



OCIA

RESEARCH & EDUCATION, INC.

5910 S 58th St, Ste B • Lincoln, NE • 68516

(402) 477 - 2323 • ocia.org

Organic Micro Grants Program

Program Purpose

The Organic Micro Grants Program supports **small-scale, high-impact projects** that advance organic agriculture and benefit **multiple producers, processors, and/or consumers**. Funding is intended to encourage innovation, education, and practical research that can be replicated and shared across regions.

Projects must clearly support **organic agriculture** and align with OCIA R&E's mission.

Eligible Project Areas

1. Organic Research

Projects that improve or expand knowledge related to organic systems, including but not limited to:

- Crop improvement
 - Post-harvest handling or storage improvements
 - Processing improvements
 - Marketing of organic products
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2. Organic Education

Projects that increase understanding, adoption, or visibility of organic agriculture, including:

- Development of educational materials
(student-focused, producer-focused, consumer-focused, web-based, or print materials)
 - Development of programs supporting organic agriculture, such as:
 - Camps or workshops
 - Community gardens
 - Grocery store taste tests
 - Presentations or demonstrations for interested audiences
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3. Other Innovative Organic Projects

- Creative or emerging ideas that support organic agriculture
 - Subject to Board approval
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Grant Criteria

- **Grant Amount:** \$300–\$5,000
 - **Funding Basis:** First come, first served, provided proposals meet program requirements
 - **Geographic Distribution:** The intent is to distribute funds across as many regions as possible. Limits may apply to the number of grants awarded within a single region.
 - **Project Duration:** Projects must be completed within **one year** of approval.
 - **Reporting Requirement:** A progress report is due at the mid-point and a final report is required upon completion. Final reports should not exceed **two (2) pages**.
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Proposal Submission

Proposals must be submitted to: Brandon Hill @ bhill@ocia.org



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Proposal Format

(Limit proposal narrative to two pages; budget may be submitted as an additional page.)

Proposals must include the following:

1. Identification of the individual and/or group submitting the proposal
2. Basic description of the project
3. Objectives of the proposal
4. Budget and project timeline
 - Limits may apply to administrative costs and/or in-kind contributions
5. Rationale and benefits to organic agriculture
6. Description of project methods or methodology
 - This section should demonstrate how the project will produce **measurable or observable results**
7. Identification of applicant credentials and/or advisory personnel

Research & Education Project Requirements

- Projects must be designed so they are **repeatable by others** under different circumstances
- Final reports become the property of **OCIA R&E**, which reserves the right to distribute them through appropriate venues
- On-farm research projects must include:
 - A control strip **and/or**
 - Comparison of at least two treatments or variables to allow meaningful evaluation of results

Final Report Documentation

Final reports must include:

- A summary of project outcomes and results (maximum two pages)
- References or bibliography, as applicable. Supporting materials such as photos, spreadsheets, or data tables are encouraged but not required.

Ineligible Proposals

- **Training-only projects** are generally **not acceptable** under this micro grant program

Distribution of Funds

- **75% of grant funds** are released upon approval of the proposal
- Funds are considered **repayable** until the final report is submitted
- The remaining **25%** is released upon receipt and acceptance of the final report