



## BEET SUGAR DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

June 3, 2025

### **BSDF Project Proposals: FY 2026-2027**

**INTRODUCTION** – The Board of Directors (BOD) of the Beet Sugar Development Foundation (BSDF) welcome interested parties to apply for funding for project proposals of benefit to the North American beet sugar industry. **The deadline for FY 2026-2027 submissions is Friday, August 1, 2025.**

Attached are the following documents:

1. **Project Proposal form** which should be submitted for *each* new or ongoing project requiring additional funding.
2. **General Project Proposal Guidelines** provides answers to commonly asked questions.
3. **USDA or non-USDA application template** – please fill out the appropriate template when submitting the proposal.

This letter and relevant forms can also be found [here](#):

**RESEARCH TOPICS** – The following beet sugar research areas of focus are of interest to BSDF:

- Breeding & genetics: germplasm resources & translational genomics
- Pathogen and pest (insect, nematode, weed) biology
- Disease/pest management & crop production
- Storage
- Processing & refining
- Novel crop applications
- New technologies
- Sustainability

**REVIEW PROCESS** – Upon submission, proposals are reviewed and evaluated by members of the **Scientific Review Committee (SRC)**, which consists of scientists and subject matter experts of BSDF member companies. Next, evaluations from the SRC are submitted to the **BSDF Project Review Committee (PRC)**, a subset of members of the BSDF BOD, for further review and discussion. Finally, PRC funding recommendations are presented to the full BSDF BOD at their November 11, 2025 meeting, for preliminary FY 2026-2027 budget approval. The BSDF BOD will approve the final FY 2026-2027 budget at its Annual meeting on **March 3, 2026**. Funding letters will be disseminated by **April 1, 2026**. FY 2026-2027 funds will be available beginning on **April 1, 2026**.

**EVALUATION CRITERIA** – The following criteria are utilized in the review process:

1. Significance of the problem to the industry
2. Potential value of the project

3. Application of proper scientific methods and experimental design
4. Goodness of fit of the proposed work to the author's credentials
5. Reasonableness of the timeline and budget
6. Generates new knowledge or compliments/supports other work in the area

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** – Proposals that have broader, industry-wide impact will have a greater likelihood of receiving funding. The average BSDF project award over the past five years has been ~\$20,000 per project. Project requests typically do not exceed \$50,000.

Project Proposal submissions should be emailed to [heidi@bsdf-assbt.org](mailto:heidi@bsdf-assbt.org) by **Friday, August 1, 2025**. Any questions regarding the process, please reach out to Anna Murphy at [anna@bsdf-assbt.org](mailto:anna@bsdf-assbt.org)

Sincerely,

Anna L. Murphy  
Executive Vice President