



Organic Certification Cost Share Programs

Fiscal Year 2024 Full Notice of Funding Opportunity Announcement

Funding Opportunity Numbers: USDA-FSA-SND-NOCCSP-24-NOFO0001411 and
USDA-FSA-SND-AMA-24-NOFO0001410

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (CFDA) /Assistance Listing Number (ALN):
10.171

Application Due Date: 7/12/2024

Initial Announcement and Program Solicitation Information

Funding Opportunity Title: Organic Certification Cost Share Programs

Funding Opportunity Numbers: USDA-FSA-SND-NOCCSP-24-NOFO0001411 and USDA-FSA-SND-AMA-24-NOFO0001410

Announcement Type: Initial

Assistance Listing Number (previously referred to as the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number):

This program is listed in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) under 10.171, Organic Certification Cost Share Programs.

Dates: Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on July 12, 2024, through Grants.gov. Applications received after this date may be considered if funds are available.

Executive Summary: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Farm Service Agency (FSA), requests applications for the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program (NOCCSP) and the Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) Organic Certification Cost Share Program, collectively referred to as the OCCSP, for fiscal year (FY) 2024. The purpose of the OCCSP awards is to defray the costs of receiving and maintaining organic certification.

In FY 2024, the available funding for these two programs is approximately \$9.5 million for the NOCCSP and \$943,000 for the AMA. FSA awards the OCCSP funds to eligible State Agencies* that serve as administering entities, to reimburse organic operations for specific organic certification costs.

This is the initial request for applications, which outlines the eligibility and performance criteria for State Agencies seeking NOCCSP and AMA funding in FY 2024. For eligible certification costs incurred from October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, organic operations may request reimbursement until October 31, 2024, unless the State Agency requests and receives approval for a different application deadline. The State Agencies may provide reimbursements to certified organic operators for 75% of the operation's total allowable certification costs, up to a maximum of \$750 per certification scope: crops, livestock, wild crops, handling (i.e., processing), and State Organic Program fees.

* The use of "State Agencies" throughout this document refers to the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, and 5 U.S. Territories including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Program Highlights

The following highlights apply to the FY 2024 program:

- The application deadline is July 12, 2024. Applications submitted after this deadline may be considered if funding is available.
 - The FY 2024 Period of Qualification for organic operations seeking reimbursement is from October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024. Applications for reimbursement by producers may be submitted through October 31, 2024, unless the State Agency has received approval to establish a different deadline.
 - A certified organic operation may receive reimbursement of 75 percent of its eligible certification costs, up to a maximum of \$750 per scope.
 - The Period of Performance for State Agencies starts when the grant agreement is fully executed and ends December 31, 2024. State Agencies should only apply if they reasonably expect to be able to process all applications by December 31, 2024. No-Cost Extensions of the Period of Performance will be considered only in rare situations due to unforeseeable circumstances. State Agencies must request No-Cost Extensions at least 10 calendar days before the end of the performance period.
 - State Agencies must submit all requests for reimbursement and required reports by April 30, 2025, unless they have received a No-Cost Extension.
 - State Agencies that issue subawards to subrecipients must submit the required subrecipient information at the time of application or request prior approval from the Federal Agency at least 30 days prior to execution of the subaward. State Agencies must also submit the name and title of the authorized representative who will sign the grant agreement and SF-3881 on behalf of the State Agency.
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