American Pecan Promotion Board

2026 Request for Proposals
Health & Nutrition Research

Overview

The American Pecan Promotion Board (APPB) is inviting investigators to submit a proposal for research on pecans to be funded beginning August 2026.

All proposals must be received no later than **5:00pm ET on Monday, April 20, 2026,** to be considered.

About the American Pecan Promotion Board

The APPB is an agriculture promotion group supported by assessments from America's pecan farmers. Assessments are used for promotion and research to help drive demand for pecans.

The APPB invests in health and nutrition research to advance the understanding of pecans' nutritional profile and potential human health benefits. This work provides a science-based foundation for health professional and consumer education.

Pecan Insights

The unique mix of unsaturated fats, plant sterols, fiber and flavonoids all add up to make pecans a unique superfood choice. Each 1 oz serving (about 19 halves) provides 196 calories, 18 g of unsaturated fat (20 g total fat), 4 g of carbohydrates and 3 g of protein. Additionally, they are a good source of fiber, thiamin, and zinc, and an excellent source of copper and manganese.

2026 Research Interest Areas

For the 2026 RFP, the APPB is interested in receiving proposals investigating *emerging and/or exploratory areas of health* where pecans may have a role in supporting:

- **Study Participants**
  - Age Range:
    - Adults 18-75 years of age
- **Emerging and/or Exploratory Research Focus Areas of Interest**:
  APPB is interested in projects exploring emerging research topics related to pecans consumption. Areas of interest include, ***but are not limited to*** investigating pecan consumption and:
  - **Gut Microbiome Axes**
    - Gut-body axes of interest include: gut-brain axis (mood/cognition), gut-cardiac axis, gut-glycemia axis, and gut-skin axis
  - **Antioxidant/Polyphenol Effect**
    - Relationship with pecan polyphenols, bioactives, prebiotics and antioxidants on:
      - Microbiota changes and GI regularity
      - Cognition and mood

- Lipid metabolism
- Chronic inflammation
- Blood glucose control
- Skin health (e.g. acne, psoriasis, etc)

- **Cognition, Mood & Sleep**
  - Outcomes of interest include: cognitive function, mental acuity, and mental wellness; sleep quality (duration, regularity, patterns) and impacts on cardiometabolic risk factors and/or cognition. Special attention for older Americans eating pecans and mild cognitive impairment and/or mood/depression.

Funding Details

- Depending on the type of study (e.g. cross-sectional study vs. observational study vs RCT), APPB funds exploratory projects up to $150,000. As a part of the budget, the researcher should include a line item for costs associated with **purchasing pecans (APPB can help with sourcing only), submitting the final manuscript and open access publication**, as applicable.
- Any funding provided by the APPB to a research institution, university, government entity or any other organization for the purpose of research must be used solely for the objectives set forth in such entity's research proposal.
- Indirect costs, if applicable, must first be reviewed and approved by the APPB and USDA. The APPB allows for reasonable indirect costs on a case-by-case basis, depending on the type and scope of the research project. Indirect costs, if any, shall never exceed 10% of the amount of the research project.

Methodological Standards

- Randomized Controlled Intervention Trials (RCTs) using parallel or cross-over designs
- Observational studies using an established prospective cohort or cross-sectional database (e.g., NHANES)
- Literature reviews
- Meta-analyses
- Uncontrolled intervention studies, animal studies or *in vitro* studies **are not acceptable**

Proposal Requirements

- **Proposal must be received no later than 5:00pm ET on April 20, 2025**, to be considered.
- Proposals should be no longer than five (5) pages, not including budget detail and any necessary attachments (CVs, references, etc.)
- All applicants will be informed of their funding status by August 2026.
- Proposals must include the following information and be submitted as a PDF:
  - Project Title
  - Project Duration (12 to 24 months)
  - Principle Investigator: Person responsible for research and expenditure of funds. Include address, telephone number, and email address. Identify and provide contact information for collaborators
  - Abstract: One to two paragraphs, maximum 500 words

- Collaborators: Researchers and others who play a critical role in your research
- Project Objectives: Clearly state the goal(s) and objectives of the project, max 500 words
- Justification: Include summary of prior work and expertise related to the area of focus of the proposal
- Approach (materials and methods): Include detailed description of the intervention for RCTs, dietary assessment methodology (for observational studies), primary and secondary endpoints, inclusion/exclusion criteria, power calculation, statistical methodology
- Timeline: Key events and estimated timing
- Budget: Include a budget sheet detailing direct costs
- Curriculum Vitae

Proposal Assessment Criteria

- RFP instructions compliance
- Scientific rigor and feasibility of the study design
- Qualifications and expertise of the research team
- Potential impact and significance of the proposed research
- Budget justification and cost-effectiveness
- Compliance with ethical guidelines and regulatory requirements

****Proposals should be submitted via the APPB website:**
https://eatpecans.com/professionals/health-professionals/research-rfp-submissions

- Please submit as one PDF file
- File size upload limit is 2 GB

Any questions should be directed to both of the following individuals:

Leah Johnston, RDN
Director, Nutrition Communications and Strategy
Wild Hive
Leah.Johnston@wildhive.com

Serena Schaffner
Chief Marketing Officer
American Pecan Promotion Board
sschaffner@eatpecans.com