



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
HEALTH / AGRICULTURE BUILDING
PO Box 330
TRENTON NJ 08625-0330

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor
SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

JOSEPH A. ATCHISON III
Secretary

August 14, 2023

To: New Jersey Organic Operations

**Re: USDA ORGANIC CERTIFICATION COST SHARE
PROGRAM Application Deadline: Wednesday November 1, 2023**

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture has applied to participate in the USDA's Organic Certification Cost Share Program, and you may be eligible for reimbursement pending application review and grant funding approval.

Each qualified operation is now eligible for a reimbursement of up to 75% of its costs of certification, not to exceed \$750 per scope. Operations may receive one reimbursement per category of certification per year. In the event that demand exceeds the amount of funds allocated to New Jersey, completed applications will be processed on a first come, first serve basis.

To qualify for reimbursement under this program, an organic handler or producer must have received their first certification or have incurred expenses related to the renewal of certification between **October 1, 2022 and September 30, 2023**. Operations must possess a current organic certification in good standing through a USDA-Accredited certifying agent. **Incomplete application packages will not be processed** (please see application for documentation required for processing).

Certification costs include fees and charges levied by the certifying agent for certification activities. Further information on allowable /unallowable costs is available at:
www.nj.gov/agriculture/grants/organiccostshare.html

You are required to register for New Jersey's Procurement portal (NJSTART) at www.njstart.gov. This solution is designed to streamline the procurement process and make it more efficient for companies looking to do business with the State. This registration, which is easy and takes only a few minutes to complete, is required to receive your Organic Cost Share Reimbursement. If you have previously been registered in NJSTART, be sure to check the information in your account to avoid delays in processing of a reimbursement. Please note that registering for NJSTART is a two step process, you will need to check your email after your initial NJSTART application to complete your registration.

Applications are available on the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's website at www.nj.gov/agriculture/grants/organiccostshare.html. If you have questions in regard to this program please contact Nichole Steward by calling 609-913-6517 or via e-mail at organiccostshare@ag.nj.gov. It is your responsibility to verify that your application and supporting documentation have been received by the Department of Agriculture.

Organic producers and handlers can also visit their local USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices to apply for federal reimbursement. Operations may apply through only one agency. Duplicate reimbursements will not be issued to an operation.