

# Maine Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP)

## Q & A Webinar

### December 10, 2025

**Q. I'd like to confirm whether a program that sources food from farmers (at a competitive rate) and then donates to community food sites would be an eligible applicant, as long as the project we are proposing wouldn't use any grant funds to purchase food for donation. We noticed an example project about building partnerships between culturally relevant specialty crop producers and nonprofits, such as food pantries. However, there was language in the application guidance stating that food could not be purchased for donation.**

A. The project would be allowable as long as grant funds would not be used to purchase food to be donated. The RFA has a link to the [USDA AMS General Terms and Conditions](#). On page 13, there is a section 8.0 Allowable Cost and Activities.

Contributions or Donations	ALL	<b>Unallowable</b> for contributions or donations, including cash, property, and services, made by the recipient to other recipients. A recipient using grant funds to purchase food or services to donate to other recipients or subrecipients and/or individuals is unallowable.
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**Q. Is there a limit on how much can go towards administration?**

A. "Administration" is not an allowable budget category. All expenses must be directly related to the project and must be necessary to achieve the project's objectives. There is no restriction on the percentage of your total project budget that may be allocated for one of the allowable budget categories. The allowable budget categories are: salary and wages, fringe benefits, travel, supplies, contractual and other direct costs. Indirect costs are unallowable.

Indirect costs (also known as "facilities and administrative costs") are costs incurred for common or joint objectives that cannot be identified specifically with a particular project, program, or organizational activity. Indirect costs are unallowable for this Maine program and will not be funded.

**Q. I have two distinct projects to propose. Can I apply for more than one grant?**

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.

**Maine Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP)**  
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**December 10, 2025**

One applicant entity will not be selected to receive more than 30% of the total amount awarded. This means that an applicant may submit more than one application. However, no single entity may receive more than 30% of the total amount of funds awarded to all applicants selected for an award through this RFA.

**Q. Would proposing a project to apply solar-powered refrigeration to cut flower businesses be a good fit?**

A. All projects need to benefit more than just the applicant's business. 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. Do you have any information on the Minor Equipment Grant for Specialty Crops? I see this being presented at the DACF conference in January, but don't see information online anywhere.**

A. More information about that grant opportunity will be available in January.

**Q. Our entity doesn't have a UEI yet. I have reviewed the guidelines and am currently collecting the required information for the request. Do you have any tips for ensuring we acquire that before the proposal submission deadline?**

A. A UEI is not required for Phase I, but it will be required before Phase II can be submitted. Please indicate that your UEI is "in process" or "TBD" when submitting your Phase I application.

**Q. In Phase 1, do I need written letters of support from other organizations I might propose collaborating with?**

A. No, a letter of support is not requested in Phase I. Please provide information about organizations that support your work in the "project impact" section of your application.

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**Q. What is the best way to cite data points in the “Project Purpose” section, especially given the character limit.**

A. Please be specific to your proposed project and concise. Use the scoring rubric for this section (RFA page 5-6) to guide your response. Please focus on your project and not your overall business practices.

- Identify the specific and existing problem or need the project will address and explain how the proposed project will solve the problem or fill the need.
- Explain how the project will benefit multiple specialty crop growers and why the project is important and timely for enhancing the competitiveness of Maine’s specialty crops.

**Q. If the Primary Point of Contact is both an owner and employee of the organization applying, should they select both?**

A. Yes.

**Q. How precise should the budget be for Phase 1?**

A. The budget can be a rough estimate in Phase I. Applicants moving to Phase II will develop a more precise budget.

**Written Questions Submitted Via Email Through December 11, 2025**

**Q. Does the Phase I proposal not require bibliographical references? If required, where should they be placed?**

A. Phase I proposals do not require references. Citations may be included, but should not include links. Please be mindful of being concise and adhering to the required character count.