

# 2023 CUSP Drought-Relief Funding Application

The 2023 CUSP Drought Relief Grant Program provides reimbursement grants for expenses incurred as a result of the recent drought. The CUSP Program targets small and medium scale agricultural producers, prioritizing Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers.

Examples of covered expenses can include but are not limited to:

- Drilling of new wells or repairs of existing wells if sole source of water for operation. To be eligible, an applicant must provide written verification from a Groundwater Sustainability Agency managing the basin or area of the basin where the well is located or proposed to be located approving the action, per Executive Order N-7-22
- Increased electric utility bills of 30% or more due to increase in electricity rates
- Surface water costs if increase from year prior
- Cost of hauling water for livestock
- Lowering of ag well pumps if a primary source of water is lost
- Emergency upgrades to irrigation system (paired with conservation) if not covered through CDFA OEFI programs or USDA programs and for other emergency scenarios.
- Decreased crop yields/crop loss due to less water available or having to fallow land
- Increase feed costs for dairies and livestock operations

Not covered:

- Upgrading pump to larger size which would draw more water

ELIGIBILITY:

- Farmers and ranchers who are actively working the land, derive a portion of their income from their farm business, and are involved in day-to-day operations on the farm are eligible.
- Applicants are not eligible for this grant if they received a CDFA CUSP economic relief grant from CAFF, ABIRC, CCOF, or Peoples Land Stewardship Fund within the last 12 months
- Producers may only receive a maximum CUSP funding of \$20,000 every 12 months. IERCD will cross-check applicants with CDFA to ensure no repeat funds are awarded within that time period.

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\* Indicates required question

1. 1.Email \*

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2. 2. Last Name \*

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3. 3. First Name \*

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4. 4. Farm/Ranch Name \*

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5. 5. Phone Number \*

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6. 6. Street Address \*

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7. 7. City and State \*

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8. 8. Zip Code \*

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9. 9. County of Residence \*

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10. 10. How do you identify yourself? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Asian/Asian American
- Black/African American/African
- Hispanic or Latino/a/x
- Native American/American Indian/Alaska Native/Indigenous
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White/Caucasian/European
- Other (if other please specify)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

11. 11. What does your farm produce? (check all that apply) \*

*Check all that apply.*

- Fruits (e.g., watermelon, strawberries, cranberries, tree fruit)
- Vegetables (e.g., broccoli, peppers, squash, lettuce)
- Horticulture (e.g., herbs, flowers, potted plants for sale)
- Tree Nuts (e.g., almonds, pistachios, walnuts)
- Honey
- Livestock
- Dairy Products
- Grain (including hemp)
- Fungi
- Cannabis
- Other (please specify)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

12. 12. How many acres do you currently farm? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Fewer than 5 acres
- 5-20 acres
- 21-50 acres
- 51-100 acres
- 101-200 acres
- More than 200 acres

13. 13. In the last 12 months, have you received a CUSP award? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No

14. 14. If yes, how much was the grant award amount for? If this is not applicable to you, please enter 'Not Applicable.' \*

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15. 15. Amount currently being requested: \*
- Applicants may receive no more than \$20,000 in CUSP relief in a 12-month period.*
- Applicants who have received CUSP funding in the past 12 months may request additional funding for allowable costs not previously reimbursed, so long as the total funding in that 12-month period does not exceed \$20,000.*
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16. 16. In what ways has your farm been impacted by the drought? \*
- (Select all that apply)

*Check all that apply.*

- Increased electricity bills due to more pumping
- Diminished planting
- Crop loss due to drought (e.g., drought stress, decreased yields)
- Planted fewer acres or fallowed land
- Sales outlet fluctuation
- Water storage costs
- Pump lowering/retrofit costs
- Additional equipment expenses
- Reduced access surface/irrigated water
- Other (please describe)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

17. 17. Do you identify as an immigrant? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

18. 18. Sales outlets (check all that apply) \*

*Check all that apply.*

Farmers markets

Restaurants

Wholesale and food hubs

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

Direct to schools and institutions

Direct to stores

Farmstand

Other

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

19. 19. Total gross farm revenues in 2022: \*

*Mark only one oval.*

Less than \$10K

\$10K - \$49K

\$50K - \$99K

\$100K - \$199K

\$200K - \$400K

\$400K or more

20. 20. Is agricultural production on this farm the primary or at least a substantial portion of your own or your family's basic income? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

21. 21. Please provide the percentage of your income derived from your farming or agricultural operation \*

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22. 22. Is your farm operation certified organic? (Not a requirement to receive CUSP funding) \*

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

23. 23. Have you or are you pursuing any water efficiency efforts or on-farm practices to improve soil water holding capacity? \*

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24. 24. What do you estimate are the current financial impacts of the drought on your farm? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

\$0 - \$4,999

\$5,000 - \$9,999

\$10,000 - \$19,999

\$20,000 - \$49,999

\$50,000 or more

## REQUEST AND VERIFICATION OF LOSSES

Questions 25 - 27 and the certification statements at the bottom of the form are required for your application to be considered complete. Questions 28 - 31 are optional.

25. 25. How will you use any funds received? \*

Please describe, 150 words or less.

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26. 26. I have at least one of the documents (listed below) that illustrates \* verification of losses. I will include the file(s) as part of my application packet. *(Examples include Notification from water district of decreased allocation, notification of water curtailment, receipt, or verification of well failure or pump test results showing decreased water flow, seed purchasing receipts showing decreased amounts of seed purchased, sales records showing less gross income from 2021 tax season to 2022 season, county inspection records. If you have other supporting documentation check "Other" and describe.)*

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

27. 27. Submit file(s) showing verification of losses by email.

\*

**EMAIL** to: CUSP@iercd.org

(please include your full name and farm name in the subject line).

Please title files/attachments in this format: Farm Name\_File#

Note: If the above documentation is not available or drought loss is difficult to quantify, please complete the application and describe your situation in the space provided below. You may also contact your local Technical Service Provider for assistance. Contact Hung Kim Doan at (951) 455-5726.

Describe here:

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28. 28. References: name and contact information (optional)

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29. 29. If I am selected to receive the grant, I will allow the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District to use my farm's name and image to tell my story. (optional)

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

30. 30. I would like to be added to the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District's mailing list for future updates. (optional)

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

31. 31. Farm website and/or social media handles (optional)

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32. Certifications: \*

*Check all that apply.*

I understand the CUSP eligibility requirements and certify that I am eligible for this program.

I certify that I have not received reimbursement from another source for the costs being requested with this application.

I certify the above information is complete, true, and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that I may be contacted by a CUSP technical assistance provider to follow up on the missing documentation.

33. Please enter your name below to indicate you have reviewed the information on this form and agree with all of its contents. \*

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