



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

DOUGLAS H. FISHER
Secretary

August 31, 2020

To: New Jersey Organic Operations

Re: USDA ORGANIC CERTIFICATION COST SHARE PROGRAM
Application Deadline: Monday November 2, 2020

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.

Please note that there have been changes to the Cost Share Reimbursement program this year. Each qualified operation is now eligible for a **reimbursement of up to 50 percent of its costs of certification, not to exceed \$500** 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, 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, 2019 and September 30, 2020**. Operations must possess a current organic certification in good standing through a USDA-Accredited certifying agent.

Certification costs include fees and charges levied by the certifying agent for certification activities. Further information on allowable /unallowable costs is available at:
<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/occp/index>

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.

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 609-292-5576 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.

Enclosures: Application for Organic Cost Share Reimbursement
Proof of Payment Sample Sheet