



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

CDFA HEALTHY SOILS PROGRAM

2021 HSP Incentives Program
Application Assistance Workshop

November 18, 2021

December 16, 2021

January 20, 2022



Welcome

Webinar to provide information on incentive program requirements and the application process.

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
- Live Demonstrations of WizeHive, RePlan, and Comet-Planner
- Award Process
- Technical Assistance and FAQ's
- Questions & Answers

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 2021 – 75 Million
 - ❑ 50 Million from the California General Fund
 - ❑ 25 Million from CCI

- **Program Funding:**

- **HSP Incentives Program:**

Maximum Grant Amount: \$100,000 per application

- **Grant (Project) Duration (tentative):**

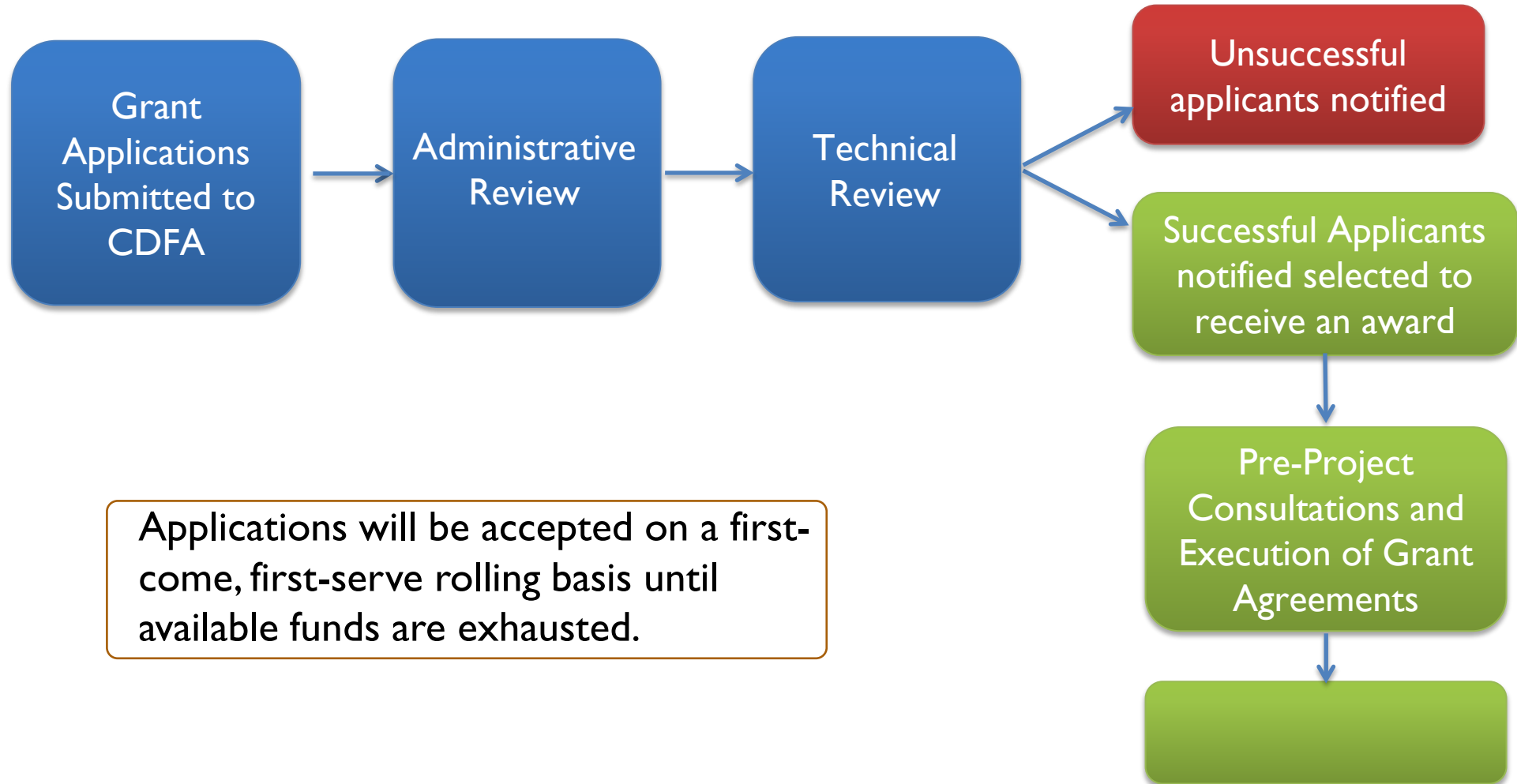
Winter/Spring 2022 – March 2025

SOLICITATION TIMELINE

Activity	Dates
Announcement of funding availability (application submission period)	November 1, 2021 – February 25, 2022
Review and awards	November 2021 – March 2022
Projects begin implementation	Winter/Spring 2022 onward

**Application submission, review and award notifications will be on a rolling-basis:
first come first serve over a 4-month period**

SOLICITATION PROCESS



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.

GROUNDNS 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 with unallowable costs or activities not necessary to complete the project objectives.
- Applications not meeting program requirements.

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 and the grantee receiving funds must be located in California.
- 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.

ELIGIBLE PRACTICES

I. Cropland Practices

- Alley Cropping ([USDA NRCS CPS 311](#))
- Compost Application ([CDFA](#))
- Conservation Cover ([USDA NRCS CPS 327](#))
- Conservation Crop Rotation ([USDA NRCS CPS 328](#))
- Contour Buffer Strips ([USDA NRCS CPS 332](#))
- Cover Crop ([USDA NRCS CPS 340](#))
- 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](#))
- Herbaceous Wind Barrier ([USDA NRCS CPS 603](#))
- Hedgerow ([USDA NRCS CPS 422](#))
- Mulching ([USDA NRCS CPS 484](#))
- Multi-story Cropping ([USDA NRCS CPS 379](#))
- Nutrient Management ([USDA NRCS CPS 590](#))
(15% reduction in fertilizer application *only*)
- Residue and Tillage Management – No-Till ([USDA NRCS CPS 329](#))
- Residue and Tillage Management – Reduced Till ([USDA NRCS CPS 345](#))
- Riparian Forest Buffer ([USDA NRCS CPS 391](#))
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover ([USDA NRCS CPS 390](#))
- Strip Cropping ([USDA NRCS CPS 585](#))
- Tree/Shrub Establishment ([USDA NRCS CPS 612](#))
- Vegetative Barriers (601) ([USDA NRCS CPS 601](#))
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment ([USDA NRCS CPS 380](#))

ELIGIBLE PRACTICES

2. Orchard and Vineyard Practices

- Compost Application ([CDFA](#))
- Conservation Cover ([USDA NRCS CPS 327](#))
- Cover Crop ([USDA NRCS CPS 340](#))
- Filter Strip ([USDA NRCS CPS 393](#))
- Hedgerow Planting ([USDA NRCS CPS 422](#))
- Mulching ([USDA NRCS CPS 484](#))
- Nutrient Management ([USDA NRCS CPS 590](#)) (15% reduction in fertilizer application *only*)
- Residue and Tillage Management – No-Till ([USDA NRCS CPS 329](#))
- Residue and Tillage Management – Reduced Till ([USDA NRCS CPS 345](#))
- Whole Orchard Recycling ([CDFA](#))
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment ([USDA NRCS CPS 380](#))

ELIGIBLE PRACTICES

3. Grazing Land

- Compost Application ([CDFA](#))
- Hedgerow Planting ([USDA NRCS CPS 422](#))
- Prescribed Grazing ([USDA NRCS CPS 528](#))
- Range Planting ([USDA NRCS CPS 550](#))
- Riparian Forest Buffer ([USDA NRCS CPS 391](#))
- Tree/Shrub Establishment ([USDA NRCS CPS 612](#))
- Silvopasture ([USDA NRCS CPS 381](#))
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment ([USDA NRCS CPS 380](#))

NON-OVERLAPPING PRACTICES

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](#))
 - ❑ Conservation Cover ([USDA NRCS CPS 327](#))
 - ❑ 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](#))
- Group V:
 - ❑ Whole Orchard Recycling
 - ❑ Mulching ([USDA NRCS CPS 484](#))

NON-OVERLAPPING PRACTICES

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

- Group VI

Two or more practices from:

- ❑ 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](#))
- ❑ Herbaceous Wind Barrier ([USDA NRCS CPS 603](#))
- ❑ Range Planting ([USDA NRCS CPS 550](#))
- ❑ Riparian Herbaceous Cover ([USDA NRCS CPS 390](#))
- ❑ Vegetative Barriers ([USDA NRCS CPS 601](#))

- Group VII:

- ❑ Alley Cropping ([USDA NRCS CPS 311](#))
- ❑ Hedgerow Planting ([USDA NRCS CPS 422](#))
- ❑ 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](#))
- ❑ Silvopasture ([USDA NRCS CPS 381](#))

- Group VIII:

Any practice listed in Group VI and mulching

Any practice listed in Group VI and Group VII with reduced-till and no-till

Notable Updates for Eligible Practices

- Updated payment rates for all practices
 - Advanced payment up to 25% of award total can be available
- Mulching
 - All materials must be produced off-site
 - Wood chip mulches are made of chemically untreated, woody material that is ¾ -2 inches in diameter, without leaves and hardy enough to last for several years.
 - Natural materials include chipped brush, bark, wood shavings, sawdust, leaves, leaf mold, pine needles, grass hay, rice hulls, grasses, grass clippings, crop residues, straw, almond/walnut shells, cocoa bean hulls or coconut fiber.
- Conservation Cover
 - Monarch Habitat Scenario - At least 4% native milkweeds (*Asclepias* spp.) and less than 50% grasses
- Practice implementation acres for Conservation Cover, Cover Crop, Reduced-Till, and No-Till
 - Orchard – 70% of whole field acres
 - Vineyard – 60% of whole field acres

PROJECT DURATION

Project Year	Duration of Project Year	Practice Implementation Must Begin No Later Than
1	Winter/Spring, 2022 – June 30, 2023	December 31, 2022
2	July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024	December 31, 2023
3	July 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025	December 31, 2024

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (I)

- **Baseline data for each Field:**
 - Cropping history in the past three years (2019 – 2021)
 - Management history in the past three years (2019 – 2021)
 - Proposed plan of crops for all Fields included in project during grant term (2022 – 2025)
- **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 will be subjected to verification to evaluate will be subjected to verification that the eligible agricultural management practices are implemented in a manner consistent with the USDA NRCS CPS guidelines, and Program Requirements.
 - Evaluations may be done in the field and/or remotely via **geo-tagged pictures**

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/healthysoils/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)

Outline

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Live Demonstrations of WizeHive, RePlan, and Comet-Planner

- WizeHive: https://webportalapp.com/sp/login/2021_cdfa_hsp_incentives
- RePlan: <https://replan-tool.org/cdfa/>
- Comet-Planner: <http://comet-planner-cdfahsp.com/>

AWARD PROCESS

- Applicant is notified of award via email
- Applicant must accept award through application portal
- Pre-Project Consultation
 - CDFA HSP team may communicate with grant recipients to discuss:
 - Project work plan, management practices, APN/Field, materials/plant selection, implementation, and budget.
 - Communication may be via email or phone call.
 - Ensures practices and implementation methods align with 2021 HSP Incentives Program requirements.
- 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.

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.
- A list of technical assistance providers' contact information will be posted on the [HSP Incentive Program website](#).
- CDFA will post [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the HSP Incentives Program website.
- TAP and UCCE will have a direct HSP contact for answering Incentives Program questions only. This contact is not to be shared with applicants and does not apply to Demonstration Projects questions.
- Answers to questions will be provided 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.

CONTACTS

- Email: cdfa.HSP_Tech@cdfa.ca.gov
- Visit: HSP Incentives Program website:
<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/HealthySoils/IncentivesProgram.html>
- Sign up for email notifications:
<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/subscriptions/MailChimp-signup.html>

Questions?

