

# Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

## U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Board for International Food and Agricultural Development

#### Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, notice is hereby given of a public meeting of the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD), *COVID-19 and Nutrition: Impacts, Field Innovations, and the Way Forward*. The meeting will be held on September 14, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. EDT at <http://www.aplu.org/projects-and-initiatives/international-programs/bifad/bifad-meetings.html>. A public comment period is scheduled from 11:50 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. EDT.

This convening follows the June 4, 2020 181st BIFAD meeting, *Food Security and Nutrition in the Context of COVID-19*, to provide an update on the impacts of the pandemic on nutrition outcomes and to discuss USAID's response. The COVID-19 crisis risks backsliding on nutrition gains with irrevocable impacts on mortality and lost potential. Initial projections show likely significant increases in wasting and forthcoming analyses will quantify the potential impacts on small for gestational age, micronutrient deficiencies, stunting and declines in breastfeeding. Field reporting indicates significant reduction in coverage of key nutrition interventions. These will all translate in loss of life and development gains if not countered with adequate action on nutrition as global decision makers focus on response and recovery.

The meeting provides dedicated time to discuss how the global community can work together to protect and advance nutrition outcomes across sectors during COVID-19 response and recovery. In real time, researchers and implementers are gathering evidence to

better understand the impacts of the pandemic and learning how to respond.

The meeting will be organized to achieve three objectives:

1. To provide an update on what emerging research and data can tell us about the current and expected impacts of COVID-19 containment and control measures on nutrition, and how we should use this emerging evidence to guide our response.

2. To learn from our implementing partners and USAID Missions across sectors that have pivoted their implementation to respond to COVID-19 and protect nutrition outcomes. To understand the realities on the ground, and to include the innovations and expertise of those on the frontlines in the discourse.

3. To discuss and prioritize actions for the near, medium, and long term to safeguard and accelerate nutrition progress.

The meeting is intended to help support decision making by USAID and its partners and stakeholders working to advance food security and nutrition at global, regional and national levels. On the basis of testimony, including public comments, shared at the meeting, BIFAD will provide formal findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the Agency on best-bet operational and programmatic investments.

BIFAD is a seven-member, presidentially appointed advisory board to USAID established in 1975 under Title XII of the Foreign Assistance Act, as amended. The provisions of Title XII concern bringing the assets of U.S. universities to bear on development challenges in agriculture and food security, and BIFAD's role is to help carry out this function.

Participants may register at <http://www.aplu.org/projects-and-initiatives/international-programs/bifad/bifad-meetings.html>. For questions about registration, please contact Jordan Merker at 202-478-6087 or [jmerker@aplu.org](mailto:jmerker@aplu.org). For questions about BIFAD, please contact Clara Cohen, Designated Federal Officer for BIFAD in the Bureau for Resilience and Food Security, USAID at [ccohen@usaid.gov](mailto:ccohen@usaid.gov) or (202) 712-0119.

**Clara Cohen,**

*Designated Federal Officer, BIFAD.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Farm Service Agency

#### Commodity Credit Corporation

[Docket ID CCC-2016-0004]

### Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) for the Organic Certification Cost Share Program

**AGENCY:** Commodity Credit Corporation and Farm Service Agency, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Farm Service Agency (FSA), on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), is announcing changes to the availability of funding and payment calculation for certified organic operations, which are required based on expected participation levels and limited funding, under the Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP). FSA is also announcing the opportunity for State Agencies to apply for grant agreements to administer the OCCSP program in fiscal year (FY) 2020.

**DATES:** *Applications for State Agency Agreements:* FSA will accept applications from State Agencies for funds for FY 2020 cost share assistance between the period of August 10, 2020, and September 9, 2020.

*Producer and Handler Applications:* FSA county offices will accept applications for OCCSP payments from producers and handlers for FY 2020 until October 31, 2020. For FY 2021 through 2023, FSA will accept applications from October 1 of the applicable FY through October 31 of the following FY.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tona Huggins, Program Policy Branch Chief, (202) 720-6825, [Tona.Huggins@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Tona.Huggins@wdc.usda.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

OCCSP provides cost share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products for the costs of obtaining or maintaining organic certification under the National Organic Program (NOP). Funding for OCCSP is provided through two authorizations: (1) National Organic Certification Cost Share Program (National OCCSP)

funds<sup>1</sup> and (2) Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) funds.<sup>2</sup> Section 10105 of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill, Pub. L. 115–334) amended section 10606(d) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 6523(d)), authorizing \$2 million from CCC to be used for National OCCSP for each of FYs 2019 and 2020, \$4 million for FY 2021, and \$8 million for each of FYs 2022 and 2023, to remain available until expended. In addition, approximately \$4 million in National funding remains available from previous FYs and will be used to fund OCCSP in 2020. An additional \$1 million in AMA funding is authorized in 7 U.S.C. 1524 for each FY.

The purpose of this NOFA is to announce changes to the funding availability and payment calculation provisions for FY 2020 through 2023 and to notify State Agencies of the opportunity to apply to administer OCCSP in their State for FY 2020. On April 29, 2019, FSA published a NOFA in the **Federal Register** announcing general eligibility and administrative provisions for OCCSP for FY 2019 through 2023 (84 FR 17997). The 2019 NOFA provided that eligible certified organic operations could receive reimbursement of 75 percent of their eligible costs to obtain or maintain their organic certification, up to a maximum payment of \$750 per scope, which is the maximum payment allowed by law. In FY 2019 and prior years, funds were available to cover all applications; however, the amount of funding available will not cover expected participation levels in FY 2020.

For FY 2020 through 2023, FSA is revising the reimbursement amount to 50 percent of the certified organic operation's eligible expenses, up to a maximum of \$500 per scope. This change is due to the limited amount of funding available and will allow a larger number of certified organic operations to receive assistance. If additional

funding is authorized at a later time, FSA may provide additional assistance to certified operations that have applied for OCCSP, not to exceed 75 percent of their eligible costs, up to \$750 per scope.

The changes to the payment calculation and maximum payment amount are applicable to all certified organic operations, regardless of whether they apply through an FSA county office or a participating State Agency. Due to the changes, State Agencies that are interested in overseeing reimbursements to producers and handlers in their States must establish new agreements with FSA for FY 2020. FY 2020 agreements will include provisions that allow FSA to extend the agreements to provide additional funds and allow State Agencies to continue to administer OCCSP for future years. FSA has not yet determined whether an additional application period will be announced for later years for State Agencies that choose not to participate in FY 2020; State Agencies that would like to administer OCCSP for future years are encouraged to establish an agreement for FY 2020 to ensure that they will be able to continue to participate. If additional funds are authorized for OCCSP for FY 2020, FSA and State Agencies may amend the grant agreements to provide additional funds and increase the payment amount that a certified organic operation may receive.

To provide cost share assistance for FY 2020, State Agencies must complete an Application for Federal Assistance (Standard Form 424 and 424B) and enter into a grant agreement with FSA. State Agencies must submit the Application for Federal Assistance (Standard Form 424 and 424B) electronically via *Grants.gov*, the Federal grants website, at <http://www.grants.gov>. For information on how to use *Grants.gov*, please consult <http://www.grants.gov/GetRegistered>. State Agencies intending to utilize subgrantees must refer to the FY 2020 Full Notice of Funding Opportunity Announcement on *Grants.gov* for additional application requirements. FSA will accept applications from State Agencies for funds for FY 2020 cost share assistance between the period of August 10, 2020, and September 9, 2020.

#### Paperwork Reduction Act Requirements

There are no changes to the information collection request for OCCSP that has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget

(OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act. The OMB control number for the approval is 0560–0289.

#### Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

The title and number of the Federal assistance program in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance to which this NOFA applies is 10.171, Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP).

#### Environmental Review

The environmental impacts of this NOFA have been considered in a manner consistent with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4321–4347), the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), and the FSA regulations for compliance with NEPA (7 CFR part 799). The purpose of OCCSP is to provide cost share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products in obtaining organic certification. This NOFA merely announces funding availability and changes to general eligibility and administrative provisions for FY 2020 through 2023. FSA is not making substantive changes to OCCSP. As such, the Categorical Exclusions found at 7 CFR part 799.31 apply, specifically 7 CFR 799.31(b)(6)(iii) (that is, financial assistance to supplement income). No Extraordinary Circumstances (7 CFR 799.33) exist. As such, FSA has determined that this NOFA does not constitute a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively. Therefore, FSA will not prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement for this administrative action and this NOFA serves as documentation of the programmatic environmental compliance decision.

**Steven Peterson,**

*Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency.*

**Robert Stephenson,**

*Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.*

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BILLING CODE 3410–05–P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Missoula Resource Advisory Committee; Meeting

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

<sup>1</sup> National OCCSP funds provide assistance for organic producers and handlers in the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The funds can be used for cost share payments for the four categories, or “scopes,” recognized under the USDA organic regulations (crops, livestock, wild crops, and handling), and for the additional scope of State organic program fees.

<sup>2</sup> AMA funds provide assistance for producers in the following States: Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, Maine, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming. The funds can be used for cost share payments for the three scopes of crops, wild crops, and livestock.