



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

California State Beekeepers Association Competitive Funding Program

Fiscal Year (FY): 2025

Deadline to Apply: September 1, 2025

Maximum Funds to be Requested: \$30,000

California State Beekeepers Association (CSBA), established in 1889, supports research that directly benefits beekeepers by improving beekeeping practices, and ensures sustainability and economic viability of the beekeeping industry in California. The CSBA competitive funding program accepts applications annually, for funding designed to cover a single year of highly focused research devoted to finding practical solutions to beekeeping problems. However, a funding extension will be granted if sufficient supporting evidence is provided. Details of the application process and reporting requirements are outlined below.

RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The CSBA primarily supports applied research that results in prompt practical solutions for beekeepers. However, basic research projects will also be considered if a clear explanation is provided on how the results would lead to practical solutions.

For FY 2025, funding will be provided for projects addressing the following priorities:

- Novel and viable options for varroa mite management. Management strategies should be effective in reducing the number of mites below a threshold damaging to the colony, be safe for the honey bees, should not contaminate hive products, and should be effective in a wide range of environmental conditions, low-cost, and not labor-intensive. Projects addressing new stock selection/development will also be considered.
- Improved Nutrition. Access to plentiful and diverse foraging opportunities or availability of an optimal artificial diet. Projects under this priority should address development of a complete diet for honey bees that would be economically feasible for beekeepers. Sensible solutions for improving access to natural forage will be considered.
- Pesticide Hazards. Understanding potential impacts of pesticide applications continues to be of interest to beekeepers, as well as development of solutions for minimizing pesticide risks.
- Novel and emerging threats. Beekeepers are aware of the risks associated with possible introduction of new invasive honey bee pests such as *Tropilaelaps* mites and welcome proposals addressing these new threats.
- Quality and health of reproductive castes continue to be an issue for beekeepers. Having a better understanding of what impacts queen and drone reproductive health and devising effective solutions is considered a high priority for CSBA.
- Management strategies for mitigating colony issues due to other stressors such as (*Nosema*) spp., Foulbrood disease, Chalkbrood, etc. These should be environmentally sound and safe for the bees, cost and labor effective, and suited for a wide range of environmental conditions.
- Additional projects will be considered as long as they directly propose practical and immediate solutions for beekeepers.

PROPOSAL FORMAT

Proposals should not exceed five pages (excluding references, budget, and biosketches) and should include the following:

I. Title of the Proposal: The title should be short yet descriptive of the proposed project.

II. Principal Investigator(s) and Collaborator(s) Name(s) and Contact Information: Include the names, associated institutions/companies/organizations for all project investigators (PIs), co-investigators (co-PIs), and other collaborators. Clearly indicate the corresponding PI and provide detailed contact information (email, phone number, address).

III. Statement of the Priority Being Addressed with the Proposed Project: Clearly state which priority your project addresses and how the project relates to this priority.

IV. Brief Summary of the Project Suitable for Distribution to CSBA Members at Large: Include a short (250 words or less), non-technical summary that can be distributed to the broader CSBA membership. The summary should identify the issue to be addressed, proposed project steps, and the expected outcomes, including their relevance to the beekeeping industry. ***Note: This summary will be shared publicly, so please do not include any proprietary or otherwise sensitive information.***

V. Focused Introduction and Significance of the Problem: The introduction should include a brief description of the specific problem to be addressed, a short literature review of what is currently known about the topic, and the reasoning behind the proposed project. If the proposed project is a part of a larger research effort, use this section to describe the overall goals of the entire project and how the proposed work fits within the larger scope of this research.

VI. Objective(s) of the Study: List the specific objectives you plan to address as part of your proposed project.

VII. Detailed Experimental Approach to Allow for Critical Evaluation of Project Feasibility: Provide a detailed description of the experimental design, materials, and methodology to be used in your research project. Provide enough details to allow for a thorough assessment of the project feasibility and probability of success. Include which PI/Co-PI/collaborator is responsible for which part of the project and a timeline of when specific goals/objectives will be achieved. Briefly discuss potential pitfalls and how you plan to address them. Please contact Brooke Palmer brooke@agamsi.com if you are to make any substantial changes to your project prior to execution of the experiments.

VIII. Short Description of How the Results Will Be Shared with Target Audiences: Outline the plan for distributing the results of your research to the scientific community and, more importantly, the members of the beekeeping industry. ***Note: You will be requested to submit a final written report and provide an in-person presentation (for details, see XI. Reporting).***

IX. References: Provide a list of relevant references and use numbered citations within the text. The reference list does not count towards the five-page limit.

X. Detailed Budget: Provide a detailed budget and budget justification, including salaries, benefits, equipment, supplies, etc. The budget does not count towards the five-page limit, but

please do not exceed two pages in length. If requesting funds for students/staff, note their role in the project. In your budget, please include funding for travel to the CSBA Annual Convention the following year, to present the outcomes of your project.

CSBA sometimes collaborates with other funding entities to support the same project. If you are requesting funds for the same project from other funding entities, please disclose who you are requesting the funds from and for which part of the project. If you would be amenable to CSBA reaching out to other funding entities to discuss potential matching support, please note that in your budget.

Note: As a non-profit organization, CSBA does not pay for any institutional indirect costs (IDCs)/overhead.

XI. Biosketches: Provide a two-page biographical sketch for all project co-PIs and collaborators. These should include skills, experiences, accomplishments, and activities that are directly relevant to the proposed project.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Proposals should be collated into a single PDF file, and the file name should be formatted as follows: PI LAST NAME_CSBAproposal_FY (e.g., Smith_CSBAproposal_2025). The file should be sent to Brooke Palmer at brooke@agamsi.com no later than 5pm PT, September 1, 2025. **Late submissions will not be accepted.**

PROPOSAL EVALUATIONS

The Research Committee, composed of industry members and scientific advisors, will evaluate submitted proposals for their potential for practical application and scientific rigor. The evaluation process is a three-step process:

- 1) Scientific Advisors will evaluate submitted proposals for scientific rigor and provide their recommendations to the Research Committee.
- 2) The Research Committee will then determine the relevance of the proposed research to the contemporary needs of the beekeeping industry and select proposals for funding.
- 3) The Research Committee will then present the proposals recommended for funding to the CSBA Board, and the Board will vote to approve or withhold the funding.

The review process is confidential, and the reviews are conducted in a closed session. However, the Research Committee does hold a brief open session for the general membership where the research summaries are provided, and the committee receives input from CSBA members. Please remove any proprietary information from your research summaries as they will become public if selected for funding.

NOTIFICATION OF FUNDING AND FUNDS DISBURSEMENT

A Notice of Award will be sent to the listed Principal Investigators within 30 days from the end of the CSBA Annual Convention. Feedback from the Research Committee will be provided in the Notice of Award.

Funds will be disbursed as a single payment to your institution. Please work directly with Brooke Palmer at brooke@agamsi.com to connect her with your Office of Research for processing the funds.

Note: A no-cost extension (NCE) will be approved if strong justification can be provided.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Funded PIs will be required to provide a final research report prior to the CSBA Annual Convention the following fiscal year. The report should not exceed three pages and should contain the following:

- I. **Title of the Proposal**
- II. **Principal Investigator(s) and Collaborator(s) Name(s) and Contact Information**
- III. **Statement of the Priority Being Addressed with the Proposed Project**
- IV. **Focused Results/Outcomes and Expected Applications.** Visual representation of the results is encouraged. The report should also include any challenges that were encountered and clear justification of any changes to the original proposal.
- V. **A Concise Conclusion** (including possible future research).

Please submit your reports by 5pm PT, October 31 of the following year to Brooke Palmer at brooke@agamsi.com.

Funded PIs are expected to also provide an oral presentation at the CSBA Annual Convention the following fiscal year (usually held in mid-November). Brooke Palmer will contact you about any arrangements in May or June of the same year.

For any questions or concerns contact Brooke Palmer brooke@agamsi.com