

Funding Available for Organic Farmers

How to apply for the Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP)

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: Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP)

OCCSP is a USDA program that helps cover part of your organic certification costs, including registration in a state organic program. In the past, the OCCSP has reimbursed 75% of fees up to a maximum of \$750 per scope. Scopes include crops, wild crops, livestock, and processing/handling.

Who is eligible?

Certified organic producers and handlers in the United States or its territories.

What are you eligible to receive?

 **75% reimbursement of their organic certification fees up to a maximum of \$750 per certification.** If you have multiple certification scopes, you can apply for assistance with each certification.

 **Eligible costs** for certified organic operations include application fees, organic inspection costs, fees related to equivalency requirements, travel and per diem fees for inspectors, user fees, sales assessments, and postage.

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/>



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How can you apply for OCCSP?

1

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

This [OCCSP USDA website](#) has some general information.



[OCCSP Fact Sheet \(English\)](#)



[OCCSP Fact Sheet \(Español\) \(2023 Version\)](#)

2

Find the right application.

Certified operations can apply through [their Farm Service Agency \(FSA\) office](#) or, if their state is participating, through a state agency.

- If applying to the FSA, use the [FSA form](#) following their [provided instructions](#).
- Check with your state office to see if they also administer the program. If applying to the state-run program, use their provided form.

3

Required financial information to gain access to government payments.

If applying to FSA, they require an [IRS W-9 form](#). State offices may require additional records.

4

Gather required organic certification documents.

Provide a copy of your certification, a proof of payment for that certification, and itemized receipts for any other costs to be covered.

5

Submit!

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



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