

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) – Programs for Producers

Technical Assistance (TA) Provider Reference Sheets

Healthy Soils Incentives Program (HSP – Incentives)

Purpose	The HSP Incentives Program provides financial incentives to California growers and ranchers to implement conservation management practices that sequester carbon, reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases (GHGs), and improve soil health.
Eligibility	California farmers, ranchers and Federal and California Recognized Native American Indian Tribes are eligible to apply.
Award Limit	Please check the latest program RFP for current award limit information.
Advance Payments	If selected for funding, recipients may be eligible for an advance payment of up to 25 percent of the grant award, subject to the provisions of section 316.1 “Advance Payments” of the California Code of Regulations, Division 1, Chapter 5.
Program Description	<p>CDFA has identified eligible agricultural management practices that sequester carbon, reduce atmospheric GHGs and improve soil health for HSP projects (further information available on the program website regarding specific practices).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Common eligible practices include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Cover Crop, Compost Application, Tree and Shrub Establishment, Conservation cover, No-till or Reduced Tillage Management, Nutrient Management, Riparian Forest Buffer• Project Details:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ An applicant must include the APN(s) of the field(s) where the eligible management practice(s) will be implemented.○ An applicant may include multiple practices on the same APN or the same practice on multiple APNs.○ A previously implemented practice cannot be implemented on same field. A previously implemented practice is eligible for funding only if it is implemented on a new, different field within the same APN or a new APN.
Resources	HSP-Incentives Webpage: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthsoils/IncentivesProgram.html Contact Email: cdfa.hsp_tech@cdfa.ca.gov

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Technical Assistance (TA) Provider Reference Sheets

State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP)

Purpose	To provide financial incentives for California agricultural operations to invest in irrigation systems that save water and reduce GHG emissions through different strategies.
Eligibility	California farmers, ranchers and Federal and California Recognized Native American Indian Tribes are eligible to apply. At least 25% of funds allocated for socially disadvantaged producers.
Award Limit	\$200,000 (18-month projects)
Advance Payments	If selected for funding, recipients may be eligible for an advance payment of up to 25 percent of the grant award, subject to the provisions of section 316.1 “Advance Payments” of the California Code of Regulations, Division 1, Chapter 5.
Program Description	<p>Expenses Covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil moisture monitoring, Sensor hardware and telemetry, Flow meters • Software associated with sensors and weather stations • Micro-irrigation systems (micro-sprinkler, drip, subsurface drip) • Switching from high pressure to low pressure irrigation systems • Surface irrigation improvements, Pump retrofits/replacements, Fuel conversion/utility connection • Variable frequency drives • Installation of renewable energy to reduce on-farm water use and energy • On-farm water storage • Surface water connection • Permits <p>Examples of Expenses NOT Covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project design costs (e.g., engineering), Project management costs • Post-project service charges and maintenance costs associated with the irrigation system • Any labor provided by the applicant or applicant’s employees (such costs could be categorized as “in-kind”); labor in excess of 25% • Supplies and equipment costs not related to irrigation or water distribution systems • Tools and equipment with useful life of less than two years • Costs associated with drilling of new or expanding groundwater wells • Irrigation training courses • Pump efficiency tests • Purchase of trees, crops, or seeds; purchase of soil amendments
Resources	<p>SWEEP Webpage: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/sweep/</p> <p>Contact Email: cdfa.sweeptech@cdfa.ca.gov</p>

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Technical Assistance (TA) Provider Reference Sheets

Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP)

Purpose	CDFA’s Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP) provides financial assistance for the implementation of non-digester manure management practices in California, which will result in reduced greenhouse gas emissions.
Eligibility	The project site must be located on a commercial California dairy or livestock operation. Individuals receiving grant award funds must be located in California with a physical California business address.
Award Limit	\$750,000
Advance Payments	If selected for funding, recipients may be eligible for an advance payment of up to 25 percent of the grant award, subject to the provisions of section 316.1 “Advance Payments” of the California Code of Regulations, Division 1, Chapter 5.
Program Description	<p>Each AMMP project requesting funding must include at least one of the following project components that reduce baseline methane emissions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pasture-Based Management <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Including (i) conversion of a non-pasture dairy or livestock operation to pasture-based management and/or (ii) increasing the amount of time livestock spend at pasture at an existing pasture operation. 2. Alternative Manure Treatment and Storage <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Installation of a compost bedded pack barn that composts manure in situ. b. Installation of slatted floor pit storage manure collection that must be cleaned out at least monthly. 3. Solid Separation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Solid separation of manure solids prior to entry into a wet/anaerobic environment (e.g., lagoon, settling pond, settling basin) at a dairy or livestock operation in conjunction with one of the manure treatment and/or storage practices listed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Weeping wall, stationary screen, vibrating screen, screw press, centrifuge, roller drum, belt press/screen, advanced solid-liquid separation assisted by flocculants and/or bead filters, vermifiltration. 4. Conversion from a Flush to Scrape Manure Collection System <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. In combination with one of the manure treatment and/or storage practices listed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Open solar drying, closed solar drying, forced evaporation with natural-gas fueled dryers, daily spread, solid storage, composting in vessel, composting in aerated static pile, composting in intensive windrows, composting in passive windrows.
Resources	<p>AMMP Webpage: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/ammp/ Contact Email: cdfa.oefi_ammp_tech@cdfa.ca.gov</p>

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Technical Assistance (TA) Provider Reference Sheets

Dairy Digester Research and Development Program (DDRDP)

Purpose	CDFA’s Dairy Digester Research and Development Program (DDRDP) provides financial assistance for the installation of dairy digesters in California, which will result in reduced greenhouse gas emissions.
Eligibility	The project site must be located on a commercial California dairy operation. Individuals and/or entities receiving grant award funds must be located in California with a physical California business address.
Award Limit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDFA will fund up to 50% of the total project cost with a maximum grant award of \$1.6 million per project. • A minimum of 50% matching funds is required (no more than 25% in-kind contributions).
Advance Payments	Not available for this program.
Program Description	<p>Project Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects must use methane for energy production or transportation fuel (e.g., including but not limited to renewable natural gas). Projects that propose flaring as the sole end-use for biogas will not be eligible. • Projects must either convert biomethane to renewable electricity or fuel (to use on-site or inject into an existing pipeline), or for the utilization of energy at a neighboring facility. • At least 80% dry weight of the feedstock for anaerobic digestion must be manure from dairy livestock. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Other substrates, such as dairy processing wastes including whey, or other agricultural waste, can be added to the feedstock to up to 20% dry weight. Applicants must provide details regarding all co-substrates. <p>California Environmental Quality Act and Permits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDFA’s intent is to fund projects that can demonstrate a project’s “readiness.” • Project readiness will be evaluated based on evidence that applicants are ready to promptly start project implementation. Evidence includes, but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A list of permits already obtained. ○ Details of the process required to obtain remaining permits. <p>Project Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects must use commercially available technologies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commercially available technologies have a proven operating history specific to the grant application. ○ DDRDP grant funds cannot be used for pre-commercial or new technology development.
Resources	<p>DDRDP Webpage: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/ddrdp/</p> <p>Contact Email: cdfa.oefi_ddrdp_tech@cdfa.ca.gov</p>

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Technical Assistance (TA) Provider Reference Sheets

Farm to School Incubator Grant Program

Purpose	The Farm to School Incubator Grant Program will award competitive grants to support projects that cultivate equity, nurture students, build climate resilience, and create scalable and sustainable change.
Eligibility	Food producers in California (see latest Request for Applications document for eligibility notes).
Award Limit	Please see funding tracks within the Request for Applications document to confirm award limits for each funding track.
Advance Payments	If selected for funding, recipients may be eligible for an advance payment, subject to the provisions of section 316.1 “Advance Payments” of the California Code of Regulations, Division 1, Chapter 5.
Program Description	<p>Note on Eligibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A food producer is defined as a person, group of individuals, non-profit organization, or Tribal government entity that leases, rents, or owns land in California (whether the land is publicly owned, privately owned, or Tribal land) and cultivates crops, raises livestock, and/or uses Indigenous food production practices on this land, and/or a California seafood harvester.• Food producers are eligible as lead applicants on certain funding tracks and as supporting partners on other funding tracks. Please consult with the Request for Applications once released to confirm eligibility. <p>Funding Tracks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To support a systems approach to advancing farm to school throughout the state, the California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program offers multiple funding tracks. Applicants may apply to multiple tracks based on eligibility and project type.• Funding tracks in the past have included:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Track 1: The California Farm to School K-12 Procurement and Education Grant○ Track 2: The California Farm to School Partnership Grant○ Track 3: The California Farm to Early Care and Education (ECE) Grant○ Track 4: The California Farm to School Producer Grant
Resources	Farm to School Website: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/caf2sgrant/ Contact Email: cafarmtoschool@cdfa.ca.gov

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Technical Assistance (TA) Provider Reference Sheets

Healthy Refrigeration Grant Program

Purpose	Through the Healthy Refrigeration Grant Program, CDFA funds energy-efficient units in corner stores, small businesses, and food donation programs in low-income or low-food access areas throughout the state.
Eligibility	Corner stores and small businesses including but not limited to small farm operations with farm stands or stores, that sell or donate food to low-income or low-food access clientele.
Award Limit	No maximum grant amount within the available funding pool.
Advance Payments	Nonprofits and small businesses may receive grant advances for up to three months of expenses at a time to alleviate cash flow issues, when a reimbursement process would severely impact their capacity to implement the project. Please see the RFP for further details on the criteria and procedures (subject to the provisions of section 316.1 “Advance Payments” of the California Code of Regulations, Division 1, Chapter 5).
Program Description	<p>CDFA will fund energy-efficient and climate-friendly refrigeration and freezer equipment in corner stores, small businesses, and food donation programs serving low-income or low-food access clients. New units are to stock California-grown fresh produce, nuts, eggs, meat, dairy, minimally processed, and culturally appropriate foods to the extent possible. The program seeks to improve access to healthy foods in underserved communities, while promoting CA-grown agriculture.</p> <p>Allowable Expenses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refrigeration and freezer equipment that meets equipment guidelines.• Installation costs for equipment.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Applicants should get a quote for installation for remote condensing units and include with the application.○ Applicants are recommended to use turnkey solutions that include costs of unloading, placement, and any removal/recycling of refrigerants and materials being upgraded and include this estimate in the application.• If a turnkey solution is not used, unloading and placement fees for units can be included.• The cost of removing and recycling equipment and reclaiming refrigerants when old equipment is being replaced by new, grant-funded equipment.• Minor electrical work such as installing outlets to accommodate new equipment.• Documentation of all final costs incurred will need to be submitted. <p>Eligibility Note: Nonprofits are also eligible as TA and equipment providers or through direct sales or food donation.</p>
Resources	HRGP Website: https://cafarmtofork.cdfa.ca.gov/hrgp.html Contact Email: cafarmtofork@cdfa.ca.gov