



Healthy Soils Program

CDFA OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL FARMING & INNOVATION

Healthy Soils Program Incentive Grants Solicitation
Applicant Training
January 2024

- # Outline
- Solicitation Details & Timeline
 - Major Changes to 2024 Incentives Program
 - RePlan Updates & Demonstration
 - Application Details
 - Review Process, DQ, and Resubmission
 - Tips & Suggestions
 - Questions & Answers

Solicitation Details

- Funding and Award Terms
 - Approximately \$12 million available to allocate
 - Maximum award per grant is \$100,000
 - 3-year grant terms
- Application Tools
 - Amplifund application portal with simplified application process
 - User friendly RePlan tool
- Review and Selection Process
 - One step review process by CDFA
 - Multi-Priority Selection
 - At least 25% of total grant funding to SDFRs
- Resources
 - RGA, application questions, and related documents on Incentives webpage
 - <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysoils/IncentivesProgram.html>



Solicitation Timeline

Activity	Timeline (subject to change)
Solicitation opens	January 22, 2024
Applicant trainings	First week of solicitation
Q&A Period 1 Q&A Period 2	Questions received 12/11/2023 – 1/10/2024; Posted 1/16/2024 Questions received 1/11/2024 - 1/26/2024; Posting 1/30/2024
Solicitation closes	February 9, 2024 at 5 pm PST
Application Review and Selection	Ongoing until all funds are allocated

General questions can be emailed to CDFA.HSP_Tech@cdfa.ca.gov during Q&A Period 2. Answers from Q&A period 1 can be found on the HSP Incentives website.

Major Changes to 2024 Incentives Program

Program Requirements

- **Leased Land**
 - Allowing applicants to apply even if the lease may not cover the whole project term.
 - Landowner Agreement Template available on Healthy Soils Incentives website – needed for all applications on leased land: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysouls/Resources-HSPIncentives.html>
- **Grant Recipient Eligibility**
 - Previous HSP Grant Recipients are not eligible to receive funds for implementing the same practice on the same field funded previously. However, a new landowner or lessee may be eligible to implement the same practice on the same field previously funded.
 - HSP staff will be checking APNs/practices and recipient's name and/or agricultural operation name and Tax ID for funded projects during review and selection process.
- **Eligible Practices**
 - Mulching with woodchips: Changed from annually implemented practice to one-time implemented.
 - Whole Orchard Recycling: Removal of "land use following WOR" requirement to allow for flexibility in cropping systems

Major Changes to 2024 Incentives Program

Application Process

- Application Portal
 - Now using Amplifund (previously used WizeHive)
 - Amplifund application portal with simplified application process
 - User-friendly RePlan tool
- Conservation plans are no longer a part of the application.

Major Changes to 2024 Incentives Program

Application Review and Selection

- Application Review Process
 - No external technical review; internal review with "pass"/"fail" process
- Application Review and Award and Prioritization Process
 - 1) Applications benefitting SDFRs and Priority Populations (min. 25% of funds)
 - 2) first-time HSP applicants;
 - 3) multiple practices proposed (no more than 80% of funding to one practice); and
 - 4) all other applications.
 - Applications in counties that are not within service areas of HSP Block Grant Recipients or HSP technical assistance providers will be reviewed earlier within their priority category, as feasible: Del Norte, Inyo, Lassen, Mariposa, Mono, Orange, Plumas, Sierra, and Trinity.

RePlan Updates & Demonstration

- Portal where applicants will be creating their project design
- Creates maps of fields, calculating acreage; allows "cut-outs" of non-field elements
- Feeds Comet Planner outputs instead of requiring separate use of Comet-Planner Tool
- Built-in budgeting
- Max funding per project is \$100K, though the RePlan tool sets \$200K cap
- Tool flags when there are small portions of other APNs included in project field
- Facilitates listing of unfunded projects on the California Carbon Sequestration and Climate Resiliency Project Registry for other potential funders.
- RePlan: <https://replan-tool.org/cdfa/>
- Demonstration with cut-out example

Application Details

- Application Questions:
 - https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysoils/docs/2024/2024_hsp_incentives_application.pdf
- Amplifund Portal
 - Link is on the HSP Incentives website

What's new with Healthy Soils Program Incentive Grants?

1/22/2024: The 2024 Healthy Soils Program Incentive Grants Solicitation is currently open to grant applications until 5:00 p.m. PST on Friday February 9, 2024. Before applying, please review the application documents below:

- Request for Grant Applications 
- Application Questions 
- Frequently Asked Questions 

These documents can also be found under the Recipient Resources.



Healthy Soils Incentives Program - 2024

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Opportunity Information

Title	Healthy Soils Incentives Program - 2024
Description	The Healthy Soils Incentives Program goal is to increase statewide implementation of conservation management practices that improve soil health, sequester carbon and reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases (GHGs) by providing financial incentives to California growers and ranchers for agricultural management practices that sequester carbon, reduce atmospheric GHGs and improve soil health.
Awarding Agency Name	California Department of Food and Agriculture
Agency Contact Email	cdfa.hsp_tech@cdfa.ca.gov

Application Details

Healthy Soils Incentives Program - 2024



Project Information

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Application Information

Application Name*

Example: <https://www.gotomygrants.com/Public/OpportunityApplications/ApplicationForm/12345> then **12345** is the application ID/name. Make sure matches application form.

How much are you requesting from the funder?

Award Requested*

Total budget amount from RePlan report. Must be below \$100,000. Make sure matches application form.

Total Award Budget \$0.00

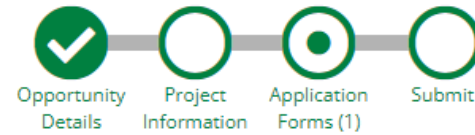
Primary Contact Information

[Save](#) [✓ Mark as Complete](#) [Save & Continue](#)

"Save & Continue" allows you to move forward while still open for edits. "Mark as Complete" is final step. Closed for edits when you press this.

Application Details

Healthy Soils Incentives Program - 2024



Forms

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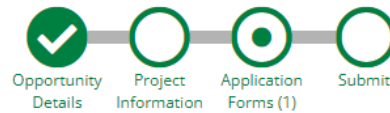
Name	Status	Print
Healthy Soils Incentives Application	New	

Navigation: < 1 > 25 items per page 1 - 1 of 1 items

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Application Details

Healthy Soils Incentives Program - 2024



Healthy Soils Incentives Application

1 of 1

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Section 1: Applicant Information

Instructions

Please double-check that all applicant information is entered accurately and spelled correctly, as it can help determine eligibility for an award. To ensure applications and attachments are submitted successfully, CDFA strongly encourages all applicants to comply with the computer system recommendations provided by Amplifund: Use Chrome, Firefox, Edge or Safari; Avoid using an iPad, iPhone or similar mobile device; Save work often, as the system will time out periodically, and any unsaved work will be lost. CDFA cannot guarantee that the Amplifund system will be compatible with particular browsers or operating systems.

Required questions are denoted by an asterisk *.

Application ID

Your application ID is located in the URL of your application browser. The ID is the 5-digit number at the end of the URL. For example, if your application browser is <https://www.gotomygrants.com/Public/OpportunityApplications/ApplicationForm/12345>, then 12345 is your application ID.

The title of your application in the Amplifund portal **MUST BE** this 5-digit number **ONLY**. Please ensure this is the case for your application and the number is correct **BEFORE** submitting your application.

Enter your application ID here *

5

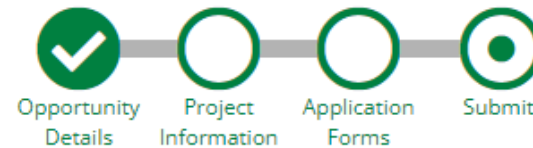
Applicant/Applicant Organization Name - Enter the legal name that will receive grant funds. If an organization name, the name should match the name on the payee's tax return as filed with the federal Internal Revenue Service. *

Application Details

- "Enter your Application ID" - this is the same 5-digit number you inputted on the first page of application
- Suggestion to complete RePlan project design first – will help answer application questions
- Make sure to upload the required documents and ensure files are uploaded completely
- Landowner Permission Letter Template available on HSP webpage
- Section 4 Prioritization – answer as accurately as possible; staff will verify answers.
- Asterisks denote required questions and Portal will not let a submission occur without those complete
- Make sure email addresses in application are correct and updated
- Save work often in Application Portal

Application Details

Healthy Soils Incentives Program - 2024




You are about to submit your application, **12345**, to **California Department of Food and Agriculture**.

Take the time to review your application by using the timeline above. You can select any section and jump to that page.

When the application is fully complete, please select the "Submit" button. This will submit your final application to the funder.

The Project Information has not been marked "Complete."

You have forms containing required fields which have not been completed!

 Review

Submit

Review Process

- HSP staff to review applications on rolling basis based on prioritization criteria
- Applications that "pass" will receive a congrats email with next steps
- Applications that "fail" within the solicitation period will receive a regrets email with details on the resubmission process, if eligible. No cap on times to resubmit.
- Applications that are not reviewed due to completed fund allocation will receive email notice.
- Applications not funded may be eligible to be added to the California Carbon Sequestration and Climate Resiliency Project Registry if "yes" selected in RePlan process. Registry will be available online at the end of 2024.

Common Reasons for Disqualifications

- Requested award amount above \$100,000 cap
- The value for estimated greenhouse gas emissions reductions benefits is a negative value.
- APNs/fields in the RePlan report have been previously funded by HSP for the same practice(s).
- Required uploads not attached or readable
 - Required: RePlan PDF & RePlan Excel
 - If applicable: Landowner Agreement Letter Signed and Grazing Management Plan
- If a Landowner Permission Letter is needed for your application, make sure it is complete and signed. Template available on HSP webpage: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthypoils/Resources-HSPIncentives.html>
- Multiple applications are submitted for 2024 incentives solicitation for same APNs/fields and practice(s) or the same applicant; only one application can be funded.

Resubmission

- If you receive an email indicating you are eligible to resubmit your application, log back into Amplifund, and you should be able to select your application for edits.
- Your application may have specific comments - "V" to open
- Exclamation points show reopened sections
- Be sure to mark complete again and resubmit!
- Resubmissions will have new date/time submitted

Project Information

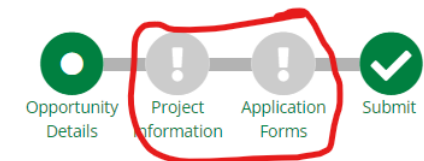
Funder Comments

Please add more detail in here



Application Information

Healthy Soils Incentives Program - 2024



Opportunity Details ✓

Print

Help

Opportunity Information

Tips & Suggestions

- Suggestion to finish RePlan design first before filling out application
- Consider proposing to implement multiple practices, with less than 80% of the budget going to 1 practice.
- Max funding per project is \$100K, though the RePlan tool sets \$200K cap
- Refer to Frequently Asked Questions and Period 1 Q&A:
 - https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysoils/docs/2024/2024_hsp_incentives_faqs.pdf
 - Period 1 Q&A available for download here: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysoils/Resources-HSPIncentives.html>
- Ask technical assistance providers for targeted help:
 - https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/technical/docs/2023_hsp_taps.pdf
 - <https://ciwr.ucanr.edu/Programs/ClimateSmartAg/TechnicalAssistanceProviders/>

Question & Answers

- **HSP staff is unable to advise and/or provide individuals with information regarding specific grant application questions during the solicitation process. Technical assistance providers can help in this process.**
- General questions may be submitted to cdfa.hsp_tech@cdfa.ca.gov. Responses to questions received by email will be posted publicly to the Healthy Soils Incentives website (<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysoils/IncentivesProgram.html>) on January 30, 2024.



Thank you! Questions?

Contact us:

CDFA.HSP_Tech@cdfa.ca.gov