

Funding Available for Organic Farmers

How to apply for the Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP)

Background Information:

Federal funding is available to help agricultural producers transition to an organic system of production! As part of the larger \$300 million USDA Organic Transition Initiative, the Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP) aims to help producers adopt organic management systems in pursuit of certification.

The TOPP network covers six regions: the Mid-Atlantic/Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, Plains, Northwest, and West/Southwest. Organizations in these regions are actively forming partnerships to serve transitioning and existing organic farmers. In the West and Southwest, CCOF will coordinate the work carried out by dozens of community-based public, private, and nonprofit partners in seven states: California, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Hawaii. OFRF is helping CCOF develop communications materials highlighting important financial and technical assistance programs that are applicable to organic and transitioning-to-organic operations at all scales and positions in the food system.

Program Highlight: Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP)

Who is eligible?

Certified organic producers and handlers in the United States or its territories.

What are you eligible to receive?

- **75% reimbursement of their organic certification fees up to a maximum of \$750 per certification.** If you have multiple certification scopes, you can apply for assistance with each certification.
- **Eligible costs** for certified organic operations include application fees, organic inspection costs, fees related to equivalency requirements, travel and per diem fees for inspectors, user fees, sales assessments, and postage.

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United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service
National Organic Program
Transition to Organic Partnership Program



How can you apply for this program?

1

First, it's always a good idea to review some materials.

This OCCSP [USDA website](#) has some general information, or the state-run websites may have state-specific supplements ([AZ](#), [CA](#), [TX](#)).

[OCCSP Fact Sheet \(English\)](#)

[OCCSP Fact Sheet \(Español\)](#)

2

Find the right application.

Certified operations can apply through their Farm Service Agency (FSA) office or, if their state is participating, through a state agency. If applying to the FSA, use the [FSA form](#) following their [provided instructions](#). If applying to the state-run program, use their provided form ([AZ](#), [CA](#)) or in the case of Texas, [online application platform](#) and an [RFA](#).

3

Required financial information to gain access to government payments.

If applying to FSA, they require an [IRS W-9 form](#). In California they require a [Payee Data Record Form](#). In Arizona they require an [AZ W-9 form](#). In Texas they require a Tax ID to operate on their online platform.

4

Required documents.

Providing a copy of your certification and a proof of payment for that certification and itemized receipts for any other costs to be covered.

5

Submit!

Sending all of this information to the correct state or federal agency office.

[California](#)
[Texas](#)

[Arizona](#)

Any producer may apply through the FSA:
[Find your local FSA](#) (federal) office.

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