Depending on the outcome of the review process in Phase 1, NMDA will invite applicants to submit a Full Grant Proposal based on the Concept Proposal submitted in Phase 1. Specific requirements and instructions for the Full Grant Proposal will be included in the invitation letter. The full proposal will require a more detailed description of each component in the Concept Proposal with a few additional requirements set by USDA and NMSU.

**Who? What? When? How?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHO</th>
<th>WHAT</th>
<th>WHEN</th>
<th>HOW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NMDA</td>
<td>Send out invitations to submit Full Grant Proposal</td>
<td>Early May</td>
<td>Via mail or e-mail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant</td>
<td>Full proposals due to NMDA</td>
<td>End of May</td>
<td>Via e-mail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMDA</td>
<td>Submit “State Plan” (combined proposals) to USDA</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>Must be submitted by NMSU through <a href="http://www.grants.gov">www.grants.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMDA</td>
<td>Award letters and contracts</td>
<td>October</td>
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*Dates are contingent upon the availability and release of SCBGP funding
*NMDA will work one-on-one with applicants to finalize their proposals during Phase 2.

**PurPOse**
“To solely enhance the competitiveness of New Mexico’s specialty crops in either domestic or foreign markets.”

**2015 Federal Specialty Crop Block Grant Funding**

**Phase 2: Full Grant Proposal**

**Phase 3: Grant Implementation**

Applicants who submit Full Grant Proposals and are granted funding will be required to:
- Follow the work plan and budget detailed in their approved proposal.
- Keep up-to-date records on all project expenses.
- Provide progress reports to NMDA quarterly (depending on project length).
- Provide NMDA with annual reports and a final report upon completion of the project and in accordance with SCBGP guidelines.

USDA and NMSU allow funds to be paid only on a reimbursement basis after proper reporting and documentation requirements have been met.
Federal Funding - Specialty Crops Block Grant Program (SCBGP)

The United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) provides grants to state departments of agriculture solely to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in either domestic or foreign markets. Consideration for grants that increase the competitiveness of specialty crop farmers, including Native American and disadvantaged farmers, will be addressed. Increasing competitiveness may include developing local and rural food systems and improving food access in underserved communities.

Specialty crops are defined as “fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture).”

The level of funding has yet to be released by USDA. A request for Proposals (RFP) will be published in papers statewide detailing the approximate amount available for projects and any pertinent workshop dates and deadlines. The RFP will also be published online at www.nmda.nmsu.edu (Previously funded projects range from one to three years in length and vary in amount from $15,000 to over $100,000.)

The funding cycle follows the federal fiscal year beginning October 1 and ending September 30.

For More Information
Contact Felicia Frost
NMDA Marketing Specialist
at (575) 646-4929 or send an e-mail to specialtycrops@nmda.nmsu.edu
Fax (575) 646-3303
www.nmda.nmsu.edu

*= letters of support from potential industry beneficiaries are welcome, but not required. The letters will not count toward the three-page minimum. Concept proposals will be reviewed by a panel of NMDA staff and experts in agriculture and business. Panelists must be free of any conflict of interest that would prevent them from performing impartial reviews.