

CDFA HEALTHY SOILS PROGRAM

2020 HSP Incentives Program
Request for Grant Applications

Technical Assistance Workshop



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Outline

- Program Overview
- Funding and Duration
- Solicitation Timeline and Process
- Review Process and Scoring Criteria
- Eligibility and Exclusions
- HSP Eligible Practices
- Project Duration and Requirements
- How to Apply
- Technical Assistance and FAQ's
- Award Process

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 and HSP Demonstration Projects

- **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 2019 - \$28 Million through the California Climate Investments (CCI)

- **Program Funding:**

- HSP Incentives Program:

Maximum Grant Amount: \$100,000 per application

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

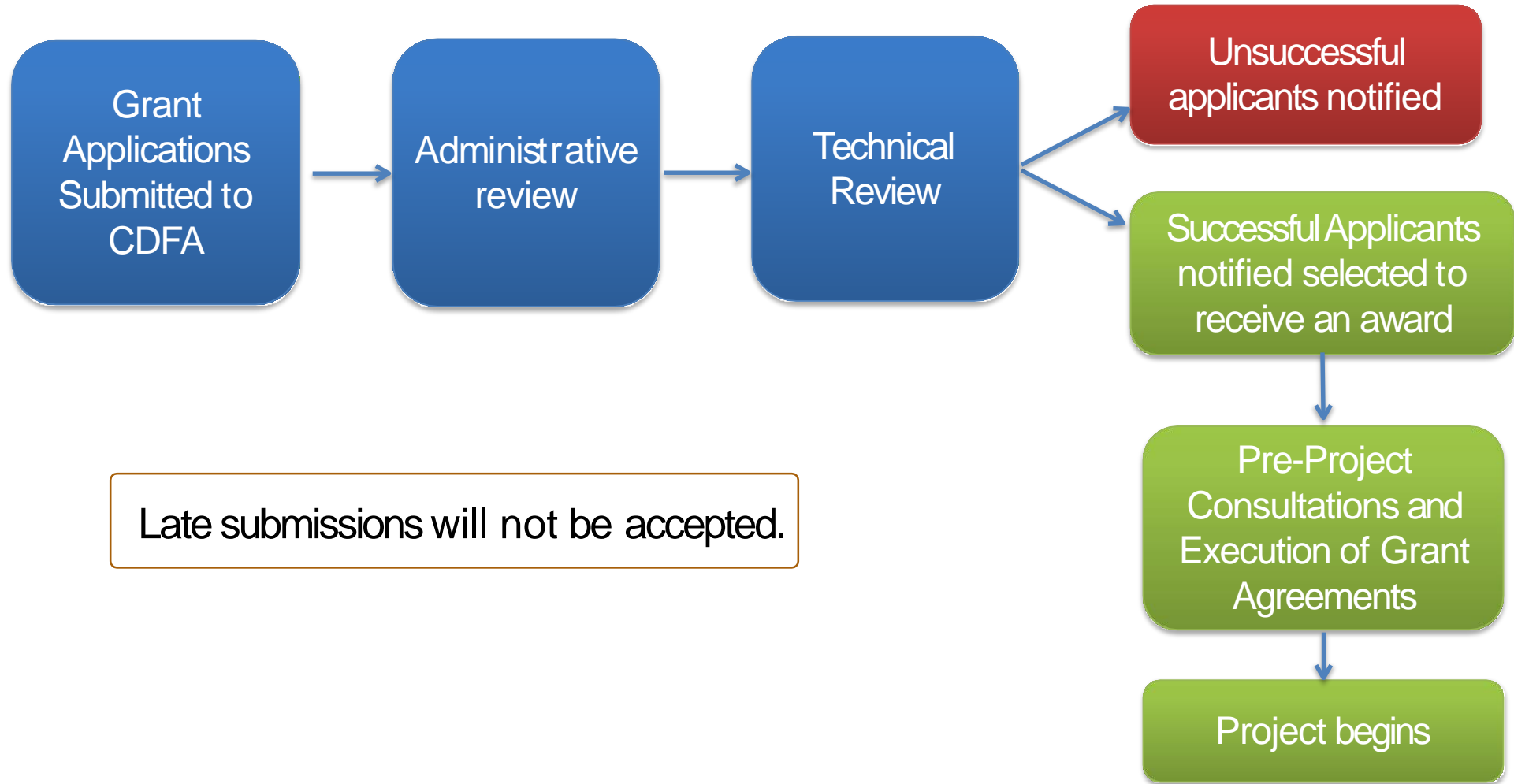
September 2020 – March 2023

SOLICITATION TIMELINE (TENTATIVE)

Activity	Dates
Release Request for Grant Applications	Week of February 24, 2020
CDFA Grant Application Workshops and Webinars	March 2020
Applications Due (Rolling Application)	June 2020 5:00 pm PT
Review Period	TBD 2020

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

SOLICITATION PROCESS



Late submissions will not be accepted.

REVIEW PROCESS

Multiple Stages of Review:

- Step 1: 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
 - 25% of funding available will be awarded
- Timeline: CDFA anticipates providing award notification/feedback on the grant application within 6 weeks of submission.

FUNDING PRIORITY

VII. Benefits to Socially Disadvantaged Groups and/or Priority Populations(Optional)

Although optional, applications that are determined to provide benefits based on their responses to the application questions may be prioritized for funding.

Socially Disadvantaged Groups

Does the applicant belong to a socially disadvantaged group as defined below? Select all that apply.

- African Americans
- Native Indians
- Alaskan Natives
- Hispanics
- Asian Americans
- Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders
- No
- Prefer not to disclose

Priority Populations

Continue with this section only if the CDFA HSP Replan Report identified your proposed project as being located in a community included under AB 1550/SB535 Priority Populations. Priority populations include residents of: (1) census tracts identified as disadvantaged by California Environmental Protection Agency per SB 535; (2) census tracts identified as low-income per AB 1550; or (3) a low-income household per AB 1550. See Section VII.B of [CCI Funding Guidelines](#) for more information on the definitions of priority populations. An online mapping tool of Priority Populations is available at: <https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/auctionproceeds/lowincomemapfull.htm>.

Did the CDFA HSP Replan Report identify your proposed project as being located in a community included under AB 1550 or SB 535 priority populations? *

This information will be under the "Benefits to Priority Populations" section within the CDFA HSP RePlan Report

- No
- Yes

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.
- 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 HSPRGA (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

1. Cropland Practices

- Alley Cropping ([USDA NRCS CPS 311](#))
- Compost Application – page 9
- 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 (CPS Pending)
- [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
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt [Establishment \(USDA NRCS CPS 380\)](#)

ELIGIBLE PRACTICES

3. Grazing Land

- Compost Application (CPS Pending)
- [Hedgerow Planting \(USDA NRCS CPS 422\)](#)
- [Prescribed Grazing \(USDA NRCS CPS 528\)](#)
- [Range Planting \(USDA NRCS CPS 550\)](#)
- [Riparian Forest Buffer \(USDA NRCS CPS391\)](#)
- Tree/Shrub Establishment ([USDA NRCS CPS612](#))
- [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](#))
 - 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](#))

- 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](#))

- Group VIII:

Any practice listed in Group VI and mulching

PAYMENT RATES FOR ELIGIBLE HSP PRACTICES

Appendix A –Payment Rates, Requirements and Implementation Guidelines
– Page 25-37

- 2020 NRCS EQIP Payment Schedule
- Mulching
 - 2018 \$1,712.14/Ac for wood chip application
 - 2020 \$2,488.14/Ac for wood chip application
- Cover Crop
 - 2018 \$147.00/Ac for multiple species
 - 2020 \$106.70/Ac for multiple species
- Hedgerow
 - 2018 \$8.58/linear foot for single row
 - 2020 \$10.82/linear foot for single row

PROJECT DURATION

Project Year	Duration of Project Year	Practice Implementation Must Begin No Later Than
1	September , 2020 – June 30, 2021	December 31, 2020
2	July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022	December 31, 2021
3	July 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023	December 31, 2022

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (1)

- **Baseline data for each Field:**
 - Cropping history in the past three years (January 2017 – December 2019)
 - Management history in the past three years (January 2017 – December 2019)
 - Proposed plan of crops for all Fields included in project during grant term (2020 – 2023)
- **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 HSPRePlan Tool
- **Must provide: (visit the website for these resources)**
 - CDFA HSPRePlan Report
 - HSP Incentives Work Plan Template (Handout)
 - CDFA HSP Comet-Planner Report - <http://comet-planner-cdfahsp.com>
 - Estimated GHG Emission Reductions
 - Estimated Project Budget

CDFA HSP RePlan Report

Live Demonstration:

<https://replan-tool.org/cdfa/>

CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL

RePlan: Regional Conservation and Development Planning Tool [About the Data](#) [Save URL for Future Use](#)

Welcome to the CDFA HSP RePlan Tool

The Healthy Soils Program (HSP) provides financial incentives to California growers and ranchers to implement conservation management practices that help sequester carbon, reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases, and improve overall soil health. This web application provides easy access to the spatially explicit data that helps inform the Healthy Soils Program (HSP) managed by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).

START by zooming to your desired location by typing in an Address or County/APN number using the finder fields at the top of the map. Alternatively, you can pan and zoom to your area of interest using your mouse.

You can visualize different spatial data by first clicking on **Layers** and then selecting individual datasets from the major headings provided. Click on the arrow to expand the list and check the box to display the layer on the map. Clicking [\[icon\]](#) opens up a new window in Data Basin for more detailed information and exploration.

IF you are arriving from the CDFA HSP site as part of the project funding application process, please type in your **Application Number** in the space provided and then continue by clicking the **Begin** button at the bottom of the page.

IF you wish to apply for HSP Incentives Program funding, go to - https://webportalapp.com/sp/login/2020_cdfa_hsp_incentives

Begin

Address Finder APN Finder County Help

Layers

Leaflet | Tiles © Esri — Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, TomTom, Intermap, iPC, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Beijing) Co., Ltd., Swisstopo, IGN, etc. © 2011-2014 Esri Inc. All rights reserved. Imagery © Mapbox, OpenStreetMap contributors, CNES/Airbus, GeoEye, IGN, AerGRID, Airbus, etc. © 2011-2014 Esri Inc. All rights reserved.

CDFA HSP Comet-Planner Report

CDFA HSP Comet-Planner
Report - <http://comet-planner-cdfahsp.com>

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with logos for COMET Planner, USDA, Colorado State University, CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD, and CDFA. Below the navigation bar is a section titled "EVALUATE POTENTIAL CARBON SEQUESTRATION AND GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTIONS FROM ADOPTING NRCS CONSERVATION PRACTICES" with an "INTRODUCTION VIDEO" link. The main content area contains text explaining the tool's purpose and usage, and a form for "Step 1: Begin by naming your project and selecting your state and county".

COMET Planner **USDA** United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service **Colorado State University** **CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD** **cdfa** Carbon and greenhouse gas evaluation for NRCS conservation practice planning

[HOME](#) [HELP](#) [NRCS TOOL](#)

Recommended use of COMET-Planner CDFA HSP: *This evaluation tool is designed to provide estimates of the net greenhouse gas reductions for specific agricultural management conservation practices included in the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Healthy Soils Program (HSP). This tool also helps estimate payments associated with implementing the practices under the HSP. Please note that a comprehensive assessment of site specific conditions may not be accounted with this tool.*

EVALUATE POTENTIAL CARBON SEQUESTRATION AND GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTIONS FROM ADOPTING NRCS CONSERVATION PRACTICES

INTRODUCTION VIDEO

Agricultural Management Practices included in the NRCS COMET-Planner for the CDFA HSP include NRCS Conservation Practices and CDFA-specified practices (compost application and whole orchard recycling). NRCS Conservation Practices included in COMET-Planner are only those that have been identified as having greenhouse gas mitigation and/or carbon sequestration benefits on farms and ranches. This list of conservation practices is based on the qualitative greenhouse benefits ranking of practices prepared by NRCS.

This tool has been developed to support programs coordinated by the CDFA and the California Air Resources Board (CARB), and contains information on conservation practices eligible under the HSP. For information on an expanded list of conservation practices, see the [COMET-Planner tool](#).

Step 1: Begin by naming your project and selecting your state and county

Project Name: **State:** **County:**

Step 2: Select your agricultural system

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 are subject to verification to evaluate the project site and implementation of eligible agricultural management practice(s).

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PREPARATION FOR ONLINE APPLICATION

- Important documents to review before you start to apply:
 - HSP Incentives Program Request for Grant Applications (RGA)
 - HSP Practices 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

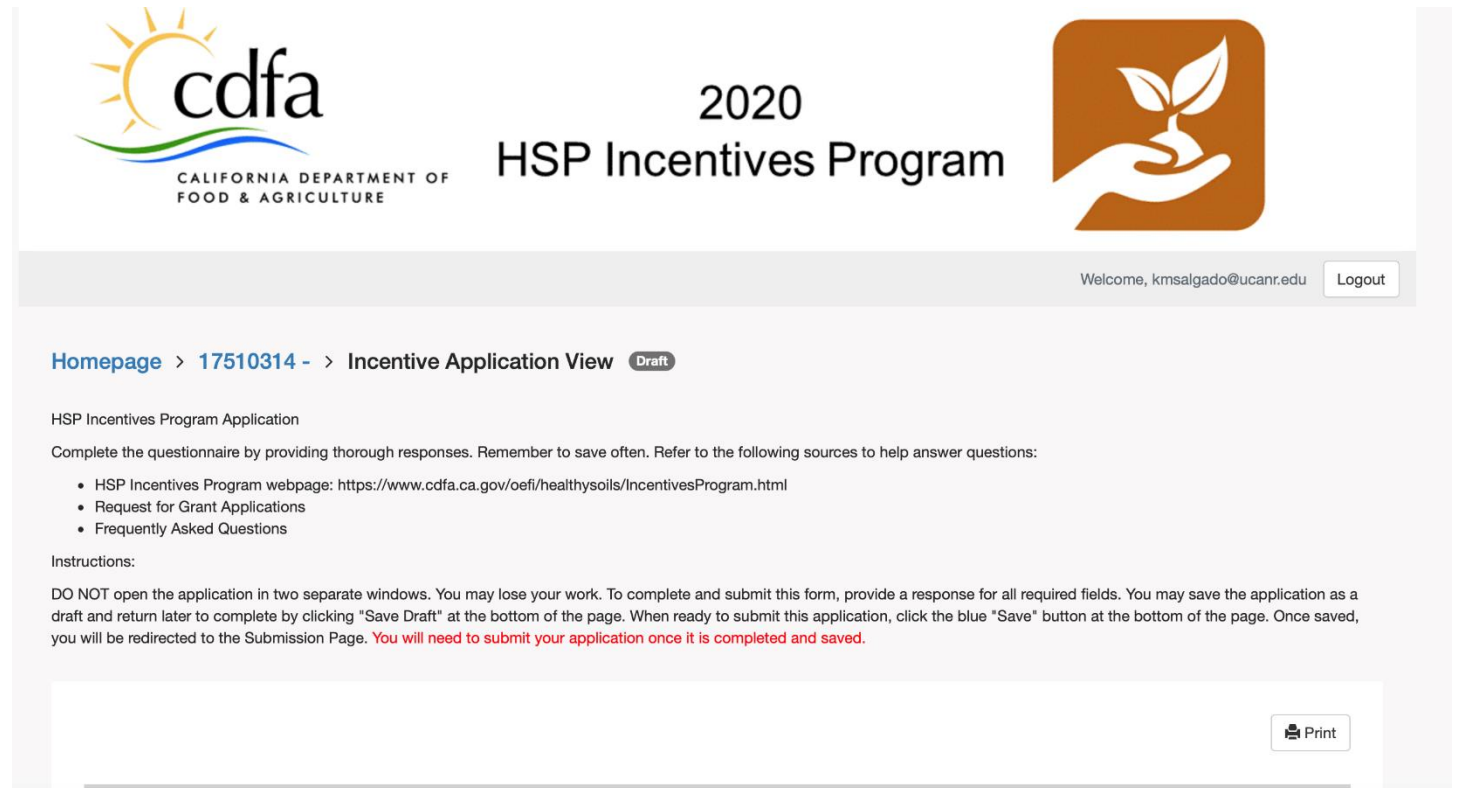
- VI. Conservation Plan (Optional)
- VII. Benefits to (*Optional, Prioritized*)
 - 1) Socially Disadvantaged Farmers/Ranchers
 - 2) Priority Populations (AB 1550/SB 535)

ONLINE APPLICATION WEBPORTAL

Live Demonstration:

https://webportalapp.com/sp/home/2020_cdfa_hsp_incentives

Please review - Handout: Preview of Application Questions – Draft for public comment



The screenshot displays the webportal interface for the 2020 HSP Incentives Program. At the top left is the CDFA logo (California Department of Food & Agriculture). To its right, the text reads "2020 HSP Incentives Program" next to a logo of a hand holding a seedling. A user greeting "Welcome, kmsalgado@ucanr.edu" and a "Logout" button are in the top right. The main content area shows a breadcrumb trail: "Homepage > 17510314 - > Incentive Application View" with a "Draft" status indicator. Below this, the text "HSP Incentives Program Application" is followed by instructions to complete the questionnaire and a list of links: "HSP Incentives Program webpage", "Request for Grant Applications", and "Frequently Asked Questions". Further instructions state that users should not open the application in two windows and should save drafts. A "Print" button is located at the bottom right of the page.

cdfa
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2020
HSP Incentives Program

Welcome, kmsalgado@ucanr.edu Logout

Homepage > 17510314 - > Incentive Application View **Draft**

HSP Incentives Program Application

Complete the questionnaire by providing thorough responses. Remember to save often. Refer to the following sources to help answer questions:

- HSP Incentives Program webpage: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysouils/IncentivesProgram.html>
- Request for Grant Applications
- Frequently Asked Questions

Instructions:

DO NOT open the application in two separate windows. You may lose your work. To complete and submit this form, provide a response for all required fields. You may save the application as a draft and return later to complete by clicking "Save Draft" at the bottom of the page. When ready to submit this application, click the blue "Save" button at the bottom of the page. Once saved, you will be redirected to the Submission Page. **You will need to submit your application once it is completed and saved.**

Print

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 not meeting program requirements.

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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.
- A list of technical assistance providers contact information will be available on from the [HSP Incentive Program website](#).
- CDFA has posted [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the HSP Incentives Program website.
- [Answers to questions will be posted on HSP Incentives Program website. A schedule for questions to be submitted and reponses to be posted will be provided at the time of release.](#)

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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 2020 HSP Incentives Program requirements.
- Yearly verification visits 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.

CONTACTS

- Email to: cdfa.HSP_Tech@cdfa.ca.gov
- Visit: HSP Incentives Program website:
<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/HealthySoils/IncentivesProgram.html>
- Sign up for: [email notification](#)

CONTACTS FOR UCCE SAN DIEGO

Esther Mosase

enmosase@ucanr.edu or (858) 282-6737

CONTACTS FOR UCCE (OTHER COUNTIES)

County	Contact	Email	Phone
<u>Mendocino</u>	<u>Britta Baskerville</u>	<u>blbaskerville@ucanr.edu</u>	(707) 463-4158
<u>Merced</u>	<u>Caddie Bergren</u>	<u>cmbergren@ucanr.edu</u>	(209) 385-7403
<u>Glenn</u>	<u>Dana Brady</u>	<u>dmbrady@ucanr.edu</u>	(530) 517-8187
<u>Yolo, Solano & Sacramento</u>	<u>Emily Lovell</u>	<u>ejlovell@ucanr.edu</u>	(530) 405-9777
<u>Santa Cruz</u>	<u>Valerie Perez</u>	<u>valperez@ucanr.edu</u>	(831) 763-8028
<u>Kern</u>	<u>Shulamit Shroder</u>	<u>sashroder@ucanr.edu</u>	(661) 868-2168
<u>Ventura</u>	<u>Alli Rowe</u>	<u>amrowe@ucanr.edu</u>	(805) 645-1464
<u>Imperial</u>	<u>Kristian Salgado</u>	<u>kmsalgado@ucanr.edu</u>	(442) 265-7700