

CDFA HEALTHY SOILS PROGRAM

2018 HSP Incentives Program
Request for Grant Applications

Workshop presented by:



Resource Conservation District
Mendocino County



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Outline

- Program Overview
- Funding and Duration
- Solicitation Timeline and Process
- Review Process and Scoring Criteria
- Eligibility and Exclusions
- HSP Agricultural Management Practices
- Project Duration and Requirements
- How to Apply
- Technical Assistance Agreements

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- **Healthy Soils Program (HSP)**

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

Competitive grant program: HSP Incentives Program and HSP Demonstration Projects

- **Objectives:** To build soil organic carbon and reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases (GHGs).
- **HSP Incentives Program** provides financial incentives to California growers and ranchers to implement agricultural management practices that sequester carbon, reduce atmospheric GHGs and improve soil health which also lead to efficient use of water.



FUNDING AND DURATION

- **Funding sources:**

- Budget Act of 2018 - \$10 Million through Proposition 68 (California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018).
- Budget Act of 2018 (SB 856) - \$5 Million through the California Climate Investments (CCI).

- **Program Funding:**

- HSP Incentives Program:
 - Maximum Grant Amount: \$75,000 per application
- *HSP Demonstration Projects:*

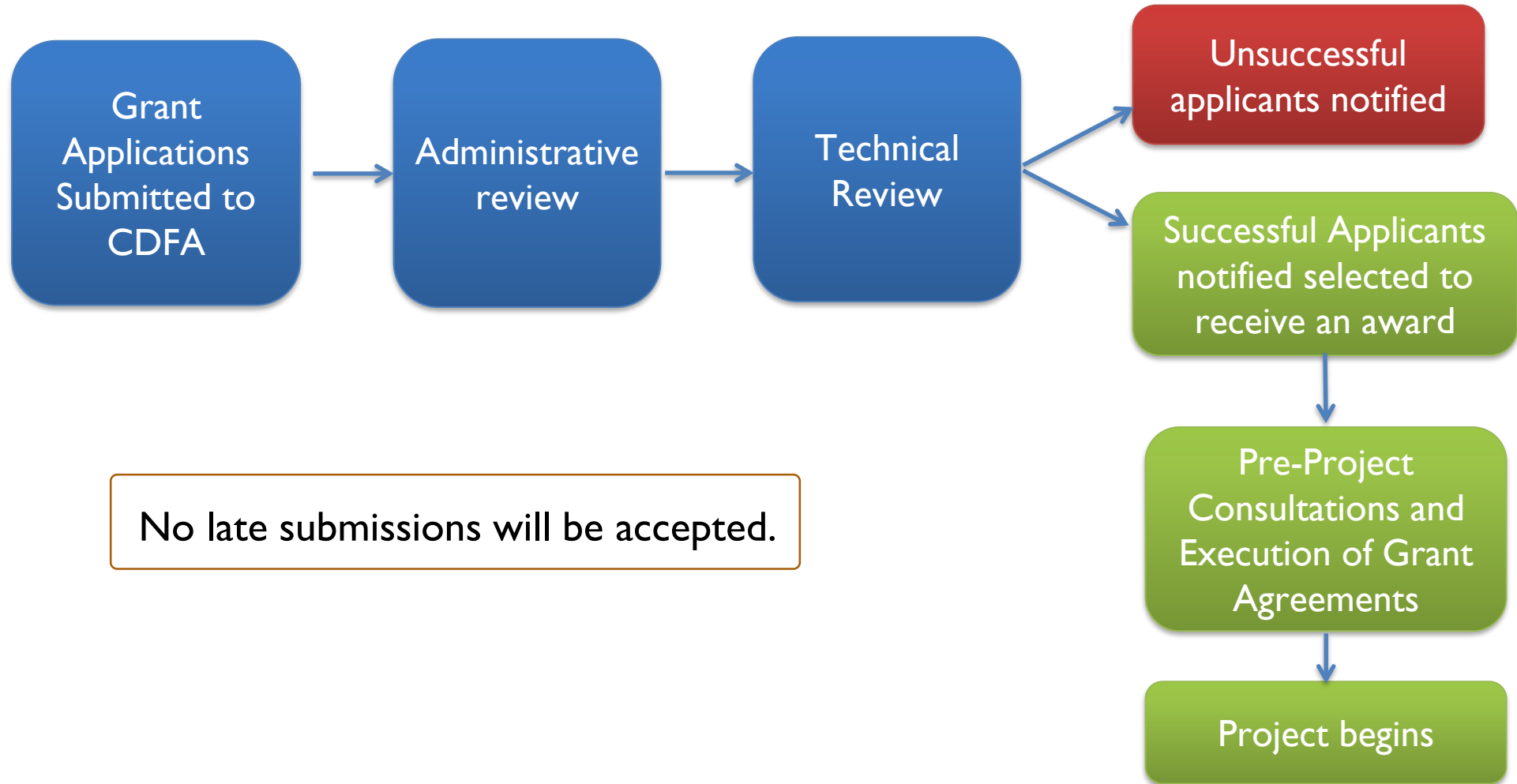
- **Grant (Project) Duration:**

July 1, 2019 – June 28, 2022

SOLICITATION TIMELINE

Activity	Dates
Release Request for Grant Applications	December 28, 2018
CDFA Grant Application Workshops and Webinars	January 2019
Applications Due (10 weeks 1 day)	March 8, 2019 5:00 pm PST
Review Period	March – June 2019
Award Announcement	June 2019

SOLICITATION PROCESS



REVIEW PROCESS

Multiple Stages of Review:

- Step 1: Administrative Review: Internal – Conducted by CDFA
- Step 2: Technical Review: External – Conducted by Technical Reviewers (University experts)
 - The total score of an application must be 60 points or above to be considered qualified for funding
- Applications Prioritized for Funding: Projects serving Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs), Socially Disadvantaged Farmers or Ranchers, and/or Priority Populations
- Additional Considerations: cost share during grant duration.

SCORING CRITERIA

Criteria	Score
Project Feasibility: Project logistics, design, workplan & budget	40
Project Sustainability	20
GHG Emission Reduction Benefits	20
Soil Health and Environmental Co-Benefits	10
Conservation Plan	10
Total	100

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

- California farmers, ranchers and Federal and California Recognized Native American Indian Tribes.
- Projects must be located on California agricultural operations, reduce agricultural GHGs and sequester soil carbon.
- Applicant must have control of the land for the duration of the grant:
 - Letter of agreement from landowner for leased land is required
- One application per unique tax identification number.
- Grant amount cannot exceed \$75,000.
- Implement at least one HSP Agricultural Management Practice on land where it was not implemented previously.

PROGRAM EXCLUSIONS

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

HSP AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (I)

I. Cropland Management Practices

- 1) Cover Crop ([USDA NRCS CPS 340](#))
- 2) Conservation Crop Rotation ([USDA NRCS CPS 328](#))
- 3) Mulching ([USDA NRCS CPS 484](#))
- 4) Nutrient Management ([USDA NRCS CPS 590](#)) (15% reduction in fertilizer application *only*)
- 5) Residue and Tillage Management – No-Till ([USDA NRCS CPS 329](#))
- 6) Residue and Tillage Management – Reduced Till ([USDA NRCS CPS 345](#))
- 7) Strip Cropping ([USDA NRCS CPS 585](#))
- 8) And....

HSP AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (I Continued)

- 8) Compost Application Practices (application rates consistent with those specified in [CDFA Compost Application White Paper](#))
 - Compost Application to Annual Crops
 - Compost Purchased from a Certified Composting Facility
 - On-farm Produced Compost (*compliant with all requirements in the RGA*)
 - Compost Application to Perennials, Orchards and Vineyards
 - Compost Purchased from a Certified Composting Facility
 - On-farm Produced Compost (*compliant with all requirements in the RGA*)

HSP AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (2)

2. Herbaceous Cover Establishment on Cropland

- 1) Conservation Cover ([USDA NRCS CPS 327](#))
- 2) Contour Buffer Strips ([USDA NRCS CPS 332](#))
- 3) Field Border ([USDA NRCS CPS 386](#))
- 4) Filter Strip ([USDA NRCS CPS 393](#))
- 5) Forage and Biomass Planting ([USDA NRCS 512](#))
- 6) Grassed Waterway ([USDA NRCS CPS 412](#))
- 7) Herbaceous Wind Barrier ([USDA NRCS CPS 603](#))
- 8) Riparian Herbaceous Cover ([USDA NRCS CPS 390](#))
- 9) Vegetative Barriers (601) ([USDA NRCS CPS 601](#))

HSP AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (3)

3. Woody Cover Establishment on Cropland

- 1) Alley Cropping ([USDA NRCS CPS 311](#))
- 2) Hedgerow Planting ([USDA NRCS CPS 422](#))
- 3) Multi-story Cropping ([USDA NRCS CPS 379](#))
- 4) Riparian Forest Buffer ([USDA NRCS CPS 391](#))
- 5) Tree/Shrub Establishment ([USDA NRCS CPS 612](#))
- 6) Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment ([USDA NRCS CPS 380](#))

HSP AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (4)

4. Grazing Lands Practices

- 1) Compost Application to Grassland (application rates consistent with those specified in [CDFA Compost Application White Paper](#))
 - Compost Purchased from a Certified Composting Facility
 - On-farm Produced Compost (*compliant with all requirements in the RGA*)
- 2) Prescribed Grazing ([USDA NRCS CPS 528](#))
- 3) Range Planting ([USDA NRCS CPS 550](#))
- 4) Silvopasture ([USDA NRCS CPS 381](#))

NON-OVERLAPPING PRACTICES

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

- Group I
 - Cover Crop ([USDA NRCS CPS 340](#))
 - Conservation Crop Rotation ([USDA NRCS CPS 328](#))
 - Strip Cropping ([USDA NRCS CPS 585](#))
- Group II:
 - Residue and Tillage Management – No-Till ([USDA NRCS CPS 329](#))
 - Residue and Tillage Management – Reduced Till ([USDA NRCS CPS 345](#))
- Group III:

Compost Application: Compost is either

 - Purchased from a Certified Facility
 - On-farm Produced Compost
- Group IV:
 - Alley Cropping ([USDA NRCS CPS 311](#))
 - Multi-story Cropping ([USDA NRCS CPS 379](#))

PROJECT DURATION

Project Year	Duration of Project Year	Practice Implementation Must Begin No Later Than
1	July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020	December 31, 2019
2	July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021	December 31, 2020
3	July 1, 2021 – June 28, 2022	December 31, 2021

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (I)

- **Baseline data for each APN/Field:**
 - Cropping history in the past three years (December 2015 – November 2018)
 - Management history in the past three years (December 2015 – November 2018)
- **For APNs/Fields where compost application practices are to be implemented:**

Use [Compost Ineligible Tool](#) developed by [California Air Resources Board \(CARB\)](#) to determine if fields/APNs are eligible for Compost Application Implementation.
- **Must provide GHG Emissions Reduction Benefit Report using**
 - [CARB GHG Quantification Methodology and GHG Calculation Tools for Healthy Soils Program](#), and
 - [CDFA HSP COMET-Planner](#)

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (2)

Requirements on Practice Implementation and Verification

- Selected projects are subjected to pre-project consultation before the grant contract is signed.
- Implementation of practice(s) must be located on the same field/APN(s) during the entire project duration.
- Implementation of practices must begin prior to December 31 in each project year.
- Reports on soil organic matter content prior to practice implementation, and one, two and three years after practice implementation to be submitted to CDFA.
- Awarded projects are subjected to verification to evaluate the project site and implementation of eligible agricultural management practice(s).

Outline

- Program Background and Objectives
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- **How to Apply**
- **Technical Assistance Agreements**

ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS

- WizeHive HSP Incentives Program Application Portal:
https://webportalapp.com/sp/cdfa_hsp_incentives
- Important documents to review before start to apply:
 - HSP Incentives Program Request for Grant Applications (RGA)
 - Frequently Asked Questions
- Important documents to download for preparing submission:
 - Project Work Plan Template
 - Budget Worksheet Template

APPLICATION CONTENTS

1. Project Overview
2. Project Logistics
3. Project Design
4. Project Work Plan
5. Project Budget Worksheet
 - 1) Funding requested
 - 2) Optional cost share
6. Project Sustainability
7. GHG Reduction Estimation
8. Soil Health and Environmental Co-benefits
9. Conservation Plan (*Optional*)
10. Benefits to (*Optional, Prioritized*)
 - 1) Severely Disadvantaged Communities ([Community FactFinder](#))
 - 2) Socially Disadvantaged Groups, **and/or**
 - 3) Priority Populations ([CalEnviroScreen 3.0](#))

I. PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Project Title:
- Project Description (project abstract)
- Project Budget
 - Funds requested
 - Cost share (optional)
 - Total Project Budget (funds requested + cost share)

2. PROJECT LOGISTICS

- **Project Site Information:**
 - APN, address, Latitude/Longitude, Leased Land?
 - Letter of Landowner Agreement for leased land if applicable
- **Project Logistics**
 - Practice name, APN# /Field name, Acres, Implemented previously?
- **Baseline Data**
 - Cropping history (Dec 2015 – Nov 2018)
 - Management history (Dec 2015 – Nov 2018)
- **Compost Application Eligibility**
 - Compost Application is not eligible on APNs where soil organic matter content is greater than 20% by dry weight at top 20 cm depth (8 inches)

Live Demo

Step by step Instructions for using Compost Ineligible Tool to
Determine if an APN is eligible for Compost Application

(Appendix II Doc 8)

<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/cqi-quantification-benefits-and-reporting-materials>

3. PROJECT DESIGN

Project Design Must Include:

- A Map including a landmark and specific Fields/APNs.
- A layout of where all eligible management practices to be implemented.
- The total acreage for each practice to be implemented.
- Indicate compost C:N ratio, application rate, plant species to be planted on each field, if applicable.

AN EXAMPLE OF PROJECT DESIGN

Requirements for a Project Design

1. Farm map, if available, or Google Earth map
2. Must include land marks such as road intersection
3. Save the Map as word or PDF file

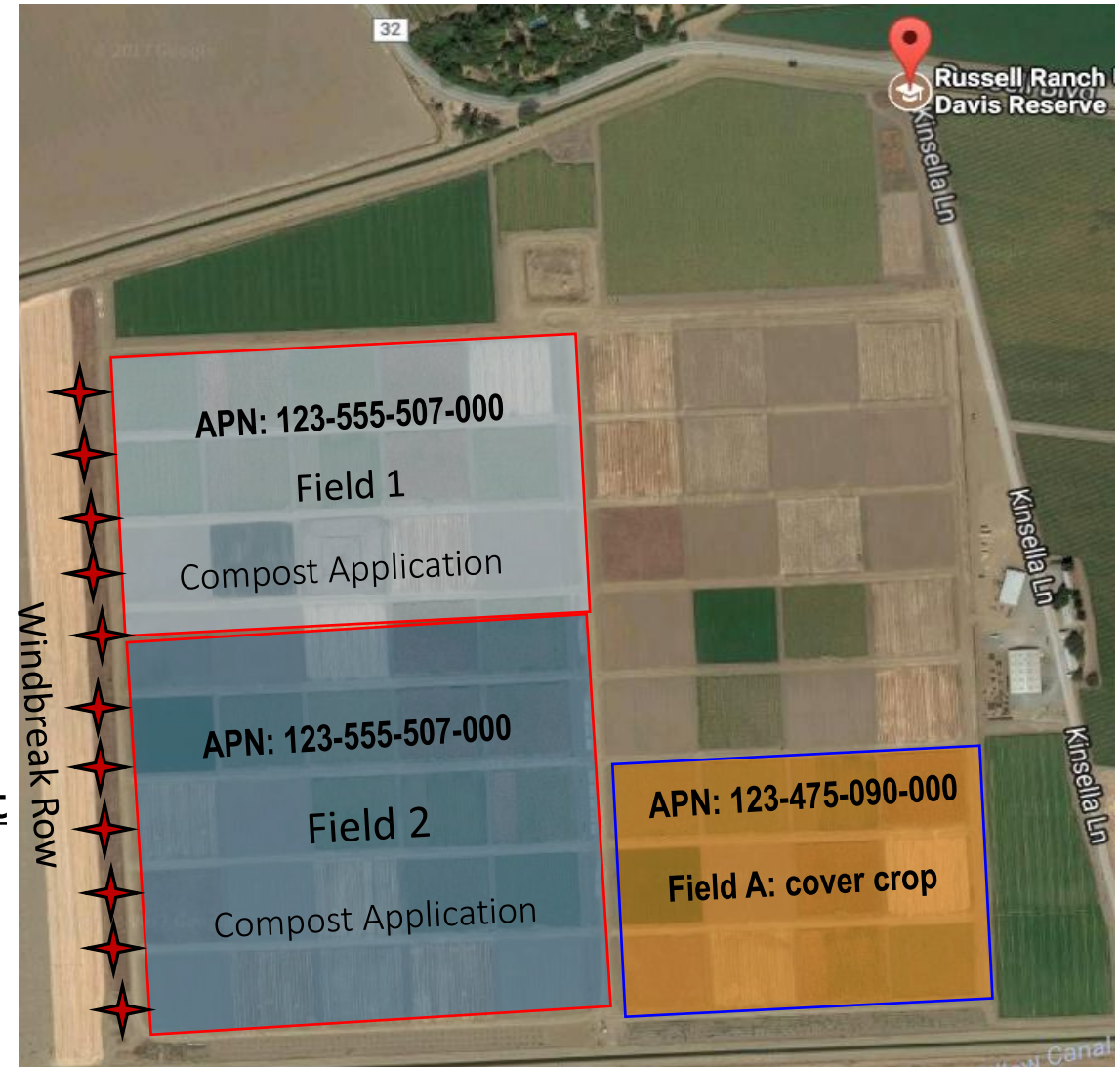
Required Information for a Project Design

I. Compost Application:

- Field 1: Annual cropland – 30 acres
C:N ≤ 11 at 3 tons/Ac
- Field 3: Perennial cropland – 40 acres
C:N > 11 at 6 tons/Ac

2. Windbreak Establishment: Field 1 & 2 – 1000 feet
(marked by ✦) Plant: Eastern Redcedar

3. Cover Crop: Field A – 25 acres
Triticale, 100 lbs/acre



Live Demo

Step-by-Step Instructions to Assist in Selecting Species for Implementing Cover Crop, Herbaceous, and Woody Cover Establishment Practices (Calflora NRCS)

(Appendix II Doc 6)

<https://www.calflora.org/nrcs/>

4. PROJECT WORK PLAN

Download the project work plan template, follow the instructions and fill out all information required.

[Live Demo: Project work plan template](#)

5. PROJECT BUDGET WORKSHEET

Download the project budget worksheet template, follow the instructions and fill out all information required.

- Budget worksheet using flat payment rates
 - Funding requested
 - Optional cost share
 - *For applications located in SDACs and DACs requesting 25% advance payment*

[Live Demo: Project budget worksheet template](#)

6. PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

- Explain why this project is important to the agricultural operation.
- Describe how the project will be sustained beyond June, 2022, including:
 - Anticipated learning or successes from the implemented management practices.
 - Impacts on future adoption:
 - Continuing the practice(s) in the long-term (>3 years) **and/or**
 - Adding the practice(s) to new fields.
- Describe plan to assess and measure possible changes and impacts after project implementation.

7. GHG REDUCTION BENEFITS

- Two conditions **must** be met when selecting management practices:
 - 1) Must be listed in the [Eligible Agricultural Management Practices](#) in the program.
 - 2) Must be **new** (new practice or new acreage) in the proposed field or APN.
- Follow instructions provided at CARB GHG Quantification Webpage <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/cci-quantification-benefits-and-reporting-materials>
 - ❑ 2018 HSP Quantification Methodology
- Must use CDFA HSP Comet-Planner to estimate GHG reduction benefits <http://comet-planner-cdfahsp.com/>

Live Demo: GHG Reduction Benefits Estimation

8. SOIL HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CO-BENEFITS

- Describe environmental benefits achieved through implementing the proposed project in
 - Short-term (within three years), and long-term (beyond three years).
 - Water quality improvements
 - Air quality improvements
 - Ecosystem services.
- Describe how the proposed project will improve soil health.

9. CONSERVATION PLAN (OPTIONAL)

The Conservation Plan must be submitted as a PDF and include, at a minimum, all of the following:

- a. An aerial photo or diagram of project fields.
- b. A list of current management decisions.
- c. The location of and schedule for applying new conservation practices.
- d. Resource Assessment which includes an inventory of resources and resource concerns, soils information, topographic maps, plan maps showing location of property, existing practices, structures, planned practices, soils, water features and other environmentally sensitive areas, and environmental assessment.
- e. Information explaining how specific management decisions will be implemented.
- f. A plan for operation and maintenance of selected management practices.

10. BENEFITS TO SDACs, SDGs AND PRIORITY POPULATIONS (OPTIONAL, PRIORITIZED)

▪ **Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs)**

To qualify as serving severely disadvantaged communities (SDACs), check one or more boxes:

- Is the project located in an SDAC as identified using the Community FactFinder Tool (2018) ?
<http://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities>
- Will the project employ workers/contractors from SDACs? – Provide documents to justify

▪ **Socially Disadvantaged Groups**

- Does the applicant belong to one of the SDGs?
African Americans, Native Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics,
Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders

▪ **Priority Populations**

- Online mapping tool of Priority Populations:
<https://www.arb.ca.gov/cci-communityinvestments>
 - Census tracts identified as disadvantaged by CalEPA per SB 535; or
 - Census tracts identified as low-income per AB 1550.
- Follow Instructions in the application to identify (Step 1 - 3) if a proposed project will benefit priority populations

GROUNDS FOR DISQUALIFICATION

- Incomplete grant applications:
 - Applications with one or more unanswered questions necessary for administrative or technical review.
 - Applications with missing, blank, unreadable, corrupt, or otherwise unusable attachments.
- Applications requested for more than the maximum award amount.

Live Demo

WizeHive HSP Incentives Program Online Application

https://webportalapp.com/sp/cdfa_hsp_incentives

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CDFA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- CDFA will provide to local technical assistance providers:
 - Application assistance webinars;
 - On-demand and timely assistance.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS

Additional Requirements on
Outreach, Reporting and Invoicing



PROP 68 & CCI FUNDING USE OF LOGOS

- 2018 Healthy Soils Program is funded through
 - Proposition 68 (the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018); and
 - California Climate Investments (CCI) – Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for Budget Act of 2018 (SB 856).
- All outreach materials must indicate the funding source and utilize the Prop 68 logo and CCI logo.

WEBSITE POSTINGS

CDFA will be posting technical assistance contacts to HSP Incentives Program websites within the next two weeks. Need to confirm:

- Name of organization
- Contact person
- Phone number
- Email address
- Counties or region to be served

WORKSHOP REQUIREMENTS

- Workshops are not required however, if choosing to conduct workshops, date, time, location and languages of the workshop and person to be contacted must be provided to CDFA by the following schedule:
 - December 27 for posting on December 28
 - January 14 for posting on January 15
 - January 31 for posting on February 1
- This information will be posted on HSP Incentives Program website as a resource for those seeking technical assistance.



OUTREACH TO SEVERELY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES (SDACS)

- “Severely disadvantaged community” means a community with a median household income less than 60 percent of the statewide average.
- Prop 68 requires 15% funds for HSP goes to SDACs.
- There is a need to target SDACs
 - Ag operations located in SDACs, and/or
 - Ag operations that hire workers from SDACs
- A map of SDACs in your area:

<http://www.parksforcalifornia.org/communities>



REPORTING

- Each Organization will submit a summary report within 60 days of providing assistance for HSP Incentives Program solicitation.
- The report must have the following components
 - Brief narrative of services provided
 - List of individuals assisted
 - Workshop details
 - Outreach materials that were created
- It's critical that CDFA is able to identify technical assistance expenditures that occurred within a disadvantaged community.



Invoicing

In order for CDFA to correctly track expenses, we would ask that invoices accompany the report for each solicitation.

- Requirements for invoicing
 - Agreement number
 - Identify for which CSA Program technical assistance provided
 - Use budget breakdown categories



CLARIFICATIONS ON ALLOWABLE COSTS

- \$5,000 base payment applies to each solicitation.
- \$200 for each person assisted that does not submit an application
- \$400 for each person assisted that results in an application



CONTACTS

For HSP Incentives Program, Send reports and invoices to:

- To: cdfa.HSP_Tech@cdfa.ca.gov
- cc: Carolyn.cook@cdfa.ca.gov & ThuyVy.Troung@Cdfa.ca.gov