

National Organic Certification Cost Share Program

Fiscal Year 2020

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 10.171

Federal Agreement Number: USDA-FSA-SND-NOCCSP-2020

Request Due Date:

Postmarked no later than October 31, 2020

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



North Dakota Department of Agriculture
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 602
Bismarck, ND 58505
701.328.2191
degierszewski@nd.gov

CONTENTS

1. Funding Opportunity Description	
a) Legislative Authority	2
b) Purpose.....	2
2. Award Information	
a) Available Funding.....	2
b) Certification Cost Reimbursement Allowances.....	2
c) Period of Performance	3
3. Eligibility Information	
a) Eligible Applicants.....	3
b) Allowable and Unallowable Costs for Certified Organic Operations ...	3
4. Application and Submission Information	
a) State Application.....	4
b) Submission Date	4
c) Application Review Information	4
5. Award Administrative Information	
a) Contact	5
6. Additional Information	
a) Farm Service Agency (FSA) Contact	5

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. 6523(d)), as amended by section 10004(c) of the Agriculture Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill; Pub. L. 113–79) and Section 10105 of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill, Pub. L. 115-334). Under this authority, Congress authorizes USDA to provide organic certification cost share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products who are obtaining certification under the National Organic Program. These producers and handlers may be 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.

FSA administers the Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) using relevant sections of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 and the Uniform Grant Guidance, 2 CFR 200. FSA awards OCCSP funds to eligible State Agencies, which operate as a pass-through system, by accepting and approving applications from producers and handlers so that State Agencies can issue reimbursements to organic operations.

b) PURPOSE

The purpose of the OCCSP is to defray the costs of receiving and maintaining organic certification under the National Organic Program.

2) AWARD INFORMATION

a) AVAILABLE FUNDING

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) has been allocated an estimated \$70,800.00 to reimburse FY 2020 organic operations.

b) CERTIFICATION COST REIMBURSEMENT ALLOWANCES

Reimbursement to certified organic operations are limited to 50% of the operation's total allowable certification costs, up to a maximum of \$500 per certification scope. The scopes of organic certification include: State Organic Program fees, crops, livestock, wild crops, and handler (i.e. processor).

c) PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

The period of performance is October 1, 2019 and ends September 30, 2020.

3) ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

a) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Organic operations certified to the scopes of State Organic Program fees, 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:

- Between October 1, 2019 and September 30, 2020, the organic operation must have **paid** fees/expenses related to its **initial certification or renewal**, and obtained certification from a USDA-accredited certifying agent.

NOTE: Operations with suspended, revoked, or withdrawn certifications are ineligible for cost share reimbursement.

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• USDA organic certification costs, including fees necessary to access international markets with which AMS has equivalency agreements or arrangements• User fees/sale assessments• Postage• State Organic Program fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inspections due to violations of USDA Organic regulations• Inspections due to violations of State Organic Program requirements• Charges related to non-USDA organic certifications• Other labeling programs• Materials, supplies, & equipment• Late fees• Membership fees• Consultant fees

4. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

a) STATE APPLICATION

Each applicant must complete the 2020 Organic Cost Share Application for North Dakota posted on the NDDA website: <https://www.nd.gov/ndda/marketing-information-division/organics/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 October 31, 2020. A complete application will include:

1. A completed 2020 Organic Certification Cost Share Application.
2. Proof of certification within the cost share qualifying period (10/1/2019 and 9/30/2020) as issued by a USDA accredited certifying agent.
3. A copy of the itemized billing statement documenting allowable certification costs paid between 10/1/2019 and 9/30/2020.
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

Deanna Gierszewski

600 E Boulevard Ave Dept. 602

Bismarck ND 58505-0020

Phone: 701-328-2191

Fax: 701-328-1870

degierszewski@nd.gov

6. Additional Information

a) FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA) CONTACT

Potential applicants that do not wish to apply through NDDA can request assistance from FSA with the information below:

USDA-Farm Service Agency

ND State Office

Kristen Knudtson

1025 28th St. South

Fargo, ND 58103

Phone: 701-893-2216

Fax: 855-813-6644

kristen.knudtson@udsa.gov

Or

Laura Heinrich

Phone: 701-893-2218

laura.heinrich@usda.gov