MARIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST

Post Office Box 809
Point Reyes Station
California 94956
T 415 663-1158
F 415 663-1099
www.malt.org

*** MALT ofrece asistencia con la aplicación en español. Por favor comuníquese con** lfaccinto@malt.org **(415-663-1158 ext. 302) para reservar una cita para que el personal de MALT le brinde asistencia.**
MALT is able to provide spanish translation assistance by appointment. Please contact lfaccinto@malt.org **(415-663-1158 ext. 302)** to be connected with MALT staff for assistance.

MALT Small Grants Program FAQ

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Small Grants Program FAQs

What is the Small Grants Program?

The purpose of this program is to invest in projects that support both agricultural production and conservation of natural resources in Marin. The program is open to all commercial agriculturalists operating in Marin County - no conservation easement is required.

MALT's small grants program funds projects that protect and steward agricultural land through supporting a healthy local food system, expanding environmental benefits, and building climate resilience. The small grants program prioritizes agricultural and operational diversity, encourages climate-smart conservation practices that increase agricultural utility, protect soil and water quality, and strengthen the long-term viability of both public and private lands across Marin County.

Is this different from SAP?

Yes, the small grants program is open to all agriculturalists engaging in commercial agriculture in Marin County. A MALT Conservation Easement **is not required** to apply for a grant from this program. To be eligible for Stewardship Assistance Program funding, a MALT Conservation Easement is required.

Who is the program open to?

The small grants program is open to **all** agriculturalists, including tenants, engaging in commercial agriculture (i.e., producing food and/or fiber products for sale) in Marin County. Current members of the MALT Board of Directors, MALT staff, and their immediate family members are not eligible for funding.

Can someone apply for this program round while they have received a recent MALT grant?

Yes, however, applicants may be awarded only one (1) small grant and one Stewardship Assistance Program (SAP) grant per fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) and must not have an active small grants program award.

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What are the conflict of interest policies around this grant program?

Current MALT Board of Directors, MALT staff, and their immediate family members are not eligible for funding. For more information, please see the MALT Conflict of Interest Policy.

How much application assistance will be offered?

MALT staff is available to assist with the application process. Office hours will be offered. Please visit our website for office hour schedules and please contact Scott Dunbar at sdunbar@malt.org, (415) 663-1158, ext: 313 for additional assistance.

What is the applicant cost share?

The applicant cost share must be at least 10% of the total award amount, which is based on the budget provided in the application. The 10% is calculated from the total project cost once the project is completed, regardless of the initial grant award. For example, for a project that was awarded $45,000 but costs $40,000, the landowner will be reimbursed $36,000, and for a project that costs $75,000 and the grant award was $50,000, the applicant will have maxed out the grant amount at $50,000.

Who is on the selection committee?

The selection committee will depend on availability and will be composed of MALT staff, representatives from partner organizations such as the Marin Resource Conservation District, Point Blue, All Hands Ecology, University of California Cooperative Extension, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, etc., and previous award recipients.

How will we rank the projects we fund?

Projects are evaluated on how well they advance MALT's mission and the small grants program's goals: to preserve agriculture, protect biodiversity, connect our community, and build climate resilience. The small grants program prioritizes agricultural and operational diversity and encourages climate-smart conservation practices that increase agricultural productivity, protect soil and water quality, and strengthen the long-term viability of both public and private lands across Marin County. Please refer to this year's full application guidelines located on the small grants Website for further detail.

Priority consideration will be given to proposals from applicants serving/and or located in communities of Marin County that are most impacted by social and economic inequities due to race, income level, gender, identity, religion, immigration status, disability, age, sexual orientation, or zip

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code. This round, added consideration will also be given to proposals with a Next-Gen focus — projects that address the real and pressing question of how Marin's farms and ranches continue to thrive in a changing environment, for generations to come. For instance, succession and ranch management planning, operational diversification, new technologies, water resilience improvements, and climate-smart practices that strengthen the long-term sustainability of Marin's working lands. Proposals should demonstrate a commitment to operational and agricultural viability, and should have an ecological benefit to the soil and water quality that Marin's farms and ranches depend on.

What is the selection criteria?

Proposals will be evaluated, scored, and ranked by the following selection criteria. :

- Project alignment with mission and theme
- Project impact
- Project innovation and Next-Gen Focus
- Implementation and timeline
- Project readiness (including consideration of Permitting and other compliance issues)
- Agricultural Resilience
- Economic Impact
- Ecological Benefit
- Budget and budget clarity (budget should be clear and based on quotes/bids)
- Diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice

Please refer to this year's full application guidelines located on the small grants Website for further detail, the selection criteria is located on Page 14.

How are we addressing bias?

We are addressing bias in the funding process through a number of means including our conflict of interest policy, eligibility for all Marin County agriculturalists, a selection committee that includes representatives from partner organizations, and transparency about the scoring and ranking criteria.

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Do we think there will be any funds left remaining after we award grants?

We anticipate that all $400,000 in available funds for this grant round will be awarded.

How long after project completion do grantees get reimbursed?

Funding reimbursement will occur upon successful implementation of the proposed project, as determined by MALT staff after a site visit, usually within 30-45 days. All projects **must be completed within 18 months of grant execution**, unless otherwise noted in the executed Grant Agreement.

MALT reserves the right to rescind funding if the project is not complete within 18 months of a signed Grant Agreement.

Why was my project not awarded?

Because this is a competitive funding opportunity and we have limited funds, we do not anticipate all proposals will be funded. It is dependent on the funding needs versus the resources available. Funded projects are those that scored highest against the selection criteria.

If someone is rejected from this round, can they apply for a future round?

Yes.