

2020 HSP Incentives Program

Summary of Proposed Major Changes

- The application submission period will be on a rolling basis, starting [date TBD] and continuing for up to 4 months, or until available funds are expended, whichever is earlier. Applications will be reviewed and scored in the order they are submitted.
- Maximum grant award amount has been increased from \$75,000 to \$100,000.
- A previously implemented practice can be implemented on a new, different field within the same (previously funded) Assessor Parcel Number (APN).
- Whole Orchard Recycling (WOR) will be incentivized as an eligible practice under the HSP.
- 25% of the total available funds will be awarded to Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers, and projects that provide benefits to AB 1550 Priority Populations.
- Essay-type questions have been reduced from the application.
- CDFA and Strategic Growth Council are currently developing a map-based integrated application input tool. This tool is expected to include information regarding Assessor Parcel Numbers and fields of project implementation, practices to be implemented, eligibility for compost application, identification of regions included in assessment of AB 1550 Priority Populations, and guidance on selection of plant species for practices where they are applicable. This will reduce the number of attachments and analyses to be performed on external websites that were previously required for the HSP Incentives Program application.
- CDFA is collaborating with USDA-NRCS and CARB to integrate Standard Payment Rates for the HSP Incentives Program in the Comet-Planner tool for the HSP, reducing the number of attachments required with the application.
- Total score of the application has been reduced from 100 points to 60 points. A minimum of 40 points must be scored by an application to be considered for funding.

- Time frame for providing notifications and feedback to applicants has been modified to within 6 weeks, to allow award of successful applicants within the rolling application submission period.
- CDFA is currently evaluating [USDA-NRCS EQIP payment rates for 2020](#) in efforts to better align the HSP with EQIP. CDFA is currently using 2018 payment rates and is in discussion with USDA-NRCS on the new payment rates for California. CDFA HSP payment rates will cover 100% of the project cost (i.e., double the amount of the USDA-NRCS EQIP payment rates).