

Maine Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP)

Q & A Webinar

November 24, 2025

Q. Individuals are not allowed, but how about a family farm that is a business with a unique tax id?

A. Yes, a family farm is an eligible entity as long as the project will benefit more than your one farm. All applicants must explain how the project will benefit multiple specialty crop growers and why the project is important and timely for enhancing the competitiveness of a Maine's specialty crop(s).

Q. What is an entity?

A. An entity is defined as the business, organization, or institution that is submitting the application (the Applicant). All applicants selected for award must have a Unique Entity Identifier number (UEI) listed SAM.Gov prior to being issued a subrecipient contract. There is NO cost to register at SAM.gov. The UEI does not need to be completed prior to the submission of the Phase 1 application. The 12-digit UEI number replaces the 9-digit DUNS number provided by Dun & Bradstreet which were previously used by the agency to uniquely identify organizations receiving federal funds.

Q. Are LLCs allowed to apply?

Yes, an LLC operating as a for-profit business is eligible to apply. Non-profit and for-profit businesses and organizations; local, state, and federal government entities, including Tribal governments (federally and non-federally recognized); and public or private colleges and universities are eligible to apply. Individuals are not eligible to apply.

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Q. I am considering submitting two distinct applications. I own two business entities. One project from one entity will be for soil amendment research the second project will be from my commercial culinary business related to the benefits of a particular crop/ingredient. Is it ok to submit two applications from two different entities?

A. Yes, one person may submit two different project applications from two different entities. Each entity, if selected to move forward to Phase 2, will need a Unique Entity Identifier number (UEI) listed in SAM.Gov prior to being issued a subrecipient contract.

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Q. Are partial awards possible?

A. Yes. The Department reserves the right to determine number of awards and modify, partially fund, or increase awards at the Department's discretion. The Department anticipates making multiple awards as a result of this RFA process which may include partial awards at amounts less than requested. Historically, SCBGP awards have been made for 5%-15% less than the amount requested by each applicant selected for award.

Q. What does it mean that one applicant entity will not be selected to receive more than 30% of funds? Does this mean that a \$10,000 application can only get \$3,333?

A. One applicant entity will not be selected to receive more than 30% of the total amount awarded. This means that an applicant entity may submit more than one application. However, one entity may not receive more than 30% of the total amount of funds awarded to all applicants selected for award. Each applicant entity must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). There is no cost to register for a UEI at SAM.gov.

Example A: ABC Food Producer submits three applications for \$100,000 each (total ask \$300,000). If the Department awards \$500,000 to all applicants selected for award, in this scenario, ABC Food Producer would not be eligible to receive more than \$150,000 total (30% of \$500,000). Only one application would be eligible to be selected for award because each application was submitted for \$100,000 per project.

Example B: XYZ Farm submits two applications. One for \$90,000 and one for \$40,000 (total ask \$130,000). If the Department awards \$500,000 to all applicants selected for award, in this scenario, ABC Food Producer would not be eligible to receive more than \$150,000 total (30% of \$500,000). Both applications would be eligible to be selected for award because the total amount requested is less than 30% of the total amount of funds available to award all applicants.

The Department anticipates having approximately \$500,000 available to award through this RFA process. The Department may award all or some of the available funding through this RFA process.

Q. If I submitted 2 applications and each was for \$75,000, then they would both get awarded if they scored high enough

A. Yes. It is possible for one entity to receive two awarded contracts if both applications are selected for award through the evaluation process. An entity may submit applications for more than one project, provided the projects are clearly distinct. Please see the XYZ Farm example above.

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Q. What is the timeline for the proposal deadline?

- The Phase 1 application period opened on October 28, 2025.
- Question and Answer Webinars will be offered on November 12, November 24, and December 9. Please see the [Maine Specialty Crop Block Grant Program website](#) for the exact times, registration information, and links to answer responses.
- The last day to submit written questions is December 11, 2025. Please see the RFA for instructions.
- All Phase 1 Concept Proposal applications are due on December 19, 2025, at 5:00 p.m., EST.

Q. Does each application need a user name and password?

A. No. There is not a user name and password required to open or submit the application. Applicants must apply online using the link provided on the [Maine Specialty Crop Block Grant Program website](#). It is recommended that the sample application questions provided on page 4-14 of the RFA be copied and pasted into a word processing program to be completed prior to copying/pasting into the online application form.

Applicants wishing to submit more than one application must fully complete one application and submission prior to entering the second or subsequent applications.

Q. Would it be better to apply through a local food council, or by yourself?

A. Individuals are not permitted to apply. If you own a business, you are eligible to apply using your business entity information. A Local Food Council is also an eligible non-profit or for-profit organization. The applicant type is not factored into the scoring and evaluation process. All applicants must explain how the project will benefit multiple specialty crop growers and why the project is important and timely for enhancing the competitiveness of a Maine's specialty crop(s).

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Written Questions Submitted Via Email Through November 25, 2025

Q. I am thinking about submitting a portion of my total project cost. I have a project that will cost \$600,000. I have applied for other federal funding, which if awarded, would cover \$75,000. Is it okay to have two federal grants funding the same project if the total project cost exceeds those funding opportunities? In the RFA it feels like that is discouraged.

A. Yes, an entity may apply to request funds that will not be funded or duplicated by another federal or state grant program. To be successful, the applicant would need to clearly articulate the sub-project that would be funded by SCBGP, if awarded. Specifically, what element of your larger \$600,000 project would become a SCBGP project? Applicants requesting SCBGP funds related to a larger project that has been awarded, or may be awarded, other state and federal resources must describe the following in their SCBGP application:

- Identify the Federal or State grant program and the agency administering the program.
- List the amount of grant funds requested or awarded by the program.
- Describe how this proposed project supplements rather than duplicates the efforts funded by the other Federal or State grant program.

Q. I also see on the budget page that the total project cost should not exceed \$100,000, which I assume is the portion funded by the SCBG. Is there a section to put the total project budget, or are you just interested in the part funded by the SCBGP?

A. In the SCBGP Phase 1 Budget section, applicants must not discuss project amounts outside of the specific SCBGP proposed project which is limited to \$100,000. The majority of the application must be focused on describing the specific SCBGP project that you will design and implement if selected for funding. Applicants may describe their SCBGP as a small project that may be part of a larger project in the Project Purpose and Other Funding from Federal or State Grant Program sections of the application. Applicants should not reference any other related (or non-related) projects in any other section of the SCBGP application. The application must clearly identify and describe a plan to implement a distinct SCBGP project.