NC Wine and Grape Council (NCWGC)

Research and Development proposal submission guidelines

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

EXPLANATION OF THE GRANT

The competitive grant application process is open to anyone choosing to apply – researchers, commercial grape growers, grape growing organizations, wineries, and any other interested individual or entity in NC interested in doing marketing, education, business enhancement, or viticulture/enology industry research to further improve the growth and development of the NC grape and wine industry. Please refer to the attached Platforms and Priorities to understand what the Council is most interested in investing in this year.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINES

- Proposal submission (no later than) October 1, 2026
- Proposal presentation to NCWGC may be required - November 17
- Mid-year reports due (no later than) June 1, 2026
- Final reports due: (no later than) January 1, 2027

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Please adhere to the following requirements. All points are required for the proposal to be considered. Any proposal not containing the required elements will not advance in the consideration process.

A short summary of the proposed project

List Researchers / Participants

- Names
- Addresses
- Qualifications

Completed Business Information Form (page 5 of this document)

Background Info

- Explain the significance of the project
- How does it impact the industry as a whole

Project objectives must be clear, well-structured & measurable. Provide a concise list of objectives and methods that you will use.

- What steps have you taken to determine the project you are planning has not already been done, involved in another ongoing project elsewhere that could be a potential benefit for the NC grape and wine industry?
- What literature have you researched? What other researchers have you consulted? What did you discover?
- How will you or have you involved grape growers or other users of the results in the choice of the problem and in the planning and execution of the project?

OUTCOMES

- Projects that have impacts and outcomes that can be identified, measured, and disseminated are encouraged.
- What is your plan for delivering the information from the project to the growers, wineries, or other appropriate users? **There must be a plan for the dissemination of information for your proposal to be considered.**

TIMELINE

- List the start and end dates of your project.
- List all dates for reporting and final report submission.

BUDGET

- How much money do you need and how will it be spent?
- What other sources of support do you have?
- Research grants can only be used for expenses directly related to original research. General overhead and operational costs may not be included in your budget proposal.

Grant funds can be used for…

- Priority items listed in accordance with the official NCWGC's platforms and priorities
- Material expenses (tools/supplies)
- Travel for testing/research
- Meeting fees
- Lab work
- Part-time labor necessary for project execution
- Reimburse direct project costs such as expenses for recording, analyzing, documenting, and disseminating results, rental of equipment necessary to the project

Grant funds cannot be used for…

- Creation of a permanent faculty or staff position
- Operating/overhead/indirect expenses
- Land purchases
- Permanent equipment/land
- Expenses that primarily benefit the farm or vineyard where research is being done
- General equipment such as tractors, mechanical harvesters, vehicles
- Travel to professional meetings outside the scope of the ongoing NCWGC-funded project

*All expenses must be directly related to the project.

REVIEW PROCESS

- All proposals received by the submission deadline will be reviewed by the NCWGC council. Each proposal will be reviewed for content and completion of all required aspects.
- Applicant may be asked to present to the NCWGC board members on each proposal.

- After each proposal has been initially reviewed and verified for all requirements, a brief presentation by the requestors to the NCWGC board members will be held during a general meeting of the NCWGC board. Brief question and answer periods will follow each presentation (10-minute presentation with 10 minutes for questions).
- The NCWGC board members will review together all proposals and vote on each proposal.
- This process will be completed within one-two months from the final submission date.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOUR PROPOSAL IS SELECTED?

- Applicants will receive written notice of NCWGC project approval.
- Applicants will receive an offer letter from NCDA with a contract for the proposed project.
- Researcher or institution will complete and sign the contract (two copies) and return it to NCDA for execution.
- One copy of the executed contract will be held by NCDA, and one copy will be returned to the researcher marking the official beginning of the contract period.
- Upon receiving the executed contract

REPORTING DEADLINES

Mandatory written status report due to NCWGC for beginning-project review - June 1, 2027
6 monthly status reports required - to be detailed in scope of work, memorandum of agreement
Final report due - within 2 months of end of grant funding period

*If any researcher does not submit the required reports to the NCWGC by the specified deadlines, that researcher will be ineligible for future project funding by the NCWGA for two fiscal year cycles.

BUSINESS INFORMATION FORM

*This page must be completed and inserted into the proposal as "Attachment A" for the project to be awarded.

Project Details

Title:

Cost:

Start Date: _____ End Date: _____

Principal Researcher

Name:

Title:

Email:

Telephone:

Physical Address:

Mailing Address:

Requesting Organization/Agency "Grantee" Name:

County:

DUNS:

Fiscal Year End (Month/Day):

Federal Tax ID:

Grantee Type (Circle or X One):

Non-Profit **Government** **For-Profit** **Individual**

Physical Address:

Mailing Address:

Contract Administrator

Name:

Title:

Telephone:

Physical Address:

Mailing Address:

Email: