

Funding Available for Organic Farmers

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

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: Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

The CSP program from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) offers technical and financial assistance to help agricultural and forest producers take their conservation efforts to the next level, through practices like cover cropping, integrated grazing, supporting wildlife habitats, and more.

Who is eligible?

 **Eligible Applicants:** Agricultural producers with ownership or control of their land, owners of non-industrial private forestland, or those interested in establishing agricultural/forestry operations, with less than \$900,000 adjusted gross income per year. Federally Recognized Tribes.

 **Eligible Lands:** Private agricultural lands, agricultural Indian lands, nonindustrial private forest land, farmstead, associated agricultural lands and public land that is under the control of the applicant and part of their operation. There is no minimum acreage requirement, though CSP requires you enroll your entire operation into the program. All land must be in compliance with USDA highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions to be eligible.

What are you eligible to receive?

 **Consultation and technical assistance** from a local NRCS conservation planner to develop your conservation plan.

 **Financial assistance** for the labor, materials, and implementation of conservation practices in your plan, issued through annual payments (minimum \$4,000 per year).

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 CSP USDA website](#) has some general information, as does [this USDA CSP 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 CSP initiatives vary by state and county. **The first 2026 batching deadline for CSP 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.
-  A map showing all land uses and acres on your farm, as well as a map or other documentation of ineligible land in your operation.

5

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