HEALTHY SOILS – BLOCK GRANT PILOT PROGRAM

Request for Grant Applications

Release date: April 19, 2023

Application due date: 5:00 pm PT on June 19, 2023

Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation

California Department of Food and Agriculture

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Definitions

Name	Definition	Eligible Entities and/or Persons
Block Grant Recipient (BGR)	The entities that will receive the Healthy Soils Block Grants. These entities will enter into agreements with CDFA to disburse funds to Grant Beneficiaries for on-farm projects. These entities will select Grant Beneficiaries and assist them with project implementation and verification. BGRs, or their subcontracted Technical Assistance Providers (TAPs), will provide technical assistance to the Grant Beneficiaries to select and implement eligible soil conservation management practices. Block Grant Applicants are the entities in process of submitting or have submitted Block Grant applications.	Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs); University of California (UC), California Community Colleges, or California State Universities (CSU); Federally- and California-Recognized Native American Indian Tribes; Local or regional government agencies such as air pollution control districts; California Commodities; Nonprofit organizations including, but not limited to: Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, Irrigation districts, and Land trusts.
Technical Assistance Provider (TAP)	Entities with demonstrated technical expertise in designing and implementation of agricultural management practices, who will assist Grant Beneficiaries with project design and implementation. For the Healthy Soils Block Grant, BGRs can also serve as TAPs if they are eligible under AB 2377, or a separate entity subcontracted by the BGR.	Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs); University of California Cooperative Extension; Nonprofit organizations.
Grant Beneficiary	Individuals or entities that either own or control the agricultural land where Healthy Soils eligible practices will be implemented through on-farm projects. These individuals or entities may be referred to as farmers, ranchers, agricultural operations, or farm lessee.	California Farmers / Ranchers; California Agricultural Operations; Nonprofit organizations working as agriculture operations; Federally- and California-Recognized Native American Indian Tribes.

Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (SDFR)	A socially disadvantaged group is defined by the 2017 Farmer Equity Act as a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities.	African Americans; Native Indians; Alaskan Natives; Hispanics; Asian Americans; Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.
Priority Populations	Populations located in disadvantaged communities and/or low-income communities as defined by SB 535 and AB 1550.	Priority populations can be identified using a mapping tool developed by California Air Resources Board at www.arb.ca.gov/cci-resources.

Background and Purpose

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is pleased to announce funding availability for the Healthy Soils - Block Grant Pilot Program. The funds will be awarded through a competitive grant application process.

The Healthy Soils - Block Grant Pilot Program is a part of the Healthy Soils Program (HSP), which stems from the California Healthy Soils Initiative, a collaboration of state agencies and departments that promotes the development of healthy soils on California's farmlands and ranchlands. The objectives of the HSP are to increase statewide implementation of conservation management practices that improve soil health, sequester carbon and reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases (GHGs) by (1) providing financial incentives to California growers and ranchers to implement agricultural management practices that sequester carbon, reduce atmospheric GHGs and improve soil health, (2) funding on-farm demonstration projects that conduct research and/or showcase conservation management practices that mitigate GHG emissions and improve soil health, and (3) creating a platform promoting widespread adoption of conservation management practices throughout the state.

The Healthy Soils - Block Grant Pilot Program addresses objective 1, while objectives 2 and 3 are addressed in the Healthy Soils - Demonstration Program. The Block Grant Pilot Program is designed to facilitate financial assistance to California agricultural operations through regional block grant administrators. The Block Grant Pilot Program grant recipients will select projects and disperse funds to California farmers and ranchers.

Funding and Duration

CDFA was appropriated $70 million for the Heathy Soils Program from the California State Budget. CDFA will make available approximately $29 million for the Block Grant Pilot Program.

- The grant term is four years.
- The minimum and maximum award per block grant application is $2,000,000 and $5,000,000 respectively.
    - 15% of the awarded funds may be used for all direct and indirect costs of administering the block grant program.
    - In addition to 15% administrative cost, the Block Grant Recipient (BGR) or the technical assistance partners are eligible for up to 5% of awarded funds for technical assistance activities as specified in AB 2377 (Irwin, 2018). See Technical Assistance.

    - Block Grant Recipients may request up to $30,000 to purchase equipment as 50% cost-share to assist on-farm project implementation. See "Shared Use Equipment" within the Budget section.
    - The remainder of the grant funds must be used to implement the eligible practices on Grant Beneficiaries' farms or ranches or reimburse Grant Beneficiaries to implement the eligible practices.
- All activities must occur within the grant term. Costs incurred outside of the grant agreement period will not be reimbursed.
- The maximum award for an on-farm project is $200,000 for the grant term of 3 project-years. Grant Beneficiaries are eligible for one grant award per grant cycle.
- CDFA reserves the right to offer an award different than the amount requested.
- CDFA will consider equitable regional distribution of funds along with evaluation criteria while selecting awards.
- All grant reimbursement payments will be made to the BGRs. Block Grant Recipients will be responsible for further disbursement of funds to partners and Grant Beneficiaries.

Program Objectives and Structure

CDFA aims to collaborate with entities with a mission to promote and develop climate change resilient agriculture. CDFA acknowledges the trusted connections that exist between farmers and ranchers and regional entities such as Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs), University Cooperative Extension Offices, Tribal Governments, Land Trusts, and other nonprofits organizations. CDFA wishes to leverage and strengthen these connections through the Block Grant Pilot Program.

For the purpose of this program there are three entities of interest:

1) **Block Grant Recipients (BGR/BGRs)**
   The entities that will receive the Healthy Soils Block grants. These entities will enter into agreements with CDFA to disburse funds to on-farm projects. These entities will select on-farm projects and assist farmers and ranchers with project implementation and verification. BGRs, or their subcontractors, will provide technical assistance to the Grant Beneficiaries to implement eligible conservation management practices. See Eligibility and Exclusions.
2) **Technical Assistance Providers (TAP/TAPs)**
   Technical Assistance Providers are defined in Assembly Bill 2377 (Irwin, 2018) as, "resource conservation districts, the University of California

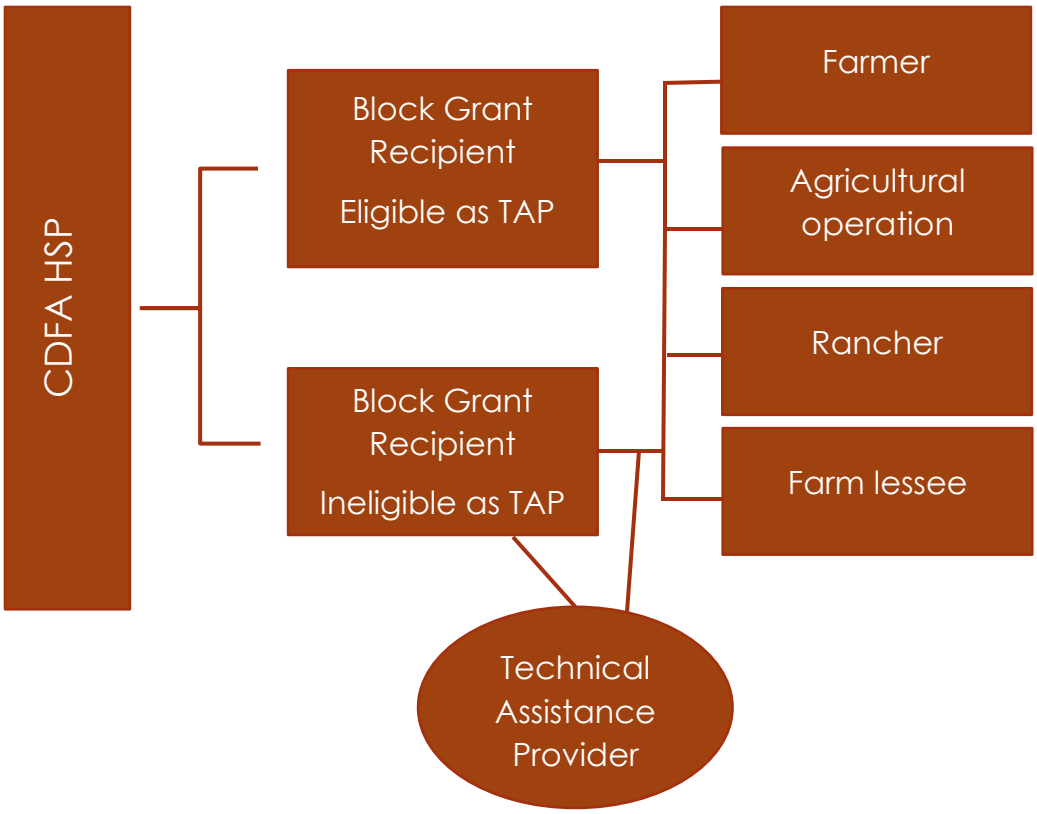
Cooperative Extension, and nonprofit organizations, with demonstrated technical expertise in designing and implementing agricultural management practices." BGRs may be one of the organizations listed in AB 2377 that can provide technical assistance or may contract with a TAP if not eligible. See Technical Assistance section.

3) **Grant Beneficiaries**
   Grant Beneficiaries are defined as California farmers/ ranchers or agricultural operations that either own or control the agricultural land where HSP eligible practices will be implemented. These are the ultimate beneficiaries of these grants. See "Grant Beneficiaries" under Eligibility and Exclusions.

Figure 1 below illustrates the program structure and the relationship among various entities. BGRs may be one of the organizations listed in AB 2377 that can provide technical assistance or may contract with a TAP. BGRs and TAPs will work together to support the development and implementation of on-farm HSP projects for Grant Beneficiaries.

BGRs may prioritize project types that fulfill specific needs of the region. Such priorities must be supported in the statement of need; however, such prioritization must not disqualify applicants from applying for grant funds who otherwise meet the program requirements as described in Healthy Soils Program Requirements for On-Farm Projects section. BGRs may either choose to directly assist with the implementation of on-farm projects or they may award monies to Grant Beneficiaries to implement their own projects. The ultimate outcome will be a verifiable implementation of practices for each project. BGRs and TAPs must not charge any fees to the Grant Beneficiaries for any activities related to grant awards including but not limited to selection, implementation, verification, or payment reimbursement.

Figure 1. Structure of the Block Grant Program



Eligibility and Exclusions

Block Grant Recipients

The following entities are eligible to apply for the Block Grant Program:

- Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs)
- University of California (UC), California Community Colleges, or California State Universities (CSU)
- Federally- and California- Recognized Native American Indian Tribes
- Local or regional government agencies such as air pollution control districts.
- State agricultural marketing programs, and federal marketing programs that represent California commodities (California Commodities)
- Nonprofit organizations including, but not limited to:
    - Groundwater Sustainability Agencies
    - Irrigation districts
    - Land trusts
- Note that all entities receiving grant funds must be located in California with a physical California business address.

- Applicant organizations are required to provide technical assistance to Grant Beneficiaries as required by AB 2377. Applicant organizations not eligible under AB 2377 to provide TA must partner with other eligible entities such as RCDs, University of California Cooperative Extension Offices, and nonprofit organizations. The block grant applicants can review technical assistance resources to find existing HSP TAPs.

CDFA encourages applications from organizations who serve socially disadvantaged California food producers and farmworkers as defined by the 2017 Farmer Equity Act, including but not limited to African Americans, Native Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. The applicant entities must have a demonstrated track record and expertise in conservation management practices, grant administration and outreach. Partnerships between organizations are strongly encouraged to leverage expertise across various organizations and connections to the agricultural community. Partner organizations must be California-based.

Grant Beneficiaries

The program is designed to encourage farmers and ranchers to implement conservation management practices that sequester carbon, reduce atmospheric GHGs, improve soil health, and provide co-benefits while reducing the economic burden of trying new practices. CDFA's theory of change is that Grant Beneficiaries will experience the benefits through implementation of these practices and then incorporate them into their normal agriculture operations after the grant term has ended.

The following entities or individuals are eligible as Grant Beneficiaries:

- California farmers, ranchers, business entities, and Federally- and California- Recognized Native American Indian Tribes.
- Nonprofit organizations as agriculture operations.
- Individuals or business entities receiving grant award funds must be located in California with a physical California business address.
- Grant Beneficiaries must be at least 18 years old.

Project eligibility includes:

- Projects must be located on agricultural operations in California. For the purposes of this program, an agricultural operation is defined as row, vineyard, field and tree crops, commercial nurseries, nursery stock production, and greenhouse operations producing food crops or flowers as defined in Food and Agricultural Code section 77911.
- The project boundaries must be within the state of California.
- Awards are limited to one per agricultural operation using a unique tax

identification number per grant cycle.

Ineligible entities and project conditions:

- University and research farms are not eligible for funding. These entities may apply for the Healthy Soils Demonstration Program.
- Cannabis cultivation operations are not eligible as Grant Beneficiaries.
- Grant funds cannot be used for projects that use potted plants and plant growth media other than soil.

Technical Assistance Providers

AB 2377 requires CDFA to establish a Technical Assistance Grant Program to provide funds to Technical Assistance Providers to assist the applicants of the Healthy Soils Program. The following entities with demonstrated technical expertise in designing, and implementing agricultural management practices are eligible per AB 2377 (See Technical Assistance):

- Resource Conservation Districts
- University of California Cooperative Extension
- Nonprofit organizations

If the block grant applicant is not one of the entities listed above, they must partner with one such entity to be eligible for this grant opportunity.

Executive Order N-6-22 – Russia Sanctions

On March 4, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order (EO) N-6-22 regarding Economic Sanctions against Russia and Russian entities and individuals. "Economic Sanctions" refers to sanctions imposed by the U.S. government in response to Russia's actions in Ukraine, as well as any sanctions imposed under state law. By submitting a bid, proposal, or application, Bidder/Applicant represents that it is not a target of Economic Sanctions. Should the State determine Bidder/Applicant is a target of Economic Sanctions or is conducting prohibited transactions with sanctioned individuals or entities, that shall be grounds for rejection of the Bidder's/Applicant's bid/proposal/application any time prior to contract/agreement execution, or, if determined after contract/agreement execution, shall be grounds for termination by the State.

Timeline

Tentative timeline (subjected to change):

Program Activity	Timeframe
Invitation to submit grant applications	April 19, 2023
CDFA Grant Application Webinars	May 2023
Grant Applications Due	June 19, 2023
Administrative and Technical Review	June-July 2023
Announce Awards	July 2023
Award Process	See Award Process
Training Workshops	September 2023

On-Farm Project Selection and Approvals

Upon grant agreement execution, BGRs and their TAP partners may start the outreach process to identify interested farmers and ranchers. Prior to the onboarding process, both BGRs and TAP partners must ensure that Grant Beneficiaries are fully aware of program requirements and continuing expectations. See program requirements.

BGRs, in collaboration with TAPs, will design and implement a robust outreach campaign to ensure awareness and access in their service area. Through reporting, CDFA will require information on outreach activities including details about outreach events, methods of communication, and efforts to support outreach in languages other than English. BGRs will start the onboarding process while ensuring program requirements are met. BGRs and their TAP partners as applicable, will complete the project design and quantify GHG emissions reduction and co-benefits using CDFA required tools for each selected project. BGRs will seek CDFA approval on each on-farm project to ensure that the selected projects meet program requirements. BGRs must maintain all required documents for three (3) years after grant expiration or as specified in closeout notification. CDFA may request project specific documents during the approval process. See Reporting.

On-farm projects may be disqualified for reasons including but not limited to following:

Disqualification

- Projects that do not meet program requirements.

- Grant Beneficiaries requesting funds for multiple on-farm projects. Only one project will be approved per appropriation.
- Projects proposing previously awarded and/or implemented practices on the same fields/APNs.
- The request exceeds the maximum allowable funding of $200,000 per on-farm project.

Project Implementation and Verification

All awarded projects will be subject to verification to ensure that the agricultural management practices are implemented in a manner consistent with the USDA NRCS CPS guidelines, and Healthy Soils Program Requirements (Appendix A). BGRs will ensure that all project activities are completed according to the work plan and meet program requirements. BGRs are required to verify and certify successful implementation of the HSP practices in their reports. BGRs are required to collect and maintain all documents listed in Appendix A during the verification process. CDFA may audit and review up to 25% of awarded on-farm projects for their completeness. CDFA may audit additional projects if deemed necessary. CDFA staff, or its representative, may request a field visit to verify program compliance during the grant agreement term. CDFA may request any or all documents listed in Appendix A to audit project verifications.

The State of California has the right to review project documents and conduct audits during the project life.

Technical Assistance

The awarded entities must provide technical assistance to Grant Beneficiaries at no cost. AB 2377 (Irwin, 2018) requires CDFA to establish a technical assistance grant program to provide funds to TAPs to assist program applicants. AB 2377 stipulates that CDFA will make available no less than 5%, but not more than $5 million, of each appropriation for technical assistance to farmers and ranchers over three (3) years. AB 2377 further defines eligible technical assistance entities as Resource Conservation Districts, the University of California Cooperative Extension, and nonprofit organizations with demonstrated technical expertise in designing and implementing agricultural management practices. If the BGR applicant is not one of these entities, they must partner with an eligible entity to be eligible for block grant funding. Additionally, any entity lacking technical assistance expertise is encouraged to partner with eligible entities with the desired expertise. The list of existing HSP TAPs can be found on the program webpage under Technical Assistance Resources.

TAPs must comply with the following requirements:

- TAPs may not charge fees for their services.
- Outreach materials prepared by the grant recipient must indicate that no fees or costs will be imposed on the Grant Beneficiaries.
- TAPs may not require Grant Beneficiaries to include specific products or specific practices or favor specific contractors or other service providers when assisting with project design.
- TAPs must declare all conflict(s) of interest including sponsorship or funding by any corporation that may profit from CDFA's CSA incentives programs.
- BGRs along with TAPs must prioritize assistance to Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (SDFRs), and farms and ranches that are 500 acres or less. Additionally, BGRs are encouraged to prioritize assistance to AB 1550, and SB 535 Priority Populations where feasible.
- As required by AB 2377, at least 25 percent of the technical assistance funds must be used to provide technical assistance to SDFRs.
- BGRs and their TAP partners are required to track and report funds utilized assisting SDFRs.

Technical Assistance Activities

Technical assistance is required to include pre-project and project implementation activities during the grant agreement term as described below.

Pre-project activities refer to tasks or activities conducted after the execution of the agreement between CDFA and the BGR, and before selection of on-farm projects. These tasks and activities must include, but are not limited to:

- Outreach and promotion of healthy soils practices and their benefits.
- Connecting interested farmers and ranchers to the BGR.
- Assisting Grant Beneficiaries with project design, GHG emissions reductions and co-benefit estimations using tools provided by the program.

Project implementation activities refer to tasks or activities conducted after an on-farm project has been approved by the CDFA for award. Tasks include, but are not limited to:

- Assisting Grant Beneficiaries with all activities related to on-farm implementation of project activities including, but not limited to working with service providers for implementation of healthy soils practices.
- Assisting Grant Beneficiaries in taking soil samples per program guidelines.
- Communicating with vendors and/or facilitating discussions between Grant Beneficiaries and vendors.
- Assisting with potential on-farm project design and budget revisions.

- Assisting Grant Beneficiaries in collecting implementation documents, invoicing, and matching funds coordination. Such assistance may include a variety of activities including, but not limited to, gathering receipts and records of plant species selected, compost analysis reports and soil testing, and/or project oversight and post-project reporting.
- Providing regular follow-up with Grant Beneficiaries for their technical assistance needs. For example, assisting in the evaluation of alternative choices and availability of allowable plant species for on-farm projects.

Project verification activities refers to tasks performed to verify that implemented practices meet program requirements. BGRs are responsible for verifying the successful implementation of heathy soils practices prior to reimbursement. TAP may assist BGRs in verification process and collect required documents. CDFA will provide trainings and template(s) on how to verify and document practice implementation. BGRs are required to report project status in their quarterly reports, along with the following tasks on an ongoing basis:

- Attend mandatory HSP project verification training(s).
- Communicate with Grant Beneficiaries regarding project verification.
- Review the practice implementation guidelines and verification documents requirements on Appendix A.
- Collect and review documents to verify that practices are implemented per program requirements.
- Complete HSP-provided verification forms as required.
- Submit all documents upon request to the designated CDFA HSP staff.
- Retain verification documents three (3) years after grant agreement expiration date or as specified in the closeout notification.

Program Priorities

BGRs and TAPs, must prioritize assistance to Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (SDFRs), and farms and ranches that are 500 acres or less. A socially disadvantaged group is defined by the 2017 Farmer Equity Act (AB 1348 (Aguiar-Curry, 2017)) as a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. These groups include all of the following:

- African Americans
- Native Indians
- Alaskan Natives
- Hispanics
- Asian Americans
- Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders

BGRs and their TAP partners are required to track and report funds utilized assisting SDFRs. The Healthy Soils Program aims to allocate 25 percent of total grant funding to projects that benefit SDFRs and encourages BGRs to meet or exceed this target. The block grant applicants are required to provide a SDFRs percentage target commitment in their application. If the proposed target is lower than 25 percent, applicants must provide justification of why they could not achieve 25 percent target. Applicants will be scored on their ability to set and justify an ambitious SDFRs target based on SDFR demographics in their service area.

In addition to SDFR populations listed in AB 2377, CDFA also encourages BGRs to facilitate outreach and grants to projects that benefits disadvantaged communities and low-income populations as defined in SB 535 and AB 1550.

California Carbon Sequestration and Climate Resiliency Project Registry

SB 27 (Chapter 237) requires the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) to establish and maintain a registry for the purposes of identifying and listing projects in the state that drive climate action on the state's natural and working lands and which sought funding from state agencies or private entities but were unfunded. Projects that sequester carbon on natural and working lands and meet minimum California Climate Investment program requirements, but did not receive funding due to the limited availability of funds, may be listed on the registry.

If a BGR has insufficient funding to meet the demand for on-farm projects in their service area, they may offer applicants the opportunity to have their projects listed on the registry. If the applicant chooses to be listed, they must provide CDFA with a consent letter authorizing CDFA to share project-relevant data to CNRA or its affiliates, when registry is operational. The project-level data may include but is not limited to applicant name, project description, project budget, estimated GHG and co-benefits, project location, and applicant contact information.

Reporting

The BGRs and TAPs are responsible for keeping CDFA up to date on grant activities. There are three main reporting categories:

On-Farm Project Selection and Approval

As the BGR selects the on-farm projects, the projects may be submitted to CDFA for clearance on an ongoing basis to ensure a proposed project does

not include the same APN/field where a same practice(s) was funded by the Healthy Soils Program previously. The program will at minimum require the following information to review and approve on-farm projects:

A. Letter of commitment from Grant Beneficiary
B. On-farm project level information using HS Block Grant On-Farm Project reporting template.
    - All projects submitted to CDFA must have passed administrative and technical review conducted by the BGR and are eligible for funding whether the BGR has enough funding to award them or not.
    - For projects not selected for funding due to limited funding amount, only report those to CDFA if the applicants are willing to have their applications listed on the CNRA Carbon Sequestration and Climate Resiliency Project Registry for other agencies/ investors to fund. (Check the answer from their RePlan reports.)

Quarterly Progress Report

Both BGRs and TAPs are subject to quarterly reporting. The detailed progress reports should identify practices implemented, and tasks and activities accomplished during the reporting period. The reports include but are not limited to following topics:

- Progress status of each awarded on-farm project
- Practices implemented during the reporting period
- Soil organic matter reports of awarded on-farm projects
- Funds dispersed
- Changes and delays encountered in on-farm project implementation
- All activities and expenses incurred that benefits SDFR's during the reporting period including number of projects assisted, and number of SDFR's assisted and/or funded.

Final Report

At the close of the grant agreement term, or when all on-farm projects' activities have been completed, the BGR will submit a final report including project level metrics on a CDFA provided template. Following submission of the final report, a CDFA staff, or a CDFA-contracted third party, may conduct an exit interview with the BGR or Grant Beneficiary(ies).

BGRs must have robust procedures in place to safeguard against breach and misuse of personal and other sensitive information collected from the Grant Beneficiaries. BGRs must only collect information that is necessary for project evaluation and selection or required by CDFA.

Invoicing and Payments

The BGR will receive payments through both advances and reimbursements. CDFA will provide BGRs with the necessary grant award and invoicing documents. Invoices must be submitted quarterly and include all supporting financial documentation to substantiate expenses.

The BGRs are eligible for no more than15% of awarded funds as administrative expenses. The administrative costs may be requested quarterly. The BGR may request advance payments of up to 25% of the award amount on a recurring basis. Additional advance payment requests may not be processed without a proof of successful dispersal of prior advance payment. Advance payments are subject to the provisions of section 316.1 "Advance Payments" of the California Code of Regulations, Division 1, Chapter 5.

No more than $100,000 may be reimbursed annually for technical assistance expense, as directed by AB 2377. CDFA may withhold 10 percent from the total grant award until a final report is submitted to ensure grant recipients (BGR and TAP) meet all program requirements. Invoicing and closeout of all project expenditures must be completed within 60 days after the grant agreement term expires.

Failure to work with CDFA or its designees to provide the necessary project-related documentation will be considered non-performance. If it is determined by CDFA from the Critical Project Review that at that time the grant project is not meeting, and is unlikely to meet certain milestones, CDFA has the right to terminate the Grant Agreement pursuant to the Terms and Conditions of the Grant Agreement. Termination may result in forfeiture by the grantee of any funds retained pursuant to the 10 percent retention policy.

Post-Project Completion Requirements

Grant Beneficiaries are required to maintain implementation of practices incentivized through this program through the term of the grant agreement. However, benefits from implementation of practices are expected to be achieved in the long term, and Grant Beneficiaries are encouraged to continue and/or expand these practices on their operations to achieve long-term benefits. BGRs and Grant Beneficiaries must agree to post-project completion requirements which require them to take soil samples and provide a soil organic matter analysis report after the third year of initial implementation. This soil analysis will be outside the grant term and therefore should be covered by matching funds. Additionally, Grant Beneficiaries and BGRs are required to

maintain documentation related to their HSP funded projects three (3) years after completion of the project.

Failure to work with CDFA to provide the necessary project-related documentation, including the post project soil organic matter analysis reports, will be considered non-performance and may impact consideration for future funding.

CDFA, or its designated representative, may contact a subset of awarded projects to collect data including, but not limited to, eligible agricultural management practice implementation and GHG emissions reduction estimates for three (3) years after project completion.

State Audit and Accounting Requirements

In addition to Healthy Soils program requirements, awarded projects may be subject to State Audit and Accounting Requirements listed below.

Audit and Critical Project Review Requirements

Projects are subject to audit by the State annually and for three (3) years following the final payment of grant funds. If the project is selected for an audit, the BGR will be contacted in advance. The audit shall include all books, papers, accounts, documents, or other records of the BGR, as they relate to the project. All project expenditure documentation should be available for an audit, whether paid with grant funds or other funds.

The BGR must have project records, including source documents and evidence of payment, readily available and must provide an employee with knowledge of the project to assist the auditor. The BGR must provide a copy of any document, paper, record, etc., requested by the auditor.

Accounting Requirements

The BGR must maintain an accounting system that:

- Accurately reflects fiscal transactions, with the necessary controls and safeguards.
- Provides a good audit trail, including original source documents such as purchase orders, receipts, progress payments, invoices, employee paystubs and timecards, evidence of payment, etc.
- Provides accounting data so the total cost of each individual project can be readily determined.

Records Retention

Records must be retained for a period of three (3) years after final payment is made by the State or as specified in closeout notification. The BGR must retain all project records at least one (1) year following an audit.

How to Apply

CDFA uses an online application platform to accept applications. The application portal link can be accessed through the HS Block Grant Pilot Program webpage. Applicants must create a user account to submit a grant application. All applications, supporting documents, and submissions are subject to public disclosure, including posting on the CDFA website.

Eligible organizations may submit one application for an award of $2 million to $5 million. The lead organization on the application cannot be part of other applications in this solicitation. TAP organizations may partner with more than one lead organization, however they must disclose and address their organizational capacity to successfully execute activities while still providing excellent customer service. If awarded, the HSP grant agreement will be between CDFA and the lead applicant organization, and the lead organization must ensure that all required and proposed tasks are completed as approved in the agreements. CDFA will not be able to mediate any dispute between lead and partnering organizations. The lead organizations must obtain and submit letters of intent from all partners and contractors.

The application package will cover the following areas to assess the quality of the application and the expertise of the applicant organization(s): 1) Opportunity Details, 2) Project Information, 3) Application Forms, 4) Budget Template, and 5) Submission. For more details, please review Appendix C.

Questions and Answers

During the application period, CDFA will host two informational webinars to provide an overview of program guidelines and application materials. Visit the HSP Block Grant Pilot Program webpage for more information and to register for the webinars.

General questions regarding the solicitation process may be submitted to cdfa.hsp_tech@cdfa.ca.gov. Responses to all questions received by email will be posted to CDFA's HSP website according to the following schedule:

Questions Received By:	Responses Provided By:
May 12, 2023	May 19, 2023
May 26, 2023	June 2, 2023

To maintain the integrity of the competitive grant process, CDFA is unable to advise and/or provide individuals with any information regarding specific grant application questions during the solicitation process.

Program Deliverables

The application questions will guide the applicants to describe how the program deliverables will be met.

1. **Outreach Plan**
   BGRs must develop a robust outreach plan to ensure that information about the available funding is shared widely. The plan must include specifics on how the applicant will ensure outreach to and prioritize the participation of SDFRs. AB 2377 requires that 25% of technical assistance funding is utilized to benefit SDFRs. Block grant applicants should estimate the percentage of grant award, they will commit to serve SDFRs and outline ways to achieve that target.
2. **On-farm Project Development**
   BGRs, in collaboration with TAP partners as applicable, must provide free technical assistance to Grant Beneficiaries to develop projects consistent with program requirements. Grant Beneficiaries in collaboration with TAP, develop projects using CDFA provided RePlan Tool to design project and estimate GHG emissions reduction.
3. **On-farm Project Selection and Approval**
   During the project selection process, BGRs must provide required project level data to CFDA for clearance using CDFA provided reporting template(s). CDFA review is essential to ensure that funding is not provided to prior program beneficiaries for the same practices on same fields.
4. **Project Implementation**
   After an on-farm project has been cleared by CDFA, project implementation may begin. Technical assistance should continue to be available during the implementation stage. TAP in collaboration with BGRs may assist implementing on-farm projects. BGRs must review and approve all scope of work changes to the approved project. BGRs must maintain records of such changes and notify the program in their quarterly reports.
5. **Project Verification and Progress Reporting**
   BGRs will verify practice implementation to ensure that program requirements met prior to reimbursement. BGRs must maintain records and notify in their quarterly reports.
6. **Disbursement of Funding**

The BGR will be responsible for tracking its own administrative expenses and those of its partners, and for disbursing funds to partners and Grant Beneficiaries. On a quarterly basis, BGRs will submit invoices for reimbursement to CDFA with a brief explanation of the costs incurred. TAP will keep track and report funds utilized to assist SDFRs.

7. **Training and Communication**
   CDFA recognizes that to maintain consistency and quality of projects amongst the various BGRs, trainings will be required. CDFA will provide the required trainings on various block grant administration steps. All BGRs are required to attend the trainings and can invoice CDFA for the time spent participating. The BGR will also maintain communication with CDFA in the form of quarterly reports and/or regular check-ins. In addition to CDFA-led training, the BGR should provide a plan overview for assuring consistency and quality of on-farm projects.

BGRs and TAPs must discuss, assign, and memorialize all program activities and who is responsible for each. The table below provides an overview of the primary Healthy Soils Block Grant Program objectives and gives examples of potential responsible entities for each objective.

#	Objective	Description	Responsible Entity
1	Outreach Plan	The Block Grant Recipient will perform outreach and identify Grant Beneficiaries for participation.	BGR
2	On-farm Project Development	The Technical Assistance Provider will work closely with the Grant Beneficiary to gather necessary information, prepare a project design, and other project documents.	TAP and Grant Beneficiary
3	On-farm Project Selection and Approval	The Block Grant Recipient will submit Project level data and supporting documentation to CDFA for clearance.	BGR and TAP
4	Project Implementation	The Technical Assistance Providers will support project implementation.	TAP and Grant Beneficiary
5	Project Verification and Progress Reporting	The Block Grant Recipient will collect documents supporting successful implementation as directed by CDFA and submit verification reports and associated documents to CDFA.	BGR

6	Disbursement of Funding	The Block Grant Recipient will disburse funding to partners and Grant Beneficiary or directly to vendors by utilizing advances and reimbursements from CDFA.	BGR
7	Training and Communication	The Block Grant Recipient will attend required trainings provided by CDFA and maintain communication with CDFA.	BGR

Review Process and Notification of Application Status

Applications will be reviewed in a two-stage process: Administrative Review and Technical Review.

Administrative Review

The purpose of the Administrative Review is to determine whether the eligibility criteria and grant application requirements are met. The Administrative Review will occur after the application due date.

Disqualifications

During the Administrative Review, the following will result in the disqualification of a grant application:

- Incomplete grant applications: applications with one or more unanswered questions necessary for administrative or technical review, missing, blank, unreadable, corrupt, or otherwise unusable attachments.
- Applications that include activities outside the grant term.
- Applications with unallowable costs or activities necessary to complete the project objectives.
- Requests for more than the maximum award amount or less than the minimum award amount.
- Applications and/or applicants that do not comply with Eligibility or meet Program Objectives.
- Applicants/lead entities receiving grant funds that are not located in California with a physical California business address.

Appeal Rights

Any disqualification by CDFA during the Administrative Review for the preceding reasons may be appealed to CDFA's Office of Hearings and Appeals Office within 10 days of receiving a notice of disqualification from CDFA. The appeal must be in writing and signed by the responsible party name on the grant application or their authorized agent. It must state the grounds for the appeal and include any supporting documents and a copy of the CDFA decision being

challenged. The submissions must be emailed to CDFA.LegalOffice@cdfa.ca.gov (preferred) or sent to the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Office of Hearings and Appeals, 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. If submissions are not received within the time frame provided above, the appeal will be denied.

Appeal rights are only afforded to disqualifications.

Technical Review

The second level of review is a Technical Review to evaluate the merits and overall expected success of the application. The applications will be scored based on the scoring criteria explained below. CDFA may take into consideration the past performance of applicants in the OEFI's Climate Smart Agriculture Programs during selection. Past performance criteria may include timely and satisfactory completion of funded activities and reporting requirements, data on meeting funding priorities, quantity and quality of past project performance including project termination or incomplete projects, or unresponsiveness.

Scoring Criteria

The technical reviewers will do an in-depth evaluation of each application and will use a one-hundred-point scale to evaluate the merits of the proposed application, the capacity, and qualifications of the applicant. The technical reviewers will also evaluate whether objectives are realistic, achievable, and budget is reasonable. The table below shows and describes the distribution of points among the scoring criteria.

Criteria	Maximum Points
Qualification of Applicants Does the project team have expertise in conservation management practices and implementation to be able to support agricultural operations? Does the organization provide evidence of capacity to administer the program? Does applicant organization or partners have experience providing technical assistance?	30
Statement of Need Does the proposal outline the community demographic that would be served?	25

Does the proposal identify the needs of the agricultural operations in the service area, including the target communities' language and/or technical assistance needs?	
Workplan Merit and Feasibility Does the proposal clearly identify activities to address each of the program deliverables? Does the workplan address the needs that were identified in Statement of Needs?	30
Budget Are the costs outlined in the budget reasonable? Is the budget completed correctly and include costs associated with all required deliverables? Does proposal provide a budget narrative to support the costs?	15
Total	**100**

Qualification of Applicants

Applicants provide a statement of qualification describing their expertise in conservation management practices; grant administration; technical assistance and outreach; and relationships with farming communities including SDFRs and farms of small size. If the lead organization will partner with other organization(s), the qualifications of the applicant's section must also include a description of the partners expertise in same criteria listed above. CDFA encourages strategic partnerships among various regional organizations to leverage diverse expertise. Applicants must also provide resumes of key personnel.

Statement of Need

The applicant must provide a statement describing the need for funding, and how HSP funding can address the needs of the community and prepare farming operations for climate resiliency. Applicants will provide a list of counties they are intending to cover. Applicants must discuss the community demographics in their service area and describe the target communities and related language needs. The program's goal will be to achieve at least 25% targeted funding to SDFRs. The proposal must either make a commitment to 25% target or provide an estimate of the percent of grant funding they will commit to serve SDFRs if unable to commit to the 25% goal. If estimating a percentage less than 25%, applicant must provide justification of why 25% is not achievable. The proposal

must also outline ways to achieve the target. Applicants will be scored on their ability to set and justify an ambitious SDFR target based on their service area's SDFR demographics. The proposal must clearly explain their outreach strategy to address technical assistance needs, equity, and transparency. The statement of need must be consistent with the project Work Plan.

Work Plan Merit and Feasibility

The applicant will provide a detailed Work Plan describing the plan for addressing program deliverables, including listing each task associated with the program deliverables, start and end dates for the tasks, and title(s) of the personnel responsible for each task. As part of the program deliverables to be included in the Work Plan, the applicant will be asked to outline a proposal for how on-farm projects will be selected (e.g., competitive, first-come first-served, others). The applicant must propose a method of review and transparency in this process. For example, an applicant may subcontract a third party to participate in the selection process or form a review panel or board. Applicants must provide detailed descriptions of how equity will be incorporated into their funding decisions, and whether multilingual services will be provided, and if so, to what extent (e.g., grant administration, outreach, and technical assistance, etc.).

Budget

Applicants will submit an itemized budget outlining tasks and costs associated with each task. Through the application narrative, applicants will indicate projected/estimated expenses related to administration, technical assistance, and on-farm projects. The proposal will also discuss how block grant funding will be tracked over the grant terms including monitoring and disbursement of funds to partner organizations and Grant Beneficiaries, and how technical assistance will be tracked including expenses related to SDFR. The budget categories are:

A. **On-Farm Grants**: Estimate the total amount of funds that the organization can disburse based on the number of on-farm grants that the BGR can assist implementing during the grant period.
B. **Personnel Salary and Wages, and Fringe Benefits**: Estimate the hourly cost of salary, wages associated with each task and the total numbers of hours required. Also, estimate the fringe benefits associated with compensation.

   B1: Administration

   B2: **Technical Assistance**

C. **Travel**: Estimate the cost of project-related travel necessary for successful implementation of the grant.

C1: **Administration**

C2: **Technical Assistance**

D. Supplies and Equipment: Estimate the cost of supplies associated with each activity. Supplies are items with an acquisition cost less than $5,000 per unit that are used exclusively for the objectives of the project. Categorize the types of supplies to be purchased. General use office supplies (e.g., paper, printer ink, pens, etc.), facilities costs (telephone, internet, etc.), and administrative costs are considered indirect and should not be included under "Supplies". Also, estimate the cost of equipment associated with each activity. Equipment is nonexpendable, tangible personal property with a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost which equals or exceeds $5,000. Applicants must provide detailed justification including why such purchase(s) are necessary over renting such equipment.

D1: Administration

D2: Technical Assistance

E. Contractual: Estimate the cost of work on the project that will be performed by individuals/organizations other than the applicant (e.g., consultants, contractors, partner organizations other than TAPs, etc.) for administrative purposes. This amount should include all associated salary and wages, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, other, and indirect costs. List the services to be provided and the contractors that will work on the project and be paid with grant funds.

E1: Administration

E2: Technical Assistance

F. Other: All other costs that are necessary for technical assistance but not covered under the categories above.

F1: Administration

F2: Technical Assistance

G. Indirect Cost: Indirect costs are facilities and administrative costs that cannot easily be tied directly to the activities of the grant. Examples of common indirect costs include administrative/clerical services, rent, utilities, internet and telephone service, maintenance, and general office supplies. The University of California or California State University may claim their agreed upon indirect cost rate with CDFA, all other entities are

eligible for 25% of total direct costs as indirect cost (not including on-farm grant funds).

G1: Administration

G2: Technical Assistance

H. **Shared Use Equipment**: The purchase of equipment for the purpose of shared use and to assist in implementing healthy soils practices is allowable. The purpose of this allowance is to assist and encourage healthy soil practices on farms where access to such equipment prohibits adoption. BGRs may request up to a total of $30,000 for general purpose equipment. These funds can be used as cost share up to 50% of the total cost of each equipment. Applicants must clearly demonstrate the need of equipment including target beneficiaries. Applicants must also provide a detailed plan covering maintenance, equitable sharing, and storage during the grant agreement term and up to the useable life of the equipment. Please refer to California Code of Regulations- Title 3, Division 1, Chapter 5 Grants Administration including procurement, property records and disposition of equipment. These regulations are applicable to shared use equipment (H) and any equipment identified under the other budget categories.

Please note that the total administrative cost (B1+C1+D1+ E1+F1+G1) must not exceed 15% of total funds requested and total technical assistance cost (B2+C2 +D2+ E2+F2+G2) must not exceed 5% of total funds requested. The application will be disqualified if either of the costs exceed maximum allowable limit.

Please refer to the list of allowable/ unallowable costs of the California Code of Regulations – Title 3, Division 1, Chapter 5 Grants Administration, and refer to the lists below.

Allowable costs include, but are not limited to:

Project costs must be itemized and clearly support implementation of eligible agricultural management practices including supplies, special purpose equipment, labor, and any other allowable costs necessary for project implementation. Project costs must be reasonable and consistent with costs paid for equivalent work on non-grant funded activities or for comparable work in the labor market.

- Cost of materials needed for outreach activities (e.g., printed handouts or brochures).

- Travel expenses such as mileage, lodging, per diem, vehicle rental etc. for outreach, project implementation and verification assisting Grant Beneficiaries.
- Translation services

Unallowable costs include, but are not limited to:

- Costs incurred outside of the grant term
- Costs covered by another State or Federal grant program
- Costs of activities unrelated to program and project objectives
- Research, product development or evaluation
- Purchase of a vehicle
- Expenditures for purchasing or leasing land or buildings
- Out of state traveling costs
- Reimbursement rates for on-farm projects different from that noted in Appendix A
- Reimbursement for ineligible practices

Notification and Feedback

Successful applicants will be notified of their grant award through email and will be entered into the grant agreement execution process. Applications that are not selected for funding may receive feedback on their grant application upon request within 60 business days after receiving notification. CDFA will publish information on the HSP website regarding the applications received at least 10 days before awarding grant funds. After projects are selected, and all funds are encumbered, CDFA will post an updated list of awarded projects. Applications will be treated in accordance with Public Records Act requirements and certain information, subject to those requirements, may be disclosed.

Award Process

Grant Agreement Execution

CDFA will initiate the Grant Agreement process with applicants selected to receive a grant award (awardee). The process of executing a grant agreement is estimated to take several months. A CDFA HSP staff member may contact each awardee to schedule a pre-project consultation. CDFA will review submitted budgets to confirm costs are allowable. Awardees will receive a Grant Agreement package with specific instructions regarding award requirements including information on project implementation, reporting, verification, and payment process. Communication during the grant execution process is done primarily via email - CDFA reserves the right to rescind an award due to lack of response from an award recipient.

Award Timeline

Grant Agreement Stage	Estimated Time for Stage Completion*
Grant packet is completed – During this step, CDFA will work with awardees to get the information the state needs to execute the grant. The timeline for this step is dependent on how quickly information is provided to CDFA staff.	Variable
Grant execution	Up to 90 days
Processing advance payments – If awardees request and are granted an advance payment, please be aware that it will take up to 4 weeks to process this payment once the grant is executed. (See Invoicing and Payment).	Up to 4 weeks

*Subjected to change

Healthy Soil Program Requirements for On-Farm Projects

This section describes the program requirements that must be met when BGRs select on-farm projects, support implementation, and verify the practices. Project designs will be completed using the CDFA HSP RePlan tool.

- All projects must implement at least one of the eligible agricultural management practices listed under Eligible Agricultural Management Practices, on fields where the practice was not implemented in the previous year (at the time of application submission):
    - A previously implemented practice is eligible for funding only if it is implemented on a new field within the same APN or a new APN.
    - HSP funded practices must be implemented on the same field(s) within the APN and cannot be moved to different field(s) within an APN during the grant agreement term. The practices that are required to be implemented three times during project term, must be implemented once in each project year on the same field.
    - Practices must be implemented on the same total acreage throughout the term as specified in the original proposal. Decrease in acreage of practice implementation and quantified GHG emissions reductions in the project may result in elimination of that practice from the project and subsequent reduction of the project budget. See Project Implementation and Verification.
- Each on-farm project can request up to $200,000. The payment rate and total reimbursable cost for each practice must not exceed as listed in

Appendix A.

- Projects must result in net GHG emissions benefits (i.e., net positive GHG emissions reductions). See GHG Reduction Estimation.
- Applicants must provide baseline data from the previous year of cropping and management histories directly related to the fields identified by APNs where eligible agricultural management practices are proposed.
- Applicants must lease, own, or otherwise control the fields and APNs where project activities are proposed to occur for the entirety of the project duration. If leasing land, applicants must provide written approval from the landowner. If lease term is shorter than the project term, lessees should provide a written statement from landowner that lease renewal will be discussed in good faith.
- Approval of an on-farm project for grant funding does not imply that the project complies with all local, State, and Federal regulations. The Grant Beneficiary shall be responsible for observing and complying with all applicable local, State, and Federal laws and regulations.
- HSP funds cannot be used to implement management practices that are not listed under Eligible Agricultural Management Practices in this grant solicitation. All requirements for practice implementation must be followed (see Appendix A).
- HSP funds cannot be used for research and product development activities.
- **Compost Application** Practices and **Whole Orchard Recycling** may not be implemented on APNs where soil organic matter content is greater than 20 percent by dry weight in the top 20 cm (or 8 inch) depth.
- Practices may not be implemented on lands or crop types that are not suitable based on NRCS Conservation Practice Standards and NRCS California Practice Scenarios.

Eligible Agricultural Management Practices

CDFA has identified eligible agricultural management practices that sequester carbon, reduce atmospheric GHGs, and improve soil health. On-farm project proposals must include the APN(s) of the field(s) where the eligible management practice(s) will be implemented. The on-farm project proposals may include multiple practices on the same APN or the same practice on multiple APNs. Some practices may not be implemented on the exact same field as part of the same project. Refer to Non-Overlapping Practices for details. The Healthy Soils Program incentivizes two types of practices based on implementation timelines:

1. **Annual practices**: Practices that are implemented once in each project year and are implemented a total of three times during project term (e.g., Compost and Cover Crop.) The annual practices must be implemented once in each project year to be eligible for reimbursement.
2. **One-time practices**: Practices that are implemented only once and are maintained for project life (e.g., Hedgerow Planting and Conservation Cover).

The following management practices were selected and must be implemented in accordance with their respective requirements for implementation in California based on the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Practice Standards (CPS), 2023 NRCS California Scenarios, CDFA Compost Application White Paper and CDFA's Whole Orchard Recycling Report. Refer to the Program Requirements and Appendix A for details.

All eligible practices are divided by cropping system below. The updated CPS for each practice can be found at List of Agricultural Management Practices Incentivized by the HSP.

Cropland

1. Alley Cropping (USDA NRCS CPS 311)
2. Compost Application (USDA NRCS CPS 808)
    a. Compost Purchased from a Certified Facility
    b. On-farm Produced Compost
3. Conservation Cover (USDA NRCS CPS 327)
4. Conservation Crop Rotation (USDA NRCS CPS 328)
5. Contour Buffer Strips (USDA NRCS CPS 332)
6. Cover Crop (USDA NRCS CPS 340)
7. Field Border (USDA NRCS CPS 386)
8. Filter Strip (USDA NRCS CPS 393)
9. Forage and Biomass Planting/Pasture and Hay Planting (USDA NRCS 512)
10. Grassed Waterway (USDA NRCS CPS 412)
11. Hedgerow Planting (USDA NRCS CPS 422)
12. Herbaceous Wind Barrier (USDA NRCS CPS 603)
13. Mulching (USDA NRCS CPS 484)
    a. Natural Materials (USDA NRCS CPS 484)
    b. Wood Chips (USDA NRCS CPS 484)

14. Multi-story Cropping/Forest Farming (USDA NRCS CPS 379)
15. Nutrient Management (USDA NRCS CPS 590) (15% reduction in fertilizer application *only*)
16. Residue and Tillage Management – No-Till (USDA NRCS CPS 329)
17. Residue and Tillage Management − Reduced Till (USDA NRCS CPS 345)
18. Riparian Forest Buffer (USDA NRCS CPS 391)
19. Riparian Herbaceous Cover (USDA NRCS CPS 390)
20. Strip Cropping (USDA NRCS CPS 585)
21. Tree/Shrub Establishment (USDA NRCS CPS 612)
22. Vegetative Barriers (USDA NRCS CPS 601)
23. Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (USDA NRCS CPS 380)

Orchard or Vineyard

1. Compost Application (USDA NRCS CPS 808)
    a. Compost Purchased from a Certified Facility
    b. On-farm Produced Compost
2. Conservation Cover (USDA NRCS CPS 327)
3. Cover Crop (USDA NRCS CPS 340)
4. Filter Strip (USDA NRCS CPS 393)
5. Hedgerow Planting (USDA NRCS CPS 422)
6. Mulching (USDA NRCS CPS 484)
    a. Nature Materials (USDA NRCS CPS 484)
    b. Wood Chips (USDA NRCS CPS 484)
7. Nutrient Management (USDA NRCS CPS 590) (15% reduction in fertilizer application *only*)
8. Residue and Tillage Management – No-Till (USDA NRCS CPS 329)
9. Residue and Tillage Management − Reduced Till (USDA NRCS CPS 345)
10. Whole Orchard Recycling (USDA NRCS CPS 808)
11. Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (USDA NRCS CPS 380)

Grazing Land

1. Compost Application (USDA NRCS CPS 808)
    a. Compost Purchased from a Certified Facility
    b. On-farm Produced Compost
2. Hedgerow Planting (USDA NRCS CPS 422)
3. Prescribed Grazing (USDA NRCS CPS 528)
4. Range Planting (USDA NRCS CPS 550)
5. Riparian Forest Buffer (USDA NRCS CPS 391)

6. Silvopasture (USDA NRCS CPS 381)
7. Tree/Shrub Establishment (USDA NRCS CPS 612)
8. Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (USDA NRCS CPS 380)

Technical Specifications for Estimation of GHG Benefits

Expected Life of Practices

To estimate the net GHG benefits due to a practice implementation, the expected life of the practice is as follows:

Eligible Agricultural Management Practice	Expected Life of Practice*
Practices that involve planting of woody cover (trees and shrubs)	10 Years
All other practices	3 Years

*Expected Life of Practice for the HSP may be different from that required by USDA-NRCS, and distinct from the grant duration.

Practice Implementation Requirements

In addition to the information provided above, the following scientific documents were used to establish requirements for implementation of practices:

- California Air Resources Board (CARB) Healthy Soils Quantification Methodology (QM) available at: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/cci-quantification-benefits-and-reporting-materials
- COMET-Planner Report: This report explains the scientific approaches that the quantification methodology has been utilized to estimate greenhouse gas reduction benefits for the CDFA HSP and is available at: http://bfuels.nrel.colostate.edu/health/COMET-Planner_Report_Final.pdf

Technical information from these documents was evaluated and synthesized to develop Program Requirements and Appendix A.

- Eligible agricultural management practices can be implemented alone or in combinations, except where specified, on one APN or several APNs. Specific fields where agricultural management practice(s) will be implemented should be named by Field (e.g., Field 1, Field 2, Field 3, etc.).
    - Each field must be outlined clearly on the APN map.
    - All fields must have the selected agricultural management practices implemented each year for the duration of the project

term.
    - Implementation of annual practices must be completed by the end of each project year.
    - Multiple management practices may be included within the same APN (except for Non-Overlapping Practices), and multiple APNs within the same agricultural operation may be included in the project.
    - Once awarded, grantees may not change the APNs included in the grant application through the duration of the project.
    - Implementation of eligible management practices will be incentivized based on payment rates provided in Appendix A.
- **Prescribed Grazing:** Projects proposing to implement this practice must be located on grazing lands (i.e., rangelands, grazed grasslands, and pastures).
    - Applications for prescribed grazing projects must include a Grazing Management Plan prepared by a professional Certified Rangeland Manager and meet all criteria listed in Prescribed Grazing Practice Standards (USDA NRCS CPS 528).
- **Riparian Forest Buffer and/or Riparian Herbaceous Cover:** Fields where implementation of these practices is proposed must be adjacent to and upgradient from water courses or water bodies. Please refer to the USDA NRCS CPS 390 and 391 for more information.
- **Conservation Crop Rotation:** Projects proposing to implement this practice must provide a detailed plan for crop rotation, listing all cash crops and/or cover crops to be planted in the correct sequence as part of the Work Plan.
- **Cover Crops:** Projects proposing to implement this practice may not claim post-termination cover crop residue as mulching practice with natural materials to prevent overestimation of GHG reductions achieved.
- **Establishment of Permanent Woody Cover:** Projects proposing to implement these practices must take into consideration wildlife and pollinator needs when selecting tree or shrub species. Increasing species diversity, including use of native species, and avoiding species with invasive potential should be considered. Cash crop trees may not be planted exclusively.
- **Compost Application:** Implementation of this practice must meet the requirements below.
    - Compost Application Rates eligible for funding are provided in the

table below.

Agricultural System	Compost Type	Tons/Acre*
Cropland	Higher N (C: N ≤ 11)	3 – 5
	Lower N (C: N > 11)	6 – 8
Orchard/Vineyard	Higher N (C: N ≤ 11)	2 – 4
	Lower N (C: N > 11)	6 – 8
Grazing Land	Lower N (C: N > 11)	6 – 8

*Compost application rates eligible for funding through this program were developed under the guidance of the Environmental Farming Act – Science Advisory Panel (EFA-SAP) and are published in a white paper report titled "Compost Application Rates for California Croplands and Rangelands for a CDFA Healthy Soils Incentives Program" (abbreviated as Compost Application White Paper) by CDFA.

- Sources of compost eligible for funding must meet the following requirements.
  - **If compost is purchased**:
    a. Compost must be produced by a facility permitted or otherwise authorized by state and local authorities that can demonstrate compliance with all state regulations. The composting facility must comply with the state minimum standards set forth in California Code of Regulations Title 14 (14 CCR) 14 CCR, Division 7, Chapter 3.1, Articles 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. Grant recipients must ensure that the composting facilities are listed on one of the following websites:
       - CalRecycle SWIS/Site Search website with facility's site regulatory status being "Permitted" or "Notification" https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/SolidWaste/Site/Search
       - CDFA -OIM Certified Facilities (Only Dry Compost Eligible) https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/ffldrs/pdfs/RegisteredOrganicInputMaterial2022.pdf
       - STA Certified Compost Participants (California Only) https://www.compostingcouncil.org/page/participants#CA

    b. A report of laboratory analysis on compost C:N ratio measured within 6 months prior to compost application is required.

- **<u>If compost is produced on-farm</u>**:
  a. Plant and animal materials must be composted through the processes outlined below and a farm log must be maintained to document the process.
     - ***In-vessel or Static Aerated Pile System*:** Maintain a temperature between 131°F and 170°F for 3 consecutive days.
     - ***Windrow Composting*:** Maintain a temperature between 131°F and 170°F for 15 consecutive days. The materials must be turned a minimum of 5 times.
  b. C:N ratio of the compost to be applied must be verified through laboratory testing before application. Type of material(s) used for composting must be documented. Lab analysis for C:N ratio is only valid for up to 6 months prior to compost application.
  c. Compost used in this practice must be produced at the agricultural operation where the project is located. Externally sourced compost must be purchased from a certified facility.
  d. Compost used in this practice cannot be vermicompost.

- **Whole Orchard Recycling**: Implementation of this practice must meet the following requirements below:
  - Only orchards with trees at least ten years of age are eligible.
  - Orchards should be chipped and incorporated in place on the field in which they were grown, without exporting chips off-site or to new fields.
  - The practice must not be implemented in soils with Soil Organic Matter greater than 20%.
  - Chips must be evenly distributed throughout the orchard. If a service provider is contracted, their commitment to spread the wood chips must be in the contract/invoice for verification purposes.
  - Chips must be incorporated into the soil to at least 6 inches depth.
- **Effective Practice Implementation Acreage:** The Program will consider the acreage of orchard and vineyard alleys as the effective practice implementation acreage for cover crop, conservation cover, reduced-till, and no-till practices. For the purposes of the HSP, effective practice implementation acreage is considered 70% of the whole field acreage for orchard alleys, and 60% for vineyard alleys, respectively.

Non-Overlapping Practices

For the purposes of the HSP, practices in the same group cannot be implemented on the exact same land area or field, i.e., cannot overlap or be on top of each other, as noted below. CDFA HSP Re-Plan Tool is designed to facilitate applicants avoid selection of non-overlapping practices.

- Group I:
  - Cover Crop (USDA NRCS CPS 340)
  - Conservation Cover (USDA NRCS CPS 327)
  - Conservation Crop Rotation (USDA NRCS CPS 328)
  - Strip Cropping (USDA NRCS CPS 585)
  - Mulching: Wood Chip (USDA NRCS CPS 484)
- Group II: Compost Application (USDA NRCS CPS 808): Compost must either be
  - Purchased from a Certified Facility, or,
  - On-farm Produced Compost
- Group III:
  - Mulching (USDA NRCS CPS 484)
  - Whole Orchard Recycling (USDA NRCS CPS 808)
- Group IV
  - 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/Pasture and Hay 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 (601) (USDA NRCS CPS 601)
  - Residue and Tillage Management – No-Till (USDA NRCS CPS 329)
  - Residue and Tillage Management − Reduced Till (USDA NRCS CPS 345)
- Group V
  - Alley Cropping (USDA NRCS CPS 311)
  - Hedgerow Planting (USDA NRCS CPS 422)
  - Multi-story Cropping/Forest Farming (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)
    - Residue and Tillage Management – No-Till (USDA NRCS CPS 329)
    - Residue and Tillage Management − Reduced Till (USDA NRCS CPS 345)
  - Group VI
    - Any herbaceous planting practice listed in Group IV and mulching

  Note: There may be practices (individual or combination) in addition to those listed above that may not overlap for a specific project. These may be evaluated by CDFA on a case-by-case basis and addressed during pre-project consultation.
- Requirements noted in Appendix A must be followed for all HSP practices.
- Applicants must use the CDFA HSP Re-Plan Tool to develop their project design, estimate GHG emissions reduction, determine if they may be located in Priority Populations, eligibility for Compost Application and Whole Orchard Recycling, and assistance in selecting species to be planted for specific practices based on the USDA NRCS California eVegGuide.
- CDFA strongly encourages applicants to implement soil conservation practices incentivized by HSP for land that will be temporarily taken out of production due to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).
- CDFA strongly encourages applicants to enhance on-farm biodiversity through utilizing plant species (in applicable management practices) that support pollinator habitat and help meet the goals identified in the California Biodiversity Action Plan.
- The BGR shall only award one on-farm project per tax identification number. An agricultural operation must use the operation's legal business name and associated tax identification number in their application.
- **Baseline Data:** Applicants must submit the following baseline data at the time of application. This data will be submitted in the RePlan Tool while designing project.
  - Cropping history of previous year for all fields/ APN(s) included in the application.
  - Declare whether, the proposed practice was not implemented in

the previous year on the fields/APN(s)
    - Provide the proposed plan of crops for all APNs/Fields included in the project during the next three years.
- **GHG Reduction Estimation:** An estimation of the reduction in GHG emissions from the selected Eligible Agricultural Management Practices must be calculated using the Quantification Methodology (QM) and calculator tools developed by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). The QM and calculator tool are adapted from the USDA-NRCS COMET-Planner methodology. The GHG emission reductions will be automatically estimated in the CDFA HSP RePlan Tool.

Soil Organic Matter Reporting Requirements

The Grant Beneficiaries are required to take soil samples right before starting practice implementation and within grant term for accurate SOM evaluation. Additionally, Grant Beneficiaries are required to report annual SOM content prior to each year's practice implementation and preferably in same month of the baseline soil sampling and from the same laboratory. For this purpose, soil samples must be taken once prior to project implementation and one, two, and three years following initial project implementation. Expense of soil samples (including sample collection and analysis) may be reimbursed on a flat rate basis ($50 per SOM analysis) if it was incurred within grant term. However, if the soil samples are outside the agreement term (such as the final soil sample), the Grant Beneficiary must pay out of pocket for these analyses.

Each submission should contain a laboratory report of SOM content for each field from any of the accredited soil analytical laboratories recommended, but not required, by CDFA. CDFA strongly recommends sending soil samples for the same project to the same soil analytic laboratory throughout the grant term to reduce errors due to different laboratory operational procedures. The soil sampling protocol provided in HSP Soil Sampling Protocol for Soil Organic Matter Analysis must be followed when collecting soil samples. BGR will report SOM data as part of their regular reporting.

Appendix A: Practice Payment Scenarios, Rates, Requirements, and Implementation Guidelines

Application Phase								Implementation Phase	
Agricultural System	**HSP Practice**	**Practice Implementation**	**Payment Scenario**	**Payment Unit**	**Payment Rate ($/Unit)**	**Number of Years to be Paid**	**Required Document /Information at Application**	**Implementation Guidelines**	**Verification Requirements**
Cropland	Alley Cropping (NRCS CPS 311)	Replace 20% of Annual Cropland with Woody Plants	Tree- planting, single row	Ac	$2,447.20	1	Tree crop name(s)	(1) Potted seedling size at ≥2 gal; (2) Plant density at ≥40 trees/acre; (3) Tree protection and irrigation.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs showing established trees, (2) Receipts of seedlings purchased; (3) Species and number of live plants; (4) Maintenance of plant growth in the project term and beyond.
Cropland	Compost Application (NRCS CPS 808)	Compost (C:N ≤ 11) application to annual crops, on-farm produced compost	3 tons/Acre	Ac	$192.96	3	Compost C:N ratio, Application Rate	(1) Application rate must be between 3-5 tons/acre; (2) Compost materials, method and Composting process must be documented. (3) Feedstocks may include green materials, food materials, wood waste, yard trimmings, agricultural materials or biosolids as defined in 14 CCR Section 17852 (https://www.law.cornell.edu/regulations/california/14-CCR-17852).	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs showing compost piles, compost being spread and ground right after compost is applied; (2) A composting log including raw materials, method, and temperatures during composting process; (3) Estimated total tonnage of compost applied; (4) Compost analysis report on C:N ratio.
			4 tons/Acre	Ac	$257.28	3			
			5 tons/Acre	Ac	$321.60	3			
		Compost (C:N ≤ 11) application to annual crops, purchased compost	3 tons/Acre	Ac	$192.96	3	Compost C:N ratio, Application Rate	Application rate must be between 3-5 tons/acre	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs showing compost piles, compost being spread and field ground right after compost is completely applied, (2) A copy of receipt for compost purchased; (3) Compost analysis report on C:N ratio; (4) A certificate of the compost facility if it is not included in the list at https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/SolidWaste/Site/SearchSite.
			4 tons/Acre	Ac	$257.28	3			
			5 tons/Acre	Ac	$321.60	3			

Application Phase								Implementation Phase	
Agricultural System	**HSP Practice**	**Practice Implementation**	**Payment Scenario**	**Payment Unit**	**Payment Rate ($/Unit)**	**Number of Years to be Paid**	**Required Document /Information at Application**	**Implementation Guidelines**	**Verification Requirements**
Cropland	Compost Application (NRCS CPS 808)	Compost (C:N > 11) application to annual crops, on-farm produced compost	6 tons/Acre	Ac	$385.92	3	Compost C:N ratio, Application Rate	(1) Application rate must be between 6-8 tons/acre; (2) Compost materials, method and Composting process must be documented. (3) Feedstocks may include green materials, food materials, wood waste, yard trimmings, agricultural materials or biosolids as defined in 14 CCR Section 17852 (https://www.law.cornell.edu/regulations/california/14-CCR-17852).	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs showing compost piles, compost being spread and ground right after compost is applied; (2) A composting log including raw materials, method, and temperatures during composting process; (3) Estimated total tonnage of compost applied; (4) Compost analysis report on C:N ratio.
			7 tons/Acre	Ac	$450.24	3			
			8 tons/Acre	Ac	$514.56	3			
		Compost (C:N > 11) application to annual crops, purchased compost	6 tons/Acre	Ac	$385.92	3	Compost C:N ratio, Application Rate	Application rate must be between 6-8 tons/acre	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs showing compost piles, compost being spread and field ground right after compost is completely applied, (2) A copy of receipt for compost purchased; (3) Compost analysis report on C:N ratio; (4) A certificate of the compost facility if it is not included in the list at https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/SolidWaste/Site/SearchSite.
			7 tons/Acre	Ac	$450.24	3			
			8 tons/Acre	Ac	$514.56	3			
Cropland	Conservation Cover (NRCS CPS 327)	Convert Irrigated or Non-Irrigated Cropland to Permanent Unfertilized Grass or Grass/Legume cover	Introduced species	Ac	$403.70	1	Introduced perennial species	(1) Seeding rate at 21-40 pure live seeds per sqft; (2) Plant protection from animal damage and growth maintenance.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of fields showing established plants (>60% plant cover); (2) Receipts of seeds purchased including species names; (3) Good plant growth during the project term.
			Introduced species with foregone income	Ac	$555.82	1		(1) Seeding rate at 41-60 pure live seeds per sqft; (2) Plant protection from animal damage and growth maintenance.	
			Native species	Ac	$350.34	1	Mix of native perennial species	(1) Seeding rate at 21-40 pure live seeds per sqft; (2) Plant protection from animal damage and growth maintenance.	
			Native species with foregone income	Ac	$660.34	1			

Application Phase								Implementation Phase	
Agricultural System	**HSP Practice**	**Practice Implementation**	**Payment Scenario**	**Payment Unit**	**Payment Rate ($/Unit)**	**Number of Years to be Paid**	**Required Document /Information at Application**	**Implementation Guidelines**	**Verification Requirements**
Cropland	Conservation Cover (NRCS CPS 327)	Convert Irrigated or Non-Irrigated Cropland to Permanent Unfertilized Grass or Grass/Legume cover	Monarch species – mix species	Ac	$1,404.68	1	Mix of native perennial grass & forbs including native milkweeds for wildlife, pollinators, or ecosystem restoration	(1) At least 4% native milkweeds (*Asclepias* spp.) and less than 50% grasses; (2) Seeding rate at 21-40 pure live seeds per sqft; (3) Plant protection from animal damage and growth maintenance.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of fields showing established plants (>60% plant cover); (2) Receipts of seeds purchased including species names; (3) Good plant growth during the project term.
			Monarch species – mix species with foregone income	Ac	$1,443.92	1			
			Pollinator species	Ac	$1,138.96	1	Mix of native perennial grasses, legumes, and forbs to provide habitat for pollinators	(1) Mixed native species with less than 50% grasses; (2) Seeding rate at 21-40 pure live seeds per sqft; (3) Plant protection from animal damage and good maintenance.	
			Pollinator species with foregone income	Ac	$1,134.30	1			
Cropland	Conservation Crop Rotation (NRCS CPS 328)	Decrease Fallow Frequency or Add Perennial Crop to Rotations	Basic rotation	Ac	$23.34	3	A rotation plan including all crops in the sequence with at least one annual crop.	Effective implementation of the rotation plan to add higher residue and/or perennial crops to reduce erosion and increase other benefits.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of the field showing crops in the rotation (2) A farming log recording rotation implementation.
			Specialty crops	Ac	$62.24	3			
Cropland	Contour Buffer Strips (NRCS CPS 332)	Convert Strips of Irrigated or Non-Irrigated Cropland to Permanent Unfertilized Grass or Grass/Legume cover	Introduced species, foregone income	Ac	$587.10	1	Perennial species	(1) Width of strips: ≥15 ft wide if ≥50% grass species OR ≥30 ft wide when legume/forbs used alone, or ≥50% legumes; (2) Seeding rate at 41-60 pure live seeds per sqft; (3) Inoculate legumes at planting if legume is used; and (4) Good maintenance.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of fields showing established strips (>60% plant cover); (2) Receipts of seeds purchased; (3) Plant species name and seeding rate; (4) Good plant growth during the project term.
			Native species, foregone income	Ac	$563.08	1	Native perennial species	(1) Width of strips: ≥15 ft wide if grass species consists of 50% or more OR ≥30 ft wide when legume/forbs are used alone, or legumes consist of 50% or more; (2) Seeding rate at 21-40 pure live seeds per sqft; (3) Inoculate legumes at planting if legume is used; and (4) Good maintenance.	

Application Phase								Implementation Phase	
Agricultural System	**HSP Practice**	**Practice Implementation**	**Payment Scenario**	**Payment Unit**	**Payment Rate ($/Unit)**	**Number of Years to be Paid**	**Required Document /Information at Application**	**Implementation Guidelines**	**Verification Requirements**
Cropland	Contour Buffer Strips (NRCS CPS 332)	Convert Strips of Irrigated or Non-Irrigated Cropland to Permanent Unfertilized Grass or Grass/ Legume cover	Wildlife Pollinator, foregone income	Ac	$563.08	1	Native perennial species with at least 3 pollinator friendly species	(1) Width of strips: ≥15 feet wide if grass species consists of 50% or more OR ≥30 feet wide when legume/forbs are used alone, or legumes consist of 50% or more; (2) Seeding rate at 21-40 pure live seeds per sqft; (3) Inoculate legumes at planting time if legume species is used; and (4) Good maintenance.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of fields showing established strips (>60% plant cover); (2) Receipts of seeds purchased; (3) Plant species name and seeding rate; (4) Good plant growth during the project term.
Cropland	Cover Crop (NRCS CPS 340)	Add Legume or Non-Legume Seasonal Cover Crop to Irrigated or Non-Irrigated Cropland	One species	Ac	$122.46	3	Cover crop species	(1) Single or multiple species cover crop is planted without fertilizer. (2) Cover crop is allowed to grow to produce as much biomass as possible. (3) Cover crop biomass/residue should not be removed to other places.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs showing established cover crops in the field (≥60% coverage), (2) Receipts of cover crop seeds purchased, (3) Cover crop species name and seeding rate.
			Multiple species	Ac	$153.32	3			
Cropland	Field Border (NRCS CPS 386)	Convert Strips of Irrigated Cropland to Permanent Unfertilized Grass or Grass/Legume Cover	Introduced species	Ac	$247.90	1	Introduced perennial species	(1) Seeding rate at 41-60 pure live seeds per sqft; (2) Maintain good plant growth during the project term.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of fields showing established field border; (2) Receipts of seeds purchased; (3) Plant species name and seeding rate; (4) Good plant growth during the project term.
			Native Species	Ac	$282.78	1	Native perennial species	(1) Seeding rate at 21-40 pure live seeds per sqft; (2) Maintain good plant growth during the project term.	
			Pollinator Species	Ac	$756.74	1	Diverse mix of native perennial grasses, legumes and forbs that are pollinator friendly	(1) Species flower throughout the growing season with ≤50% grasses in the mix; (2) Seeding rate at 21-40 pure live seeds per sqft; (3) Maintain plant growth in the project term.	

Application Phase								Implementation Phase	
Agricultural System	**HSP Practice**	**Practice Implementation**	**Payment Scenario**	**Payment Unit**	**Payment Rate ($/Unit)**	**Number of Years to be Paid**	**Required Document /Information at Application**	**Implementation Guidelines**	**Verification Requirements**
Cropland	Filter Strip (NRCS CPS 393)	Convert Strips of Irrigated Cropland to Permanent Unfertilized Grass or Grass/Legume Cover	Introduced species	Ac	$371.66	1	Introduced perennial plant species	(1) Native perennial species; (2) Seeding rate at 41-60 pure live seeds per sqft; (3) Maintain good plant growth during project term.	3-5 Geotagged photographs of fields showing established filter strip (>60% plant coverage); (2) Receipts of seeds purchased; (3) Plant species name and seeding rate; (4) Good plant growth during the project term.
			Native species	Ac	$407.92	1	Native perennial plant species	(1) Introduced cool season perennial species; (2) Seeding rate at ≥60 pure live seeds per sqft; (3) Maintain good plant growth during the project term.	
Cropland	Forage and Biomass Planting / Pasture and Hay Planting (NRCS CPS 512)	Conversion of Annual Cropland to Irrigated or Non-Irrigated Grass/Legume Forage/Biomass Crops	Nonnative, high seeding rate with lime or similar amendment	Ac	$744.86	1	Perennial species	(1) Introduced perennial grasses, legumes, and/or forbs; (2) Seeding rate of 30 lb./acre pure live seed (PLS) or 41-60 pure live seeds per sqft; (3) Lime application if applicable.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of fields showing established plantings (>60% plant coverage); (2) Receipts of seeds purchased; (3) Plant species name and seeding rate; (4) Maintain plant growth during the project term.
			Nonnative, high seeding rate without lime	Ac	$509.66	1			
			Nonnative, standard seeding rate with fertilizer	Ac	$395.34	1		(1) Introduced perennial grasses, legumes, and/or forbs; (2) Seeding rate of 9 lb./acre pure live seed (PLS) or 21-40 pure live seeds per sqft; (3) Fertilizer application if applicable.	
			Nonnative, standard seeding rate without fertilizer	Ac	$177.92	1			

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Agricultural System	**HSP Practice**	**Practice Implementation**	**Payment Scenario**	**Payment Unit**	**Payment Rate ($/Unit)**	**Number of Years to be Paid**	**Required Document /Information at Application**	**Implementation Guidelines**	**Verification Requirements**
Cropland	Grassed Waterway (NRCS CPS 412)	Convert Strips of Irrigated or Non-Irrigated Cropland to Permanent Unfertilized Grass or Grass/Legume Cover	Base Waterway, Pacific Region	Ac	$2,704.02	1	Perennial species	(1) Planting area is from tops of the bank on both sides; (2) Perennial species at seeding rate ≥60 pure live seeds per sqft. (3) Plant maintenance.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of fields showing established grassed waterway (>60% plant coverage); (2) Receipts of seeds purchased; (3) Plant species name and seeding rate; (4) Maintain plant growth during the project term.
			Base waterway with checks	Ac	$4,431.28	1	Perennial species	(1) Planting area is from tops of the bank on both sides; (2) Perennial species at seeding rate ≥60 pure live seeds per sqft. (3) Fabric or stone checks installed every 100 feet along the waterway perpendicular to waterflow and 2/3 the waterway top width to reduce maintenance and provide temporary protection until vegetation is established. Fabric Checks are installed 18" deep with 12" laid over on the surface.	
Cropland	Hedgerow Planting (NRCS CPS 422)	Replace a Strip of Cropland with 1 Row of Woody Plants	Single Row	Ft	$11.82	1	Hedgerow species	(1) Pollinator-friendly trees, shrubs, and perennial wildflowers; (2) Plant density at ≥200 live plants/acre; (3) Average height at ≥3 feet and extend 15 feet wide at maturity; (4) Plant protection & irrigation.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of fields showing established hedgerow plants. Photos are taken at both ends & middle of the hedgerow line. (2) Receipts of plants purchased; (3) Plant species name and number of live plants; (4) Maintain plant growth in the project term.
Cropland	Herbaceous Wind Barriers (NRCS CPS 603)	Convert Strips of Irrigated or Non-Irrigated Cropland to Permanent Unfertilized Grass or Grass/Legume Cover	Cool Season Perennial Species	LnFt	$0.16	1	Cool season perennial species	(1) Plant species must be tolerant to soil deposition and stiff; (2) Width of the Herbaceous Wind Barrier must be at least 2 feet.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of fields showing established grassed waterway (>60% plant coverage); (2) Receipts of seeds purchased; (3) Plant species name and seeding rate; (4) Maintain plant growth during the project term.

Application Phase								Implementation Phase	
Agricultural System	**HSP Practice**	**Practice Implementation**	**Payment Scenario**	**Payment Unit**	**Payment Rate ($/Unit)**	**Number of Years to be Paid**	**Required Document /Information at Application**	**Implementation Guidelines**	**Verification Requirements**
Cropland	Mulching (NRCS CPS 484)	Add Mulch to Croplands	Natural Materials	Ac	$518.38	3	Natural materials	(1) Materials produced off site; (2) ≥70% of the acreage covered by mulch materials at 1-3 inches thickness or 1-2 tons/acre if using straw. (3) 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. Provide name(s) of natural material(s).	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of fields showing mulching is completely implemented including thickness measured by a ruler and mulch coverage, (2) Receipts of materials purchased, or donated with proof documents.
			Wood Chips	Ac	$4,385.44	1	Wood chips	(1) Materials produced off site (2) Wood Chips are characterized as chemically untreated, woody material that is ¾ -2 inches in diameter, without leaves and hardy enough to last for several years; (3) Mulch thickness at 2-4 inches; (4) Application rate at ≥40 cubic yards/acre or ≥10 tons/acre.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs showing mulching is implemented including thickness measured by a ruler and mulch coverage, (2) Receipts of materials if purchased or donated with proof documents.
Cropland	Multistory Cropping /Forest Farming (NRCS CPS 379)	Replace 20% of Annual Cropland with woody plants	Native Tree or shrub planting	Ac	$364.80	1	Native tree or shrub species	(1) Native seedlings with 50% medium size (1 quart to gallon pot or 10 cubic inches container); (2) Plant density at ≥40 live trees/acre; (3) Tree protection and irrigation.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs showing planted trees, (2) Receipts of seedlings purchased; (3) Species and number of live plants; (4) Plant maintenance.
			Nonnative tree or shrub planting	Ac	$429.60	1	Nonnative tree or shrub species	(1) Shrub seedlings: bare root at 36-60 inches tall or container ≥20 cubic inches; tree seedlings: bare root or container ≥20 cubic inches; (2) Plant density at ≥40 live trees/acre; (3) Tree protection and irrigation.	

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Cropland	Nutrient Management (NRCS CPS 590)	Improved N Fertilizer Management on Irrigated or Non-irrigated Cropland - Reduce Fertilizer Application Rate by 15%	Basic nutrient management	Ac	$17.80	3	An eligible field(s) is where synthetic nutrient fertilizers have been applied annually	(1) A nutrient management plan for each field/crop based on soil test analysis and University of California or CDFA recommended rates. (2) A farming log records all fertilization activities (fertilizer name, nitrogen content, application rate & date) during each project year.	(1) Crop name(s); (2) the farming log must demonstrate that nitrogen application rate is 15% less than what was used in the past 3 years or UC recommended rate; (3) Receipts of nitrogen fertilizers purchased as applicable; (4) Verification is at the end of the project year or end of fertilization cycle as applicable.
Cropland	Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till (NRCS CPS 329)	Convert Tillage to No Till on Irrigated or Non-irrigated Cropland	No-Till or Strip-Till	Ac	$32.96	3	Tillage implemented prior to application deadline	(1) No tillage; (2) All plantings must no-till drill or broadcast if applicable. (3) Residues kept on soil surface, not burned, or removed; (4) A farming log recording all field activities related to soil disturbance, dates of activities and equipment used.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photos for each field showing field operations (including equipment used), field floor and overview of the whole field at end of each project year. (2) A farming log to demonstrate implementation requirements are met; (3) Verification by the end of the project year.
Cropland	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduce d Till (NRCS CPS 345)	Intensive Till to Reduced-Till on Irrigated or Non-irrigated Cropland	Reduced- Till	Ac	$40.74	3	Conventional tillage implemented prior to application deadline	(1) Tillage methods (Mulch/vertical tillage, chiseling, or disking) that limit soil disturbance, or (2) Fewer tillage operations. (3) Plant residue covering soil surface during winter- spring period; (4) A farming log recording all field activities related to soil disturbance.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photos for each field showing field operations (including equipment used), field floor and overview of the whole field at end of each project year. (2) A farming log to demonstrate implementation requirements are met; (3) Verification by the end of the project year.
Cropland	Riparian Forest Buffer (NRCS CPS 391)	Replace a Strip of Cropland Near Watercourses or Water Bodies with Woody Plants	Bare-root, hand planted	Ac	$3,862.26	1	Tree and/or shrub plants, Area of practice implementation must be upgradient from and adjacent to a stream	(1) Seedling size: 18-36 inches tall or 10-20 cubic inches container for shrubs and hardwood; 1-year old seedlings or 4-6 cubic inches container for conifer; (2) Plant protection; (3) Plant density ≥35 live plants/acre.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of the field showing planted trees, (2) Receipts for number and sizes of seedlings/cuttings purchased; (3) Species and number of live trees/shrubs at verification; (4) Tree protection and maintenance.

Application Phase								Implementation Phase	
Agricultural System	**HSP Practice**	**Practice Implementation**	**Payment Scenario**	**Payment Unit**	**Payment Rate ($/Unit)**	**Number of Years to be Paid**	**Required Document /Information at Application**	**Implementation Guidelines**	**Verification Requirements**
Cropland	Riparian Forest Buffer (NRCS CPS 391)	Replace a Strip of Cropland Near Watercourses or Water Bodies with Woody Plants	Cuttings, Small to Medium Size	Ac	$4,516.20	1	Tree and/or shrub plants, Area of practice implementation must be upgradient from and adjacent to a stream	(1) Size: 0.25-1 inch in diameter and 2-4 feet long; (2) Plant protection; (3) Plant density ≥35 live plants/acre.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of the field showing planted trees, (2) Receipts for number and sizes of seedlings/cuttings purchased; (3) Species and number of live trees/shrubs at verification; (4) Tree protection and maintenance.
			Cuttings, Medium to Large Size	Ac	$8,254.12	1		(1) Size: medium (0.25-1" diameter and 2-4' long) to large (2-6" diameter and 6' long); (2) Plant protection; (3) ≥35 live plants/acre.	
			Small container, hand planted	Ac	$6,980.70	1		(1) Potted seedling size: 1 quart to 1 gallon; (2) Plant protection; (3) ≥35 live plants/acre.	
			Large container, hand planted	Ac	$12,925.20	1		(1) Potted seedling size: 2 gallons or larger; (2) Plant protection; (3) ≥35 live plants per acre.	
Cropland	Riparian Herbaceous Cover (NRCS CPS 390)	Convert Irrigated or Non-Irrigated Cropland to Permanent Unfertilized Grass or Grass/Legume cover Near Aquatic Habitats	Broadcast Seeding	Ac	$1,404.16	1	Native perennial species, Area of practice implementation must be upgradient from and adjacent to a stream	(1) Native perennial grasses, legumes, and forbs with ≤50% grasses; (2) Broadcast planting and/or no-till drill seeded at rate of 41-60 pure live seeds/sq ft; (3) Plant maintenance.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs showing established riparian cover (>60% plant cover); (2) Receipts for materials purchased; (3) Planting method and seeding rate; (4) Maintenance of established riparian zone - an adapted, diverse vegetative plant community that is under close management to ensure long term survival & ecological succession.
			Broadcast Seeding with Foregone Income	Ac	$2,904.24	1			
			Plug Planting	Ac	$30,420.90	1		(1) Native aquatic plants plug-planted; (2) Plant density at 19,360 plants/acre (3) Plant maintenance.	
			Combination Broadcast Seeding and Plug Planting	Ac	$15,571.50	1		(1) Native perennial grasses, legumes, and forbs with ≥50% grasses; (2) Plug planting at density of 9,680 plants/acre and broadcast planting and/or no-till drill seeded at 41-60 pure live seeds/sq ft; (3) Plant maintenance.	
			Pollinator Cover	Ac	$2,474.26	1		(1) Native perennial species with ≤50% grasses; (2) 2-12 species to ensure ≥2 species in bloom at any given time of the growing season; (3) Broadcast or no-till drill seeded at rate of 41-60 pure live seeds/sq ft; (4) Plant maintenance.	

Application Phase								Implementation Phase	
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Cropland	Strip Cropping (NRCS CPS 585)	Add Perennial Cover Grown in Strips with Irrigated or Non-Irrigated Annual Crops	Wind and water erosion control	Ac	$3.30	1	Perennial species that are erosion resistant	(1) Two or more strips are required; (2) ≥ 50% vegetation cover must be perennial and erosion resistant species. (3) Do not include erosion-susceptible crops in adjacent strips at the same time during the year.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of fields showing established strips (>60% plant coverage); (2) receipts of seeds purchased; (3) Number, width & length of strips; (4) Maintenance in project term.
Cropland	Tree/Shrub Establishment (NRCS CPS 612)	Conversion of Annual Cropland to a Farm Woodlot	Conservation, hand planted	Ac	$603.00	1	Tree and/or shrub species	(1) Shrub seedings at 6-18 inches tall or ≤10 cubic inches container; Tree or hardwood seedlings at 18-36 inches tall or 10-20 cubic inches container. (2) Plant growth maintenance. (3) Plant density: ≥150 live trees per acre	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of fields showing planted trees/shrubs; (2) Receipts of seedlings purchased, species and number of live plants; (3) Tree protection, and irrigation as needed; (4) Tree growth maintenance during the project term.
			Conservation, hand planted, browse protection	Ac	$1,526.54	1		(1) Shrub seedings at 6-18 inches tall or ≤10 cubic inches container; Tree or hardwood seedlings at 18-36 inches tall or 10-20 cubic inches container. (2) Plant protection from animal damage and wood stake to fasten plants in place. (3) Growth maintenance. (4) Plant density: ≥150 live trees per acre.	
Cropland	Vegetative Barrier (NRCS CPS 601)	Convert Strips of Irrigated or Non-Irrigated Cropland to Permanent Unfertilized Grass or Grass/Legume Cover	Vegetative Planting	Ft	$1.90	1	Perennial plant species - must meet stiffness index and is tolerant to soil erosion; Location is where sheet or rill erosion is of concern.	(1) Permanent strips of stiff, dense vegetation established along the general contour of slopes; with vegetation stiffness index (VSI) of 0.05-0.10; (2) Broadcast or drill seeds in a strip of 3 feet or wider; (3) plant maintenance.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs taken at both ends & middle of established barrier (>60% plant cover); (2) Receipts of seeds purchased; (3) Established plants at verification; (4) Plant maintenance during project term.

Application Phase								Implementation Phase	
Agricultural System	**HSP Practice**	**Practice Implementation**	**Payment Scenario**	**Payment Unit**	**Payment Rate ($/Unit)**	**Number of Years to be Paid**	**Required Document /Information at Application**	**Implementation Guidelines**	**Verification Requirements**
Cropland	Windbreak/ Shelterbelt Establishment (NRCS CPS 380)	Replace a Strip of Cropland with 1 Row of Woody Plants	1-row, trees, containers, hand planted, with tree protected	Ft	$1.66	1	Tree and/or shrub species	(1) Container seedlings at 15-20 cubic inches or bare root seedlings at 2-3 years old before transplanting (2) Plant protection and irrigation are required; (3) Plant density ≥200 live plants/acre.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs taken at both ends & middle of the tree line; (2) Receipts of seedlings purchased; (3) Species and number of live plants; (4) Tree protection and irrigation; (5) Plant maintenance.
			1-row, trees and/or shrub, with wind protection fence	Ft	$2.68	1		(1) Container seedlings at 15-20 cubic inches or bare root seedlings at 2-3 years old before transplanting (2) A wind-protection fence and irrigation are required; (3) Plant density ≥200 live plants/acre.	
Orchard or Vineyard	Compost Application (NRCS CPS 808)	Compost (C:N ≤ 11) application Orchard or Vineyard, On-farm produced compost	2 tons/Acre	Ac	$128.64	3	Compost C:N ratio, Application Rate	(1) Application rate must be between 2-4 tons/acre; (2) Compost materials, method and Composting process must be documented. (3) Feedstocks may include green materials, food materials, wood waste, yard trimmings, agricultural materials or biosolids as defined in 14 CCR Section 17852 (https://www.law.cornell.edu/regulations/california/14-CCR-17852).	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs showing compost piles, compost being spread and ground right after compost is applied; (2) A composting log including raw materials, method, and temperatures during composting process; (3) Estimated total tonnage of compost applied; (4) Compost analysis report on C:N ratio.
			3 tons/Acre	Ac	$192.96	3			
			4 tons/Acre	Ac	$257.28	3			
		Compost (C:N ≤ 11) application Orchard or Vineyard, Purchased compost	2 tons/Acre	Ac	$128.64	3	Compost C:N ratio, Application Rate	Application rate must be between 2-4 tons/acre	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs showing compost piles, compost being spread and field ground right after compost is completely applied, (2) A copy of receipt for compost purchased; (3) Compost analysis report on C:N ratio; (4) A certificate of the compost facility if it is not included in the list at https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/SolidWaste/Site/SearchSite.
			3 tons/Acre	Ac	$192.96	3			
			4 tons/Acre	Ac	$257.28	3			

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Agricultural System	**HSP Practice**	**Practice Implementation**	**Payment Scenario**	**Payment Unit**	**Payment Rate ($/Unit)**	**Number of Years to be Paid**	**Required Document /Information at Application**	**Implementation Guidelines**	**Verification Requirements**
Orchard or Vineyard	Compost Application (NRCS CPS 808)	Compost (C:N > 11) application Orchard or Vineyard, On-farm produced compost	6 tons/Acre	Ac	$385.92	3	Compost C:N ratio, Application Rate	(1) Application rate must be between 6-8 tons/acre; (2) Compost materials, method and Composting process must be documented. (3) Feedstocks may include green materials, food materials, wood waste, yard trimmings, agricultural materials or biosolids as defined in 14 CCR Section 17852 (https://www.law.cornell.edu/regulations/california/14-CCR-17852).	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs showing compost piles, compost being spread and ground right after compost is applied; (2) A composting log including raw materials, method, and temperatures during composting process; (3) Estimated total tonnage of compost applied; (4) Compost analysis report on C:N ratio.
			7 tons/Acre	Ac	$450.24	3			
			8 tons/Acre	Ac	$514.56	3			
		Compost (C:N > 11) application Orchard or Vineyard, Purchased compost	6 tons/Acre	Ac	$385.92	3	Compost C:N ratio, Application Rate	Application rate must be between 6-8 tons/acre	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs showing compost piles, compost being spread and field ground right after compost is completely applied, (2) A copy of receipt for compost purchased; (3) Compost analysis report on C:N ratio; (4) A certificate of the compost facility if it is not included in the list at https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/SolidWaste/Site/SearchSite.
			7 tons/Acre	Ac	$450.24	3			
			8 tons/Acre	Ac	$514.56	3			
Orchard or Vineyard	Conservation Cover (NRCS CPS 327)	Convert Idle Land near Orchard/ Vineyard to Permanent Unfertilized Grass or Grass/Legume cover	Introduced species	Ac	$403.70	1	Introduced perennial species	(1) Seeding rate at 21-40 pure live seeds per sqft; (2) Plant protection from animal damage and growth maintenance.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of fields showing established plants (>60% plant cover); (2) Receipts of seeds purchased including species names; (3) Good plant growth during the project term.
			Introduced species with foregone income	Ac	$555.82	1		(1) Seeding rate at 41-60 pure live seeds per sqft; (2) Plant protection from animal damage and growth maintenance.	
			Native species	Ac	$350.34	1	Mix of native perennial species	(1) Seeding rate at 21-40 pure live seeds per sqft; (2) Plant protection from animal damage and growth maintenance.	
			Native species with foregone income	Ac	$660.34	1			

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Agricultural System	**HSP Practice**	**Practice Implementation**	**Payment Scenario**	**Payment Unit**	**Payment Rate ($/Unit)**	**Number of Years to be Paid**	**Required Document /Information at Application**	**Implementation Guidelines**	**Verification Requirements**
Orchard or Vineyard	Conservation Cover (NRCS CPS 327)	Convert Idle Land near Orchard/ Vineyard to Permanent Unfertilized Grass or Grass/Legume cover	Monarch species – mix species	Ac	$1,404.68	1	Mix of native perennial grass & forbs including native milkweeds for wildlife, pollinators, or ecosystem restoration	(1) At least 4% native milkweeds (*Asclepias* spp.) and less than 50% grasses; (2) Seeding rate at 21-40 pure live seeds per sqft; (3) Plant protection from animal damage and growth maintenance.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of fields showing established plants (>60% plant cover); (2) Receipts of seeds purchased including species names; (3) Good plant growth during the project term.
			Monarch species – mix species with foregone income	Ac	$1,443.92	1			
			Pollinator species	Ac	$1,138.96	1	Mix of native perennial grasses, legumes, and forbs to provide habitat for pollinators	(1) Mixed native species with less than 50% grasses; (2) Seeding rate at 21-40 pure live seeds per sqft; (3) Plant protection from animal damage and good maintenance.	
			Pollinator species with foregone income	Ac	$1,134.30	1			
		Plant Permanent Grass or Grass/Legume Cover in Orchard/ Vineyard Alleys	Orchard or Vineyard Alleyways	Ac	$271.80	1	Perennial species	(1) Inoculate legumes at planting time if legume species is used, and (2) Maintain permanent vegetation	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of fields showing established alley plants (>60% plant coverage), (2) Receipts of seeds purchased, species names and seeding rate; (3) method of alley plants maintenance.
Orchard or Vineyard	Cover Crop (NRCS CPS 340)	(1) Add Legume or Non-Legume Cover Crop to Orchard/ Vineyard Alleys	One species	Ac	$122.46	3	Cover crop species	(1) Single or multiple species cover crop is planted without fertilizer. (2) Cover crop is allowed to grow to produce as much biomass as possible. (3) Cover crop biomass/residue should not be removed to other places.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs showing established cover crops in the field (≥60% coverage), (2) Receipts of cover crop seeds purchased, (3) Cover crop species name and seeding rate.
			Multiple species	Ac	$153.32	3			

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Agricultural System	**HSP Practice**	**Practice Implementation**	**Payment Scenario**	**Payment Unit**	**Payment Rate ($/Unit)**	**Number of Years to be Paid**	**Required Document /Information at Application**	**Implementation Guidelines**	**Verification Requirements**
Orchard or Vineyard	Filter Strip (NRCS CPS 393)	Convert Idle Land Near Orchard/ Vineyard to Permanent Unfertilized Grass or Grass/Legume Cover	Introduced species	Ac	$371.66	1	Introduced perennial species	(1) Native perennial species; (2) Seeding rate at 41-60 pure live seeds per sqft; (3) Maintain plant growth.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of fields showing established filter strip (>60% plant coverage); (2) Receipts of seeds purchased; (3) Plant species name and seeding rate; (4) Good plant growth during the project term.
			Native species	Ac	$407.92	1	Native perennial species	(1) Introduced perennial species; (2) Seeding rate at ≥60 pure live seeds per sqft; (3) Maintain plant growth.	
Orchard or Vineyard	Hedgerow Planting (NRCS CPS 422)	Plant 1 Row of Woody Plants on Border of Orchard/ Vineyard	Single Row	Ft	$11.82	1	Hedgerow species	(1) Pollinator-friendly trees, shrubs, and perennial wildflowers; (2) Plant density at ≥200 live plants/acre; (3) Average height at ≥3 feet and extend 15 feet wide at maturity; (4) Plant protection & irrigation.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs taken at both ends & middle of the hedgerow line. (2) Receipts of plants purchased; (3) Plant species name and number of live plants; (4) Maintain plant growth in the project term.
Orchard or Vineyard	Mulching (NRCS CPS 484)	Add Mulch to Orchard or Vineyard	Natural Materials	Ac	$518.38	3	Natural materials	(1) Materials produced off site; (2) ≥70% of the acreage covered by mulch materials at 1-3 inches thickness or 1-2 tons/acre if using straw. (3) 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. Provide name(s) of natural material(s).	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of fields showing mulching is completely implemented including thickness measured by a ruler and mulch coverage, (2) Receipts of materials purchased, or donated with proof documents.
			Wood Chips	Ac	$4,385.44	1	Wood chips	(1) Materials produced off site (2) Wood Chips are characterized as chemically untreated, woody material that is ¾ -2 inches in diameter, without leaves and hardy enough to last for several years; (3) Mulch thickness at 2-4 inches; (4) Application rate at ≥40 cubic yards/acre or ≥10 tons/acre.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs showing mulching is implemented including thickness measured by a ruler and mulch coverage, (2) Receipts of materials if purchased or donated with proof documents.

Application Phase								Implementation Phase	
Agricultural System	**HSP Practice**	**Practice Implementation**	**Payment Scenario**	**Payment Unit**	**Payment Rate ($/Unit)**	**Number of Years to be Paid**	**Required Document /Information at Application**	**Implementation Guidelines**	**Verification Requirements**
Orchard or Vineyard	Nutrient Management (NRCS CPS 590)	Improved N Fertilizer Management on Orchard/Vineyard - Reduce Fertilizer Application Rate by 15%	Basic nutrient management	Ac	$17.80	3	An eligible field(s) is where synthetic nutrient fertilizers have been applied annually	(1) A nutrient management plan for each field/crop based on soil test analysis and University of California or CDFA recommended rates. (2) A farming log records all fertilization activities (fertilizer name, nitrogen content, application rate & date) during each project year.	(1) Crop name(s) and age or yield target; (2) the farming log must demonstrate that nitrogen application rate is 15% less than what was used in the past 3 years or UC recommended rate; (3) Receipts of nitrogen fertilizers purchased as applicable; (4) Verification is at the end of the project year or end of fertilization cycle as applicable.
Orchard or Vineyard	Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till (NRCS CPS 329)	Convert Tillage to No Till in Orchard/Vineyard Alleys	No-Till or Strip-Till	Ac	$32.96	3	Tillage implemented prior to application deadline	(1) No tillage; (2) all planting methods are no-till drill or broadcast if applicable. (3) Residues are kept on soil surface and not burned or removed; (4) A farming log recording all field activities.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photos showing field operations, field floor and overview of the whole field at end of project year; (2) A farming log; (3) verification at the end of project year.
Orchard or Vineyard	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (NRCS CPS 345)	Convert Tillage to Reduced Till in Orchard/Vineyard Alleys	Reduced- Till	Ac	$40.74	3	Conventional tillage implemented prior to application deadline	(1) Tillage methods (Mulch/vertical tillage, chiseling, or disking) that limit soil disturbance, or (2) Fewer tillage operations. (3) Plant residue covering soil surface during winter- spring period; (4) A farming log recording all field activities related to soil disturbance dates of activities and equipment used.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photos for each field showing field operations (including equipment used), field floor and overview of the whole field at end of each project year. (2) A farming log to demonstrate implementation requirements are met; (3) Verification by the end of the project year.
Orchard	Whole Orchard Recycling (NRCS CPS 808)	Whole Orchard Recycling	Whole Orchard Recycling	Ac	$861.42	1	Age of trees at application	(1) Only orchards with trees at least ten years of age at application are eligible; (2) Orchard trees should be chipped and incorporated on the field where they were grown, not to export to new fields.; (3) Chips must be evenly distributed throughout the orchard and incorporated into the soil to at least 6 inches depth.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of fields showing tree removal, chipping, spreading and incorporation of wood chips; (2) A farm log including chipping details (e.g., tons of chips, size); (3) Before and after pictures of orchard; (4) Verification is when chips are incorporated.

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Agricultural System	**HSP Practice**	**Practice Implementation**	**Payment Scenario**	**Payment Unit**	**Payment Rate ($/Unit)**	**Number of Years to be Paid**	**Required Document /Information at Application**	**Implementation Guidelines**	**Verification Requirements**
Orchard or Vineyard	Windbreak/ Shelterbelt Establishment (NRCS CPS 380)	Plant 1 Row of Woody Plants on Border of Orchard/Vineyard	1-row, trees, containers, hand planted, with tree protected	Ft	$1.66	1	Tree and/or shrub species	(1) Container seedlings at 15-20 cubic inches or bare root seedlings at 2-3 years old before transplanting (2) Plant protection and irrigation are required; (3) ≥200 live plants/acre.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs taken at both ends & middle of the tree line. (2) Receipts of seedlings purchased; (3) Species and number of live plants; (4) Tree protection and irrigation; (5) Plant maintenance during the project term.
			1-row, trees and/or shrub, with wind protection fence	Ft	$2.68	1		(1) Container seedlings at 15-20 cubic inches or bare root seedlings at 2-3 years old before transplanting (2) A wind-protection fence and irrigation are required; (3) ≥200 live plants/acre.	
Grazing Land	Compost Application (NRCS CPS 808)	Compost (C:N >11) Application to Grazed Grassland, or Grazed, Irrigated Pasture, purchased compost	6 tons/Acre	Ac	$385.92	3	Compost C:N ratio, Application Rate	Application rate must be between 6-8 tons/Acres	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs showing compost piles, compost being spread and field ground right after compost is completely applied, (2) A copy of receipt for compost purchased; (3) Compost analysis report on C:N ratio; (4) A certificate of the compost facility if it is not included in the list at CalRecycle SWIS Facility/Site.
			7 tons/Acre	Ac	$450.24	3			
			8 tons/Acre	Ac	$514.56	3			
		Compost (C:N >11) Application to Grazed Grassland or Grazed, Irrigated Pasture, on-farm produced compost	6 tons/Acre	Ac	$385.92	3	Compost C:N ratio, Application Rate	(1) Application rate must be between 6-8 tons/acre; (2) Compost materials, method and Composting process must be documented. (3) Feedstocks may include green materials, food materials, wood waste, yard trimmings, agricultural materials or biosolids as defined in 14 CCR Section 17852 (https://www.law.cornell.edu/regulations/california/14-CCR-17852).	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs showing compost piles, compost being spread and compost on the field floor, (2) A composting log including raw materials, method, and temperatures during composting process; (3) Estimated total tonnage of compost applied (4) Compost analysis report on C:N ratio.
			7 tons/Acre	Ac	$450.24	3			
			8 tons/Acre	Ac	$514.56	3			
Grazing Land	Hedgerow Planting (NRCS CPS 422)	Replace a Strip of Grassland with 1 Row of Woody Plants	Single Row	Ft	$11.82	1	Hedgerow species	(1) Pollinator-friendly trees, shrubs, and perennial wildflowers; (2) Plant density at ≥200 live plants/acre; (3) Average height at ≥3 feet and extend 15 feet wide at maturity; (4) Plant protection & irrigation.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs taken at both ends and middle of the hedgerow line. (2) Receipts of plants purchased; (3) Plant species name and number of live plants; (4) Maintain plant growth in the project term.

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Agricultural System	**HSP Practice**	**Practice Implementation**	**Payment Scenario**	**Payment Unit**	**Payment Rate ($/Unit)**	**Number of Years to be Paid**	**Required Document /Information at Application**	**Implementation Guidelines**	**Verification Requirements**
Grazing Land	Prescribed Grazing (NRCS CPS 528)	Grazing Management to Improve Rangeland, Irrigated or Non-Irrigated Pasture Condition	Pasture, basic	Ac	$81.54	3	A grazing management plan by a certified range manager or equivalent professional to enhance pasture or rangeland health & ecosystem function	(1) Follow the grazing management plan, (2) A grazing log records of grazing dates and stubble height after grazing; (3) Monitoring - photos of forage before and after grazing; (4) Sensitive area protection as applicable.	(1) The grazing log; (2) 3-5 geotagged photos monitoring forage, and other documents as applicable; (3) verification at the end of each project year.
			Range, basic	Ac	$7.10	3			
Grazing Land	Range Planting (NRCS CPS 550)	Seeding forages to improve rangeland condition	Native species broadcast	Ac	$633.56	1	Plant species (must be mixture of native perennial grasses, legumes, and/or forbs), planting method	(1) Native adapted perennial species; (2) Seeding rate at 18 lb./acre PLS or 40 pure live seeds/sqft.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of fields showing established range plants (>60% plant coverage); (2) Receipts of seeds purchased; (3) Species, seeding rate; (4) Documentation of planting method (farming log and photos); (5) Maintenance of range plants.
			Native species high forb drilled	Ac	$552.56	1		(1) Native perennial species; and (2) No-till or range drill seeding at 41-60 pure live seeds/sq ft.	
			Native species low forb drilled	Ac	$403.60	1		(1) Predominately native adapted perennial species; (2) no-till or range drill seeding at 18 lb./acre PLS or 40 pure live seeds/sqft.	
			Nonnative species broadcast	Ac	$222.50	1	Plant species (must be mixture of Introduced perennial grasses, legumes, and/or forbs), planting method	(1) mixture of nonnative adapted perennial species; (2) Seedbed preparation; (3) Seeding rate at 18 lb./acre PLS or 40 pure live seeds/sqft.	
			Nonnative species drilled	Ac	$211.82	1		(1) Mixture of nonnative adapted perennial species; (2) No-till or range drill seeding at 41-60 pure live seeds/sq ft.	
			Shrub plugs	Ac	$4,821.94	1	Shrub species and planting method	(1) Shrub species such as Sage Brush, Bitter Brush, or other species; (2) seedling or transplant; bareroot shrubs at 3-5 feet tall or containerized seedlings ≥20 cubic inches; (3) Planting density at 1000 plants/acre.	

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Grazing Land	Riparian Forest Buffer (NRCS CPS 391)	Replace a Strip of Grassland Near Watercourses or Water Bodies with Woody Plants	Bare-root, hand planted	Ac	$3,862.26	1	Tree and/or shrub species, Area of practice implementation must be upgradient from and adjacent to a stream	(1) Seedling size: 18-36 inches tall or 10-20 cubic inches container for shrubs and hardwood; 1-year old seedlings or 4-6 cubic inches container for conifer; (2) Plant protection; (3) Plant density ≥35 live plants/acre.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of the field showing planted trees, (2) Receipts for number and sizes of seedlings/cuttings purchased; (3) Species and number of live trees/shrubs at verification; (4) Tree protection and maintenance.
			Cuttings, Small to Medium Size	Ac	$4,516.20	1		(1) Cutting size: 0.25-1 inch in diameter and 2-4 feet long; (2) Plant protection; (3) Plant density ≥35 live plants/acre.	
			Cuttings, Medium to Large Size	Ac	$8,254.12	1		(1) Cutting size: medium (0.25-1 inch in diameter and 2-4 feet long) to large (2-6 inch in diameter and 6 ft long); (2) Plant protection; (3) ≥35 live plants/acre.	
			Small container, hand planted	Ac	$6,980.70	1		(1) Potted seedling size: 1 quart to 1 gallon; (2) Plant protection; (3) ≥35 live plants/acre.	
			Large container, hand planted	Ac	$12,925.20	1		(1) Potted seedling size: 2 gallons or larger; (2) Plant protection; (3) ≥35 live plants per acre.	
Grazing Land	Silvopasture (NRCS CPS 381)	Tree/Shrub Planting on Grazed Grasslands	Establish trees, existing grasses	Ac	$313.50	1	Trees and/or shrubs	(1) Seedling size: containerized conifer at 4-6 cubic inches; or bare root conifer at one year old; (2) Plant density at ≥20 live plants per acre; (2) Tree protection (fence and irrigation, etc.)	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of fields showing planted trees/shrubs; (2) Receipts showing sizes & number of seedlings purchased; (3) Species and number of live trees/shrubs; (5) Tree protection (fence or other protection and irrigation as needed).

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Agricultural System	**HSP Practice**	**Practice Implementation**	**Payment Scenario**	**Payment Unit**	**Payment Rate ($/Unit)**	**Number of Years to be Paid**	**Required Document /Information at Application**	**Implementation Guidelines**	**Verification Requirements**
Grazing Land	Tree/Shrub Establishment (NRCS CPS 612)	Conversion of Grassland to a Farm Woodlot	Conservation, hand planted	Ac	$603.00	1	Trees and/or shrubs	(1) Shrub seedings at 6-18 inches tall or ≤10 cubic inches container; Tree or hardwood seedlings at 18-36 inches tall or 10-20 cubic inches container. (2) Plant growth maintenance. (3) Plant density: ≥150 live trees/acre.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs of fields showing planted trees/shrubs; (2) Receipts of seedlings purchased, species and number of live plants; (3) Tree protection, and irrigation as needed; (4) Tree growth maintenance during the project term.
			Conservation, hand planted, browse protection	Ac	$1,526.54	1		(1) Shrub seedings at 6-18 inches tall or ≤10 cubic inches container; Tree or hardwood seedlings at 18-36 inches tall or 10-20 cubic inches container. (2) Plant protection from animal damage and wood stake to fasten plants in place. (3) Growth maintenance. (4) Plant density: ≥150 live trees/acre.	
Grazing Land	Windbreak/ Shelterbelt Establishment (NRCS CPS 380)	Replace a strip of grassland with 1 Row of Woody Plants	1-row, trees, containers, hand planted, with tree protected	Ft	$1.66	1	Tree and/or shrubs	(1) Container seedlings at 15-20 cubic inches or bare root seedlings at 2-3 years old before transplanting (2) Plant protection and irrigation are required; (3) ≥200 live plants/acre.	(1) 3-5 Geotagged photographs taken at both ends & middle of the tree line. (2) Receipts of seedlings purchased; (3) Species and number of live plants; (4) Tree protection and irrigation; (5) Plant maintenance during the project term.
			1-row, trees and/or shrub, with wind protection fence	Ft	$2.68	1		(1) Container seedlings at 15-20 cubic inches or bare root seedlings at 2-3 years old before transplanting (2) A wind-protection fence and irrigation are required; (3) ≥200 live plants/acre.	
Any of above	Soil Sampling	N/A	Soil organic matter (SOM) analysis	Per SOM Analysis Result	$50.00	3	No	(1) Soil sample(s) must be taken from the same field location once prior to practice implementation and one, two, and three years following initial practice implementation; (2) it is recommended they be sent to the same soil analytic laboratory in the grant term; (3) Follow instructions in HSP Soil Sampling Protocol for Soil Organic Matter Analysis when taking soil sample(s).	A soil test report in each project year including soil organic matter content for field(s) where practice implementation is funded. A soil test report at three years following initial practice implementation may occur outside the grant term and the associated expense will be covered by the Grant Beneficiaries.

Definitions:
Cropland, Annual or Perennial: Land where the crop(s) grown is identified as annual or perennial crops according to the Conservation Compliance Agricultural Commodity List under the Food and Security Act of 1985, as amended, or is determined as annual or perennial by the local USDA NRCS if it is not included in the list. Perennial cropland includes orchards and vineyards.
Grazing land: Land used primarily for production of forage plants maintained or manipulated primarily through grazing management.
Grassland: Land where the vegetation is dominated by grasses and other herbaceous (non-woody) plants, such as forbs.
Rangeland: Land on which the potential plant cover is composed principally of native grasses, grass-like plants, forbs, or shrubs suitable for grazing and browsing, and introduced forage species that are managed like rangeland.
Pasture: A land use type having vegetation cover comprised primarily of introduced or enhanced native forage species that is used for livestock grazing. Pasture receives periodic renovation and cultural treatments such as tillage, fertilization, mowing, weed control, and may be irrigated. Pasture vegetation can consist of grasses, legumes, other forbs, shrubs, or a mixture. Pasture differs from range in that it primarily produces vegetation that has initially been planted to provide preferred forage for grazing livestock.
Foregone Income: Reduced revenue that is generated mainly from reduced production because the land area used for growing cash crop(s) will be converted to Permanent Unfertilized Grass Cover or Grass/ Legume Cover. A payment scenario name that includes Foregone Income has higher payment rate because it takes consideration of both the reduced revenue and the expense for implementing the conservation management practice.
Geotagged photograph: A geotagged photograph is a photograph which is associated with a geographic position by assigning a latitude and longitude to the image. For pictures taken with a mobile phone or digital camera, this can be achieved by enabling the GPS function of the device prior to capturing a picture. Geotagging helps CDFA confirm the correct location of practice implementation consistent with Project Design at the time of verification. Please check the link https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysoils/docs/InstructionsOnHowToTakeGeotaggedPhotos.pdf for instructions on how to take and send geotagged photos.

Appendix B: Confidential Information

The California Public Records Act (Government Code sections 6250, et seq.) and related statutory definitions of "confidential or proprietary information" (also known as "trade secrets") determine what information provided by the applicant is exempt from public disclosure. The following describes how questions are resolved regarding what information is confidential, the legal protections for confidential information, and internal and program procedures to maintain confidentiality.

What is "confidential?"

The California Public Records Act prevents the disclosure of confidential or proprietary information including, but not limited to:

- Confidential Business and financial information, including volume of business, costs and prices, customers, financial condition, trade secrets, and similar information obtained under an express or implied pledge of confidence. (Eva. Code § 1060 and Gov. Code § 6254).
- Personal data including tax information prohibited from disclosure. (Gov. Code § 6254 and Rev. & Taxation Code § 19542.
- Information Practices Act of 1977 (Civ. Code section 1798 et seq.)

Applicants are directed to clearly marked, on each page, "confidential/proprietary information" those documents they feel contain confidential or proprietary information. However, the mere marking of documents as "confidential/proprietary information" will not result in their being treated as confidential if they are not exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act.

What if there is a question about what is confidential?

The CDFA Legal Office will review the records and make a determination as to whether or not the records are exempt from disclosure.

What program procedures will keep information confidential?

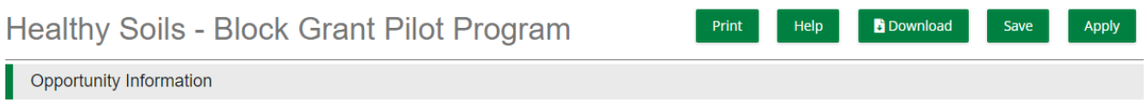
Financial information will be analyzed, on a need-to-know basis, by staff from the CDFA, kept confidential, and will be maintained with restricted access. Grantee businesses will agree to provide specific key financial information for three years to develop benchmarks to evaluate the program. The records will be kept for the amount of time set forth in CDFA's Internal Record Retention Policy.

Appendix C: Navigation of Application Process

Step 1: Click on the link on the HS Block Grant Pilot Program to go to the application portal. Applications cannot be submitted on mobile devices. Please use a PC and standard browser software to access the application.

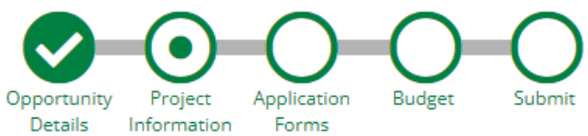
Arrive at the Opportunity Details page. This page provides a summary of the funding opportunity offered by the Healthy Soils Block Grant Program

Several options are linked at the top right of the page including printing the Opportunity Information, downloading a copy of the entire application, reviewing the Help Guide, or proceeding to apply.



Step 2: When ready, click on the "Apply" button on the top right of the screen.

Arrive at the Project Information page. Once arriving at this page, a graphic will appear at the top of the screen showing progress through the application. This graphic is also a naviagtion tool.



It is best to complete the inputs on the Project Information page after completing the next two stages, Application Forms and Budget, because information from those stages will be useful to complete Project Information.

Step 3: Proceed to Application Forms by clicking on the navigation graphic.

Arrive on the Application Forms page. On this page, the required application questionnaire is linked.

Step 4: Click on the "Healthy Soils Block Grant Pilot Program – 2023" form.

Arrive at the application questionnaire. This form has been developed to gather project specific details regarding the funding proposal. There are several questions that are conditional upon the responses to other questions. This has been designed so that applicants only answer questions that are relevant to their applicant type. The full set of questions and technical review criteria is available on the HS Block Grant Website.

Take time to complete the application questionnaire. Use the "Save" button on the top-right or on the bottom-left of the questionnaire to save work frequently. Please make sure to save the application prior to navigating away from the window. Unsaved changes will be lost. The questionnaire does not need to be completed in one session. Any question marked with an Asterix, *, is a required question and must be completed.

Step 5: Once all required questions in the questionnaire have been answered, and there are no further edits, click "Mark as Complete" at the bottom of the page.

Please make sure you do not want to make any additional changes before selecting "Mark as Complete." You may not make edits to the application after

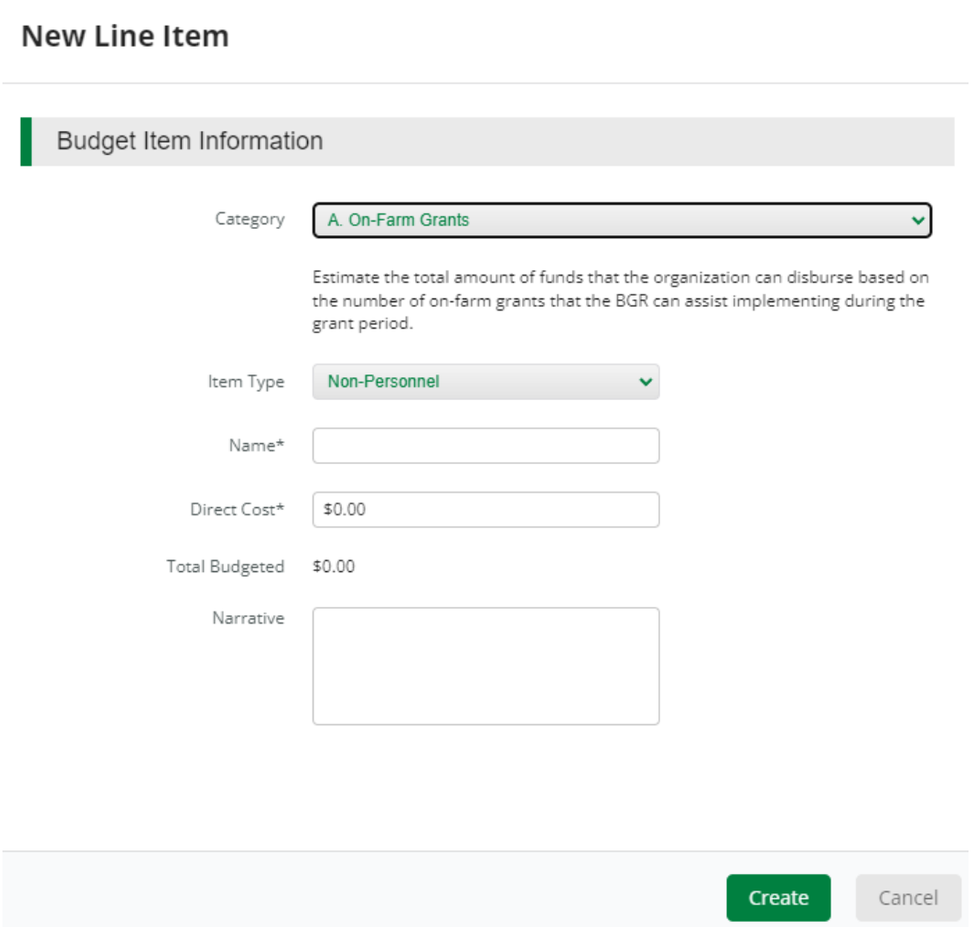
you mark a section as complete. You can select, "Save and Continue" or "Save" to navigate to another section before completing the Application Forms section. CDFA will not be able to make your application editable again after a section has been marked as complete.

Step 6: Use the navigation graphic to go to the Budget.

Arrive at the Budget page. On this page, develop a budget for the proposal using the existing categories in the "Proposed Budget" section. To add a line item for a budget category, select the "+" button to the left of the budget item title.

A pop-up box will appear with prompts to complete to enter the new line item. Enter the name of the line item, select whether the line-item type is for staff compensation (personnel) or not (non-personnel), the budgeted cost of the line item in "Direct Costs", and then enter a brief narrative that describes the tasks associated with the line item and the personnel responsible for accomplishing those tasks. Click "create" to add the line item to the budget.

An applicant may enter multiple line items of the same budget category.



When entering the indirect cost budget subcategory, please use the appropriate indirect rate for the lead organization. When entering the indirect cost line items, the costs category in the line items is labeled, "direct costs" - this form is where you enter the indirect cost budget.

Make sure that the line items entered into the budget also align with and match the tasks that were indicated in the application questionnaire - we especially recommend alignment between proposed Workplan tasks and Budget line items.

The Non-grant Funding Subtotal in the budget should be zero and there will not be a place in the application for entering amounts towards this subtotal.

Step 7: Once all the budget line items have been entered, note the amount indicated for "Total Expense Budget Cost", click "Save and Continue".

Arrive at the Submit page

The Budget cannot be marked as complete, and the application cannot be submitted until information is entered on the Project Information page.

Step 8: Use the navigation graphic to return to the Project Information page.

Arrive on the Project Information page.

On this page, enter an "Application Name" that is concise but descriptive of the proposal (for example, "Jane Doe - Carbon Farm Planning in Sacramento County").

Enter the "Award Requested". This will be the amount indicated on the Budget page as the "Total Overall Budget Cost".

Enter primary contact information (this should be the same as in Application Form – Section 1) and then click "Mark as Complete".

Step 9: Return to the Budget page.

Once back on the Budget page, verify that the "Award Requested" matches the "Total Overall Budget Cost". If these do not match, verify that the "Amount Requested" entered on the Project Information page is correct. Also verify that the correct costs were entered for each line item. Once the match is verified, click "Mark as Complete".

Step 10: Navigate to the Submit page.

Now that all stages of the application have been marked as complete. Take the time to review the application before clicking "Submit". Applications are not able to be edited after submission.