

CAFF CUSP Drought & Extreme Weather Application FAQs

The California Underserved Small Producer Program is a CDFA funded program

Para español, visite [☰ SPA Copy of CUSP Eligibility FAQs 2026](#)

1. Can farmers outside California apply?

No, this fund is specifically designed for farmers in California only. If your place of residence is outside of CA, but your farm address is in CA, please provide details.

2. Can non-profits apply?

No, farmers cannot be nonprofit entities.

3. What is the difference between CUSP Drought and CUSP Extreme Weather, and which one should I apply for?

CUSP Drought is intended to fund financial losses resulting from drought conditions and water access/water cost/irrigation infrastructure issues. CUSP Extreme Weather is a new program intended to cover a wider range of extreme weather conditions and disasters, including wildfire, flooding, extreme heat, and pest quarantines. Because CUSP Extreme Weather is a more expansive program, it is inherently more competitive. Therefore, farmers who have drought-related losses are strongly encouraged to apply to CUSP Drought, which operates as a separate funding program.

Please note: *farmers can be granted up to \$40,000 total in a 12-month period across the two CUSP programs.* If a farmer has received \$20,000 in CUSP drought funding within the last 12 months, the farmer is still eligible for up to \$20,000 in CUSP Extreme Weather funding.

4. What losses are covered by CUSP Drought?

Please see this FAQ hosted by CDFA: [CUSP Drought Allowable Practices chart](#).

5. What losses are covered by CUSP Extreme Weather?

Please see the [CUSP Extreme Weather Allowable Practices chart](#).

6. How is Gross revenue defined?

Gross revenue is the total amount you earn in a year before any expenses are taken out. It's the total revenue your business generates from providing services or selling products, before taxes, deductions, or other costs.

7. How do I know if I'm in a restricted Groundwater Sustainability Area and not allowed to drill a new well?

Read [Executive Order N-&-22 Action 9](#), and check with the well permitting agency in your region (usually the county) to understand the options available.

8. I had to move my agricultural operation since the last time I applied for CUSP funding, am I eligible for claiming utility cost increases based on my new location?

An increase in electricity from the previous/comparison year attributed to drought can only be covered for the same location/conditions. If a farmer has moved to a new location, they won't be eligible to apply for CUSP drought relief funding for an increase in electricity costs as it would be impossible to compare across parcels, the pump might be a different size or depth which would lead to an unequal comparison.

9. What if I don't have an online account with the utility company?

Utility companies can provide a summary of costs from previous years for the same account and parcel over the phone if the farmer can provide an account number. PG&E gives a monthly summary and comparison of last year's costs on every monthly statement as well, so farmers can compare it without the need of an account. If your land is leased, you can obtain a letter from the owner stating the bill is in their name, but you pay them for the utilities. Show records of payments.

10. What if a producer does not have a contract in their name with the utility company?

If the producer's name is not on the electricity bill but they have a lease agreement with the property owner, providing a copy of the agreement will suffice to prove an increase in electricity from the previous year / term. If the farmer can obtain copies of the electric bills in the landlord's name, they can determine the percentage or portion of the bill the farmer is responsible for covering (i.e. this year's vs. last)

11. Are farmers who lease land allowed to apply for funding?

Yes, small farmers regardless of whether they lease or own their land are eligible to apply so long as they meet the basic requirements.

12. Is there an acreage limit for small farmers?

No, CDFA defines small farmers by their gross income from farming activities, not the physical size of their operation.

13. Does the \$10-400k requirement apply for first year farmers?

If you are a new farmer, or have another limitation, and cannot claim an income of at least \$10k from your farming operation, please describe your particular situation in question #8 of the application, in order to be considered for the funding opportunity.

14. Are undocumented farmers eligible?

Yes! Undocumented farmers are encouraged to apply, given their ineligibility for federal funds. Please note that you do not need to have an SSN, and ITIN will suffice, but CAFF will ask for a W9 and payment information if selected. These documents are uploaded via secure link in the grant application.

15. Are cannabis farmers eligible?

Yes, cannabis producers are eligible to apply so long as they meet the basic requirements .

16. How do I merge multiple files into one?

Please check out this video tutorial for guidance:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=birx9XTrhxw>

17. Will I get a copy of my application?

Applicants can view their application on the Foundant grant homepage by logging back in at <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=caff>. You will also receive a confirmation email from <administrator@grantinterface.com> when you submit your application successfully.

Please check your spam or promotions folders because it may have landed there. If you did not receive a confirmation email, please contact farmerfund@caff.org.

18. Do financial losses have to be within the last year or another time period?

Drought losses eligible for the CUSP grant can be within any point in time from January 01, 2017 onward.