

### **Section 3: Statewide Support Funding Eligibility and Scope of Work**

Funding will be provided to one statewide support entity to support the implementation of the Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program statewide. The statewide support entity will provide technical assistance and facilitate communication and collaboration necessary to meet the purposes of the program. The statewide support entity may partner and contract with other entities to meet the deliverables outlined below.

#### **Eligible Applicants**

Eligible statewide support entities are: (1) nonprofit groups with 501(c) status and (2) academic institutions.

#### **Deliverables**

The statewide support entity must include each of the following activities in their scope of work:

1. Coordinate collaboration between block grant recipients
2. Develop a peer-learning structure through which block grant recipients can receive education and training to successfully execute the deliverables of their grant
3. Connect block grant recipients to resources needed to successfully execute the deliverables of their grant
4. Coordinate external communications about program work (e.g., reports, stories, press)
5. Working with block grant recipients to engage disadvantaged communities, tribes, and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in the development of their Multibenefit Agricultural Land Repurposing Plans and in the development and implementation of land repurposing projects
6. Work to fill gaps in and build capacity to develop and implement land repurposing work, and provide technical assistance to entities interested in applying for land repurposing funding
7. Oversee monitoring efforts and outcomes reporting to ensure consistency and transparency in outcomes monitoring across regions.

#### **Optional Activities**

In addition to the deliverables outlined above, the statewide support entity may use funds to support research and demonstration projects needed to test innovative land repurposing strategies.

## Eligibility Criteria

Below are the Eligibility Criteria upon which each proposal will be evaluated. Applications must receive a 'yes' on all eligibility criteria to be considered for funding under this solicitation.

Criteria	Y/N
Applicant is a (1) Eligible statewide support entities are: (1) nonprofit groups with 501(c) status and (2) academic institutions.	Y/N
Applicant has overall capacity to administer the grant.	Y/N
Application includes all required deliverables in the scope of work and budget.	Y/N
Application is complete and was received by the deadline	Y/N

## Selection Criteria

Factors to be considered when selecting the statewide support entity include:

Criteria	Points
<b>Goals.</b> The extent to which the work outlined in the applicant's proposal aligns with the program's goals.	/25
<b>Community Engagement and Collaboration.</b> The extent to which the applicant demonstrates experience and expertise in conducting effective and inclusive engagement and collaboration across diverse communities and organizations. Applicants who demonstrate experience and expertise collaborating with farmers, ranchers, disadvantaged communities, and tribes will receive more points.	/20
<b>Coordination.</b> The extent to which the applicant has experience and expertise coordinating the work of multiple entities and developing peer-to-peer learning networks.	/15
<b>Fiscal and Administrative Capacity.</b> The extent to which the applicant has the fiscal and administrative control systems to adequately oversee the expenditure of block grant awards.	/15
<b>Policy Expertise.</b> The extent to which the applicant demonstrates the policy expertise necessary to complete the grant deliverables. Applicants may demonstrate this ability in-house or through partnerships and collaborations.	/15
<b>Regional Relationships.</b> The extent to which the applicant has strong regional relationships with primary actors in groundwater sustainability planning.	/10
<b>Total</b>	<b>/100</b>

## Application Review and Award

### *Materials and Submission*

The application template is provided in Appendix C and is available on the [Department's website](#). Applicants should familiarize themselves with this solicitation prior to completing the application.

Applicants must submit all required application materials via email to [mlrp@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:mlrp@conservation.ca.gov). Applications must be received digitally by 11:59 p.m. on April 1, 2022.

Incomplete applications, applications that don't meet all the eligibility criteria, and applications not received by the deadline will not be evaluated for funding.

Each applicant will receive an acknowledgement upon the Department's receipt of their application.

The schedule for this solicitation is provided in the "[At-A-Glance](#)" section of this solicitation. The schedule is subject to change.

### *Application Review Process*

Applicants for the statewide support funding will be required to submit an application for funding and participate in a virtual interview with reviewers to discuss their project prior to funding decisions being made.

The reviewers will convene to provide consensus for funding recommendations. The final funding decisions will be made by the Director of the Department.

### *Project Selection*

The projects and selection scoring will be presented to the Director of the Department who will consider the comments and recommendations of the reviewers and make the final funding decisions. The Department will notify applicants within 10 days of the Director's determination as to whether their project was approved for funding.

Eligible projects will be presented to the Director in ranked order based on the amount of points received during the selection criteria evaluation. The Director may consider the following when making awards:

- Selection criteria ranking
- Interview responses
- The availability of funds
- The program purposes