

Once the State Agency accepts the award, the contents of the Grant Agreement are legally binding on the State Agency.

## 7.0 POST AWARD MANAGEMENT

State Agencies are responsible for the following:

Announcing the availability of OCCSP award funds within their State, including directions on how beneficiaries are to apply for reimbursement; determining the eligibility of producers and handlers of agricultural products obtaining certification under the National Organic Program and issuing reimbursements based on the evaluation of criteria listed below in Sections 7.1 through 7.6; and issuing the maximum allowable reimbursement, as defined by FSA, to eligible producers and handlers of agricultural products obtaining certification under the National Organic Program on a first-come, first-served basis.

### 7.1 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR PRODUCERS AND HANDLERS OF AGRICULTURE PRODUCTS OBTAINING CERTIFICATION UNDER THE NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM

To be eligible, a producer or handler must have paid fees/expenses related to certification under the National Organic Program between October 1, 2023, and September 30, 2024. An eligible producer or handler must provide the following information to the appropriate State Agency to apply for reimbursement through the OCCSP: evidence that the operation has a valid organic certification under the National Organic Program at the time of application; an itemized receipt that identifies allowable costs paid within the qualification period of October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024 (*refer to Section 7.2 Allowable and Unallowable Costs*); a completed State Agency Application for producers or handlers located within the State (*entities with operations located in more than one State must submit applications to the State Agencies in which the operations are located*); a [W-9 Tax Form](#) (*requirements vary by State*); other information, as required by the State Agency, to verify eligibility or issue reimbursement.

**Note:** Operations with suspended, revoked, or withdrawn certifications are ineligible for cost share reimbursement. The applicable USDA organic regulations and resources for certification are available on the AMS website at [www.ams.usda.gov/nop](http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop).

### 7.2 ALLOWABLE AND UNALLOWABLE COSTS FOR PRODUCERS AND HANDLERS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS OBTAINING CERTIFICATION UNDER THE NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM

Allowable Costs	Unallowable Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application fees</li> <li>• Inspection fees, including travel costs and per diem for organic inspectors</li> <li>• USDA organic certification costs, including fees necessary to access international markets with which AMS has equivalency agreements or arrangements</li> <li>• User fees/sale assessments</li> <li>• Postage</li> <li>• State Organic Program fees (NOCCSP only)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspections due to violations of USDA Organic regulations or State Organic Program requirements</li> <li>• Costs related to non-USDA organic certifications</li> <li>• Costs related to transitional certification</li> <li>• Costs related to any other labeling programs</li> <li>• Materials, supplies, and equipment</li> <li>• Late fees</li> <li>• Membership fees</li> <li>• Consultant fees</li> </ul>