

# 2016 USDA/AMS SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (SCBGP) REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

## **FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT**

Notice of Federal Grant Funds Availability – FY 2016  
Administered By: Georgia Department of Agriculture  
19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

The Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) is pleased to announce the competitive solicitation process to award the 2016 USDA/AMS (Agricultural Marketing Service) Specialty Crop Block Program grant. Georgia's total funding award for 2016 is \$1,070,978.

Individual project award funding requests require a minimum request of \$10,000 up to a maximum of \$175,000. Awarded projects will have three years to complete the requirements of the grant.

## **NEW FOR 2016:**

### **The application process through GDA consists of two steps:**

1. Submittal of a ***Request for Concept Proposal Application*** form to GDA.
2. Invitation from GDA to submit a full project proposal application package.

### **USDA/AMS-SCBG updated Project Application (includes new and revised information categories).**

Please refer to the links available on the GDA grants webpage located at [www.agr.georgia.gov/grants.aspx](http://www.agr.georgia.gov/grants.aspx) for the grant Concept Proposal pre-application, guidelines, and additional information.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Proposals will be accepted from IRS-designated 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations, commodity commissions, associations, state and local government entities, and colleges and universities. Applicants must reside or their business or educational affiliation must be in Georgia. **Individuals and for-profit organizations are not eligible to apply.**

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the SCBGP is to provide funding for projects that ***solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops***. The project proposal must focus on research, education, marketing, etc., and benefit the specialty crop *industry*.

Specialty crops are defined as: fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, Christmas trees, turfgrass/sod, nursery and greenhouse crops, including floriculture. Please see the specific listing of eligible crops on the USDA/AMS website located at [www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/scbgp](http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/scbgp).

### **FUNDING PRIORITIES**

The following have been identified as funding priorities for the 2016 SCBGP for Georgia:

- Projects which increase sales and marketability and drive demand for commercially grown specialty crops.
- Projects which expand child and adult knowledge of nutritional benefits, improve access, and increase consumption for Georgia specialty crops.
- Projects to help specialty crop growers/producers reduce the financial cost and/or environmental impact of their operations, including improved pest and disease management techniques, efficient water management, sustainable production, etc.
- Projects with eligible funding priorities submitted by socially disadvantaged and/or minority applicants.
- GDA's intent is to fund projects that can produce the highest degree of measurable benefits to Georgia's specialty crop producers, in relation to each dollar spent.

### **PROJECTED TIMELINE (subject to change)**

#### ***FEBRUARY 1, 2016 - Monday***

\*Announcement of 2016 SCBGP grant opportunity; Request for Concept Proposals (pre-screening)

#### ***FEBRUARY 26, 2016 - Friday***

\*Deadline for submission of Concept Proposals; must be received by 4 p.m.

#### ***MARCH 4, 2016 – Friday***

\*GDA will send out Requests for Applications to those with approved Concept Proposals

#### ***APRIL 15, 2016 - Friday***

\*Project Proposal/Application submission deadline to GDA

**\*Project Proposal/Application must be *received* by NOON via email in Word format to [Jen.Erdmann@agr.georgia.gov](mailto:Jen.Erdmann@agr.georgia.gov)**

#### ***MAY 2016***

\*GDA/Specialty Crop Review Committee evaluation of applications

#### ***JUNE 2016***

\*Notice to applicants of acceptance/denial of their project proposals by Review Committee

\*Revisions made to projects before submission to USDA/AMS-SCBGP

#### ***JULY 2016***

\*Submit Georgia's State Grant Application Request to USDA/AMS-SCBG

#### ***EARLY SEPTEMBER 2016***

\*Send out award letters to awardees/subgrantees

\*Send out grant contract agreements to awardees/sub-grantees

\*Announce grant awards through press release/website

**END OF SEPTEMBER 2016**

\*3-year grant period will begin

**END OF MARCH 2017**

\*Grantees should have requested reimbursement for *at least* 50% of their grant funds by this date

**END of SEPTEMBER 2019**

\*3-year Grant period ends. No 2016 grant funds can be spent after this date

**For questions or additional information please contact:**

Jen Erdmann (NOTE: *not* available the week of 3/7/16 to 3/11/16)

Grants Specialist

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