

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND  
AGRICULTURE

On Behalf of The  
Invasive Species Council of California

**Rapid Response Funding**  
**Application**

[www.iscc.ca.gov](http://www.iscc.ca.gov)

## About the Program

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), on behalf of the Invasive Species Council of California, is pleased to announce funding for Rapid Response to Emerging Invasive Species Threats to California. The purpose of this funding is to prioritize new invasive species threats across taxa that require urgent and immediate action in order to maximize the effectiveness and minimize the cost of the response. Funded projects will prioritize containment and eradication of an invasive species before it becomes established and causes economic, ecological, or human health impacts.

A rapid response capitalizes on our ability to most effectively eradicate invasive species populations when they are small. By addressing a new invasive species before it has a chance to spread, managers can respond early enough in the invasion process to either contain or fully eradicate the species from a given area. Priority shall be given to projects that minimize the economic, ecological, and human health impacts caused by invasive species and restore and protect biodiversity and ecosystem health.

## Funding, Timeline, and Reporting Requirements

The maximum funding is \$100,000 per project. No minimum is set for funding requests. CDFA reserves the right to offer an award different than the amount requested. Funding may supplement, but not supplant, existing activities/programs. **Timeline is contingent on scope of project...or....? Hold language for final report requirements.**

## Project and Applicant Eligibility

- Projects must directly benefit California.
- Applicants from public or private colleges and universities, federal, state, and local government entities including, Tribal entities, special districts, and non-profit organizations are eligible to apply.
- Project lead and lead entities must be based in California. Additional investigators and/or subcontractors may be out of state.
- The project lead(s) and/or collaborators must have access to a quarantine facility if the project involves biological control or testing products on species that are not yet established in California.
- It is the grantees responsibility to secure any and all necessary federal and state permits necessary to implement their project.

## How to Submit an Application

CDFA cannot assist in the preparation of applications; however, general questions may be submitted to [david.pegos@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:david.pegos@cdfa.ca.gov) and [Jonathan.babineau@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:Jonathan.babineau@cdfa.ca.gov). In order to ensure that all potential applicants benefit from all submitted questions and answers, all questions and responses will be posted on the [ISCC webpage](#).

## Proposal Review and Evaluation

A review committee consisting of California Invasive Species Advisory Committee members will review the proposals and evaluate their merits. Any member of the committee who is connected to a submitted project will be excluded from any discussions or decisions regarding that project. The evaluation criteria are found at the end of this document.

All applicants will be notified regarding the status of their proposal within XXXX weeks/months. Applicant's whose projects are not funded may request comments from <insert contact name and email> within 30 business days of transmittal of the funding denial.

# Rapid Response Funding Application Form

## Section One: Overview

Please provide an overview of your proposal, including:

- Brief description of the invasive species threat
- Purpose and key anticipated outcomes of your rapid response program
- Region and/or communities served
- Amount of funding requested
- Overview of how funds will be spent
- Timeline

## Section Two: Proposal details

Please describe the invasive species threat that you seek to address.

Please describe the purpose and objectives of your proposal.

Please provide details regarding the design and strategy of your proposal.

Please provide an overview of your proposed timeline.

--

Please provide your proposed budget including a breakdown of PERSONNEL (Salary and fringe benefits); OPERATING EXPENSES (Travel, Materials & Supplies, Equipment); and OTHER DIRECT COSTS.

--

Please identify the anticipated leadership of the proposal and their location and upload/attach their resume(s).

--

Please list key staff involved with this project and upload/attach their resumes.

--

Please list any partners in this proposal, and the partner's role and your relationship with them.

--

Please describe your plan for sustainability of the project or initiative after the grant award has been exhausted.

--

### **Section Three: Evaluation information**

Please describe the desired measurable outcomes and their anticipated timeline.

Please describe how you intend to measure and report on the effectiveness of the proposal.

### **Section Four: Organization information**

Please provide your organization mission statement.

Tell us about the history of your organization.

Tell us about your current programs and activities.

Please describe a few top accomplishments of your organization within the last three years.

Please provide your IRS EIN number.

Please list your Board of Directors or Leadership Team and include short bios.

## Section Five: Supplementary information

Please include any supplementary information/documents which you feel will be essential to the review committee.

## Section Six: Contact information

Name.

Email address.

Website.

Phone number.

Address.

## Evaluation Criteria

All applications will be evaluated based on the criteria detailed below.

EVALUATION CRITERIA	Max points
<b>Project Merit</b>	<b>40</b>
<p><b>Is the target organism new to CA or new to different parts of the state?</b></p> <p><b>Justification</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Need and Beneficiaries:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The defined problem poses an actual or imminent significant threat to California's economy, environment, or human health.</li> <li>- The defined problem poses an actual or imminent threat across a large geographic scale (regional/statewide level).</li> <li>- Proposed project indicates potential contribution to long-term problem resolution.</li> <li>- For research proposals, new information to be generated is a logical next step based on the previously conducted related research or efforts described in the proposal.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>Justification for Rapid Response:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Addressing the defined problem aligns with the goals of the grant.</li> <li>- Proposed project will benefit California across multiple sectors (agriculture, environmental, human health).</li> <li>- Proposed project aligns with documented state priorities (department, agency, governor's).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	15
<p><b>Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed objectives effectively address the stated problem.</li> <li>• The proposed objectives align with grant goals.</li> <li>• The proposed objectives align with state priorities.</li> </ul>	10
<p><b>Tasks and Methods</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed tasks and methods are appropriate to fulfill the objectives.</li> </ul>	15
<b>Project Team and Resources</b>	<b>30</b>
<p><b>Team</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaders + collaborators: The investigators have complementary and integrated expertise, and their leadership approach/governance and organizational structure is appropriate for the project.</li> <li>• The project proposal has strong support from relevant organizations/individuals.</li> </ul>	15



<b>EVALUATION CRITERIA</b>	<b>Max points</b>
<b><i>Resources</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The organizational and institutional support, equipment, and other physical resources available to the investigators are adequate for the project proposed.</li> <li>The project will benefit from the unique features of the scientific, cultural, environment, and/or collaborative arrangements.</li> </ul>	15
<b>Feasibility</b>	<b>30</b>
<b><i>Implementation</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project objectives are achievable within the proposed timeline.</li> <li>The overall strategy, work and analysis methodology are well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the objectives of the project. Potential problems, alternative strategies and benchmarks for success are included.</li> <li>Project team is appropriate and qualified to fulfill project objectives.</li> <li>Data will be managed and shared in a reasonable timely manner per CDFA guidelines.</li> <li>Measures to evaluate the project are sound.</li> </ul>	15
<b><i>Fiscal Practicality</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project objectives are achievable within the proposed budget.</li> <li>The proposed budget is clear, reasonable, and justified and all budget tables are included.</li> <li>The proposed budget reflects efforts across collaborators and distribution of funding among collaborators is commensurate with their efforts.</li> <li>The proposed budget explains if there is a cost share and how resources are shared across entities.</li> </ul>	15
<b>Total Points</b>	100
<b>Supplemental Priority Points</b>	
Benefits of the project restore and protect biodiversity and ecosystem health.	+ 1-10
The project will advance justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion across diverse communities.	+ 1-5
The project leverages funding through cost sharing with collaborators (points based proportionally on \$ requested relative to \$ co-funded)	+ 1-5