



## Transportation Assistance

The Food Security and Farmworker Safety Transportation Assistance Program provides financial reimbursement for increased cost associated with **employer-provided** worker transportation to ensure appropriate physical distancing during travel. For example, the OR-OSHA temporary rule requires at least three feet of space between passengers. As a result, modifications such as additional trips or larger vehicles may be required to provide transportation to the work site.

### Eligible Applicants

To be eligible for grant funds under the program, an applicant must be:

1. An agricultural producer to which OR-OSHA temporary rule 437-001-0749 applies. An agricultural producer includes any person who leases, rents, manages as a full service management company, or owns Oregon land, whether the land is publicly-owned, privately-owned, or Tribal land, on which crops are cultivated or livestock is raised; and
2. Registered to do business and in good standing with the Oregon Secretary of State.

Oregon's Food Security and Farmworker Safety Program provides assistance to Oregon's agricultural producers in order to help secure Oregon's food supply chain and protect essential agricultural workers from COVID-19 exposure and illness.

The COVID-19 emergency led to Oregon's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OR-OSHA) issuing temporary rules requiring increased field sanitation measures and more stringent labor housing and transportation regulations. The Food Security and Farmworker Safety Program provides financial assistance to comply with these increased measures during peak harvest.

### Program Funding Limitation

The Food Security and Farmworker Safety Program funding has a maximum benefit of \$20,000 in combined housing and field sanitation assistance and \$1,000 in transportation assistance to any individual producer applying for assistance throughout the 2020 harvest season. Producers that have costs in excess of \$21,000 may also submit documentation of those excess costs. If any program funds remain at the end of the harvest season in October, additional payments may be equitably distributed to producers.

### Eligible Costs

**Costs associated with additional transportation needs to comply with OR-OSHA's temporary rules:** Use of private vehicle will be eligible for assistance up to the state mileage rate (dependent upon demand and availability of funds), based on receipts noting mileage and travel logs. Vehicle rental and contracted transportation services are eligible when accompanied by a receipt and short description of need.

## How and When to Apply

### Step 1: Initial Application

Applications will be accepted beginning June 10, 2020 along with application for Housing or Sanitation Assistance. The [financial assistance application](#) can be submitted via email to [FSFSApplication@oregon.gov](mailto:FSFSApplication@oregon.gov) or via fax to (503) 986-0199. If you are unable to access the application online, please call 503-986-0058 to request that an application be faxed to you. Reimbursement will be available for eligible transportation costs incurred on or after June 1, 2020.

At the time of application, producers anticipating the need for transportation assistance should be prepared to provide the following information/documentation with their application:

- Anticipated daily mileage
- Anticipated duration of employer-provided transportation

### Step 2: Request for Documented Transportation Reimbursement

Throughout the 2020 agricultural harvest season, producers anticipating the need for transportation assistance will need to maintain a mileage log and/or receipts for vehicle rentals or contracted transportation services. Describe the need for **increased** transportation provided to workers to comply with OR-OSHA's temporary rules between June 1, 2020 and October 25, 2020. Additional information is available in the full application.

Producers can submit their one-time request for assistance as soon as their transportation needs for the season have been met. Requests must include complete mileage form and any receipts for vehicle rental and/or contracted transportation services for the season (between June 1, 2020 and October 25, 2020) to [FSFSApplication@oregon.gov](mailto:FSFSApplication@oregon.gov). Requests for transportation assistance will be processed at the conclusion of the program, and payments will be calculated based on demand and available funding. Requests for transportation assistance must be received by 5:00 pm November 16, 2020.

## More Information About Food Security and Farmworker Safety Assistance

More information on the program, including Housing Response, Field Sanitation, and Transportation, is found on the [FSFS Program Website](#).

For specific questions on the program, please review the [FAQs](#) or send your question to [FSFSquestions@oregon.gov](mailto:FSFSquestions@oregon.gov).