

# CDFA HEALTHY SOILS PROGRAM

2021 HSP Incentives Program  
Request for Grant Applications

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Technical Assistance Provided by  
Point Blue Conservation Science &  
Placer Resource Conservation District



# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- **Healthy Soils Program (HSP)**

Stems from California Healthy Soils Initiative, a collaboration of state agencies and departments that promotes the development of healthy soils on California's farmlands and ranchlands.

Competitive grant program: HSP Incentives Program

**Objectives:** To build soil organic carbon and reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases (GHGs).

- **HSP Incentives Program** provides financial incentives to California growers and ranchers to implement agricultural management practices that sequester carbon, reduce atmospheric GHGs and improve soil health.



# FUNDING AND DURATION

- **Funding sources:**

- Budget Act of 2021 – 75 Million
  - 50 Million from the California General Fund
  - 25 Million from CCI

- **Program Funding:**

- **HSP Incentives Program:**

Maximum Grant Amount: \$100,000 per application

- **Grant (Project) Duration (tentative):**

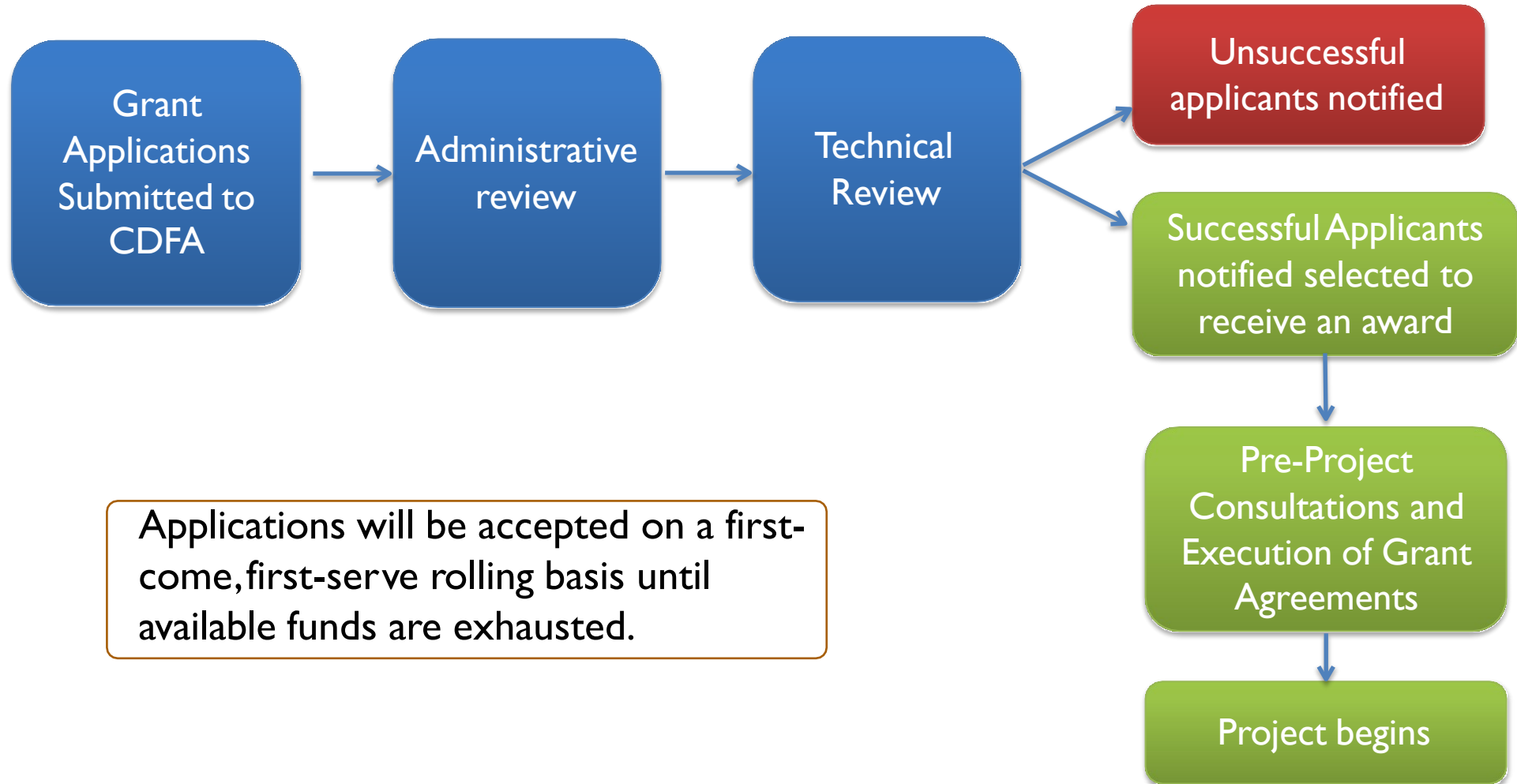
Winter/Spring 2022 – March 2025

# SOLICITATION TIMELINE

Activity	Dates
Announcement of funding availability (application submission period)	October 2021 – February 2022
Review and awards	October 2021 – March 2022
Projects begin implementation	Winter/Spring 2022 onward

**Application submission, review and award notifications will be on a rolling-basis:  
first come first serve over a 4-month period**

# SOLICITATION PROCESS



# REVIEW PROCESS

## Multiple Stages of Review:

- Step1: Administrative Review: Internal – -Conducted by CDFA
- Step 2: Technical Review: External – Conducted by Technical Reviewers (University experts)
- Applications Prioritized for Funding: Projects serving Socially Disadvantaged Farmers or Ranchers, and/or Priority Populations
- Timeline: CDFA anticipates providing award notification/feedback on the grant application within 6 weeks of submission.

# GROUNDS FOR DISQUALIFICATION

- Incomplete grant applications:
  - Applications with one or more unanswered questions necessary for administrative or technical review.
  - Applications with missing, blank, unreadable, corrupt, or otherwise unusable attachments.
- Applications requested for more than the maximum award amount.
- Applications with unallowable costs or activities not necessary to complete the project objectives.
- Applications not meeting program requirements.

# SCORING CRITERIA

Criteria	Score
Project Logistics	10
Project Design	10
Project Work Plan	10
Project Budget and GHG Emission Reduction Estimate	20
Conservation Plan (optional)	10
Total	60

**Minimum score of 40 must be obtained to be considered for funding**



# PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

- California farmers, ranchers, and Federal and California Recognized Native American Indian Tribes.
- Projects must be located on California agricultural operations, reduce agricultural GHGs and sequester soil carbon.
- Applicant must have control of the land for the duration of the grant:
  - Letter of agreement from landowner for leased land is required
- One application per unique tax identification number and the grantee receiving funds must be located in California.
- Grant amount cannot exceed \$100,000.
- Implement at least one HSP Agricultural Management Practice on a field where it was not implemented previously.

# PROGRAM EXCLUSIONS

- Grant funds **cannot** be used to implement practices other than those listed in the HSP RGA (Request for Grant Applications).
- Grant funds **cannot** be used to fund existing and ongoing implementation of any HSP agricultural management practices.
- Grant funds **cannot** be used to fund fields where a HSP Demonstration or Incentives grant was previously awarded for a particular practice. New practices added to previously funded fields may be eligible.
- Compost Application Practices **cannot** be implemented on fields where soil organic matter content is greater than 20% by dry weight in top 20 cm (or 8 inch) depth.
- Grant funds **cannot** be used for projects that use potted plants or other plant growth media.

# ELIGIBLE PRACTICES

## I. Cropland Practices

- Alley Cropping ([USDA NRCS CPS 311](#))
- Compost Application ([CDFA](#))
- Conservation Cover ([USDA NRCS CPS 327](#))
- Conservation Crop Rotation ([USDA NRCS CPS 328](#))
- Contour Buffer Strips ([USDA NRCS CPS 332](#))
- Cover Crop ([USDA NRCS CPS 340](#))
- Field Border ([USDA NRCS CPS 386](#))
- Filter Strip ([USDA NRCS CPS 393](#))
- Forage and Biomass Planting ([USDA NRCS 512](#))
- Grassed Waterway ([USDA NRCS CPS 412](#))
- Herbaceous Wind Barrier ([USDA NRCS CPS 603](#))
- Hedgerow ([USDA NRCS CPS 422](#))
- Mulching ([USDA NRCS CPS 484](#))
- Multi-story Cropping ([USDA NRCS CPS 379](#))
- Nutrient Management ([USDA NRCS CPS 590](#))  
(15% reduction in fertilizer application *only*)
- Residue and Tillage Management – No-Till ([USDA NRCS CPS 329](#))
- Residue and Tillage Management – Reduced Till ([USDA NRCS CPS 345](#))
- Riparian Forest Buffer ([USDA NRCS CPS 391](#))
- [Riparian Herbaceous Cover \(USDA NRCS CPS 390\)](#)
- Strip Cropping ([USDA NRCS CPS 585](#))
- [Tree/Shrub Establishment \(USDA NRCS CPS 612\)](#)
- [Vegetative Barriers \(601\) \(USDA NRCS CPS 601\)](#)
- [Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment \(USDA NRCS CPS 380\)](#)

# ELIGIBLE PRACTICES

## 2. Orchard and Vineyard Practices

- Compost Application ([CDFA](#))
- [Conservation Cover \(USDA NRCS CPS 327\)](#)
- [Cover Crop \(USDA NRCS CPS 340\)](#)
- Filter Strip ([USDA NRCS CPS 393](#))
- [Hedgerow Planting \(USDA NRCS CPS 422\)](#)
- Mulching ([USDA NRCS CPS 484](#))
- [Nutrient Management \(USDA NRCS CPS 590\)](#) (15% reduction in fertilizer application *only*)
- Residue and Tillage Management – [No-Till \(USDA NRCS CPS 329\)](#)
- Residue and Tillage Management – [Reduced Till \(USDA NRCS CPS 345\)](#)
- Whole Orchard Recycling ([CDFA](#))
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment ([USDA NRCS CPS 380](#))

# ELIGIBLE PRACTICES

## 3. Grazing Land

- Compost Application ([CDFA](#))
- [Hedgerow Planting \(USDA NRCS CPS 422\)](#)
- [Prescribed Grazing \(USDA NRCS CPS 528\)](#)
- [Range Planting \(USDA NRCS CPS 550\)](#)
- [Riparian Forest Buffer \(USDA NRCS CPS 391\)](#)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment ([USDA NRCS CPS 612](#))
- [Silvopasture \(USDA NRCS CPS 381\)](#)
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment ([USDA NRCS CPS 380](#))

# NON-OVERLAPPING PRACTICES

**Practices in the same group cannot be implemented on the exact same land area or field, i.e., cannot overlap.**

- Group I
  - ❑ Cover Crop ([USDA NRCS CPS 340](#))
  - ❑ Conservation Crop Rotation ([USDA NRCS CPS 328](#))
  - ❑ Conservation Cover ([USDA NRCS CPS 327](#))
  - ❑ Strip Cropping ([USDA NRCS CPS 585](#))
- Group II:
  - ❑ Residue and Tillage Management – No-Till ([USDA NRCS CPS 329](#))
  - ❑ Residue and Tillage Management – Reduced Till ([USDA NRCS CPS 345](#))
- Group III:  
Compost Application: Compost is either
  - ❑ Purchased from a Certified Facility
  - ❑ On-farm Produced Compost
- Group IV:
  - ❑ Alley Cropping ([USDA NRCS CPS 311](#))
  - ❑ Multi-story Cropping ([USDA NRCS CPS 379](#))
- Group V:
  - ❑ Whole Orchard Recycling
  - ❑ Mulching ([USDA NRCS CPS 484](#))

# NON-OVERLAPPING PRACTICES

Practices in the same group cannot be implemented on the exact same land area or field, i.e., cannot overlap.

- Group VI

Two or more practices from:

- Conservation Cover ([USDA NRCS CPS 327](#))
- Contour Buffer Strips ([USDA NRCS CPS 332](#))
- Field Border ([USDA NRCS CPS 386](#))
- Filter Strip ([USDA NRCS CPS 393](#))
- Forage and Biomass Planting ([USDA NRCS 512](#))
- Grassed Waterway ([USDA NRCS CPS 412](#))
- Herbaceous Wind Barrier ([USDA NRCS CPS 603](#))
- Range Planting ([USDA NRCS CPS 550](#))
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover ([USDA NRCS CPS 390](#))
- Vegetative Barriers ([USDA NRCS CPS 601](#))

- Group VII:

- Alley Cropping ([USDA NRCS CPS 311](#))
- Hedgerow Planting ([USDA NRCS CPS 422](#))
- Multi-story Cropping ([USDA NRCS CPS 379](#))
- Riparian Forest Buffer ([USDA NRCS CPS 391](#))
- Tree/Shrub Establishment ([USDA NRCS CPS 612](#))
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment ([USDA NRCS CPS 380](#))
- Silvopasture ([USDA NRCS CPS 381](#))

- Group VIII:

Any practice listed in Group VI and mulching

Any practice listed in Group VI and Group VII with reduced-till and no-till

# Notable 2021 Updates for Eligible Practices

- Updated payment rates for all practices
  - Advanced payment up to 25% of award total can be available
- Mulching
  - All materials must be produced off-site
  - Wood chip mulches are made of chemically untreated, woody material that is  $\frac{3}{4}$  -2 inches in diameter, without leaves and hardy enough to last for several years.
  - Natural materials include chipped brush, bark, wood shavings, sawdust, leaves, leaf mold, pine needles, grass hay, rice hulls, grasses, grass clippings, crop residues, straw, almond/walnut shells, cocoa bean hulls or coconut fiber.
- Conservation Cover
  - Monarch Habitat Scenario -At least 4% native milkweeds (*Asclepias* spp.) and less than 50% grasses
- Practice implementation acres for Conservation Cover, Cover Crop, Reduced-Till, and No-Till
  - Orchard – 70% of whole field acres
  - Vineyard – 60% of whole field acres



# PROJECT DURATION

<b>Project Year</b>	<b>Duration of Project Year</b>	<b>Practice Implementation Must Begin No Later Than</b>
<b>1</b>	Winter/Spring, 2022 – June 30, 2023	December 31, 2022
<b>2</b>	July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024	December 31, 2023
<b>3</b>	July 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025	December 31, 2024

# PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (I)

- **Baseline data for each Field:**
  - Cropping history in the past three years (2019 – 2021)
  - Management history in the past three years (2019 – 2021)
  - Proposed plan of crops for all Fields included in project during grant term (2022 – 2025)
- **For Fields that will receive compost application:**
  - Compost Application Practices **cannot** be implemented on fields where soil organic matter content is greater than 20% by dry weight in top 20 cm (or 8 inch) depth.
    - Identified via CDFA HSP RePlan Tool
- **Must provide:**
  - CDFA HSP RePlan Report
  - HSP Incentives Work Plan Template
  - CDFA HSP Comet-Planner Report
    - Estimated GHG Emission Reductions
    - Estimated Project Budget

# PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (2)

## Requirements on Practice Implementation and Verification

- Selected projects are subjected to pre-project consultation before the grant contract is signed.
- Implementation of practice(s) must be located on the same field(s) that are in executed grant agreement during the entire project duration.
- Implementation of practices must begin prior to December 31 in each project year.
- Reports on soil organic matter content prior to practice implementation, and at one, two and three years after practice implementation to be submitted to CDFA.
- Awarded projects will be subjected to verification to evaluate will be subjected to verification that the eligible agricultural management practices are implemented in a manner consistent with the USDA NRCS CPS guidelines, and Program Requirements.
  - Evaluations may be done in the field and/or remotely via **geo-tagged pictures**

# PREPARATION FOR ONLINE APPLICATION

- Important documents to review before you start to apply:
  - HSP Incentives Program Request for Grant Applications (RGA)
    - Review appendix A- Practice Payment Rates and Implementation Requirements
  - Frequently Asked Questions
- Important documents to download for preparing submission:
  - Project Work Plan Template
- HSP Incentives website:  
<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysoils/IncentivesProgram.html>

# APPLICATION CONTENTS

- I. Project Overview
- II. Project Logistics
- III. Project Design
- IV. Project Work Plan
- V. Project Budget and GHG Reduction Estimation

- VI. Conservation Plan (Optional)
- VII. Benefits to (*Optional, Prioritized*)
  - 1) Socially Disadvantaged Farmers/Ranchers
  - 2) Priority Populations (AB 1550/SB 535)

# The Application will direct you to RePlan, and Comet-Planner

- RePlan: <https://replan-tool.org/cdfa/>
- Comet-Planner: <http://comet-planner-cdfahsp.com/>

Reach out you a technical assistance provider if you need help navigating these tools- They can be tricky!

# AWARD PROCESS

- Pre-Project Consultation
  - CDFA HSP team communicates with grant recipients to discuss:
    - Project work plan, management practices, APN/Field, materials/plant selection, implementation, and budget.
    - Communication may be via email or phone call.
  - Ensures practices and implementation methods align with 2021 HSP Incentives Program requirements.
- Yearly verification via geo-tagged photos are conducted by CDFA HSP team.
- State audit and accounting requirements:
  - Projects subject to audit annually and for 3 years following the final payment of grant funds.
  - If a project is selected for audit, grantee will be contacted in advance.
  - All grantees must maintain project records for a period of 3 years after final payment is made and at least 1 year following an audit.

# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND FAQ's

- CDFA cannot assist in the preparation of grant applications. However, general questions may be submitted to [cdfa.HSP\\_Tech@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:cdfa.HSP_Tech@cdfa.ca.gov).
- A list of technical assistance providers' contact information will be posted on the [HSP Incentive Program website](#).
  - We provide free technical assistance
- CDFA will post [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the HSP Incentives Program website.
- Answers to questions will be provided on [HSP Incentives Program website](#). A schedule for questions to be submitted and responses to be posted will be provided at the time of release.



# CONTACTS

- Email: [cdfa.HSP\\_Tech@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:cdfa.HSP_Tech@cdfa.ca.gov)
- Visit: HSP Incentives Program website:  
<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/HealthySoils/IncentivesProgram.html>

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# Thank you!

