



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
PO Box 330  
TRENTON NJ 08625-0330

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
*Lt. Governor*

DOUGLAS H. FISHER  
*Secretary*

February 1, 2022

Dear Agricultural Organization Representative:

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) is pleased to announce the availability of the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) funding \$425,000.00 for the Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) program for the coming year. Therefore, the NJDA is requesting that all interested organizations representing New Jersey's specialty crop industry submit project proposals for consideration for this funding on or before **April 1, 2022, 5:00 P.M. EST.** Any applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

For the purpose of this grant program, "specialty crops" are defined as; vegetables, fruits including grapes for wine, nuts, horticultural products including Christmas trees, honey, herbs, potatoes, sweet corn and, other specialty crops including algae. Agricultural commodities which are NOT eligible for these grant funds include, but are not limited to: feed crops, food grains, seafood, livestock, dairy, and poultry products, including eggs, range grasses, and oilseed crops.

To be eligible for a grant, projects must "enhance the competitiveness" of specialty crops and might include, but are not limited to: research, promotion, marketing, nutrition, trade enhancement, food safety, food security, plant health programs, education, "buy local" programs, increased consumption, increased innovation, improved efficiency and reduced costs of distribution systems, environmental concerns and conservation, product development, and developing cooperatives. Of special interest this year are projects that directly impact those affected by Covid-19 (producers and consumers). Funds will be available to selected and approved applicants after October 1, 2022.

Examples of past SCBG projects have included advertising and promotion, integrated pest management, various forms of production research, and education and outreach. All proposed projects will be required to follow a standardized format and comply with the enclosed USDA guidelines.

Please see the enclosed application information. ***Once you submit an application, you should receive a confirmation of receipt via e-mail within 24 hours. If you do not receive that confirmation, please call or e-mail me.***

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (609) 913-6628 or [Deelip.Mhaske@ag.nj.gov](mailto:Deelip.Mhaske@ag.nj.gov).

Sincerely,

Deelip Mhaske  
Grants Administrator  
Division of Marketing & Development  
New Jersey Department of Agriculture  
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cc: Joe Atchison III,  
Assistant Secretary of Agriculture  
Director of Marketing & Development  
New Jersey Department of Agriculture