



## California Walnut Commission Health and Nutrition Research Program 2024 Call for Letters of Intent

### Who We Are

More than 99% of the walnuts in the U.S. are grown in California's Central Valley. The California Walnut Commission (CWC), established in 1987, is funded by mandatory assessments of these California growers and complements the Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture's efforts to support walnut consumption globally, including global health and nutrition research initiatives.

For nearly four decades, CWC has been dedicated to supporting innovative research to better understand potential health effects of walnut consumption and the role of walnuts in healthy lifestyles. As part of this long-standing commitment, the **CWC is seeking proposals to support human clinical trials and observational studies on priority topics**. Importantly, CWC encourages researchers from academic centers *around the globe* to consider participating in this Request for Proposals (RFP). You can learn more about CWC's Global Health Research Program [here](#).

### Types of Support

CWC supports domestic and international health-related research on walnuts. We support early career and well-established researchers meeting the requirements.

### Research Priorities for 2024

This cycle we are currently soliciting Letters of Intent (LOI) supporting clinical and observational studies that address the following topics:

#### Role of Walnuts in Nourishing Wellbeing

Understanding the impact of walnut consumption on:

- Skin health;
- Sleep quality, including impact on cognitive health and/or physical performance; and/or
- Mental wellness (e.g., mental wellbeing, cognition health, mental acuity)

#### Role of Walnuts in Supporting Disease Prevention and Management

Understanding the role of walnut consumption on metabolic syndrome, particularly its impact on type 2 diabetes and overweight/obesity.

#### Role of Walnuts in Achieving Nutrition Security for All

Understanding how/if walnuts affect food allergies, particularly in toddlers and young children.

## How Do I Know If My Project Is a Good Fit?

Priority will be given to proposals that effectively address one or more of these priorities, as well as those that consider how walnuts can optimize growth and vibrancy at different life stages (e.g., children ages 6-11, adolescents ages 12-19, and adults ages 20-59), socioeconomic status, and/or cultural background. CWC appreciates studies that capture data related to race, gender, age, socioeconomic status, and cultural background, to help contribute to the body of evidence to understand how these factors may impact dietary behaviors, health outcomes, and nutrition security related to walnut consumption.

## Timeline and Deadlines

Event	Date
Letter of Intent submission opens	February 6, 2024
<b>Letters of Intent due</b>	<b>March 8, 2024</b>
CWC notifies all researchers of next steps	March 22, 2024
<b>Full Proposals due</b>	<b>May 3, 2024</b>
Proposals under review	May – June 2024
Researchers notified of funding decisions	July 2024

## Evaluation of Submissions

There are two stages to the review process for CWC funding: 1) Letters of Intent (2-page summary) and 2) Full Proposals, both of which are submitted online using [ProposalCentral](#) (see details below). Letters of Intent will be thoroughly evaluated by the CWC Global Health and Nutrition Research team, and a limited number of applicants will be invited to submit Full Proposals. Reviewer feedback is not provided to the applicant at the Letter of Intent stage. Full Proposals will be evaluated by expert peer reviewers, as well as select members of the CWC Scientific Advisory Board. CWC will hold all information provided by researchers in confidence while Letters of Intent and Full Proposals are under consideration.

## Eligibility Requirements

Before submitting the Letter of Intent, please ensure that our pre-eligibility criteria are met:

- The Principal Investigator must have a PhD, MD, or equivalent degree and be a research staff or faculty member at a non-profit academic or research institution.
- The proposed study must adhere to the CWC Research Integrity Guidelines (see below).
- The proposed study must address the effects of whole walnuts or walnut butter consumption on the above-stated priority topics.
- CWC is aiming to fund 3-4 studies as part of this RFP, with an approximate limit of \$100,000 – \$150,000 per observational study and an approximate limit of \$400,000 – \$500,000 per clinical trial.
- Indirect costs of up to 10% of total direct costs will be permitted and should be included in the total proposed budget.
- Proposals will be considered for single-year and multi-year projects.

## How To Submit a Letter of Intent (LOI)

Upload Letter of Intent into the [ProposalCentral](#) online form according to the instructions provided there. The Letter of Intent must include:

- Specific Aims
- Background and significance
- Project description and methodology
- Expected outcomes and limitations, including potential impact on public health
- Budget total and timeline
- Related experience

Upload references (limited to 2 pages) as a PDF file attachments.

## CWC Research Integrity Guidelines

The CWC is dedicated to supporting the scientific process. Engagement within the research community should be purposeful and transparent with meaningful interactions that provide tangible opportunities for learning, collaboration, and advancement of science. The CWC is committed to eliminating research bias based on funding source, therefore CWC requires the following:

- Control of both study design and research is conducted by researchers.
- The research team submit results from all completed studies for publication regardless of outcomes.
- Payment of research is not contingent on the outcome of a research project.
- Supported researchers disclose their relationship with CWC in all relevant publications and conference presentations.
- Only the highest quality research proposals are considered. CWC utilizes its Health Research Advisory Group (external nutrition science experts who provide insight and guidance) as well as Peer Review Panelists (experts in specific areas of research) in its selection of scientifically sound research proposals.
- CWC's Health Research Program issues a formal request for letters of intent that is open to the entire research community.

## Need Help?

Please direct any questions about this LOI to Tricia Psota, PhD, RDN:  
[tricia@nutritionindemand.com](mailto:tricia@nutritionindemand.com).

For technical questions regarding the ProposalCentral online application system please contact their customer support hotline at 800-875-2562 or [pcsupport@altum.com](mailto:pcsupport@altum.com).

## Nondiscrimination Statement

CWC prohibits discrimination in all programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, marital/familial/parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs.