



## Organic Conversion Support Program Guidelines

The Canada Organic Trade Association (COTA) provides organic producers with financial assistance for the transition to organic farming. This program reimburses producers for a portion of their paid certification costs. Once certified, organic producers are eligible to receive reimbursement for up to a maximum of \$1000 per certification scope—crops and wild crops.

\*the number of applicants accepted for reimbursement is limited, please provide all documentation within 12 months of certification\*

### Who Is Eligible?

Certified organic, plant-based producers who have paid certification fees may apply for reimbursement of the incurred costs. The application must be submitted within 12 months of obtaining certification. You must provide proof of certification or pre-certificate.

This program is for plant-based producers looking to transition or for those who already have an organic, plant-based production and are looking to expand.

### Is Organic Certification Required to Participate?

Yes. The application for assistance for organic crop transition must be submitted within twelve months of obtaining certification. If your operation is not currently certified organic and you would like to learn more about the certification process, please visit our website on the [certification process](#) and for additional information please visit the [Canada Food Inspection Agency](#) .

### What Costs Are Reimbursable?

Eligible costs: Transitional certification inspections, application fees, inspection costs, travel/ per diem for inspectors, user fees, sales assessments, and postage.

Ineligible costs: Equipment, materials, supplies, late fees, fees related to equivalency agreement/arrangement requirements, and inspections necessary to address Canada Organic Regulators (COR) regulatory violations.

### What is the Maximum Reimbursement Amount?

The maximum reimbursement amount is \$1000.

\*There is no guarantee on the timing of the reimbursement, however a confirmation of receipt of the files will be provided within a week of submission\*

### Ineligible claims

Funding will not be granted to those who have abandoned their organic certification or had it cancelled in the last five (5) years.



### How Do I Apply for Reimbursement?

To apply for reimbursement, complete the funding assistance form and send it to: [info@canada-organic.ca](mailto:info@canada-organic.ca)

You must read and acknowledge each section of the Support Program Guidelines.

*\*\*COTA can have the ability to refuse funding if insufficient paperwork is provided\*\**

### Still Have Questions?

Visit <http://www.canada-organic.ca> or send an email to [info@canada-organic.ca](mailto:info@canada-organic.ca)