

National Organic Certification Cost Share Program

Fiscal Year 2016

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 10.171

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-AMS-TM-NOCCSP-2016

Request Due Date:

Postmarked no later than November 16, 2016

All funds are reimbursed on a first-come first-serve basis until funds are depleted.



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1) FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

a) LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

The National Organic Certification Cost Share program (NOCCSP) is authorized under section 10606(d)(1) of the [Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002](#) (7 U.S.C. 7901 note), as amended by section 10004(c) of the [Agriculture Act of 2014](#) (2014 Farm Bill; Pub. L. 113–79). Under this authority, Congress authorizes USDA to provide organic certification cost share assistance to certified organic operations (producers and handlers) located within the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, and five 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.

The AMS administers the OCCSP using relevant sections of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 and the Uniform Grant Guidance, 2 CFR 200. AMS awards OCCSP funds to eligible State Agencies, which operate as a pass-through system, by accepting and approving their applications so that they can issue reimbursements to organic operations.

b) PURPOSE

The purpose of the OCCSP is to defray the costs of receiving and maintaining organic certification.

2) AWARD INFORMATION

a) AVAILABLE FUNDING

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) has been allocated an estimated \$88,100 to reimburse FY 2016 organic operations, less overage from FY15. This amount is based on the average of the most recent available OCCSP participation rates (2015 calendar year estimates) and the number of certified operations (2015 calendar year estimates).

b) CERTIFICATION COST REIMBURSEMENT ALLOWANCES

Reimbursement to certified organic operations are limited to 75% of the operation's total allowable certification costs, up to a maximum of \$750 per certification scope. The scopes of organic certification include: Crops, Livestock, Wild Crops, and Handler (i.e. Processor).

c) PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

The Period of Performance is October 1, 2015 and ends September 30, 2016.

3) ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

a) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Organic operations certified to the scopes of crops, wild crops, livestock, or handler are eligible to participate in the NOCCSP.

Operations must possess USDA organic certification at the time of application to be eligible to receive reimbursements. To be eligible:

- 1) between October 1, 2015 and September 30, 2016, the organic operation must have **paid** fees/expenses related to its initial certification, and obtained certification from a USDA-accredited certifying agent; or
- 2) between October 1, 2015 and September 30, 2016, the organic operation must have **paid** expenses/ fees related to the renewal of its USDA organic certification from a USDA-accredited certifying agent.

***NOTE:** Operations with suspended, revoked, or withdrawn certifications are ineligible for cost share reimbursement. The applicable USDA Organic regulations and resources for certification are available on the AMS website at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop>.*

b) ALLOWABLE AND UNALLOWABLE COSTS FOR CERTIFIED ORGANIC OPERATIONS

Allowable Costs	Unallowable Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Application Fees• Inspection Fees, including Travel Costs and Per Diem for Organic Inspectors• Certification Costs, including fees necessary to access international markets with which AMS has equivalency agreements or arrangements• User Fees/Sale Assessments• Postage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inspections due to violations of USDA Organic regulations• Charges related to non-USDA organic certifications• Transitional Certifications• Other labeling program• Materials, Supplies, & Equipment• Late Fees• Membership Fees• Consultant Fees

4. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

a) STATE APPLICATION

Each applicant must complete the 2016 Organic Cost Share Application for North Dakota posted on the NDDA website: <http://www.nd.gov/ndda/program/organic-certification-cost-share-program>. Do not modify the format of the cover page or make your own form.

b) SUBMISSION DATE

NDDA must receive the full application, postmarked no later than November 16, 2016. A complete application will include:

1. A completed 2016 Organic Certification Cost Share Application.
2. Proof of certification, within the cost share qualifying period (10/1/15 and 9/30/16) as issued by a USDA accredited certifying agent.
3. A copy of the itemized billing statement documenting allowable certification costs (see below) paid between 10/1/15 and 9/30/16.
4. New applicants: a completed [IRS Form W9](#).

Any applications received after the due date will not be accepted.

c) APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

NDDA will review reimbursements to ensure the application and corresponding backup meet the statutory purpose of the program, all application criteria are fulfilled, and that costs are allowable. **Once applications are reviewed by NDDA, reimbursement will be made on a first-come first-serve basis until funds are depleted.**

d) CERTIFYING AGENCIES RECEIVING APPLICATIONS

NDDA has entered into an agreement with International Certification Services (ICS) and OCIA Chapter 1 complete the application. Organic operations certified through these two agencies should contact their agency directly to complete the application.

5. Award Administration Information

a) CONTACT

Potential applicants or assistance can be requested with the information below:

Organic Certification Cost Share

North Dakota Department of Agriculture

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