



FISCAL YEAR 2026 DOE SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

RFP PRE-APPLICATION INFORMATION MEETING



Agenda

- **Introductions**
- **Opening**
- **Important Dates**
- **Background**
- **DOEE SCGBP RFP**
- **Questions & Answers**



Introductions

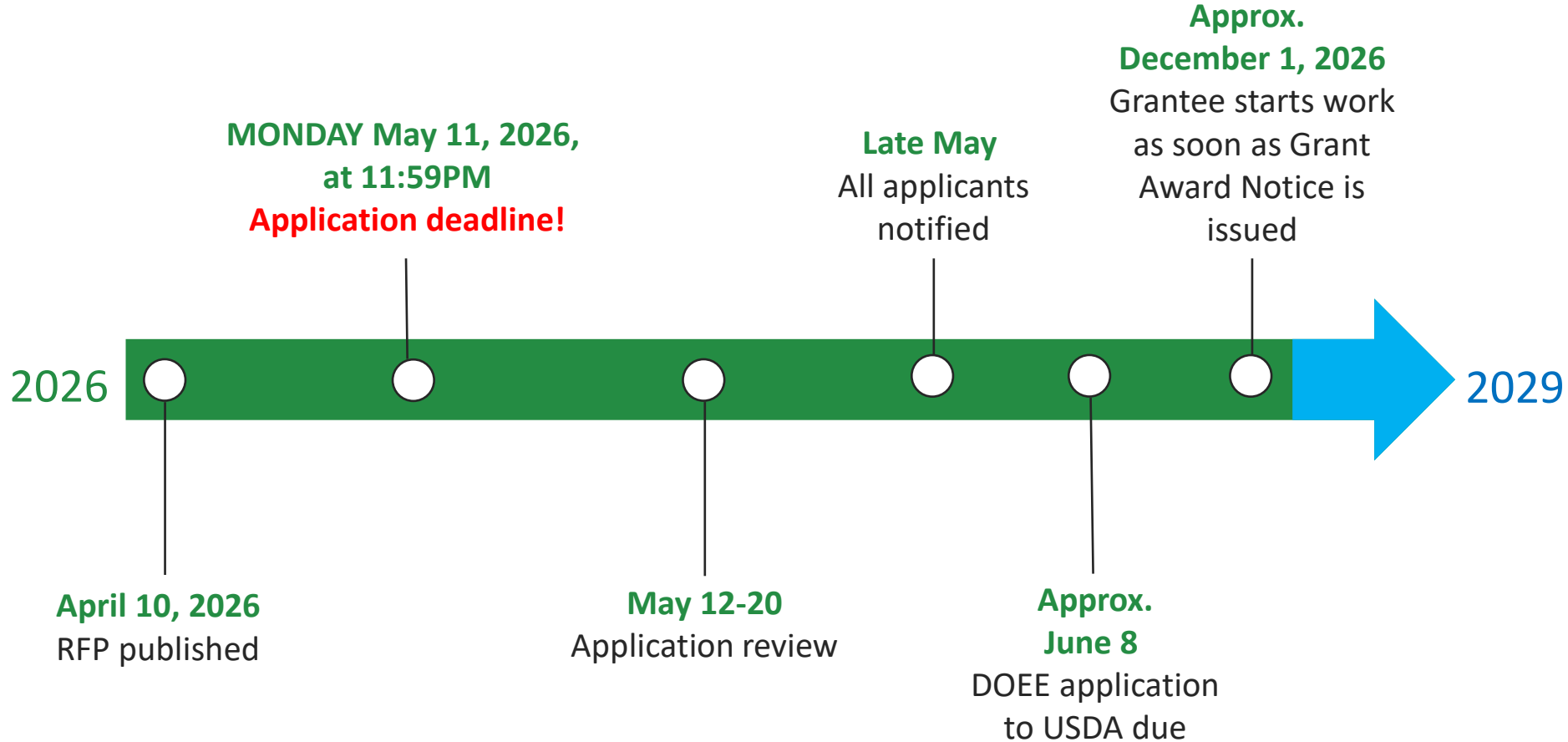


OPENING

- The deadline to apply to this RFP is **May 11, 2026**.
- Have a question about the RFP?
 - We'll be taking questions at the end of the presentation.
 - Please submit your questions in the chat!
- Email questions to 26scbgprogram@dc.gov until COB Monday May 4, 2026.
- All questions and answers will be posted on the RFP website: <https://doee.dc.gov/node/1826246>
- For support developing DOEE RFP applications, visit the DOEE Grants Training website available at <https://doee.dc.gov/node/1590721>



Important Dates



Background



The purpose of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) is to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. Specialty crops are defined as “fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, nursery crops, including floriculture, honey, and cultivated mushrooms.”

- The DOEE Office of Urban Agriculture will be submitting an application to the USDA for the SCBGP by June 8, 2026.
- The DOEE application to USDA will include a list of partners and projects that will be selected through this RFP.



2026 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program RFP

(“FY26 USA SCBG”)

[RFA-FY26-SE-892]

Webpage: <https://doee.dc.gov/node/1826246>

Overview

- DOEE seeks entities to propose projects that will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops and support growers of specialty crops in the District.
- USDA considers enhancing the competitiveness of specialty crops through:
 1. Leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops;
 2. Assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops;
 3. Expanding availability and access to specialty crops; and
 4. Addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers.
- DOEE will subgrant **\$263,012** for FY26-29.
- Application deadline: **May 11, 2026 at 11:59 PM**
- DOEE intends to select between 3 and 6 partners for subawards of **\$25,000 - \$75,000** each.
- Competitive selection process.
- DOEE funding is provided on a **reimbursement basis**; advances available on a limited basis and must be requested as part of your proposal.



Examples of Acceptable Projects

Reminder submitted proposals *must demonstrate* that **the potential impact of the project will be for a broader group of similar producers or industry segment**. *Grant funds will not be awarded for projects that only benefit or provide profit to a single organization, business, institution or individual.*

- 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.



Examples of Acceptable Projects



- 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.

Examples of UNACCEPTABLE 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.



Direct and Indirect Costs

Direct costs are costs that are designated for a particular project, program, service, or other organizational activity, or that can be directly assigned to such an activity. This includes compensation of employees who work directly on the award; travel; equipment; and supplies directly benefiting the grant-supported project or program.

Indirect costs are costs incurred for a common or joint purpose benefitting more than one cost objective, including general administration expenses, capital improvements, and the costs of operating and maintaining facilities.

Do not include indirect costs in your budget

(See guidance in RFP, Section 7)

Notable Changes in 2026 USDA RFA

- The USDA has updated their General Terms & Conditions and partners are encouraged to review those changes in case they may impact your participation in this program.
- Last year the USDA removed language referencing “smaller farmers”, “new and beginning farmers”, and “underserved” farmers/communities.
- References to greenhouse gases and climate change were also removed.



Project Description

Proposed projects must address at least one of the following local issues affecting the specialty crop industry:

Increasing specialty crop production in the District while supporting a more sustainable and resilient food system.

Creating pathways for processing, distributing, or transporting specialty crops, through farmers markets, mobile markets, or shared transportation or storage infrastructure.

Integrating specialty crop production and distribution into residential development projects, including those managed by District agencies.

Teaching children and/or adults how to grow, prepare, and consume specialty crops.

Improving water access and use, including rainwater capture and sustainable water use, and/or sharing best practices on water access and use.

Supporting specialty crop production and processing projects, particularly those that will increase community access to specialty crops of local importance.

Making it easier and cheaper to produce, transport, and distribute specialty crops.

Who can apply?

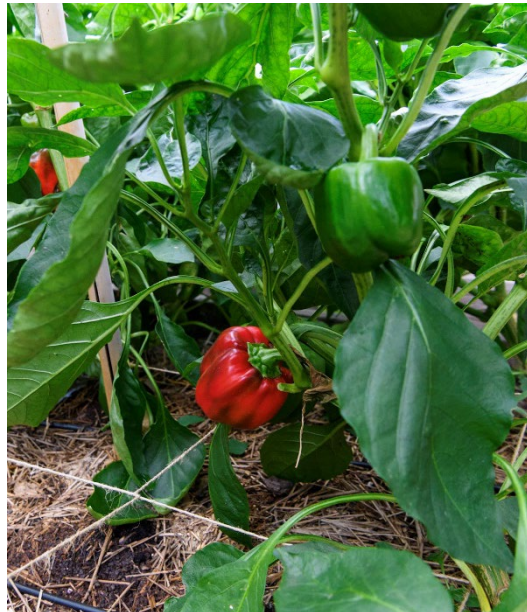
**Nonprofit
organizations**

**Faith-based
organizations**

**Government
agencies**

**Universities
and
educational
institutions**

**Private
enterprises**



Application Process

1. Determine eligibility
2. Read the RFP and Appendices cover to cover
3. Engage with community partners and other stakeholders
4. Register your organization in DOEE's Grants Management System (GMS)
 1. Allow up to 2 business days to receive an invitation
 2. Organizations are only allowed one email address that all team members are expected to use
5. Gather and submit all required documents in the designated upload locations in the GMS
6. **Don't wait until the last minute.**

Note: If you need to report a technical difficulty, please contact doee.grants@dc.gov and copy 26scbgprogram@dc.gov.

Application Deadline: Friday May 11, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.

Late submissions will not be considered!!

@doee_dc



How to Apply



[Environmental Services](#) ▾ [Energy in the District](#) ▾ [Resources](#) ▾ [Laws & Regulations](#) ▾ [About DOEE](#) ▾

Active Grants Application Portal

[<< Back to Grants & Other Funding main page](#)

Welcome to the DOEE Grants Management System applicant portal. Please note that an organization is only permitted one email address for this system:

- If your organization is already in the system, please click “Existing Applicant/Grantee” below. Sign in and proceed to the application for which you are applying.
- If your organization is new to the system, click “New User” below and complete the form. Please allow two business days for a response.
- If you do not know if your organization is registered in the system please contact doee.grants@dc.gov.
- If you encounter any problems with the system, please contact doee.grants@dc.gov.

To access an application already started, please proceed to the application for which you are applying.

[New User](#)

[Existing Applicant/Grantee](#)

<https://doee.dc.gov/page/active-grants-application-portal>

Required Documents

- Certificate of Good Standing
- Certificate of Clean Hands
- Signed Promises, Certifications, Assertions, and Assurances
- IRS W-9 Tax Form
- Tax Exemption Affirmation Letter, if applicable
- Current Fiscal Year Budget
- Financial Statements
- Separation of Duties Policy
- System for Award Management (SAM) Active registration
- Indirect Cost Rate Documentation, if applicable

Appendices to the RFP

- ❑ Appendix 1 - General Terms and Conditions
- ❑ Appendix 2 - Promises, Certifications, Assertions, and Assurances
- ❑ Appendix 5 - Points for Local Entities
- ❑ Appendix 6 - SCBGP Insurance Requirements
- ❑ Appendix 7 - SCBGP Outcomes & Indicators

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Energy and Environment

Appendix 1 – DOEE Grant General Terms and Conditions

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GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Energy and Environment

Appendix 2 – DOEE Grant Promises, Certifications, Assertions, and Assurances

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III. SIGNATURE AND CERTIFICATION OF THE APPLICANT.....	9
On behalf of Applicant.....	9

An Applicant must agree in writing, by signature below, to comply with the following promises, certifications, assertions, and assurances, made in support of the grant application.

I. MEANING OF SIGNATURE ON THE PCA

1. This Appendix 2 – DC Grant Promises, Certifications, Assertions, and Assurances (PCA) contains terms that apply to the undersigned Applicant (Applicant) and its application (Application) and, upon award of the grant applied for (Grant), to the successful applicant (Grantee). This PCA is incorporated into the Request for Applications (RFA) and each Grant Award Notice. The Applicant signifies its agreement to the PCA terms by signing below in the Signature and Certification of the Applicant section.

Project Budget – Numeric Budget



Submitted separately from the Budget Narrative

New Budget Line Item More ▼

0 Budget Line Item records

Budget Category	Requested Funds	Non-Federal Match	Total	Budget Detail

Please round your budget to the nearest \$10.00

Budget Category includes allowable costs such as personnel and supplies

Budget detail breaks down the numeric budget into a per item cost (e.g., Personnel - \$xx/hour times xx hours.)

Project Budget – Budget Justification



Explain and justify every line item in the numeric budget. Including staff roles and how their work supports project goals.

Link requested cost and match to project activities

Budget Narrative

Please write a budget narrative justifying the expenses in the numeric Budget. The narrative should explain all requested costs and link those costs to program activities.

For more information on how to develop a budget see [DOEE's four-part grants training](#)

Scoring Criteria

- All eligible applications will be evaluated based on the criteria in the RFP.
- Five (5) points will be awarded for qualifying local District businesses or nonprofit entities

** You must complete and submit a copy of Appendix 5 to receive points for local entities



Scoring Criteria

Criteria	Points
The proposed project is persuasive.	15
The proposed project is likely to succeed.	15
The proposed project demonstrates a clear and feasible timeline to successfully complete the project within the projected period.	15
Applicant demonstrates sufficient organizational capacity to carry out the proposed project.	15
Key personnel have excellent qualifications for the proposed project.	15
Application provides a detailed, reasonable, and comprehensive line-item budget that includes a detailed narrative justifying the requested funds.	15
The proposed project is a creative response to the USDA's scope of permissible proposals.	10
Applicant is a local entity (per Appendix 5).	5
Total	105

Deliverables



Electronically
accessible folder with:

- Sign-in sheets for event attendees (e.g., meetings, educational workshops), as applicable



Progress reports



Final report for
grant period

Questions?

26SCBGprogram@dc.gov

Questions and answers will be posted on the RFP website: <https://doee.dc.gov/node/1783316>



Thank
you!