



RAISIN ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

ADMINISTERING THE FEDERAL MARKETING
AGREEMENT AND ORDER REGULATING THE
HANDLING OF CALIFORNIA RAISINS

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REQUEST FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS: LETTERS OF INTENT RAISIN ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE 2026

Background

The Raisin Administrative Committee (RAC) represents the California Raisin industry. The industry has supported health research on raisins in the past but not in more than a decade. Examples of prior research supported by the RAC can be found on our website ([California Raisins: Health and Nutrition Research](#)).

As the RAC re-invigorates its research program, we are seeking Letters of Intent (LOI) for 2026 funding for non-clinical/ observational studies on the following issues:

- 1. NHANES (or suitable alternative database) analysis regarding the relationship between raisin consumption and markers of cardiometabolic and cardiovascular health and disease in healthy people, and people with Type 2 diabetes.**
 - Prior NHANES analyses on raisins were conducted over a decade ago in adults and children. These analyses looked primarily at indicators of diet quality and nutrient intake. This newer analysis would:
 - Use more updated subject data
 - Look at both healthy subjects and subjects with Type 2 diabetes (T2D)
 - Assess more health/disease markers, including fasting glucose and insulin, HbA1c, OGTT data, CRP, blood pressure, self-reported CHD, MI, stroke, etc.
- 2. Menu modelling of raisins and other popular snack alternatives in an overall healthy diet**
 - Project would stress children's nutrition but might include adult diets as well
 - Study would assess overall diet quality, as well as key nutrient/shortfall nutrients in diets with raisins vs alternative snack forms
 - A least cost diet assessment with raisins and other snack forms is preferred as well

The Raisin Administrative Committee is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider.

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3. Laboratory analysis of the nutritional value of raisins, other dried fruit products, and other related food forms (e.g. grapes, berries, etc)

- A nutritional analysis of key nutrients in raisins and other related food sources
- Analysis would also include quantification of phytonutrients and other compounds with purported antioxidant/anti-inflammatory activity (e.g., polyphenols, flavonoids).

Application information

- LOI
 - Due January 9, 2026
 - LOI is limited to 2 pages and should contain: Project Title, Principal Investigator (PI) name, email address and institution, a statement of purpose or hypothesis, summary of approach, expected outcome or importance, projected timeline and project budget
 - In addition, researcher CVs and information on relevant related research experience should also be submitted
- Final Review
 - Applicants will be notified by Jan 23, 2026 if their project is accepted for further review and if any additional information is needed
- RAC may contact applicants via email or phone for further information/ clarification regarding project details before or after LOI decisions are made

Project Timing

- RFP awards will occur during Q1 2026
- Suitable-for-journal-submission final report is expected by July 31, 2026

Project Budget

- Targeted project maximum costs are as follows:
 - NHANES = \$70,000
 - Menu Modeling = \$40,000
 - Laboratory Analysis = \$30,000
- Projects are viewed as pilot studies that may lead to larger clinical trials in the future
- Projects can provide start-up funds for young investigators, or support for highly qualified graduate students (letter of support and project oversight by experienced senior researcher required)
- Initial (20%) project down-payment will be made within 30 days after contract signing and receipt of an invoice from the PI. Interim (40%) payment will be made within 30 days after completion of research, submission of progress report and receipt of an invoice from the PI. Final (40%) payment will be made within 30 days after submission and RAC acceptance of final report and receipt of an invoice from the PI.
- Request no more than 10% institutional overhead on selected projects

LOI Submission/ Reporting/ Billing

- LOIs, invoices and progress/ final reports should be sent to Mitch Kanter (mitchkanterhni@msn.com) with a copy to Tim Kenny, Vice President of Marketing, Raisin Administrative Committee (tim@raisins.org)

Evaluation Criteria

- Clear, well-thought out LOI
- Relevant health research experience
- Fulfillment of all project requirements and time schedule
- Project cost

The RAC abides by the provisions contained in Section 202 of Executive Order 11246 (30 Federal Register 12319) with respect to employment and contracting practices and prohibits discrimination in its programs and activities on the basis of age, disability, national origin or ancestry, race, color, religion, creed, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, political affiliation, military status or membership in military reserve.