

Funding Available for Organic Farmers

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

Background Information:

Federal funding is available to help agricultural producers transition to an organic system of production! As part of the larger \$300 million USDA Organic Transition Initiative, the Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP) aims to help producers adopt organic management systems in pursuit of certification.

Program Highlight: Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

The EQIP program from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) offers a variety of technical and financial assistance opportunities for farmers and ranchers including the High Tunnel Initiative, an On Farm Energy Initiative, and the Organic Initiative.

Who is eligible?

-  **Eligible Applicants:** Agricultural producers with ownership or control of their land; Owners of non-industrial private forestland; Federally Recognized Tribes; Those interested in establishing agricultural/forestry operations; Water management entities.
-  **Eligible Lands:** Cropland and hayland; Rangeland; Pastureland; Non-industrial private forestland; Other farm or ranch lands; Environmentally sensitive areas.

Historically Underserved (HU) participants are eligible for increased payment rates and advanced payments to offset the costs of purchasing goods or services. HU participants include socially disadvantaged, beginning, veteran and limited resource farmers and ranchers.

What are you eligible to receive?

-  **Consultation** from a local NRCS conservation planner to develop your conservation plan.
-  **Technical and financial assistance** for developing conservation plans and for the labor, materials, and implementation of management practices in your plan.

Viewing a printed version of this document? A PDF version with hyperlinks, along with other resources on other programs that support organic production, is available here: <https://ofrf.org/resources/topp/>



**TRANSITION TO ORGANIC
PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

How can you apply for this program?

First, it's always a good idea to review some materials.

1

 Check out this helpful guide to learn about how USDA works with farmers & ranchers: [Get Started! A Guide to USDA Programs for Historically Underserved Farmers and Ranchers](#)

 [The EQIP USDA website](#) has some general information, as does [this USDA EQIP Fact Sheet](#).

2

Find the right application.

Apply through [your regional NRCS office](#) following the [provided instructions](#). Applications are accepted on a continuous basis, but deadlines and available EQIP initiatives vary by state and county. **The 2026 batching deadline for EQIP is January 15, 2026, for all states.**

3

Provide the financial information required to gain access to government payments.

-  Applicants must be registered with [Farmers.gov](#). Members' farm records must be up to date
-  Applicants must provide [adjusted gross income certification](#) (Form [CCC- 941](#)), which requires applicants' Taxpayer ID Number (SSN or EIN) and their Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) from the previous 3 tax years.

4

Provide the required documents.

-  All applicants must provide control of land documentation (deed, proof of land ownership, lease, or other legal agreement).
-  Applicants must provide written authorization from the landowner to install structural or vegetative practices on leased land included in the application.
-  For certified organic applicants only, NRCS requires proof of certification for the CPA 1200.
-  If a conservation project involves irrigation, documentation of the land's irrigation history is required.

5

Submit! Send all of this information to the correct state or federal agency office.