



COST SHARE GUIDANCE FOR ORGANIC PRODUCERS & HANDLERS

Guidance

The USDA National Organic Certification Cost Share Program enables certified organic operations to be reimbursed on an annual basis for 75% of their organic certification costs, up to \$750 per scope.

- Only eligible fees paid and incurred between October 1 and September 30 may be reimbursed.
- Funds will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis until they have been depleted.
- PCO does not accept or process cost share applications. The applicant must complete and submit their own application.

To read the full Policies and Procedures of the National Organic Program (NOP) for cost share, visit <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/occsp/index>

Certified producers and handlers may apply through your local FSA office or contact your state’s Department of Agriculture Cost Share representative below:

<p>Maryland Molly Gillingham Food Quality Assurance Program Maryland Dept. of Agriculture 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway Annapolis, MD 21401 P: 410-841-5769 F: 410-841-2750 organic.certification@maryland.gov</p>	<p>North Carolina Heather Barnes North Carolina Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services 1020 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-1020 P: 919-707-3127 F: 919-715-0155 Heather.barnes@ncagr.gov</p>	<p>Virginia Kierra Hall Virginia Dept. of Agriculture and Conservation Services 102 Governor Street Richmond, VA 23219 P: 804-786-3938 Kierra.Hall@vdacs.virginia.gov</p>
<p>New Jersey Nichole Steward New Jersey Dept. of Agriculture PO Box 330 Trenton, NJ 08625 P: 609-913-6517 F: 609-984-2508 OrganicCostShare@ag.nj.gov</p>	<p>Ohio OEFFA Cost-Share Reimbursement 41 Croswell Road Columbus, OH 43214 P: 614-421-2022 F: 614-421-2011 costshare@oeffa.org</p>	<p>FSA Only States: If your operation’s address is in one of the states below, your application (form CCC-884) can only be submitted to your county’s FSA office.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delaware • Illinois • Indiana • Iowa • Michigan • Washington DC • West Virginia
<p>New York Fatou Kandji NY Dept. of Agriculture & Markets 10 B Airline Drive Albany, NY 12235 P: 518-457-7076 ext. 2 F: 518-457-2716 Fatou.Kandji@agriculture.ny.gov</p>	<p>Pennsylvania Michele Brookins PA Dept. of Agriculture 2301 N. Cameron St. Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408 P: 717-787-5319 F: 717-787-5643 mbrookins@pa.gov</p>	

If your operation is in Pennsylvania or New York, an application will be mailed directly from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) or New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM) by end of August. Once they receive your application, PDA and NYSDAM will contact PCO to submit proof of payment and a copy of your certification on your behalf; you will not need to include copies of paid invoices as an attachment with your application. If you do not receive an application or have questions about how to contact program administrators in other states, please contact the PCO accounting department. (814-422-0251 ext 303).

OTHER USDA AGRICULTURE MARKETING SERVICE GRANT PROGRAMS

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program – This program provides grants to individual state departments of agriculture to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops (defined as: fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and nursery crops (including floriculture)). Each state department of agriculture then distribute their grant funds to individual producers of specialty crops in their state. Contact your Department of Agriculture representative listed above.

NRCS EQIP Organic Initiative Information - The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) works with landowners through conservation planning and assistance designed to benefit the soil, water, air, plants, and animals that result in productive lands and healthy ecosystems. Funds are available for those transitioning to organic and currently certified organic producers through EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program). For further information on the program and to apply, visit <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/eqip-organic-initiative>

Other programs available through NRCS:

- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
- Healthy Forests Reserve Program
- Agricultural Management Assistance Program

More information on these and other NRCS programs can be found at www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs or by contacting your State NRCS Office:

Delaware Kasey Taylor 302-678-4160 Kasey.taylor@de.usda.gov	New York Blake Glover 315-477-6504 Blake.glover@ny.usda.gov	Pennsylvania Denise Coleman 717-237-2216 denise.coleman@pa.usda.gov
Maryland Eric McTaggart 410-757-0861 eric.mctaggart@usda.gov	North Carolina Tim Beard 919-873-2101 Tim.beard@nc.usda.gov	Virginia Edwin Martinez 804-287-1691 Edwin.martinez@va.usda.gov
New Jersey Julie Hawkins 732-537-6040 Julie.hawkins@nj.usda.gov	Ohio John Wilson 615-255-2472 john.wilson@usda.gov	West Virginia Jon Bourdon 304-284-7540 Jon.bourdon@wv.usda.gov

To view other NRCS State Office's please visit:
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/state-offices>

Pennsylvania Certified Organic (PCO)

pco@paorganic.org • www.paorganic.org • 106 School Street, Ste 201 • Spring Mills, PA 16875 • 814.422.0251 • fax 814.422.0255

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