



# 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 50% of their organic certification costs, up to \$500 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:

### 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  
[molly.gillingham@maryland.gov](mailto:molly.gillingham@maryland.gov)

### 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](mailto:Heather.barnes@ncagr.gov)

### Virginia

Roz Stein  
Virginia Dept. of Agriculture and  
Conservation Services  
102 Governor Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
P: 804-786-3951  
[roz.stein@vdacs.virginia.gov](mailto:roz.stein@vdacs.virginia.gov)

### 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](mailto:OrganicCostShare@ag.nj.gov)

### Ohio

OEFFA Cost-Share Reimbursement  
41 Crowell Road  
Columbus, OH 43214  
P: 614-421-2022  
F: 614-421-2011  
[costshare@oeffa.org](mailto:costshare@oeffa.org)

### 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.

- Delaware
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Michigan
- Washington DC
- West Virginia

### New York

Ashley Christopher  
NY Dept. of Agriculture & Markets  
10 B Airline Drive  
Albany, NY 12235  
P: 518-474-5538  
F: 518-457-2716  
[Ashley.Christopher@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:Ashley.Christopher@agriculture.ny.gov)

### 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](mailto:mbrookins@pa.gov)

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

**Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program** – This program provides reimbursement to agricultural producers and handlers who are certified organic or transitioning to organic production for eligible expenses incurred during fiscal years 2020, 2021 and/or 2022. This funding is provided through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). For more information on the program, visit <https://www.farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance/otecp>.

**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 [www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/financial/eqip/?&cid=nrcs143\\_008224](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/financial/eqip/?&cid=nrcs143_008224)

### 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](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs) or by contacting your State NRCS Office:

#### **Pennsylvania** residents can contact:

Denise Coleman, State Conservationist for Programs  
One Credit Union Place, Suite 340, Harrisburg, PA 17110  
717-237-2216 or [denise.coleman@pa.usda.gov](mailto:denise.coleman@pa.usda.gov)

#### **Delaware**

Kasey Taylor  
302-678-4160  
[Kasey.taylor@de.usda.gov](mailto:Kasey.taylor@de.usda.gov)

#### **Maryland**

Terron Hillsman  
410-757-0861  
[Terron.hillsman@md.usda.gov](mailto:Terron.hillsman@md.usda.gov)

#### **New Jersey**

Julie Hawkins  
732-537-6040  
[Julie.hawkins@nj.usda.gov](mailto:Julie.hawkins@nj.usda.gov)

#### **New York**

Blake Glover  
315-477-6504  
[Blake.glover@ny.usda.gov](mailto:Blake.glover@ny.usda.gov)

#### **North Carolina**

Tim Beard  
919-873-2101  
[Tim.beard@nc.usda.gov](mailto:Tim.beard@nc.usda.gov)

#### **Ohio**

Terry Cosby  
615-255-2475  
[terry.cosby@oh.usda.gov](mailto:terry.cosby@oh.usda.gov)

#### **Virginia**

Edwin Martinez-Martinez  
804-287-1691  
[Edwin.martinez@va.usda.gov](mailto:Edwin.martinez@va.usda.gov)

#### **West Virginia**

Jon Bourdon  
304-284-7540  
[Jon.bourdon@wv.usda.gov](mailto:Jon.bourdon@wv.usda.gov)

To view other NRCS State Office's please visit:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/states/>