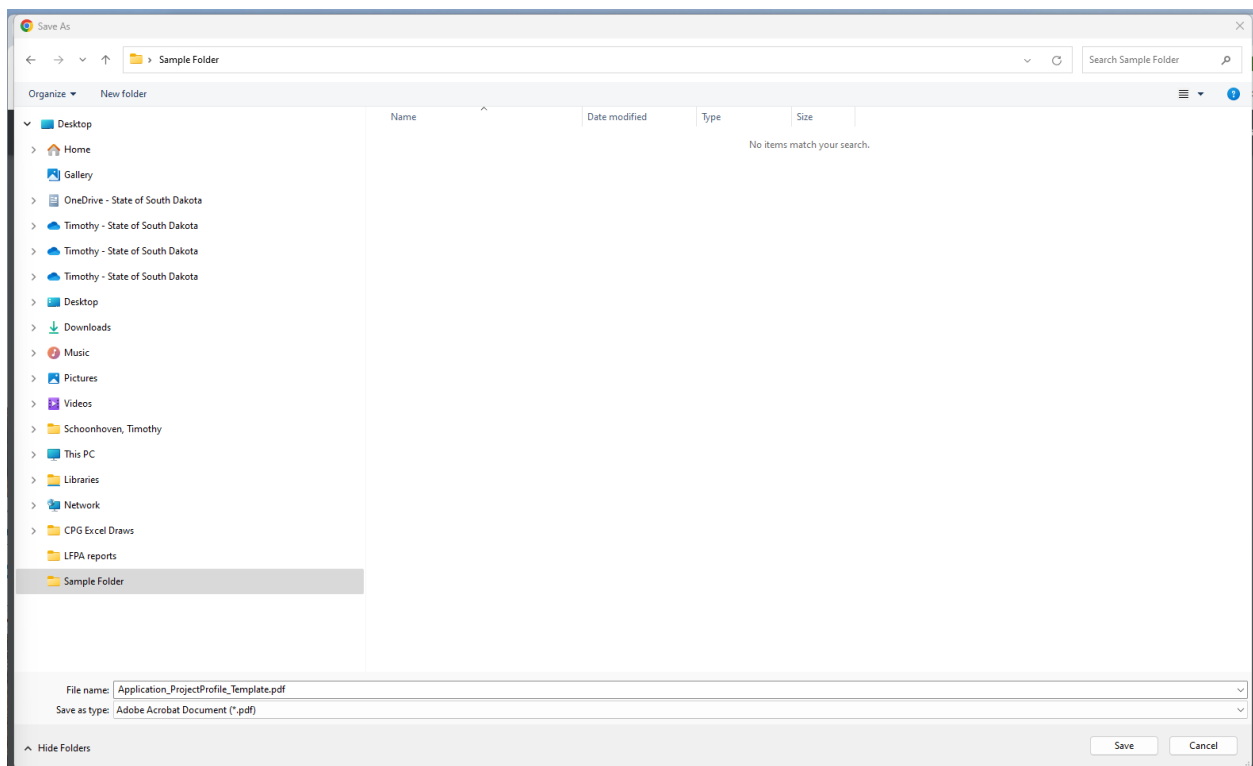


To access the document and rectify this issue, follow these steps:

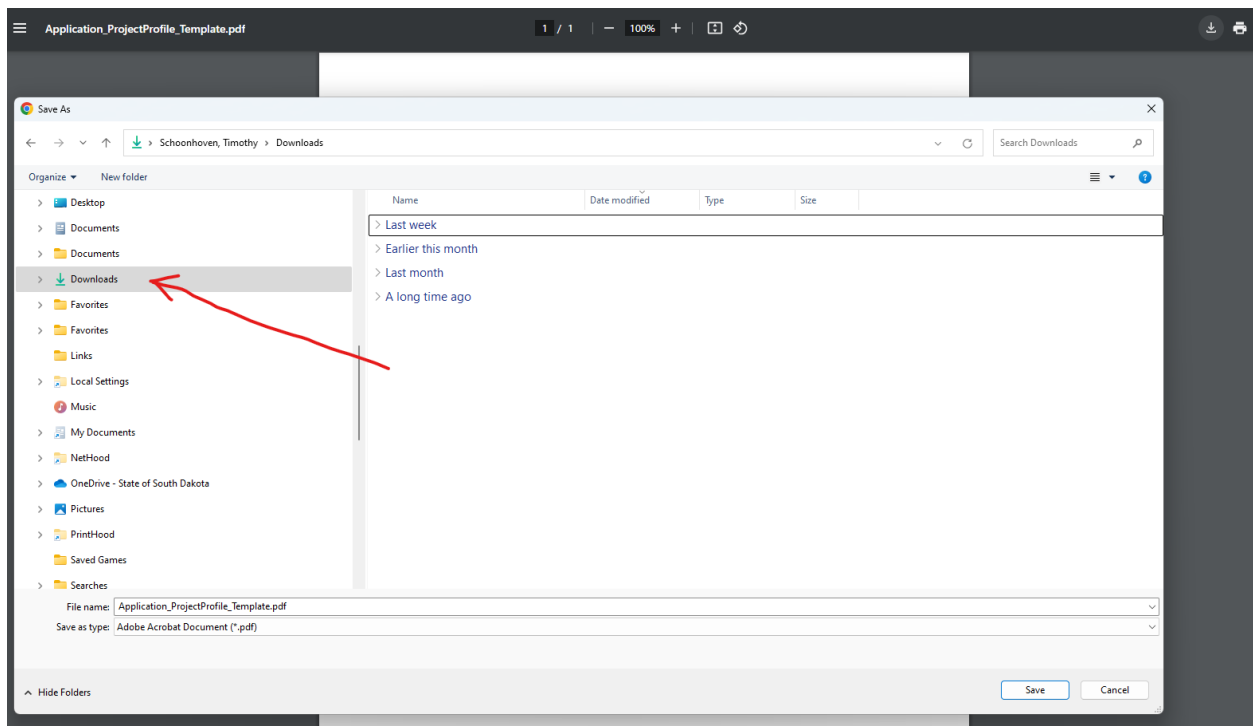
1. Download the document from the webpage:



2. Downloading may prompt you to save the file in a location of your choice:



3. Alternatively, downloading may automatically place the new file in your Downloads folder. Access the Downloads folder in your computer File Browser:



4. Open the fillable pdf template from the folder where you saved the file. Open using Adobe Acrobat Reader or Pro.
 - i. Adobe Acrobat Reader is available for free download here:
<https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
5. Opening the template in the Adobe application on your computer instead of through your web browser should allow you to fill and save the form as normal.

This procedure may also be necessary to access the subrecipient performance reports.

Appendix A. Outcomes and Indicators Worksheet

The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program includes seven potential project outcomes and indicators:
<https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/SCBGPPerformanceMeasures.pdf>.

- **Please use this list to review the available Outcomes and Indicators. The Project Profile Template fillable pdf application form Expected Measurable Outcomes section hides indicator choices until an outcome is selected. Once an outcome box is selected, the associated indicators appear. Proposals must include this information when submitted to SD DANR.**

Outcome 1: Increasing Consumption and Consumer Purchasing of Specialty Crops

- 1.1 Total number of consumers who gained knowledge about specialty crops ____.
 - 1.1a Adults ____.
 - 1.1b Children ____.
- 1.2 Total number of consumers who consumed more specialty crops ____.
 - 1.2a Adults ____.
 - 1.2b Children ____.
- 1.3 Number of additional specialty crop customers counted ____.
- 1.4 Number of additional business transactions executed ____.
- 1.5 Increased sales measured in:
 - 1.5a Dollars ____.
 - 1.5b Percent change ____.
 - 1.5c Combination of volume and average price as a result of enhanced marketing activities ____.

Outcome 2: Increasing Access to Specialty Crops and Expanding Specialty Crop Production and Distribution

- 2.1 Number of stakeholders that gained technical knowledge about producing, preparing, procuring, and/or accessing specialty crops ____.
- 2.2 Number of stakeholders that reported producing, preparing, procuring, and/or accessing more specialty crops ____.
- 2.3 Total number of market access points for specialty crops developed or expanded ____ Of those:

2.3a Number of new online portals created to sell specialty crops ____.

2.3b Number with expanded seasonal availability ____.

2.3c Number of existing market access points that expanded specialty crop offerings ____.

2.3d Number of new market access points that established specialty crop offerings ____.

2.4 Number of stakeholders that gained knowledge about more efficient and effective distribution systems ____.

2.5 Number of stakeholders that adopted best practices or new technologies to improve distribution systems ____.

2.6 Total number of partnerships established between producers, distributors, and/or other relevant intermediaries related to distribution systems _____. Of those established:

2.6a Number formalized with written agreements (i.e., MOU's, signed contracts, etc.) ____.

2.7 Total number of new/improved distribution systems developed _____. Of those, the number that:

2.7a Stemmed from new partnerships ____.

2.7b Increased efficiency ____.

2.7c reduced costs ____.

2.7d Increased specialty crop grower participation ____.

2.7e Expanded customer reach ____.

2.7f Increased online presence ____.

2.8 Number of specialty crop-related jobs:

2.8a Created ____.

2.8b Maintained ____.

2.9 Total number of new individuals who went into specialty crop production as a result of marketing _____. Of those, the number who are:

2.9a Beginning farmers or ranchers ____.

2.9b First time specialty crop producers ____.

2.10 Number of market access points that reported increased:

2.10a Revenue ____.

2.10b Sales ____.

2.10c Cost-savings ____.

Outcome 3: Increase Food Safety Knowledge and Processes

3.1 Number of stakeholders that gained knowledge about prevention, detection, control, and/or intervention food safety practices, including relevant regulations (to improve their ability to comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and/or meet the standards for aligned third party food safety audits such as Harmonized GAP/GHP) ____.

3.2 Number of stakeholders that:

3.2a Established a food safety plan ____.

3.2b Revised or updated their food safety plan ____.

3.3 Number of specialty crop stakeholders who implemented new/improved prevention, detection, control, and intervention practices, tools, or technologies to mitigate food safety risks (to improve their ability to comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and/or meet the standards for aligned third party food safety audits such as Harmonized GAP/GHP) ____.

3.4 Number of prevention, detection, control, or intervention practices developed or enhanced to mitigate food safety risks ____.

3.5 Number of stakeholders that used grant funds to:

3.5a Purchase ____.

3.5b Upgrade food safety equipment ____.

Outcome 4: Improve Pest and Disease Control Processes

4.1 Number of stakeholders that gained knowledge about science-based tools to combat pests and diseases ____.

4.2 Number of stakeholders that adopted pest and disease control best practices, technologies, or innovations ____.

4.3 Number of stakeholders trained in early detection and rapid response practices to combat pests and diseases _____. Of those:

4.3a the number of additional acres managed using integrated pest management ____.

4.4 Number of stakeholders that implemented new diagnostic systems, methods, or technologies for analyzing specialty crop pests and diseases ____.

4.5 Total number of producers/processors that enhanced or maintained pest and disease control practices _____. Of those, the number that reported:

4.5a Reduction in product lost to pest and diseases ____.

4.5b Improved crop quality ____.

4.5c Reduction in labor costs ____.

4.5d Reduction in pesticide use ____.

4.6 Number of producers/processors improving the efficiency of pest and disease control diagnostics and response testing, as reported by:

4.6a Improving speed ____.

4.6b Improving reliability ____.

4.6c Expanding capability ____.

4.6d Increasing testing (i.e., survey work for pests) ____.

Outcome 5: Develop New Seed Varieties and Specialty Crops

5.1 Number of cultivar and/or variety trials conducted ____ Of those:

5.1a The number that advanced to further stages of development ____.

5.2 Number of cultivars and/or seed varieties developed ____.

5.3 Number of cultivars and/or seed varieties released ____.

5.4 Number of growers adopting new cultivars and/or varieties ____.

5.5 Number of acres planted with new cultivars and/or varieties ____.

Outcome 6: Expand Specialty Crop Research and Development

6.1 Number of research goals accomplished ____.

6.2 For research conclusions, the number that:

6.2a Yielded findings that supported continued research ____.

6.2b Yielded findings that led to completion of study ____.

6.2c Yielded findings that allow for implementation of new practice, process, or technology ____.

6.3 Number of industry representatives and other stakeholders who engaged with research results ____.

6.4 Total number of research outputs published to industry publications and/or academic journals ____ For each published research output, the:

6.4a Number of views/reads of published research/data ____.

6.4b Number of citations counted ____.

Outcome 7: Improve Environmental Sustainability of Specialty Crops

7.1 Number of stakeholders that gained knowledge about environmental sustainability best practices, tools, or technologies ____.

7.2 Number of stakeholders reported with an intent to adopt environmental sustainability best practices, tools, or technologies ____.

7.3 Number of producers that adopted environmental best practices or tools ____.

7.4 Number of new tools/technologies developed or enhanced to improve sustainability/conservation or other environmental outcomes ____.

7.5 Number of additional acres managed with sustainable practices, tools, or technologies that focused on:

7.5a Water quality/ conservation ____.

7.5b Soil health ____.

7.5c Biodiversity ____.

7.5d Reduction in energy use ____.

7.5e Other positive environmental outcomes (optional) ____.

7.6 Number of additional acres established and maintained for the mutual benefit of pollinators/specialty crops ____.