

FSA Conservation Reserve
Program (CRP) Transition
Incentive Program (TIP):
*Outreach, Technical
Assistance, and Research
Agreements*



*FY 2022 Notice of Funding Opportunity
Informational Webinar*

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Today's Presenters

- **John Carter**, National CRP-TIP Program Manager
- **Sarah Campbell**, National Beginning Farmer/Rancher Program Coordinator
- **Sundii Johnson & Jennifer Sweeney**, FPAC-BC Grants and Agreements



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Topics to be covered

- **Overview**
- **History of TIP**
- **Farm Bill Changes**
- **Provisions, Enrollment, Payments**
- **Cooperative Agreement NOFO
Proposal Priorities**
- **Outreach Objectives**
- **Proposal Requirements**
- **Questions/Answers**



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- CRP-TIP creates opportunities to ensure expiring CRP contracts are used to support the next generation of producers by incentivizing transfer of land access and ownership.
- It's an ongoing challenge connecting these contract holders to beginning farmers and ranchers and making sure landowners understand CRP-TIP.
- FSA to award one-to-two-year proposals that focus on increasing awareness about CRP-TIP with a primary goal of connecting landowners and land seekers interested in program participation.
- Expecting 15-20 awards ranging between \$50,000 to \$300,000 for a total of \$4.5 million.



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Overview continued

In addition to the Outreach and Technical Assistance Focused proposals, FSA will fund a limited number of proposals seeking to analyze the CRP-TIP program, building upon prior studies of barriers to TIP participation that produce recommendations for improving the program and the identification of best practices.



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History of the Transition Incentive Program

- TIP was created in the 2008 Farm Bill with \$25 million to help transition CRP land from retiring farmers to beginning farmers, ranchers and socially disadvantaged farmer or ranchers.
- The 2014 Farm Bill added \$33 million and added veterans as eligible TIP producers.
- The 2018 Farm Bill authorized \$50 million for TIP producers FY2019 through FY 2023.



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Farm Bill Changes

- Removed the requirement for transitioning to TIP producers must be retired or retiring. All expiring CRP contracts are now eligible for TIP.
- Allows for certain conservation and land improvements including preparing to plant an agricultural crop, and begin the certification process under Organic Food Production Act of 1990 in the last 2 years of the CRP-1. This was previously allowed only in the last year of the CRP contract.



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Farm Bill Changes *Continued*

- Provisions now allow for a lease with a term of less than 5 years with an option to purchase to qualify for TIP. Without an option to purchase provisions remain the same requiring a long-term lease of 5 years or greater.
- Family members remain ineligible for enrollment in TIP.



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TIP Provisions

- To be eligible for TIP, an owner or operator must be a farmer or rancher on land enrolled in an expiring CRP contract.
- The owner or operator must agree to sell, or have a contract to sell, or agree to lease long-term the land enrolled in an expiring CRP contract to a beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher before the CRP-1R begins.



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TIP Provisions *Continued*

- Beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers participating in TIP may return the land for production for sustainable grazing or sustainable crop production after obtaining an approved modified conservation plan from NRCS.



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TIP Provisions *Continued*

- Allowed conservation or land improvements are:
 - Preparing the land for certified organic food production
 - Laying out contours for contour buffer strips
 - Surveying and site preparation for contour farming



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TIP Provisions *Continued*

Installing:

- Filter strips
- Fencing
- Livestock watering facilities
- Pipelines
- Ponds
- Terraces
- Water wells
- Waterways



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TIP Provisions *Continued*

- Enrollment in TIP is on a continuous basis until the total funds authorized for the program are exhausted. Beginning (including veteran) or socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and CRP participants may enroll in TIP at anytime during 2 years before the scheduled date of CRP contract expiration.



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TIP Provisions *Continued*

- Also, the beginning or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher may be eligible for enrollment in the Conservation Stewardship Program or the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), provided all eligibility requirements are met.



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TIP Enrollment

- An example of enrollment is if a CRP contract is scheduled to expire on Sept. 30, 2022, the land may be enrolled in TIP from Oct. 1, 2020, through Sept. 30, 2022.



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Cooperative Agreements

- Cooperative agreements are a type of federal award that involves substantial involvement between USDA and the organization receiving the award (the co-operator).
- FSA will work side-by-side with co-operators—participating in key events, providing feedback during planning and implementation on the progress of the award.



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Available Funding

- The total amount of Federal funding the agency expects to award is **\$4.5 million**.
- Award amounts to range between **\$50,000** and **\$300,000**.
- The agency expects to make **15-20 awards**.

Performance Periods/Start Date

- Projects may be between one and two years in duration.
- Applicants should plan their projects based on an estimated project start date of **January 16, 2023**.



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Project Types

Proposals must focus on one of the following project types:

- 1. Technical Assistance**
- 2. Network Development**
- 3. Program Analysis and Recommendation Development**



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Project Types

Technical Assistance projects must address one or more of the following:

- Outreach to increase TIP participation, improving program participation with low participation rates, and increasing the number of expiring CRP contracts transitioning to TIP.
- Providing program outreach and technical assistance in low-TIP participation areas and customer groups where available eligible land is being underutilized, with a focus on successful land transfer and increasing TIP participation.
- Successful projects will help landowners and land seekers connect to legal, financial, and technical assistance that support successful transition of farmland.



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Project Types

Network Development

Development of a network framework to help connect landowners and land seekers. This framework would include a service-provider resource and referral process to help connect landowners and land seekers, as well as help provide important technical assistance that will contribute to successful TIP contracts.



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Project Types

Program Analysis and Recommendation Development

Projects building on prior studies of barriers to TIP participation—particularly challenges faced by underserved producers (i.e., historically underserved producers, beginning farmers/ranchers, and veterans)—that produce recommendations for improving the program and identify best practices and strategies for overcoming barriers to participation.



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Priority States

Priority States and Ineligible States for Technical Assistance and Network Development

The following States are priority States due to the number of expiring acres, expiring contracts, and the demographics of producers in the States:

- **Alabama**
- **Colorado**
- **Idaho**
- **Illinois**
- **Iowa**
- **Kansas**
- **Maryland**
- **Mississippi**
- **Missouri**
- **Montana**
- **New Mexico**
- **North Carolina**
- **North Dakota**
- **Oklahoma**
- **South Dakota**
- **Texas**
- **Virginia**
- **Washington**

Note: Proposals may focus on more than one State or have a regional focus.



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Ineligible States

Priority States and Ineligible States for Technical Assistance and Network Development

Proposals that focus on the following States **will not** be considered due to a lack of sufficient expiring CRP contracts or eligible acres:

- Alaska
- California
- Delaware
- Maine
- New Jersey
- Puerto Rico
- Vermont
- West Virginia



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Eligible Applicants

- City or township governments,
- County governments,
- Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized),
- Native American tribal governments (other than Federally recognized tribal governments),
- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS (other than institutions of higher education),
- Public, State-controlled, or private institutions of higher education,
- Special district governments, and
- State governments



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Data Sharing

Some project proposals may require FSA national demographic data and State/county level program participation data. FSA can share certain data through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) process.

Receiving data through the FOIA process can take time, and projects should take that into consideration when determining their project timeline.

If information is needed beyond what is available through the FOIA process, FSA may enter into separate data sharing agreements with award recipients and must comply with the terms and provisions of the:

- Privacy Act of 1974, *and*
- Section 1619 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110- 246), 7 U.S.C. 8791)



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How to Apply

- **Eligible applicants can apply through [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).**
- **Eligible entities must submit their applications by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on October 21, 2022.**
- **USDA anticipates making selections by late Fall 2022 and awarding funds by January 2023.**



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Tips for Applying for Federal Funding

- Read the NOFO closely and make sure your proposal aligns with the requirements and goals outlined in the funding announcement.
- Submit a proposal with a clear scope and timeline that fits within your organizations' capacity and expertise. Don't propose to solve all problems or do everything!
- Upload your application well before the deadline on grants.gov.
- Pay attention to deadlines for submitting questions, informational webinars etc.
- Partnerships are good! Don't forget to include letters of support and don't list organizations you don't have a relationship with as partners.
- FSA State and County offices are not permitted to provide letters of support for a project but can provide a letter of participation indicating their willingness to work with a cooperator once the project is funded.



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Do's and Don'ts: Cooperative Agreement Management

- Prior to submitting an application, confirm that your organization is registered with [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) and the [System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#).
- Follow the application instructions and submission requirements in the RFA and [Grants.gov Application Guide \(pdf\)](#).
- To be considered for funding, all required forms must be submitted as part of a complete application package. Your application will not be considered if all required forms are not submitted together.



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Do's and Don'ts: Cooperative Agreement Management

- Submit application through [Grants.gov](https://www.Grants.gov).
- Grants.gov issues emails to the applicant providing the submission receipt number, submission validation receipt, and Grantor Agency Retrieval notification.



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Additional Cooperative Agreement Application Training Resources

- Grants.gov offers applicant trainings and resources and offers support when submitting an application. If you need Grants.gov support, contact the Grants.gov Support Center at support@grants.gov or visit their Support page.
- There is a lot of work that goes into applying for grants, and if you're awarded one, there are additional commitments that you need to meet. You can find free grant training resources at <https://cfo.gov/grants-training/>.



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Question & Answers



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