



2020 Healthy Soils Program – Incentives Program Application Assistance Workshops

Willows - March 5, 2020

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Glenn County Office of Education, Grapevine Room
311 S. Villa Ave.,
Willows, CA 95988

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1617504055016091147>

Fresno - March 9, 2020

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner Office, Room Demo
1720 S Maple Ave,
Fresno, CA 93702

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8158593286632286733>

Salinas - March 16, 2020

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner Office, Conference Room
1428 Abbott St.
Salinas, CA

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6529026894315030029>

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. CDFA Staff Presentation: Program Overview, Requirements and How to Apply
3. Questions and Answers

For more information, visit the HSP Incentives Program Website:

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthsoils/IncentivesProgram.html>

Questions? Email us at: cdfa.HSP_Tech@cdfa.ca.gov

CDFA HEALTHY SOILS PROGRAM

2020 HSP Incentives Program
Request for Grant Applications

March 2020

Applicant Assistance Workshop



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Outline

- Program Overview
- Funding and Duration
- Solicitation Timeline and Process
- Review Process and Scoring Criteria
- Eligibility and Exclusions
- HSP Eligible Practices
- Project Duration and Requirements
- How to Apply
- Technical Assistance and FAQ's
- Award Process

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- **Healthy Soils Program (HSP)**

Stems from California Healthy Soils Initiative, a collaboration of state agencies and departments that promotes the development of healthy soils on California's farmlands and ranchlands.

Competitive grant program: HSP Incentives Program and HSP Demonstration Projects

- **Objectives:** To build soil organic carbon and reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases (GHGs).
- **HSP Incentives Program** provides financial incentives to California growers and ranchers to implement agricultural management practices that sequester carbon, reduce atmospheric GHGs and improve soil health.



FUNDING AND DURATION

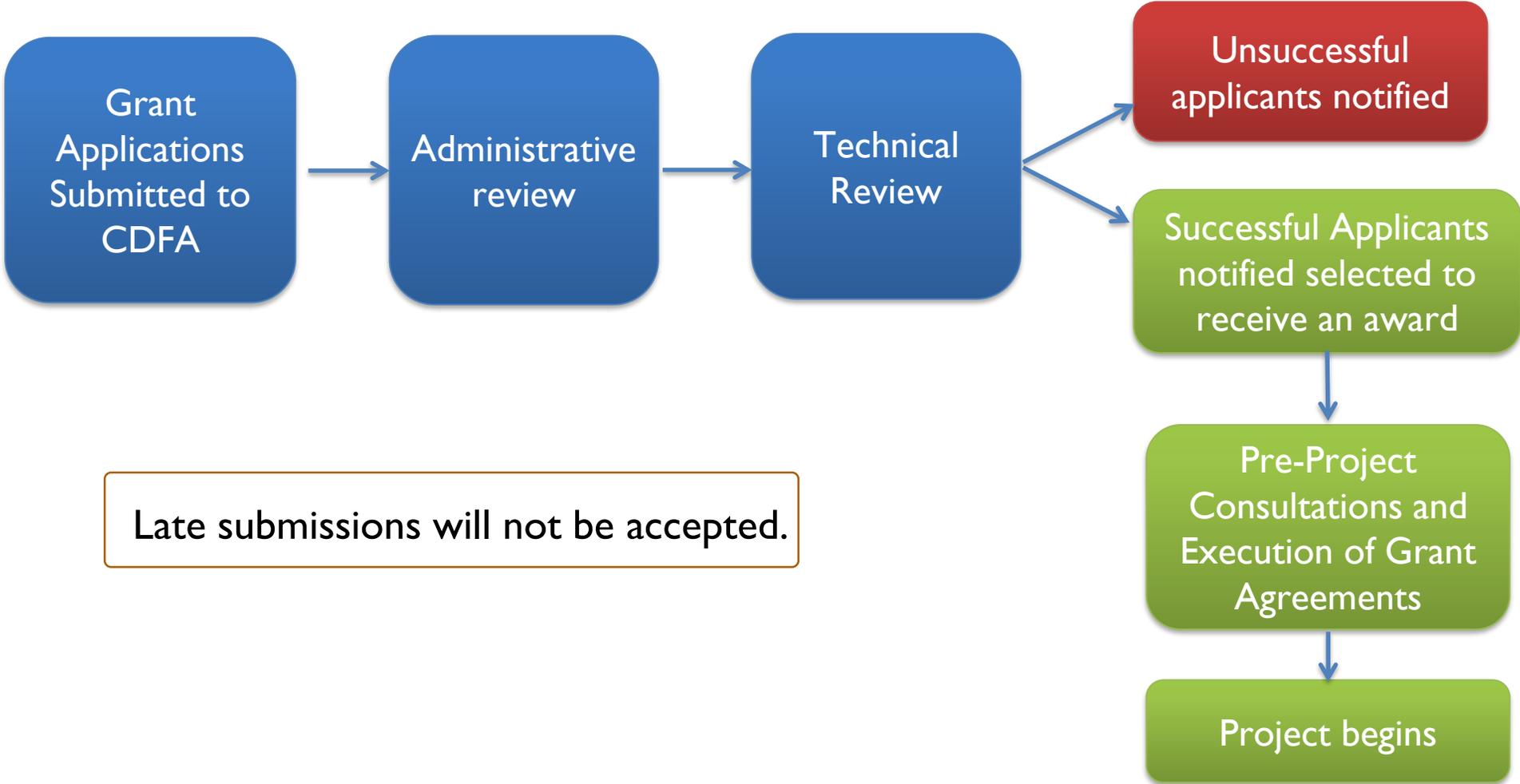
- **Funding sources:**
 - Budget Act of 2019 - \$28 Million through the California Climate Investments (CCI)
- **Program Funding:**
 - HSP Incentives Program:
Maximum Grant Amount: \$100,000 per application
- **Grant (Project) Duration (tentative):**
September 2020 – March 2023

SOLICITATION TIMELINE

Activity	Dates
Release Request for Grant Applications	February 27, 2020
CDFA Grant Application Workshops and Webinars	March 2020
Applications Due	Accepted on a rolling basis until June 26, 2020 or until funds are expended, whichever is earlier.
Review Period	On a rolling basis, until July 2020. Applications will be reviewed in the order received.

**Application submission, review and award notifications will be on a rolling-basis:
first come first serve**

SOLICITATION PROCESS



Late submissions will not be accepted.

REVIEW PROCESS

Multiple Stages of Review:

- Step 1: Administrative Review: Internal – Conducted by CDFA
- Step 2: Technical Review: External – Conducted by Technical Reviewers (University experts)
- Applications Prioritized for Funding: Projects serving Socially Disadvantaged Farmers or Ranchers, and/or Priority Populations
- Timeline: CDFA anticipates providing award notification/feedback on the grant application within 6 weeks of submission.

SCORING CRITERIA

Criteria	Score
Project Logistics	10
Project Design	10
Project Work Plan	10
Project Budget and GHG Emission Reduction Estimate	20
Conservation Plan (optional)	10
Total	60

Minimum score of 40 must be obtained to be considered for funding

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

- California farmers, ranchers and Federal and California Recognized Native American Indian Tribes.
- Projects must be located on California agricultural operations, reduce agricultural GHGs and sequester soil carbon.
- Applicant must have control of the land for the duration of the grant:
 - Letter of agreement from landowner for leased land is required
- One application per unique tax identification number.
- Grant amount cannot exceed \$100,000.
- Implement at least one HSP Agricultural Management Practice on a field where it was not implemented previously.

PROGRAM EXCLUSIONS

- Grant funds **cannot** be used to implement practices other than those listed in the HSP RGA (Request for Grant Applications).
- Grant funds **cannot** be used to fund existing and ongoing implementation of any HSP agricultural management practices.
- Grant funds **cannot** be used to fund fields where a HSP Demonstration or Incentives grant was previously awarded for a particular practice. New practices added to previously funded fields may be eligible.
- Compost Application Practices **cannot** be implemented on fields where soil organic matter content is greater than 20% by dry weight in top 20 cm (or 8 inch) depth.
- Grant funds **cannot** be used for projects that use potted plants or other plant growth media.

HSP AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (I)

I. Cropland Practices

- 1) Alley Cropping ([USDA NRCS CPS 311](#))
- 2) Compost Application Practices (application rates consistent with those specified in [CDFA Compost Application White Paper](#))
 - 1) Compost Purchased from a Certified Composting Facility
 - 2) On-farm Produced Compost (*compliant with all requirements in the RGA*)
- 3) Conservation Cover ([USDA NRCS CPS 327](#))
- 4) Conservation Crop Rotation ([USDA NRCS CPS 328](#))
- 5) Contour Buffer Strips ([USDA NRCS CPS 332](#))
- 6) Cover Crop ([USDA NRCS CPS 340](#))
- 7) Field Border ([USDA NRCS CPS 386](#))
- 8) Filter Strip ([USDA NRCS CPS 393](#))
- 9) Forage and Biomass Planting ([USDA NRCS 512](#))
- 10) Grassed Waterway ([USDA NRCS CPS 412](#))

HSP AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (2)

I. Cropland Practices (Cont'd)

- 11) Hedgerow Planting ([USDA NRCS CPS 422](#))
- 12) Herbaceous Wind Barrier ([USDA NRCS CPS 603](#))
- 13) Mulching ([USDA NRCS CPS 484](#))
- 14) Multi-story Cropping ([USDA NRCS CPS 379](#))
- 15) Nutrient Management ([USDA NRCS CPS 590](#)) (15% reduction in fertilizer application *only*)
- 16) Residue and Tillage Management – No-Till ([USDA NRCS CPS 329](#))
- 17) Residue and Tillage Management – Reduced Till ([USDA NRCS CPS 345](#))
- 18) Riparian Forest Buffer ([USDA NRCS CPS 391](#))
- 19) Riparian Herbaceous Cover ([USDA NRCS CPS 390](#))
- 20) Strip Cropping ([USDA NRCS CPS 585](#))
- 21) Tree/Shrub Establishment ([USDA NRCS CPS 612](#))
- 22) Vegetative Barriers (601) ([USDA NRCS CPS 601](#))
- 23) Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment ([USDA NRCS CPS 380](#))

HSP AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (3)

II. Orchard or Vineyard Practices

- 1) Compost Application Practices (application rates consistent with those specified in [CDFA Compost Application White Paper](#))
 - Compost Purchased from a Certified Composting Facility
 - On-farm Produced Compost (*compliant with all requirements in the RGA*)
- 2) Conservation Cover ([USDA NRCS CPS 327](#))
- 3) Cover Crop ([USDA NRCS CPS 340](#))
- 4) Filter Strip ([USDA NRCS CPS 393](#))
- 5) Hedgerow Planting ([USDA NRCS CPS 422](#))
- 6) Mulching ([USDA NRCS CPS 484](#))
- 7) Nutrient Management ([USDA NRCS CPS 590](#)) (15% reduction in fertilizer application *only*)
- 8) Residue and Tillage Management – No-Till ([USDA NRCS CPS 329](#))
- 9) Residue and Tillage Management – Reduced Till ([USDA NRCS CPS 345](#))
- 10) Whole Orchard Recycling ([CDFA Whole Orchard Recycling Report](#))
- 11) Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment ([USDA NRCS CPS 380](#))

HSP AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (4)

III. Grazing Land Practices

- 1) Compost Application Practices (application rates consistent with those specified in [CDFA Compost Application White Paper](#))
 - Compost Purchased from a Certified Composting Facility
 - On-farm Produced Compost (*compliant with all requirements in the RGA*)
- 2) Hedgerow Planting ([USDA NRCS CPS 422](#))
- 3) Prescribed Grazing ([USDA NRCS CPS 528](#))
- 4) Range Planting ([USDA NRCS CPS 550](#))
- 5) Riparian Forest Buffer ([USDA NRCS CPS 391](#))
- 6) Silvopasture ([USDA NRCS CPS 381](#))
- 7) Tree/Shrub Establishment ([USDA NRCS CPS 612](#))
- 8) Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment ([USDA NRCS CPS 380](#))

NON-OVERLAPPING PRACTICES (I)

Practices in the same group cannot be implemented on the exact same land area or field, i.e., cannot overlap.

- Group I
 - Cover Crop ([USDA NRCS CPS 340](#))
 - Conservation Crop Rotation ([USDA NRCS CPS 328](#))
 - Strip Cropping ([USDA NRCS CPS 585](#))
- Group II:
 - Residue and Tillage Management – No-Till ([USDA NRCS CPS 329](#))
 - Residue and Tillage Management – Reduced Till ([USDA NRCS CPS 345](#))
- Group III:

Compost Application: Compost is either

 - Purchased from a Certified Facility
 - On-farm Produced Compost
- Group IV:
 - Alley Cropping ([USDA NRCS CPS 311](#))
 - Multi-story Cropping ([USDA NRCS CPS 379](#))

NON-OVERLAPPING PRACTICES (2)

Practices in the same group cannot be implemented on the exact same land area or field, i.e., cannot overlap. (Cont'd)

- Group V
 - Mulching ([USDA NRCS CPS 484](#))
 - Whole Orchard Recycling
- Group VI:
 - Conservation Cover ([USDA NRCS CPS 327](#))
 - Contour Buffer Strips ([USDA NRCS CPS 332](#))
 - Field Border ([USDA NRCS CPS 386](#))
 - Filter Strip ([USDA NRCS CPS 393](#))
 - Forage and Biomass Planting ([USDA NRCS 512](#))
 - Grassed Waterway ([USDA NRCS CPS 412](#))

NON-OVERLAPPING PRACTICES (3)

Practices in the same group cannot be implemented on the exact same land area or field, i.e., cannot overlap. (Cont'd)

- Group VII
 - Alley Cropping ([USDA NRCS CPS 311](#))
 - Multi-story Cropping ([USDA NRCS CPS 379](#))
 - Riparian Forest Buffer ([USDA NRCS CPS 391](#))
 - Tree/Shrub Establishment ([USDA NRCS CPS 612](#))
 - Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment ([USDA NRCS CPS 380](#))
- Group VIII:
 - Any Practice in Group VI
 - Mulching ([USDA NRCS CPS 484](#))

PROJECT DURATION

Project Year	Duration of Project Year	Practice Implementation Must Begin No Later Than
1	Date of grant agreement execution – June 30, 2021	December 31, 2020
2	July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022	December 31, 2021
3	July 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023	December 31, 2022

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (I)

- **Baseline data for each Field:**
 - Cropping history in the past three years (January 2017 – December 2019)
 - Management history in the past three years (January 2017 – December 2019)
 - Proposed plan of crops for all Fields included in project during grant term (2020 – 2023)
- **For Fields that will receive compost application:**
 - Compost Application Practices **cannot** be implemented on fields where soil organic matter content is greater than 20% by dry weight in top 20 cm (or 8 inch) depth.
 - Identified via CDFA HSP RePlan Tool
- **Must provide:**
 - CDFA HSP RePlan Report
 - HSP Incentives Work Plan Template
 - CDFA HSP Comet-Planner Report
 - Estimated GHG Emission Reductions
 - Estimated Project Budget

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (2)

Requirements on Practice Implementation and Verification

- Selected projects are subjected to pre-project consultation before the grant contract is signed.
- Implementation of practice(s) must be located on the same field(s) that are in executed grant agreement during the entire project duration.
- Implementation of practices must begin prior to December 31 in each project year.
- Reports on soil organic matter content prior to practice implementation, and at one, two and three years after practice implementation to be submitted to CDFA.
- Awarded projects are subject to verification to evaluate the project site and implementation of eligible agricultural management practice(s).

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PREPARATION FOR ONLINE APPLICATION

- Important documents to review before you start to apply:
 - [HSP Incentives Program Request for Grant Applications \(RGA\)](#)
 - HSP Practices Payment Rates and Implementation Requirements
 - [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- Important documents to download for preparing submission:
 - [Project Work Plan Template](#)
- HSP Incentives website:
<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthsoils/IncentivesProgram.html>

APPLICATION CONTENTS

- I. Project Overview
- II. Project Logistics
- III. Project Design
- IV. Project Work Plan
- V. Project Budget and GHG Reduction Estimation

- VI. Conservation Plan (Optional)
- VII. Benefits to (*Optional, Prioritized*)
 - 1) Socially Disadvantaged Farmers/Ranchers
 - 2) Priority Populations (AB 1550/SB 535)

ONLINE APPLICATION WEBPORTAL

Live Demonstration:

https://webportalapp.com/sp/2020_cdfa_hsp_incentives

CDFA HSP RePlan Tool

Live Demonstration: <https://replan-tool.org/cdfa/>

PROJECT BUDGET AND GHG REDUCTION ESTIMATION TOOL

Live Demonstration: [CDFA HSP COMET-Planner](#)

GROUNDS FOR DISQUALIFICATION

- Incomplete grant applications:
 - Applications with one or more unanswered questions necessary for administrative or technical review.
 - Applications with missing, blank, unreadable, corrupt, or otherwise unusable attachments.
- Applications requested for more than the maximum award amount.
- Applications not meeting program requirements.

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- **Technical Assistance and FAQ's**
- **Award Process**

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND FAQ's

- CDFA cannot assist in the preparation of grant applications. However, general questions may be submitted to cdfa.HSP_Tech@cdfa.ca.gov.
- Answers to questions will be posted on [HSP Incentives Program website](#). A schedule for questions to be submitted and responses to be posted will be provided at the time of release.
- A list of technical assistance providers contact information will be available on the [HSP Incentive Program website](#).
 - TAP help is free of cost.
- CDFA has posted [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the HSP Incentives Program website.

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- **Award Process**

AWARD PROCESS

- Pre-Project Consultation
 - CDFA HSP team communicates with grant recipients to discuss:
 - Project work plan, management practices, APN, materials/plant selection, implementation, and budget.
 - Communication may be via email or phone call.
 - Ensures practices and implementation methods align with 2020 HSP Incentives Program requirements.
- Yearly verification visits are conducted by CDFA HSP team.
- State audit and accounting requirements:
 - Projects subject to audit annually and for 3 years following the final payment of grant funds.
 - If a project is selected for audit, grantee will be contacted in advance.
 - All grantees must maintain project records for a period of 3 years after final payment is made and at least 1 year following an audit.

CONTACTS

- Email to: cdfa.HSP_Tech@cdfa.ca.gov
- Visit: HSP Incentives Program website:
<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/HealthySoils/IncentivesProgram.html>
- Sign up for: [email notification](#)