



Innovation in Teaching Grant Program

A community outreach program of California's table grape growers

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the California Table Grape Commission?

The California Table Grape Commission (commission) was established in 1967 to maintain and expand markets for fresh California grapes. A core commission purpose is communication to increase awareness of fresh table grapes and the California industry.

What is the Innovation in Teaching grant program?

The *Innovation in Teaching* grant program is a community outreach program funded by California table grape growers, which provides up to 25 grants annually of \$1,000 each to educators in California's table grape growing regions to support innovative and enriching projects, activities, and events for students.

Where are the table grape growing regions in California?

California table grapes are grown in the Coachella and San Joaquin valleys. Eligible counties include Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Riverside, and Tulare counties.

Who is eligible to apply for an Innovation in Teaching grant?

Educators, including teachers, counselors, resource directors, or librarians, at the elementary, junior high, or high school level who are employed at schools located in California's table grape growing regions are encouraged to apply.

How can I apply for an Innovation in Teaching grant?

To apply, please complete and submit the [online application](#). Applications are always accepted and will be reviewed each June and November. The project period selected on the application determines when it will be reviewed. All application materials become the property of the California Table Grape Commission.

How can I develop a successful Innovation in Teaching grant application?

Successful applications may demonstrate and/or include the following:

- Project design or proposed activity is creative, innovative, or provides students with a unique learning opportunity
- Funds are used to enhance student understanding of concepts in a highlighted project focus area
- Applications that incorporate agriculture or the California table grape industry score higher

What kinds of projects have been funded in the past?

Please find a list of funded project summaries [here](#).



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Does the proposed project need to occur in the current school year?

Projects must take place within the preferred project period selected on the application. There are two project periods applicants may choose from: the academic year (August – May) or the spring (January – May). Project periods are updated on the application each April.

When is the application due?

Applications may be submitted any time. Commission staff will review applications twice annually: once in June and once in November.

To ensure your application is included in the June 2026 review, please submit an application by 5:00 p.m. PST on June 5, 2026. To ensure your application is included in the November 2026 review, please submit an application by 5:00 p.m. PST on November 6, 2026.

Who reviews the applications?

Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by commission staff members.

When will applicants be notified?

Applicants included in the June review will be notified in July. Applicants included in the November review will be notified in December.

When do funds need to be spent by?

Funds must be spent within the preferred project period selected on the application.

Are there any reporting requirements?

Recipients must submit a final report to share the outcomes of their funded project. Photos are requested and may be used by the California Table Grape Commission for marketing purposes. Grant recipients must maintain approved photo releases.

Can prior recipients reapply?

Yes, previous awardees may apply for a grant in subsequent years. Educators may only submit one application for one project period per academic year.

Who can I contact with questions?

Feel welcome to contact Jackie Nakashian at the commission office at 559-447-8350 or educationgrants@grapesfromcalifornia.com.