

California Department of Food and Agriculture  
2019 Climate Smart Agriculture Technical Assistance  
Applications Received

Name Of Organization	Executive Summary	CSA Program(s) to be Served	Amount Requested
Alameda County Resource Conservation District	<p>Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD) will provide Technical Assistance (TA) to growers interested in the Healthy Soils Program. Technical Assistance services will be folded into ACRCD's carbon farming program. ACRCD will address three areas of work: outreach, application support, and technical assistance with planning, implementing, and monitoring practices that benefit soil health. The program will reach farmers and ranchers throughout Alameda County, including large and small production livestock growers, vineyards, and row crop farmers. ACRCD will target urban farms to ensure that socially disadvantaged farmers are served. Outreach will include hosting informational meetings and conducting direct outreach to our audience ahead of HSP funding opportunities. Appropriate materials will be translated into other languages. We will conduct field visits to plan appropriate conservation practices for producers' operations and support applicants with computer equipment and technical services. ACRCD and our partners at StopWaste and NRCS will develop conservation plans and technical guidance to support grower applications for funding. We will also assist producers with on-the-ground preparation for implementation, including meeting any regulatory requirements and following best practices for wildlife. Finally, we will assist growers with monitoring and reporting requirements to improve data consistency informed by our soil and vegetation monitoring protocols.</p>	HSP	\$57,517.34
Amador Resource Conservation District	<p>The Amador Resource Conservation District will provide farmers and ranchers assistance in implementing practices through the Healthy Soils Program. Many producers are interested in implementing soil health best management practices but are in need of assistance in getting started and applying for funding assistance. The ARCD will provide general soil health and best management practices education to farmers and ranchers through educational events and workshops. The ARCD has already identified producers that are currently implementing several practices, such as hedge rows, cover crops and compost application on range. These locations will be used for outreach/education events. Ranchers and farmers implementing the practices will be part of the workshop; these events will provide peer-to-peer education. Producers that are interested in implementing practices will be assisted one-on-one to develop a proposal for the Healthy Soils Program incentives grants. Producers that are awarded funding through the Healthy Soils Program incentives grant will be provided assistances with implantation and reporting.</p>	HSP	\$59,996.28
Cachuma Resource Conservation District	<p>The Cachuma Resource Conservation District (CRCD) will be providing technical assistance to Healthy Soils Program (HSP) incentive applicants and recipients of incentive funding. CRCD's boundaries cover the entire Santa Barbara County as well as approximately 157,000 acres within San Luis Obispo County and nearly 9,000 acres in Kern County. We anticipate providing assistance within the boundaries of our District with a primary focus on Santa Barbara County. CRCD will provide grant application technical assistance and project implementation assistance to successful applications as well as follow up with unsuccessful applicants. Within Santa Barbara County, there are approximately 715,000 acres of agricultural land growing a wide variety of crops and livestock. Through CRCD's current partnerships and programs, we are able to promote and provide outreach for the HSP Incentive program. We will be able to provide one-on-one technical assistance and will offer two workshops for those interested in the HSP. Since the inception of the HSP, CRCD has successfully assisted incentive applicants with submitting applications and receiving funding. HSP has demonstrated to be a valuable tool in implanting practices identified in carbon farm plans. CRCD has written six plans with the majority of them currently implementing or beginning to implement those plans.</p>	HSP	\$31,159.20
California Dairy Campaign	<p>California Dairy Campaign (CDC) requests the opportunity to serve as a Technical Assistance Provider (TAP) for the Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP) and Healthy Soils Program (HSP) to enable California farmers to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and increase on farm carbon sequestration. CDC plans to build upon the success of its AMMP, HSP as well as State Water Energy Efficiency Program (SWEET) technical assistance work and partner with California Farmers Union (CFU) to reach out to farmers of all commodities.</p> <p>The team we have assembled has a long history working directly with farmers on environmental issues and are considered a valued resource to implement effective conservation practices. We plan to utilize many decades of nutrient management and soil health expertise to provide technical assistance during both the application process as well as the implementation of the awarded projects.</p> <p>The technical assistance activities will take place primarily in North, Central and Central Coast Counties, but we plan to provide technical assistance information to all interested farmers. Our technical assistance expertise as well as the extensive farmer communications we have engaged in to prioritize AMMP and HSP, CDC partnering with CFU are uniquely positioned to provide technical assistance to farmers statewide.</p>	AMMP, HSP	\$117,720.00
California Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI)	<p>CLSI will provide technical assistance to farmers/ranchers in applying and implementing HSP projects in the North Coast/San Francisco Bay region (Napa, Sonoma, Santa Clara and Mendocino counties) and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Solano, Yolo, San Joaquin, Sacramento and Contra Costa counties). CLSI will be a resource on awarded projects and provide on the ground assistance through the three-year project duration. Our overarching goal is to assist as many growers as possible in successfully completing the application process and implementing awarded projects. Through the Fish Friendly Farming (FFF) program, CLSI has direct contact with over 2,000 farms (many under 500 acres) representing over 190,000 acres. CLSI will make an intense effort to achieve the target of serving Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (SDFRs), Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs), small farms (&lt;500 acres) and Priority Populations. We will identify growers across all counties that are located in SDACs and in AB 1550 Priority Populations including the southern delta (San Joaquin county) and Mendocino county using spatial analysis and make a special effort to reach out to them. CLSI will host workshops and provide one-on-one assistance to a wide range of growers. We will provide assistance in Spanish and in English.</p>	HSP	\$59,999.34
Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District	<p>The CDFA Healthy Soils Program (HSP) Incentives Program provides financial incentives to California growers and ranchers to implement conservation management practices that sequester carbon, reduce atmospheric GHGs, and improve soil health. The Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (RCD) will provide technical assistance to local farmers and ranchers interested in applying for HSP funds as well as to those who are awarded funds. Within this district, we expect 10 applications annually as a result of one-on-one assistance. Workshops will be organized annually to assist farmers through the application process. The RCD will prepare culturally relevant training materials, conduct site visits, and help applicants gather and prepare HSP application materials, including the use of GHG Quantification methodologies and calculator tools. In 2019, 5 HSP Incentive grants were awarded to individuals who received technical assistance from the RCD. Bilingual services and access to computers will be available throughout the application period. The RCD will also help applicants revise previous applications that were not awarded HSP grants. Once awards are announced, RCD project team will offer technical assistance to awardees with activities such as practice implementation, assisting with soil sampling, arranging equipment rentals, preparing permit applications, and with reporting and invoicing requirements.</p>	HSP	\$59,543.45

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Community Alliance with Family Farmers	Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) TA project will focus on building participation in HSP through comprehensive technical assistance to farmers and ranchers in the Sacramento Valley and Central Coast. We believe that increased HSP participation will contribute to our goal of increasing climate mitigation, farm productivity and resilience, and conserving natural resources. Given CAFF's network of family farmers, we will prioritize providing TA to farms under 500 acres. Additionally, we recognize the importance of ensuring HSP benefits farmers that have been historically underserved. To this end, CAFF will contract a Farmer Organizer to provide TA to Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers, Severely Disadvantaged Communities and AB 1550 Priority Populations in the Central Coast. CAFF's project activities will focus on general HSP outreach to solicit farmer and rancher participation; pre-award application assistance, prioritizing SDFR applicants and farms under 500 acres; and post-award implementation assistance for HSP awardees. We expect that our project will result in greater awareness of and participation in HSP in these regions, spurring an increase in the environmental and agronomic benefits associated with building soil health. The success of CAFF's project will impact not only our TA recipients, but also their surrounding communities through increased agricultural sustainability.	HSP	\$59,922.24
Community Partners	The Riverside Food Systems Alliance (RFSA) CSA project will increase awareness and participation among local farmers in healthy soils programs across the Inland Southern California region. RFSA will host workshops and provide technical assistance to remove barriers that discourage farmers and ranchers from participating in HSP incentive programs by offering grant writing assistance via hands on support during the application process. The RFSA will also assist awardees with technical support in executing and administering grants, and implementing healthy soils practices with an expert team -- which includes a local NRCS District Conservationist and a UC Cooperative Extension Resources Conservation Specialist -- with extensive experience in health soils practices and grant management. The project will engage smaller regional farmers who farm on 5-50 acres located across Inland Empire of Southern California's Riverside and San Bernardino counties, many of whom are disadvantaged and/or low income. The proposed technical assistance program will conduct outreach and education to increase awareness of HSP incentive grant opportunities; offer structured bi-lingual CSA workshops working directly with farmers and ranchers with their HSP applications and submittals; and grantee assistance in grant administration and implementation of healthy soil practices such as compost applications, cover crops, and hedgerow plantings.	HSP	\$59,994.00
Contra Costa Resource Conservation District	Contra Costa Resource Conservation District will use Technical Assistance Grant funding to provide technical application and implementation assistance to Contra Costa County Farmers and Ranchers interested in applying to the 2019-2020 Healthy Soils Program. We intend to outreach and provide technical assistance to any interested farmer or rancher in Contra Costa county in order to increase applications to the Healthy Soils Program. We would use grant funds to outreach through email, social media, networking, and our county agricultural partners to increase awareness of the program. Following the outreach, we will follow up with any interested producer on an individual basis and provide technical assistance to help them apply if the Healthy Soils Program is a good fit for their operation. After applications are submitted, Contra Costa RCD will provide technical implementation assistance to all awarded projects within Contra Costa county. Through this project we aim to increase successful applications to the CDFA Healthy Soils Program that will lead to adoption of management practices that promote soil health.	HSP	\$60,000.00
Earth First Living	This Regenerators project will provide outreach to approximately 10 farms and farmers in the Central Valley and on the Santa Barbara south coast, all located in disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities, to recruit the top 8 farms / farmers to conduct feasibility evaluations to consider for technical assistance for AMMP and HSP grant application support. From these 8 finalists we will identify six applicants to proceed with conducting grant applications, two (2) to the AMMP program and four (4) to the HSP program. For all 6 projects, EFL will provide implementation technical assistance support that includes project management, baseline measurements, improvement design and engineering, vendor selection and oversight, improvement implementation / installation, post-installation measurement and validation, analysis and reporting. The impact of this project will be to promote awareness of regenerative agriculture techniques to approximately 10 farmers in the Central Valley and on the Santa Barbara coast, to write 6 grant applications and implement 6 projects that will all result in significant greenhouse gas emission reductions at the 6 selected farms.	AMMP, HSP	\$120,000.00
Ecological Farming Association	Eco-Farm will provide and facilitate TA to farms and ranches in California who are interested in applying for or have received funds from the 2019 CSA/HSP Program. The workplan details activities of outreach, application assistance, and implementation assistance. The main vehicle for outreach will be the EcoFarm annual Conference produced by our nonprofit each year in January. Additional outreach will be accomplished through attendance at select other conferences and events, and via referrals by the Calif. Association of RCD's and from the nonprofit Kitchen Table Advisors. EcoFarm provided TA for the 2018 HSP cycle, resulting in a number of selected projects.  EcoFarm Conference draws farmers and ranchers from across the state. Many beginning farmers and Socially Disadvantaged farmers attend the Conference via scholarships offered. Workshops are offered in English and Spanish on Soil Management and CSA success stories. The Conference brochure will advertise free one-on-one TA meetings to be held onsite, where farmers will be able to begin an online application. Follow-up will be provided to these contacts after the Conference, resulting in the submission of completed applications. TA will be provided on an as-needed basis to HSP awardees throughout the year, and quarterly invoices submitted to CDFA.	HSP	\$19,977.60
Glenn County Resource Conservation District	Climate Smart Agriculture Technical Assistance in Glenn County, CA (Project) will facilitate technical assistance to farmers/ranchers who are interested in CDFA's Climate Smart Agriculture – Healthy Soils Program (HSP). Since the beginning of HSP, Glenn County RCD's target audience is any farmer/rancher interested in improving soils through conservation management practices; in particular, farmers/ranchers who have been engaged in the "Glenn County Soil Health Partnership". Due to the importance of soils, Glenn County RCD, NRCS and UCCE partner together to help promote and encourage healthy soils. It is our goal to provide opportunity to farmers/ranchers while sharing information and learning from each other. As part of this, Glenn County RCD created a farmer-led Steering/Technical Advisory Committee made up of farmers/ranchers and local experts on the topic. The partnership's success has created momentum among farmers/ranchers expected to exceed demands for one technical assistance provider. Glenn County RCD will collaborate with UCCE to coordinate technical assistance and ensure excellent customer service to those interested. Located in the Sacramento Valley, Glenn County is 1.5 hours north of Sacramento. With 1,000+ farms and 705,000 acres under cultivation, HSP may have a high impact. Major commodities: almonds, walnuts, rice, dairy, olives, vine seeds, apiary, prunes, beef cattle.	HSP	\$59,925.19

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Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District	<p>The overall objective of the project is to allow Gold Ridge RCD staff to provide free, widespread technical assistance to farmers and ranchers throughout the district who are interested in applying for or have received funds from CDFA's Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP) and/or Healthy Soils Program (HSP). This project will perfectly complement Gold Ridge RCD's LandSmart program, which has received funding through NRCS to develop conservation plans but provides no funding to help landowners bring them to fruition. This grant will allow Gold Ridge RCD staff to assist landowners in accessing implementation funding available through CDFA's programs. Specific activities will include: conducting outreach to recruit potential participants; assisting farmers and ranchers with the application process; coordinating involvement of technical consultants, NRCS, and contractors in development of engineered designs; and oversight and coordination of implementation of funded practices. Activities will take place throughout the Gold Ridge RCD's west Sonoma County district, with special emphasis on outreach to Socially Disadvantaged landowners or those in Disadvantaged Communities, with the goal to assist at least eight landowners per year.</p>	AMMP, HSP	\$98,921.02
Imperial County Farm Bureau	<p>This technical assistance plan will help farmers and ranchers who are interested in applying for the Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP) and/or Healthy Soils Program (HSP). Additionally, since Imperial County has historically had limited participation in these programs in the past, Imperial County Farm Bureau (ICFB) will utilize its access to and relationships with its over 500 agricultural members to educate on these grant opportunities and encourage local participation. University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) staff will assist with their technical expertise to help interested applicants in identifying projects that will work for their operations. ICFB was a technical assistance provider for the AMMP in 2018 and UCCE was a technical assistance provider for the HSP in 2018 as well. Thus, both organizations are already familiar with the Climate Smart Agriculture programs.</p> <p>ICFB and UCCE will hold workshops for members of the community to learn about these programs. Workshops will be held at the ICFB office which is located within a Disadvantaged Community (1000 Broadway in El Centro, CA). We will also be able to provide technical assistance in Spanish. Additionally, one-on-one meetings will be offered to discuss details of potential projects and work through the grant applications.</p> <p>ICFB anticipates being able to increase program awareness. This coupled with the assistance in submitting grant applications, will result in more grant applications being submitted from the Imperial County.</p>	AMMP, HSP	\$27,206.40
Madera/Chowchilla Resource Conservation District	<p>The Madera/Chowchilla Resource Conservation District (M/CRCD), in California's San Joaquin Valley, provides educational and technical assistance for the region's family farmers and ranchers.</p> <p>Last year, only a limited number farmers participated in the California Department of Food And Agriculture's (CDFA) Healthy Soils Program in Madera County, even though the county has seen significant impacts from climate change, groundwater overdraft and subsidence. Madera County farmers and ranchers are largely socially disadvantaged and/or within disadvantaged or low-income communities.</p> <p>To address environmental challenges, small farmers and ranchers in the San Joaquin Valley must transition to healthy soils practices. The M/CRCD will conduct community outreach and field days to recruit and support between 2 and 5 small farmers, mainly from disadvantaged communities, to adopt and become proficient in climate smart practices. The focus is quality over quantity to help usher in economic and environmental success, thereby improving the health and resiliency of land, crops, water, and the health of our Valley communities. Ultimately our assistance through the HSP will help the county meet California's ambitious climate, water and food security goals, with small farmers leading the way.</p>	HSP	\$60,018.75
Marin Resource Conservation District	<p>As founding members of the Marin Carbon Project, the Marin RCD and MALT have a long history of serving farmers and ranchers throughout Marin County, including developing 20 carbon farm plans, program administration, and implementation of climate-beneficial practices. A Technical Assistance Grant will enable us to support 6-10 agricultural producers in applying for the CDFA Healthy Soils Program and implementing numerous practices to sequester carbon.</p> <p>After sending a solicitation to all farmers and ranchers in Marin County, we will work closely with applicants in planning and designing projects and assisting with questions and GHG estimates for the HSP application process.</p> <p>Following HSP award announcements, we will assist with the implementation of projects, including designs, permitting, and sourcing materials. Additionally, we will help with necessary soil sampling and project monitoring.</p> <p>Practices are expected to include windbreak planting, riparian planting, compost on rangelands, and prescribed grazing, among many others. The impacts will include significant carbon sequestration, improvements in soil health, and increasing the resilience of farmers and ranchers in Marin County. Furthermore, with the ability to provide this additional technical assistance, we expect to grow future interest in HSP and other CSA programs throughout Marin County.</p>	HSP	\$57,605.17
Mendocino County Resource Conservation District	<p>The Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD) is seeking to increase adoption of climate beneficial management practices by farmers and ranchers in Mendocino and Lake Counties. The goal is to promote and support conservation practices that sequester carbon, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote healthy soils. The MCRCD will increase implementation of conservation management practices by publicizing funding opportunities of the CDFA Healthy Soils Program (HSP) and supporting participation in the program. The MCRCD will develop and distribute outreach materials, host workshops, and lead application clinics for local farmers and ranchers. Outreach materials and event notifications will be posted in towns, mailed, and shared on social media and websites. The MCRCD will be available to assist individuals with questions, information, and applications. The goal is for 100% of the applicants in both counties to have successful proposals and implement conservation practices that benefit the industry and the environment. The MCRCD will be available to assist landowners with sourcing equipment, project execution, ensuring deliverables are completed, and any other needed technical support. This project will support greater implementation of climate smart agricultural practices on small farms and ranches in low-income areas throughout Mendocino and Lake Counties.</p>	HSP	\$59,969.95
National Center for Appropriate Technology	<p>The goals of this project are to help farmers apply to and implement conservation practices supported by CDFA's HSP to help their farms become more resilient to stresses related to climate change. To achieve this goal, NCAT will use presentations at scheduled workshops and conferences to talk with farmers about the conservation opportunities CDFA's HSP presents. If the farmers are interested, NCAT staff will help them identify appropriate practices for their own farm and apply to the program. NCAT will take advantage of its contacts within minority farmer communities, as well as its staff's language capabilities (Spanish, Thai, and Lao) to inform underserved farmers (Latinx, Mien, and Hmong) about this program and to facilitate their applications to this program. NCAT will further use its in-depth knowledge, resources, and background pertaining to ecological soil management and ecological pest management to help farmers appropriately implement conservation practices on their farms. This project will help farmers of all colors across the state of California access funding and on-farm technical assistance to implement conservation practices that will improve their farms' resilience to climate change stresses. NCAT will apply on behalf of some farmers that do not have access to desktops or laptop computers.</p>	HSP	\$59,985.82

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Point Reyes Bird Observatory dba Point Blue Conservation Science	<p>More frequent and extreme heat events and droughts will increase stress on California's agricultural producers, while urban growth will amplify the demand on California's soils and shrinking water resources. Enrolling producers in conservation programs will benefit all Californians, through cleaner water and air, healthier soil and wildlife habitat, and improved agricultural operations. Point Blue will provide targeted application, technical, and implementation assistance for the Healthy Soils Program that will alleviate some of the stress and financial burden of these important conservation projects across 15 California counties in which Point Blue Partner Biologists already work, targeting small to medium sized farms and ranches to help them learn about the HSP program. This project will result in 4 workshops to engage communities, assistance to 40 producers to apply for funding with well-designed projects, and will provide technical assistance to 30 funded projects to ensure implementation is successful. We will provide technical assistance to producers for applications as well as people who completed the application on their own, but still require implementation assistance (with emphasis on small and disadvantaged communities). The ultimate outcome of this effort is more informed and empowered communities, healthier and more drought-resilient soils, and increased carbon sequestration.</p>	HSP	\$59,858.89
RCD Tehama County	<p>The RCD of Tehama County (RCDTC) has been promoting the concepts of healthy soils practices for many years through a variety of different programs and partnerships. It is our belief that grower practices can be modified and/or improved through the implementation of BMPs for soils being used for commercial agriculture. The RCDTC will reach out to a large audience of growers in the Northern Sacramento Valley through CDFA's HSP promoting not only the funding opportunity but also the concepts associated with the program. Our main goals for this project will be to: promote the program through numerous outreach events to producers of all social, cultural and economic backgrounds, inform and assist a variety of agricultural producers about the application process, assist with writing and submitting of applications, contact awardees and follow-up with on-farm assistance that may include; project implementation, working with service providers, invoicing, submission of annual reports, soil testing and all other post project tasks. The CSA programs the RCDTC will be including in this technical assistance plan will be for the HSP only.</p> <p>The RCDTC's target audience will be all growers in Tehama County and neighboring counties (Butte, Glenn, Shasta) that do not already have CDFA HSP funding. A special focus of producer outreach will be for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (SDFRs), Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs), AB 1550 Priority Populations in addition to those farming on 500 acres or less. Technical assistance activities will include staff engagement in one-on-one assistance with producers during the grant application via email, phone conversations, and in person office visits. Staff will provide an on-demand program overview to interested producers detailing the objectives, funding and duration, review process, how to apply, and timelines. Computer and internet access will be available to producers at the RCDTC office in Red Bluff.</p> <p>Through previous experience with HSP and similar programs, key areas of technical assistance required of farmers and ranchers tends to be, determining specific program requirements, eligibility, navigating through the application process and starting implementation of the project (if approved). All areas of technical assistance required from all interested farmers and ranchers in the HSP will be covered by the RCDTC.</p> <p>The expected results of our technical assistance would be that farmers and ranchers embrace soil health BMPs and apply for HSP funds. Having successfully provided technical assistance for both HSP and SWEEP programs from their formation, we recognize the importance of creating a valuable experience for the producer. The BMPs are often foreign concepts and we walk with them through the process of awareness, acceptance, and action to submitting a sound application. Through our Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL) program we have seen irrigation efficiency concepts spread among ranchers and farmers through 17 years of continued support, education, interaction and assistance for farm or ranch improvements through grants or opportunities similar to those offered by the HSP. We believe this program will offer farmers and ranchers a golden opportunity to bring about change to long established practices that have been detrimental to soil health. Through these changed practices, growers will have the opportunity to change agricultural soil use across the state with impacts that could have dramatic effects on; stream sedimentation, ground water recharge, pumping and irrigation water usage, chemical applications, crop health and so many more. Through our regular interactions with growers we have witnessed the tremendous opportunity that CSA programs like this can make and RCDTC is enthusiastic about being a part of this movement.</p>	HSP	\$60,000.00
Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County	<p>Over 6,600 farms in San Diego County are experiencing the effects of poor soil health, decreasing yields, and a changing climate. Moreover, increasing water and land costs and extreme climatic events are putting increased pressure on farmers to stay in business. It is proven that rich and healthy soils create necessary resiliency and increased profitability, but farmers and ranchers need more technical support and guidance to invest time and money into carbon farming conservation practices that provides long-term benefits. The overarching goal of the RCDGSDC is to provide full technical assistance for farmers and ranchers for the CDFA HSP. More specifically, we will: 1) improve outreach efforts and education for the HSP; 2) provide one-on-one assistance to complete the application; and 3) assist them with post-application activities relating to practice information gathering, education of agricultural topics, and invoicing. We hope to attract over 45 producers through this program through workshops and individual guidance on carbon farming practices. We will also provide post-application assistance and also incentivize 15 producers with annual soil tests. Ultimately, we hope to boost producer support through these activities and strengthen relationships with the agricultural community.</p>	HSP	\$60,000.00
Resource Conservation District of Monterey County	<p>The Resource Conservation District of Monterey County (RCDMC) has a long history of providing technical assistance to improve on-farm management practices enhancing soil health and water quality in the highly productive agricultural region of the Salinas Valley. This history and location makes RCDMC ideally suited to efficiently and effectively utilize California Climate Investments funds. There are many small-scale SDRFs, as well as DACs and SDACs in our region. RCDMC has built strong relationships in the agricultural community and has previously assisted growers with CDFA grants and provided technical assistance on HSP and SWEEP projects. Thus, RCDMC is a known entity to seek out information on these and similar programs. A bilingual and technically capable staff allows RCDMC to reach an extensive network, work with growers directly to develop grant applications and successfully implement on-farm HSP projects. Based on awareness and interest observed during the previous round of applications, RCDMC expects to assist at least 15 growers to develop and submit HSP applications and 8 growers to implement funded projects.</p>	HSP	\$51,014.74
Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County	<p>RCD of Santa Cruz County agricultural program staff will use HSP TAP funding to connect farmers in Santa Cruz County with HSP grant funding and help them successfully implement projects that benefit their operations and the environment.</p> <p>RCD will perform outreach in English and Spanish to raise awareness of the HSP program through presentations at local agricultural venues, through local publications, and during daily interactions with farmers and farm staff during implementation of our existing agricultural stewardship programs. Over the past few years, we have assisted dozens of HSP applicants, most of which were funded. We will work with former applicants that were not funded to strengthen their application and resubmit. We will perform field visits with our agronomist and other partners to assist growers in developing technically robust project plans, and will provide phone and in-person assistance to complete and submit applications. A laptop will be made available at the RCD office for interested applicants to use independently or to work side by side with project staff.</p> <p>We anticipate that we will assist growers to submit about 15 applications, with about half of those belonging to the SDFR population. We expect to support implementation of 8-10 funded applications.</p>	HSP	\$59,981.26

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San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation	San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation (SJFB) will be a technical assistant for our members interested in applying for the Healthy Soils Program (HSP) Grant program. Most of our members are located in San Joaquin County. SJFB will provide informational meetings and workshops specific to the HSP grant program and assist members with filling out the HSP application. We have a lot of small growers who would like to implement more soil improvement practices on their land but lack the financial means to complete those projects and the time to properly fill out the grant application on their own.	HSP	\$10,873.20
San Mateo County Resource Conservation District	Established in 1939, the San Mateo Resource Conservation District (RCD) serves landowners, land managers, and tenants primarily on working lands in San Mateo County (SMC), and provides them with conservation technical assistance to conserve and manage natural resources. The RCD is proposing to provide technical assistance for the Healthy Soils Program (HSP) in SMC resulting in 1) increased awareness and understanding of the HSP and eligible practices, and 2) increased adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices, including among SDFRs, small farms and ranches, and new and beginning farmers and ranchers. This will be done through development of outreach materials, hosting a workshop, assisting potential applicants with project conceptualization, design, and HSP application, assisting awardees with project implementation, reporting and monitoring, and assisting non-awardees with future project design. Additionally, the RCD will develop case studies from successful projects, evaluate technical assistance provided, and participate in CDFAs training. The goals are to 1) do outreach to 125+ farmers, with special attention to SDFRs and farms and ranches under 500 acres, 2) provide 12+ farmers and ranchers with HSP pre-application technical assistance, including 5 SDFRs and/or farms under 500 acres, and 3) provide 4 farmers and ranchers with post-award technical assistance.	HSP	\$48,403.20
Solana Center for Environmental Innovation	Solana Center's mission is to mobilize the local community through innovative outreach in order to address the region's most pressing environmental issues and enact impactful change, something we can accomplish as Technical Assistance Providers. Our audience for this project will be farmers and ranchers in San Diego County. We will use our deep database of residents that we have built relationships with through the years to educate as many as possible on the opportunity presented by the Healthy Soils Program. For those who are interested, we will offer them our technical assistance, including meeting with them to develop their project and walk them through the application process, answering project related questions, hosting workshops in the community, and assisting awardees with implementation of their projects. Our goal is to match the number of farmers we helped apply for an HSP grant last year (5) and extend post-award assistance to them as well. By helping a handful of local farmers apply for a Healthy Soils grant and implement their projects, we can educate them on how to become leaders in sustainable farming to serve as role models for other farmers in the San Diego area as well as around the country.	HSP	\$59,888.40
The Regents of the University of California - UCCE Northern	This project seeks to promote the adoption of science-based climate smart farming and ranching practices by facilitating the successful application and conduct of projects targeted towards Healthy Soils (HSP) and Alternative Manure Management Programs (AMMP). Farmers and ranchers applying for and implementing climate smart agriculture projects will receive technical education and assistance from University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) educators with a focus on serving seven major agricultural production regions in Northern California. This project will leverage direct contacts and relationships that already exist to connect CDFAs farmers and ranchers to UCCE workshops for the agricultural community. The technical assistance plan will also help to identify and recruit eligible applicants to apply for HSP and AMMP funding. We will partner with a statewide network of ANR academics to provide one-on-one technical assistance, to help potential applicants strategically plan application submissions, build partnerships, develop proposals, and submit competitive applications. We will support successful applicants with the award process by helping to complete award paperwork, implement the funded climate smart agricultural practices, measure outcomes and report on results. The expected outcomes are the implementation and adoption of sustainable conservation management practices that sequester carbon, reduce GHG gas emissions, and improve soil health.	AMMP, HSP	\$120,000.00
The Regents of the University of California - UCCE Sonoma	The overall purpose of the project is to expand outreach to farmers and ranchers and to inform and engage them in the CDFAs Climate Smart Agriculture programs. The projects will promote and educate a widespread audience about the Healthy Soils Program (HSP) and Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP) using UCCE experts to build awareness of climate smart practices. This project will assist landowners and managers to identify and assess practices, which reduce methane emissions and increase the biological function of rangelands while maintaining the cultural (economic) aspects of dairy and rangeland management. The project's audience will be farmers and ranchers with both large and small scale operations. The project will cover three counties – Sonoma, Napa and Mendocino with UCCE advisors conducting outreach to inform landowners of the Climate Smart Agriculture programs, the application process, and, if successful, the project's practice implementation. The expected impacts and results from the project are increased awareness of program practices and benefits leading to implementation of projects that will improve biodiversity, increase carbon sequestration and storage, and reduce methane emissions. It will also address the application of compost on rangelands to increase forage projection for livestock, improved nutritional forage quality, while boosting soil fertility.	AMMP, HSP	\$119,982.50
The Regents of the University of California - UCCE Southern	This project seeks to promote the adoption of science-based climate smart farming and ranching practices by facilitating the successful application and conduct of projects targeted towards Healthy Soils (HSP) and Alternative Manure Management Programs (AMMP). Farmers and ranchers applying for and implementing climate smart agriculture projects will receive technical education and assistance from University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) educators with a focus on serving six major agricultural production regions in Southern California. This project will leverage direct contacts and relationships that already exist to connect CDFAs farmers and ranchers to UCCE workshops for the agricultural community. The technical assistance plan will also help to identify and recruit eligible applicants to apply for HSP and AMMP funding. We will partner with a statewide network of ANR academics to provide one-on-one technical assistance to help potential applicants strategically plan application submissions, build partnerships, develop proposals, and submit competitive applications. We will support successful applicants with the award process by helping to complete award paperwork, implement the funded climate smart agricultural practices, measure outcomes and report on results. The expected outcomes are the implementation and adoption of sustainable conservation management practices that sequester carbon, reduce GHG gas emissions, and improve soil health.	AMMP, HSP	\$120,000.00
UCCE Fresno County (University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources)	<p>This project will provide one-on-one technical assistance for small-scale (60 acres or less) and socially disadvantaged farmers in Fresno and Tulare Counties applying to the Healthy Soils Program (HSP). Benefits identified by farmers in the previous round of HSP included improved soil fertility, improved weed control, assistance with the transition to organic production, and protection from dust. A partnership with Ceres Trust will enable limited-resource farmers to borrow equipment needed to implement compost and cover crop practices. Technical assistance will include all aspects of project planning, applications, implementation, and verification. Outreach will be conducted to a wide audience of Southeast Asian, Latino, and African-American farmers. Staff fluent in Hmong and Spanish will conduct bilingual outreach and technical assistance.</p> <p>UCCE Fresno County assisted 16 socially disadvantaged farmers in the previous round of HSP, and more farmers who have learned about HSP will likely apply in the next round. Expected benefits include increased soil organic matter and improved nutrient management, improved weed management with winter cover crops, improved pest management and pollination through on-farm habitat for beneficial insects, and reduction of food safety risks from dust deposited on vegetable crops during almond harvests, and on-farm carbon storage to reduce greenhouse gases.</p>	HSP	\$59,999.97

California Department of Food and Agriculture  
2019 Climate Smart Agriculture Technical Assistance  
Applications Received

Name Of Organization	Executive Summary	CSA Program(s) to be Served	Amount Requested
Upper Salinas - Las Tablas Resource Conservation District	<p>The Upper Salinas – Las Tablas Resource Conservation District (USLTRCD) serves as a hub of technical information and resources to the community of San Luis Obispo. Through our track record of success with CDFA Healthy Soils Incentives and Demonstration projects, we can offer ranchers and growers valuable expertise through one-on-one technical assistance to apply for and implement CDFA Healthy Soils programs.</p> <p>USLTRCD will work to assist farmers and ranchers in Northern San Luis Obispo County. We will prioritize our time to work with operators from diverse and historically underserved backgrounds as well as farms of less than 500 acres.</p> <p>Through multiple outreach channels, including but not limited to newsletters and presentations, farmers and ranchers will learn about the availability of Healthy Soils Incentives grants. USLTRCD will meet one-on-one with growers, review their agricultural operations, and assist with Healthy Soils Incentives applications targeting conservation practices to enhance soil health conditions within their property. For those farmers and ranchers awarded grants, USLTRCD will assist them with implementation and reporting requirements.</p> <p>The impact of the Northern San Luis Obispo Healthy Soils Technical Assistance will be that more farmers and ranchers are aware of, apply for, and successfully implement Healthy Soils practices within our district.</p>	HSP	\$59,994.74
Ventura County Resource Conservation District	<p>The goal of Ventura County Climate Resilient Healthy Soils Initiative (CRHSI) is to increase the acreage of agricultural land in Ventura County where carbon-farming practices are implemented. The objective of CRHSI is to assist agricultural producers with planning and implementing conservation management practices that enhance climate resilience and improve soil health. These objectives will be achieved by providing outreach, education, and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers so they can apply for funding and implement funded projects through the Healthy Soils Program (HSP) or other carbon-farming programs with similar goals.</p> <p>As lead agency of CRHSI, the Ventura County Resource Conservation District (VCRCD) will coordinate with local conservation partners, such as Farm Bureau, Cooperative Extension, and NRCS, among others, to enact numerous tasks, including: holding workshops, reviewing HSP applications, assisting with HSP project development, and coordinating project implementation.</p> <p>Based on VCRCD's previous experience managing HSP, annually, VCRCD expects to: educate a minimum of 100 growers about HSP eligible practices, with 5% yearly attendance increases at HSP workshops; support at least 20% of workshop and partner participants in developing and planning for the HSP incentives application process; help 10% of workshop and partner participants submit completed HSP applications; and assist a minimum of 75% of HSP awardees with project implementation.</p>	HSP	\$59,947.20
Western United Dairymen	<p>Western United Dairymen (WUD) is applying for funding to assist dairy operations with applications and grant follow up for the Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP). The goal is to produce quality applications and implement successful projects that reduce manure methane emissions from dairy operations to help meet the State's goals for these reductions.</p> <p>The audience will be dairy operators from throughout California, including Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers, who manage manure in anaerobic storage systems that produce methane from the decomposition of stored manure. Applicants will be accepted from all areas of the State, including disadvantaged communities. WUD will assist with applications to the AMMP program and those that are awarded grants through this program. The expected impacts and results of this project are that CDFA will receive a larger number of high quality applications to the AMMP program allowing for greater reductions of manure methane emissions in the State.</p>	AMMP	\$60,000.00
Wild Farm Alliance	<p>Wild Farm Alliance (WFA) will provide technical assistance to farmers and ranchers interested in applying for and who will receive funds from the Healthy Soils Program (HSP). We will provide technical assistance such as submitting applications, project planning, on-the-ground implementation, and ongoing administration to farmers across the state.</p> <p>Through our work, we will outreach to at least 30 farmers and ranchers and assist 15 with submitting HSP applications. We will then continue to work with these 15 farmers to ensure they successfully implement and maintain their HSP practices. Our outreach will be targeted towards small- to medium-size farms and women farmers and ranchers throughout the state, with an emphasis in Northern and Central Coastal Counties.</p>	HSP	\$59,983.14
Winning together home solutions	<p>This project will benefit both the AMMP and the HSP. I am buying approximately 80 acres of land in California city. I will be building a indoor cannabis growing facility that will contain actual soil complete with earthworms. It will be 5000 sqft and filled with about 18 inches of soil. It will be feed with full spectrum led lighting, the power for which will be supplied by solar panels on the roof. The soil will be a mixture of the native dirt, wood charcoal and liquid fish fertilizer. There will also be a thin layer of compost on top. The goal shall be to increase productivity harvest by harvest through the chopping and spreading of all but the flower of the cannabis plant. Creating new and fertile soil through repeated farming of a specific crop and generational fertilization. Watering shall be through subsurface textile irrigation. The perimeter of the property will be lined with Buddha belly bamboo and once a complete hedge is formed it will be turned into biochar and mixed with the soil a little at a time in the hopes of increasing overall soil health outdoors as well. The city of California City will directly benefit from this project as The airport will receive large amounts of surplus power from my solar production.</p>	AMMP, HSP	\$144,000.00