

2023 CDFA California Underserved and Small Producer Grant Program (CUSP)- Awarded Projects

#	Organization Name	Project Title	Project Description	Funds Awarded	Region(s)
1	CCOF Foundation	Hardship Assistance for Drought Relief	This project builds upon a previous cycle of CCOF's Hardship Assistance program partially funded through the 2021 CUSP Program. The Hardship Assistance Fund is the only fund in the nation that provides direct financial assistance exclusively to organic producers who suffer financial losses due to extreme hardship. Recent grants have been distributed for those suffering from drought, COVID-19, fire, heat, and most recently, flooding due to heavy rain. Additional funding from the CDFA CUSP program will enable the CCOF Foundation to continue providing meaningful amounts of drought relief funding to socially disadvantaged farmers in California who are recovering from the effects of the longstanding drought. CCOF envisions two applications cycles per year. Outreach will be done through partnerships, newsletters and email. 100-220 (depending on the award size) organic SDFRs and small farmers in California will receive a grant and and at least 4,300 producers will be reached with the direct information of this opportunity.	\$ 3,000,000.00	Statewide
2	CAFF	Drought Financial Assistance to Small and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers	The Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) has been running the California Family Farmer Emergency Fund (CFFEF) since 2020. Through the CFFEF, CAFF has awarded 82 farmers a total of \$900,000 in drought funding from the 2021 CUSP Program. New funding through the 2023 CUSP Program will allow CAFF to design a drought relief grant program that builds upon the previous program but incorporating modifications including limiting the application window(s) to a shorter time frame. CAFF will award \$2,000,000 in relief funding (in \$5K to \$10K) to approx. 200+ small farmers from Aug. 2023 to April 2025. CAFF will continue to work closely with the UC Small Farm Advisors team and other partners to ensure that the word is getting out to small and socially disadvantaged farmers, and a link to the application will be accessed via CAFF's website. CAFF will prioritize SDFR's by allocating at least 50% of the funding that is awarded through CUSP funding to go to SDRFRs.	\$ 2,222,200.00	Statewide
3	Sutter County RCD	Sutter County Drought Relief Technical Assistance	The Sutter County Resource Conservation District's goal is to help the farmers in the area by providing CUSP Drought Relief application support to assist the local Punjab farmer community and small farmers that have been stuck by the drought. The Sutter RCD is an experienced CDFA technical assistance provider, operates a Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL) and works with other USDA programs. This project will be focusing its CUSP efforts working with Punjab farmers and small farmers, as the organization has the cultural and language competencies to work with these communities. The Sutter RCD's project will target 150 small producers through outreach and drought relief application support. Additional funding through CUSP will help the Sutter RCD provide farm business management, financial planning and marketing assistance.	\$ 100,000.00	Sutter County
4	ABIRC	Business Development and Drought Relief Grants (BDDRG) Program	The Asian Business Institute and Resource Center (ABIRC) will help socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (SDFRs) recover from the drought via technical assistance in the forms of business workshops, networking events, CUSP application assistance and direct relief grants totaling \$2.7 million. To achieve this, ABIRC will conduct extensive outreach, build trust with SDFRs, and utilize its trusted partners such as University of California Cooperative Extension and Lao Veterans of America, Inc. ABIRC will offer 2 business training/workshops & 2 networking events/yr. ABIRC plans to distribute 2.7M total drought relief funding (2 rounds/yr) 90% SDFR's 200+ awards will be made. Outreach efforts include local TV and radio. Target outreach will be 80 participants in business workshops, 40 participants in networking events, 300+ TA to CUSP drought relief applications. Components include business plan writing, bookkeeping, marketing, and tax filing.	\$ 3,000,000.00	Fresno County/ Central Valley/ Statewide

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5	NCRC&DC	2023 North Coast CUSP Expansion Project for Small and Medium Farmers and Ranchers dealing with Drought	This project builds upon a 2021 CUSP grant managed by the North Coast Resource Conservation & Development Council (NCRDC). This additional funding will increase capacity for a series of existing workshop offerings, and enhances existing offerings with greater programming on water conserving agriculture. Workshops include assistance on applying for drought relief support including the CUSP Drought Relief grant program. 100 small and medium size producers will be reached. The NCRDC's program will incorporate information from the State regulatory agencies, UCCE, and others on water rights and policy and potential drought contingency actions to assist in agricultural risk management and planning. Other topics covered will be new tools for farming including technology for farming with droughts, seed saving, compost production, regenerative grazing, prescribed burning, value added opportunities, business planning & marketing workshops. NCRDC will work with regional partners to provide outreach and support to small and medium size producers, BIPOC farmers and ranchers. All program information will be available in Spanish.	\$ 100,000.00	Northern California--Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino and Lake Counties
6	RCD of Monterey County	Providing drought relief to small-scale Latinx farmers in Monterey County	The Resource Conservation District of Monterey County's CUSP project goal is to provide bilingual (Spanish/English) CUSP Drought Relief Grant Program overview and application support to small-scale Latinx farmers in Monterey County and surrounding areas. RCD Monterey will provide language appropriate information to at least 100 farmers in one-on-one and workshop settings and eligible farmers will receive follow up and CUSP drought relief application support. Proposes to leverage CDFA WETA funds to support regional collaborations on project activities, including staff coordination time and workshop space. CDFA CUSP TA funds will augment CDFA WETA activities by providing time for RCDMC staff to conduct workshops specifically on the CUSP Drought Relief Grant Program and to provide in-depth individualized follow-up to farmers to complete CUSP Drought Relief Grant Program applications and to compile and submit relevant documentation. Goal is to serve 90% SDFR's.	\$ 99,492.00	Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Benito Counties
7	Sierra RCD	Technical Assistance and Economic Relief for Small and Medium Scale Producers, Ranchers and Historically Underserved Farmers in Fresno County	This project builds upon the Sierra Resource Conservation District's 2021 CUSP Program grant. The Sierra RCD plans to increase agricultural producers' business capacity learning with, and from, other innovative producers in Fresno County; and increase farm operation stability through more secure and long-term land access. Proposes surveying producers on business training/marketing models that are more useful to them. Peer to peer education & marketing tactics, develop (2) workshop-(30 participants ea) with regional partner support. TA component target: 150 producers will be assisted through outreach. TA assistance to 50 producers on CUSP applications Sierra RCD will do outreach/application support for producers applying to CDFA CUSP Drought relief & also manage its own drought relief fund distribution. Sierra RCDproposes to enhance the RCD's Agriculture and Rangeland Program to integrate CUSP programmatic work to provide added technical assistance to farmers & explore other opportunities such as regenerative agricultural practices for small- and medium-scale producers in Fresno County, particularly those who have been historically underserved. 38-50 direct producer grants will be awarded (50% to SDFRs, between \$10k-20k). Outreach will include mailings & farm visits with multi-lingual support. Program will allow strengthening of relationships with regional partners. Expand network of resources & connect land-seeking farmers w/non-operating land-owners, land access information.	\$ 925,000.00	Madera County/ Central Valley

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8	Multiplier/KTA	Supporting Small and Socially Disadvantaged Sustainable Producers to Build Thriving Businesses Amidst Climate-Related Challenges	This project builds upon a 2021 CUSP grant managed by Kitchen Table Advisors (KTA). KTA will provide monthly 1:1 business advising and technical assistance to 110-115 small and midscale farms and ranches, at least 70 of which are owned by SDFRs. KTA will provide each farm with business and financial planning support and marketing assistance and help them apply for Federal and State drought relief grant programs, as well as other types of financial aid/relief. KTA will also connect producers with agencies like NRCS and local Resource Conservation Districts. KTA will leverage experience from previous CUSP grant program to focus on helping sustainable producers find and apply to available relief grant programs, as well as providing them with ongoing, personalized business advising support to help them stay in business through the ongoing drought and myriad other challenges. KTA's 2023 CUSP program prioritizes SDFRs in 17 counties served. Outreach will be done through the already established Farm Viability Program. Goals & Outcomes could be expanded to include more details on CUSP applications, other business support components. 70 SDFRs will get support in applying to fed/state relief programs.	\$ 100,000.00	Alameda, Madera, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Sacramento, San Benito, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, and Yolo.
9	Hmong Business Incubator Center	HBI Business Technical Assistance for the CUSP Drought Relief Grant Program	Through 2023 CUSP Program funding, the Hmong Business Incubator Center (HBI) plans to increase its services to provide assist aimed at small and medium scale Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (SDFRs) that are eligible for the CUSP Program technical assistance, drought relief grants if they qualify, and assistance with business planning, financial management, and marketing strategies needed to be resilient and stay in business during the ongoing drought in California. Along with the technical assistance, HBI Center also includes a wrap-around service that provides coaching, training, and strengthening of entrepreneurial skills for small and medium scale agricultural producers throughout Fresno County and the region. All services are provided in dual language and led by culturally competent HBI staff with fluency in business acumen and multiple industries. HBI prioritizes small and medium-scale socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and offers workshops, trainings, and one-on-one coaching sessions.	\$ 100,000.00	Fresno County/ Central Valley
10	Ventura County RCD	Regional Assistance for Agricultural Producers Impacted by Drought	The Ventura County Resource Conservation District will provide financial reimbursements to 50-100 agricultural operators in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties to offset their qualified drought-related financial losses. Service areas are Ventura & Santa Barbara Counties but open statewide for drought relief applications. VCRCD will integrate CUSP into its services platform & outreach efforts. The VCRCD will combine efforts with WETA & SWEEP to identify applicants to CUSP and while conducting work for conservation plans. The program proposes quarterly enrollment in the CUSP Direct Drought Relief program. Outreach: 130 applicants will be served, 62% small or medium scale and 25% SDFRs (priority given to SDFRs). Outreach channels will include bilingual webpage, outreach materials for dist. through partnerships.	\$ 1,100,000.00	Ventura County/ Santa Barbara
11	CA Farmlink	Growing Resilient and Economically Viable Small and Socially Disadvantaged Farm Businesses through Technical Assistance, Relief and Recovery	California Farmlink's 2023 CUSP project will support the expansion of technical assistance services to reach at least 150 small and medium scale producers (over 90% small producers), including at least 70% SDFR. This program will leverage FarmLink's experience administering pandemic relief to extend new services across California, and provide business management training with drought preparedness and relief, alongside integrated capital options to multiply the impact of relief. Other services include: Land access program, bookkeeping, taxation, risk mitigation and insurance; loan programs & lease agreement facilitation. All services are also provided in Spanish. Added funding will bring focus to South Coast, Santa Barbara County, San Diego, and the San Joaquin Valley with a special focus on berry producers, mixed veg & fish operations, mainly of whom are Latino producers. Farmlink intends to work with regional partnerships and focus more on Spanish language content & outreach channels. Objective- Business Resilience Training (100 producers, 10 week program). Tech tool to assess water risk and will provide CUSP Drought Relief application support.	\$ 99,863.00	Central Coast region, SF Bay, Yolo & Nevada Counties. Fresno in CV Page 3 Rev. 04/23 CC

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12	East Stanislaus RCD	Small Farm Resiliency Fund for San Joaquin Valley for Drought Relief	The East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District will work with regional partners to provide technical assistance and drought relief funding to underserved and small farmers to access emergency relief funds that will better position their farms to be drought resilient. Most of its ag producer clients are <200 acres and main services around conservation planning. Technical assistance will include providing small farms the cost analysis and financial planning needed for irrigation improvements. Technical Assistance will continue with connecting those plans with conservation programs that they can apply for including but not limited to NRCS, CDFA or the Small Farm Resiliency Fund to implement those plans. Outreach plan includes 1,200 producers (960 small/med scale 192 SDFRs). 8 workshops planned over 2 years, different topics depending on partner organization leading presentation. Plans to organize 8 Drought Resiliency Workshops where producers will receive technical assistance on irrigation water management, cost analysis of irrigation efficiency and other drought resiliency topics, CUSP drought relief info & application support. At least 20% of participants will be SDFRs and BIMOC producers. CUSP Direct Producer Grant target: 40+ direct drought relief grants will be awarded.	\$ 774,643.00	San Joaquin Valley/ Stanislaus, Merced and Madera Counties
13	RCD of Greater San Diego	Drought Relief and Business Support for San Diego Underserved Producers	This project builds upon a previous 2021 CUSP grant managed by the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego. Through this new 2023 CUSP program, the RCD of Greater San Diego plans to conduct outreach to 200 producers, visit farms and ranches to assess drought impacts and provide one-on-one application assistance for eligible farmers for drought relief. This project includes one educational webinar and one in-person workshop on economics and marketing for 60 producers. The RCDGSD will collaborate with local partners in the area for business and marketing, farmworker issues. Project prioritizes underserved producers <50 acres or minority producers. Program information will be disseminated through a bilingual newsletter. The RCDGSD will continue to offer TA support for farmers in a low-income community region.	\$ 87,002.09	San Diego County
14	Inland Empire RCD	Inland Empire Farm and Ranch Drought Relief Assistance Program	The Inland Empire Resource Conservation Districts' Part 2 CUSP Program seeks to support small and medium scale producers in the Inland Empire. In collaboration with UCCE's Small Farm and Specialty Crop Advisor, IERCD will develop outreach materials, host workshops, and coordinate with other regional Technical Service Providers in Southern California to encourage and assist with producer applications to the CUSP Drought Relief Direct Producer Grant Program by small and medium-scale farmers. 100-200 farmers will be provided direct funding (3-4 Socially Disadvantaged Farmer and Rancher groups will be serviced by this program). A minimum of 6 IERCD led workshops promoting the CUSP Drought Relief Program, 10+ Regional Partners engaged in the Block Grant program and provided outreach materials and technical support to engage farmers in their networks.	\$ 1,100,000.00	Inland Empire