CDFA HEALTHY SOILS PROGRAM

2018 HSP Incentives Program

Request for Grant Applications

Technical 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 Agricultural Management 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 2018 - $10 Million through Proposition 68 (California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018).
  - Budget Act of 2018 (SB 856) - $5 Million through the California Climate Investments (CCI).

- **Program Funding:**
  - HSP Incentives Program:
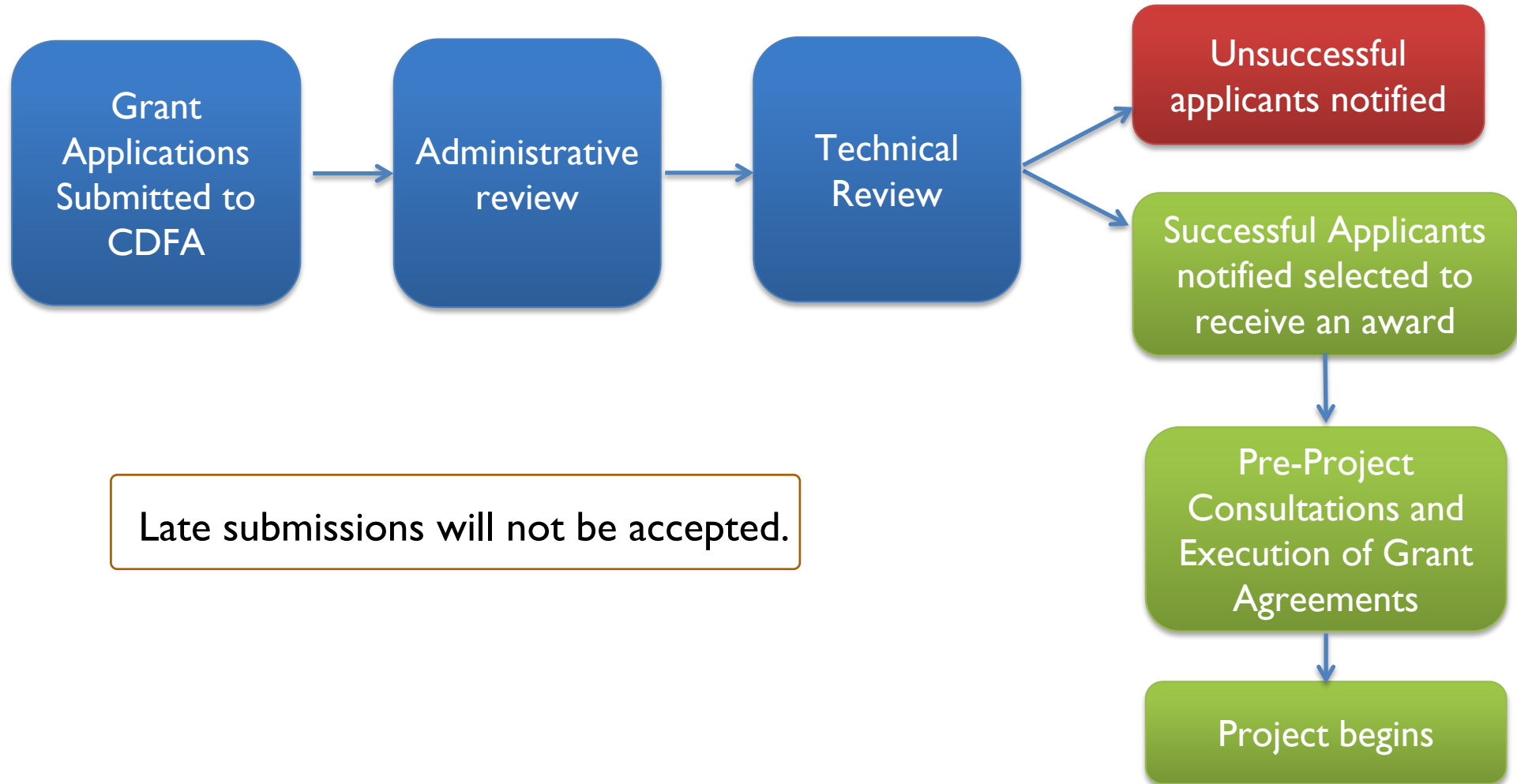
  Maximum Grant Amount: $75,000 per application

- **Grant (Project) Duration:**

  July 1, 2019 – March 31, 2022

SOLICITATION TIMELINE

Activity	Dates
Release Request for Grant Applications	December 28, 2018
CDFA Grant Application Workshops and Webinars	January 2019
Applications Due (10 weeks 1 day)	March 8, 2019 5:00 pm PT
Review Period	March – June 2019
Award Announcement	June 2019

SOLICITATION PROCESS

Grant Applications Submitted to CDFA → Administrative review → Technical Review →

Unsuccessful applicants notified

Successful Applicants notified selected to receive an award → Pre-Project Consultations and Execution of Grant Agreements → Project begins

Late submissions will not be accepted.

REVIEW PROCESS

Multiple Stages of Review:

- Step1: Administrative Review: Internal – Conducted by CDFA

- Step 2: Technical Review: External – Conducted by Technical Reviewers (University experts)
  - Minimum qualifying score: 60 (out of 100)

- Applications Prioritized for Funding: Projects serving Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs), Socially Disadvantaged Farmers or Ranchers, and/or Priority Populations

- Additional Considerations: cost share during grant duration.

SCORING CRITERIA

Criteria	Score
Project Feasibility: **Project logistics, design, workplan & budget**	**40**
Project Sustainability	**20**
GHG Emission Reduction Benefits	**20**
Soil Health and Environmental Co-Benefits	**10**
Conservation Plan	**10**
Total	**100**

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 $75,000.

- Implement at least one HSP Agricultural Management Practice on land 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 or Accessor Parcel Numbers (APNs) where a HSP Demonstration or Incentives grant was previously awarded. However, new practices added to previously funded APNs may be eligible.

- Compost Application Practices *cannot* be implemented on APNs 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 (1)

1. Cropland Management Practices

1) Cover Crop (USDA NRCS CPS 340)
2) Conservation Crop Rotation (USDA NRCS CPS 328)
3) Mulching (USDA NRCS CPS 484)
4) Nutrient Management (USDA NRCS CPS 590) (15% reduction in fertilizer application *only*)
5) Residue and Tillage Management – No-Till (USDA NRCS CPS 329)
6) Residue and Tillage Management − Reduced Till (USDA NRCS CPS 345)
7) Strip Cropping (USDA NRCS CPS 585)
8) Compost Application Practices (application rates consistent with those specified in CDFA Compost Application White Paper)
   - ❑ Compost Application to Annual Crops
     - o Compost Purchased from a Certified Composting Facility
     - o On-farm Produced Compost *(compliant with all requirements in the RGA)*
   - ❑ Compost Application to Perennials, Orchards and Vineyards
     - o Compost Purchased from a Certified Composting Facility
     - o On-farm Produced Compost *(compliant with all requirements in the RGA)*

HSP AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (2)

2. Herbaceous Cover Establishment

1) Conservation Cover (USDA NRCS CPS 327)
2) Contour Buffer Strips (USDA NRCS CPS 332)
3) Field Border (USDA NRCS CPS 386)
4) Filter Strip (USDA NRCS CPS 393)
5) Forage and Biomass Planting (USDA NRCS 512)
6) Grassed Waterway (USDA NRCS CPS 412)
7) Herbaceous Wind Barrier (USDA NRCS CPS 603)
8) Riparian Herbaceous Cover (USDA NRCS CPS 390)
9) Vegetative Barriers (601) (USDA NRCS CPS 601)

HSP AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (3)

3. Woody Cover Establishment

1) Alley Cropping (USDA NRCS CPS 311)

2) Hedgerow Planting (USDA NRCS CPS 422)

3) Multi-story Cropping (USDA NRCS CPS 379)

4) Riparian Forest Buffer (USDA NRCS CPS 391)

5) Tree/Shrub Establishment (USDA NRCS CPS 612)

6) Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (USDA NRCS CPS 380)

HSP AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (4)

4. Grazing Lands Practices

1) Compost Application to Grassland (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) Prescribed Grazing ([USDA NRCS CPS 528](#))

3) Range Planting ([USDA NRCS CPS 550](#))

4) Silvopasture [(USDA NRCS CPS 381)](#)

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)
    - 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)

PROJECT DURATION

Project Year	Duration of Project Year	Practice Implementation Must Begin No Later Than
1	July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020	December 31, 2019
2	July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021	December 31, 2020
3	July 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022	December 31, 2021

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (1)

- **Baseline data for each APN/Field:**
  - ❏ Cropping history in the past three years (December 2015 – November 2018)
  - ❏ Management history in the past three years (December 2015 – November 2018)

- **For APNs/Fields where compost application practices are to be implemented:**

  Use [Compost Ineligible Tool](#) developed by [California Air Resources Board (CARB)](#) to determine if fields/APNs are eligible for Compost Application Implementation.

- **Must provide GHG Emissions Reduction Benefit Report using**

  - ❏ [CARB GHG Quantification Methodology and GHG Calculation Tools for Healthy Soils Program](#), and

  - ❏ [CDFA HSP COMET-Planner](#)

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/APN(s) 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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ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS

- WizeHive HSP Incentives Program Application Portal: https://webportalapp.com/sp/cdfa_hsp_incentives

- 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
  - Budget Worksheet Template

APPLICATION CONTENTS

I.   Project Overview

II.   Project Logistics

III.   Project Design

IV.   Project Work Plan

V.   Project Budget Worksheet

  1)   Funding requested
  2)   Optional cost share

VI.   Project Sustainability

VII. GHG Reduction Estimation

VIII. Soil Health and Environmental Co-benefits

IX.   Conservation Plan (*Optional*)

X.   Benefits to (*Optional, Prioritized*)

  1)   Severely Disadvantaged Communities (Community FactFinder)
  2)   Socially Disadvantaged Groups, ***and/or***
  3)   Priority Populations (CalEnviroScreen 3.0)

I. PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Project Title:

- Project Description (project abstract)

- Project Budget

  - Funds requested

  - Cost share (optional)

  - Total Project Budget (funds requested + cost share)

II. PROJECT LOGISTICS

- **Project Site Information:**
  - APN, address, Latitude/Longitude, Leased Land?
  - Letter of Landowner Agreement for leased land if applicable

- **Project Logistics**
  - Practice name, APN# /Field name, Acres, Implemented previously?

- **Baseline Data**
  - Cropping history (Dec 2015 – Nov 2018)
  - Management history (Dec 2015 – Nov 2018)

- **Compost Application Eligibility**
  - Compost Application is not eligible on APNs where soil organic matter content is greater than 20% by dry weight at top 20 cm depth (8 inches)

Live Demonstration

[Step-by-step Instructions for using Compost Ineligible Tool](#)

to Determine if an APN is eligible for Compost Application

https://www.arb.ca.gov/cci-resources

III. PROJECT DESIGN

Project Design Must Include:

- A Map including a landmark and specific Fields/APNs.

- A layout of all eligible management practices to be implemented.

- The total acreage for each practice to be implemented.

- Indicate compost C:N ratio, application rate, plant species to be planted on each field, if applicable.

AN EXAMPLE OF PROJECT DESIGN

Requirements for a Project Design

1. Farm map, if available, or Google Earth map
2. Must include land marks such as road intersection
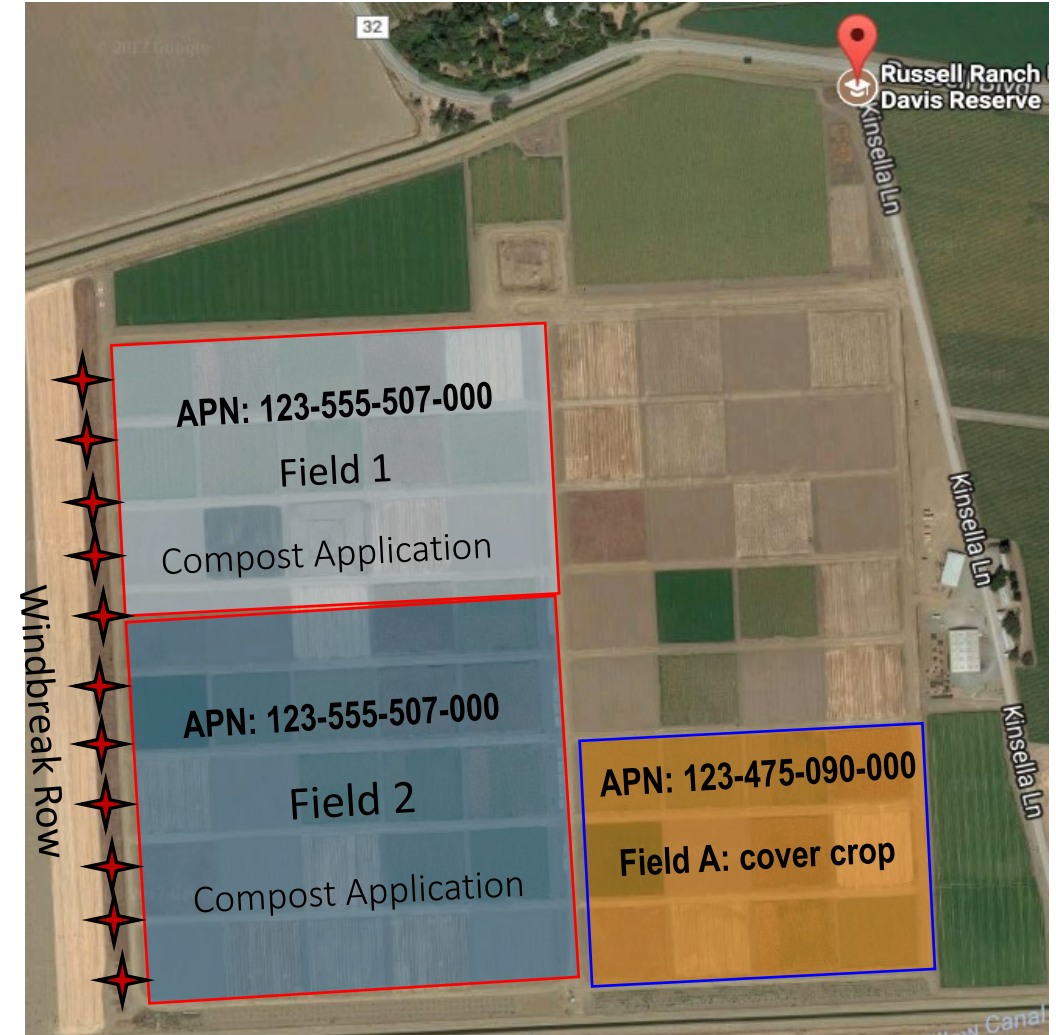3. Save the Map as word or PDF file

Required Information for a Project Design

1. **Compost Application:**
   - Field 1: Annual cropland – 30 acres
     C:N≤11 at 3 tons/Ac
   - Field 3: Perennial cropland – 40 acres
     C:N > 11 at 6 tons/Ac

2. **Windbreak Establishment:** Field 1 & 2 – 1000 feet
   (marked by ✦) Plant: Eastern Redcedar

3. **Cover Crop:** Field A – 25 acres
   Triticale, 100 lbs/acre

Live Demonstration

[Step-by-Step Instructions on how to use Calflora (NRCS)](#)

to Assist in Selecting Species for Implementing Cover Crop, Herbaceous, and Woody Cover Establishment Practices

https://www.calflora.org/nrcs/

IV. PROJECT WORK PLAN

Download the project work plan template, follow the instructions and fill out all information required.

Live Demonstration: Project Work Plan Template

V. PROJECT BUDGET WORKSHEET

- HSP Practices Payment Rates and Implementation Requirements
- Budget worksheet
  - Funding requested – flat payment rate
  - Optional cost share
- Optional: requesting 25% advance payment
- Download the project budget worksheet template, follow the instructions and fill out all information as required.

Live Demonstration: Budget Worksheet Template

VI. PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

- Explain why this project is important to the agricultural operation.

- Describe how the project will be sustained beyond June, 2022, including:
  - Anticipated learning or successes from the implemented management practices.
  - Impacts on future adoption:
    - Continuing the practice(s) in the long-term (>3 years) **and/or**
    - Adding the practice(s) to new fields.

- Describe plan to assess and measure possible changes and impacts after project implementation.

VII. GHG REDUCTION BENEFITS

- Two conditions **must** be met when selecting management practices:
    1) Must be listed in the Eligible Agricultural Management Practices in the program.
    2) Must be new (new practice or new acreage) in the proposed field or APN.
- Follow instructions provided at CARB GHG Quantification Webpage

    https://www.arb.ca.gov/cci-resources

    ❑ 2018 HSP Quantification Methodology

- Must use CDFA HSP Comet-Planner to estimate GHG reduction benefits

- Units for Agricultural Practices in COMET-Planner (Acres)

Live Demonstration: CDFA HSP COMET-Planner

VIII. SOIL HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CO-BENEFITS

- Describe environmental benefits achieved through implementing the proposed project in
  - Short-term (within three years), and long-term (beyond three years).
    - Water quality improvements
    - Air quality improvements
    - Ecosystem services.
- Describe how the proposed project will improve soil health.

IX. CONSERVATION PLAN (OPTIONAL)

The Conservation Plan must be submitted as a PDF and include, at a minimum, all of the following:

a.   An aerial photo or diagram of project fields.

b.   A list of current management decisions.

c.   The location of and schedule for applying new conservation practices.

d.   Resource Assessment which includes an inventory of resources and resource concerns, soils information, topographic maps, plan maps showing location of property, existing practices, structures, planned practices, soils, water features and other environmentally sensitive areas, and environmental assessment.

e.   Information explaining how specific management decisions will be implemented.

f.   A plan for operation and maintenance of selected management practices.

X. BENEFITS TO SDACs, SDGs AND PRIORITY POPULATIONS (OPTIONAL, PRIORITIZED)

- **Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs)**

  To qualify as serving severely disadvantaged communities (SDACs), check one or more boxes:

  - ❑ Is the project located in an SDAC as identified using the Community FactFinder Tool (2018): http://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities
  - ❑ Will the project employ workers/contractors from SDACs? – Provide documents to justify

- **Socially Disadvantaged Groups**

  - ❑ Does the applicant belong to one of the SDGs?

    African Americans, Native Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics,
    Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders

- **Priority Populations**

  - ❑ Online mapping tool of Priority Populations: https://www.arb.ca.gov/cci-communityinvestments
    - ○ Census tracts identified as disadvantaged by CalEPA per SB 535; or
    - ○ Census tracts identified as low-income per AB 1550.
  - ❑ Follow Instructions in the application to identify (Step 1 - 3) if a proposed project will benefit priority populations.

Live Demonstration

1. How to use mapping tool for SDACs

   http://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities

2. How to use mapping tool for Priority Populations

   https://www.arb.ca.gov/cci-communityinvestments

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.

Live Demonstration

WizeHive HSP Incentives Program Online Application

https://webportalapp.com/sp/cdfa_hsp_incentives

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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 can be obtained from the HSP Incentive Program website.

- CDFA has posted Frequently Asked Questions on the HSP Incentives Program website.

- Answers to questions will be posted on HSP Incentives Program website according to the schedule below.

Questions Received by	Answers Provided by
January 4, 2019	January 11, 2019
January 18, 2019	January 25, 2019
February 1, 2019	February 8, 2019
February 15, 2019	February 22, 2019
February 25, 2019	March 1, 2019

Outline

AWARD PROCESS

- Pre-Project Consultation

  - Grant recipients meet with CDFA Environmental Scientists to discuss:

    - Project work plan, management practices, APN, materials/plant selection, implementation, and budget.

  - Ensures practices and implementation methods align with 2018 HSP Incentives Program requirements.

- Yearly verification visits are conducted by CDFA Environmental Scientists.

- State audit and accounting requirements

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