

CCOF Foundation

2022

Annual Report





Dear CCOF members and supporters,

Here at CCOF, we have a vision of a world where organic is the norm. We value integrity, courage, community, and representation of and for organic producers. Together, our vision and values compose a compass that directs and focuses our work supporting the organic community. In 2022, the CCOF Foundation returned over and over to these principles to evaluate whether our actions mirror our core values.

This value alignment examination resulted in a redesign of our grant program that supports organic farmers. In February, the CCOF Foundation committed \$120,000 to 12 Latino/a farmers transitioning their land to organic. Every year for the three-year transition period, each farmer will receive a \$10,000 grant and technical support, as well as connections with farmer mentors, likeminded community, and supply chain contacts.

Adapting this program to meet the specific needs of this population of farmers over a longer timeframe more meaningfully helps these farmers successfully transition to organic production. In 2023, CCOF launched a new cohort of our three-year organic transition grant program, and we will add a third cohort in 2024. Each of these cohorts targets a new demographic of farmers in a specific geographic location.

In December 2022, we signed a five-year, \$15 million cooperative agreement with the National Organic Program to lead a Western/Southwestern Region for Organic Transition. You'll hear much more about this in 2023, but this amplification of our work will enable us and dozens of partners to reach more farmers with the resources they need—mentorship, technical assistance, community building, and workforce development.

The challenges associated with transitioning to organic are complex and varied, as are the solutions to those challenges. **The CCOF Foundation is committed to listening to the needs of transitioning producers and working together to creatively, collaboratively meet those needs.**

We're also committed to helping organic producers throughout other parts of their journey in organic. This includes financial assistance for organic ag students through the Future Organic Farmers program, ongoing professional development in our Organic Training Institute, and offering financial support for organic producers in hard times through our Brimont Hardship Assistance Fund.

Thank you for all you've done to support organic, whether that's through farming your own land organically, giving advice to a newly-organic farmer, donating to our Organic Transition Program, or partnering with us to get resources to more farmers. We couldn't do it without you.

Many thanks,

Kelly Damewood
CEO





— **David Ley**

Future Organic Farmers grant recipient.



My college journey started 10+ years ago in a tent in Afghanistan, where I was taking online classes between missions and rocket attacks. My non-traditional academic journey has been full of strife and challenges [. . .], but it ended with me walking across the stage on December 17th and being awarded my degree. Being a non-traditional, veteran, first-generation college student, I am beyond grateful for CCOF's help in defying the odds. The Future Organic Farmers grant allowed for me to remain housed during my senior year of college and to graduate with my B.S. in environmental science and sustainability.

This degree has already paid off. I have begun working as an Environmental Health Specialist for the Missoula City-County Health Department. I am getting to work with farmer's markets, producers, and retail markets to ensure the safety of our food supply chain. I have overcome the challenge of having a broken body, by turning toward my mind and soul.



2022 Accomplishments

Future Organic Farmers

20

students in higher education and vocational training program received grants

\$5000

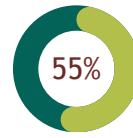
in grant funds awarded to each student for educational expenses

\$100K

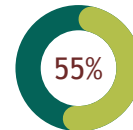
total dollars awarded through FOF in 2022



Pearce and Eleanor, Strong Heart Farms - Future Organic Farmer participants.
Photo Credit: Terra Sura Photography.



Latino/a or Hispanic



Female



White or European

Who received grants?

*recipients self define and can choose multiple categories



American Indian or Alaskan Native



Black, African American, or Afro Caribbean

Organic Training Institute

Trainings for organic professionals

499

organic and other professionals learned new skills through the Organic Training Institute's webinars, workshops, and technical assistance programs

22

events held by the Organic Training Institute



2022 Organic Transition program cohort participants during the Organic 101 workshop at RCD and Torres Organic Farm.



“


We have a very small organic dairy completely managed by my husband and I. Our two young children have grown up doing chores with us, feeding calves with me and milking cows with Dad. Our dairy means everything to us, and we vow to keep it going even in the hard times. The past few years have been hard, this last year especially so. The grant we were awarded by the Brimont Fund came at exactly the right time, giving us much needed relief.

We are forever grateful to everyone at CCOF for seeing our dairy as a worthy recipient. Thank you doesn't cut it, but we hope you know how much you've helped us.

”

— Marissa Silva, Silva Family Dairy

Recipient of a Brimont Hardship Assistance Fund grant that provided additional support for organic dairy producers in 2022.



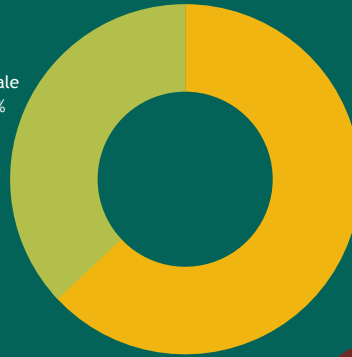
Bricmont Hardship Assistance Fund



55

organic businesses who experienced hardship received financial aid

Female 37%



Male 63%

\$636,500

granted through the Bricmont Hardship Assistance Fund

Black, African American, or Afro Caribbean

Latino/a or Hispanic

Middle Eastern or North African

American Indian or Alaskan Native

White or European

Asian



Who received grants?

Organic Transition Program

12

Latino/a farmers transitioning their land to organic production received **\$10,000 grants**





— Yadira Mendiola

Recipient of a three-year grant and technical support for organic transition.



I am very grateful for the grant as it will help me take a step forward. I want to continue, I want to reach my goal, I want to continue being organic for a better world. I may be small in many aspects, but my dreams are really big, and it's not about money, it's about achieving the increase in cultivating organic in California. Being part of the difference cultivating organic is difficult but not impossible. 100% organic can be done, because I want my children to feel proud of me.

I am working a lot, like a lot, so I can continue achieving my objective, which is to form a legacy for my children and me. To give them a culture of healthy living, and as a mom create that legacy for us.

Estoy muy agradecida con la beca, ya que me ayudo a dar un paso hacia delante. Y quiero seguir, quiero alcanzar mi meta, quiero seguir siendo orgánica por un mundo mejor. Tal vez soy muy pequeña en todos los aspectos, pero mis sueños son muy grandes, y no es dinero, es lograr el incremento de cultivos orgánicos y estar dentro de ese conteo aquí en California. Ser parte de la diferencia, cultivando orgánico es difícil, pero no imposible. 100% Orgánico si se puede, porque quiero que mis hijos se sientan muy orgullosos de mí.

Estoy trabajando mucho, pero mucho, para seguir logrando mi objetivo, que es formar un patrimonio para mí y mis hijos. Para darles esa cultura de vida saludable, y como mamá crear un patrimonio para nosotros.



CCOF's Policy Team



CCOF Policy Director
Rebekah Weber



CCOF Policy Advocate
Jessica Gonzalez



CCOF Senior Policy Advocate
Laetitia Benador

FROM THE BEGINNING,

we've been involved in developing the organic standards and maintaining their integrity. Today, we carry that heritage forward by advocating for rigorous, streamlined organic regulations that support our certified organic members' businesses and protect our planet and communities.

While not a part of the CCOF Foundation, the policy team at CCOF, Inc. complements the Foundation's charitable work by improving the infrastructure of support for organic producers across the nation. Take a look at what we accomplished in 2022 and scan the QR code for more information.



From left to right: Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, CCOF Chief Program Officer Jessy Beckett Parr, Senator Susan Talamantes Eggman, and CCOF Board Chair Phil LaRocca at a Lucas Winery Farm Lunch in 2022.



Secured **\$13 million** to help farmers and ranchers develop organic system plans through the Conservation Agriculture Planning Grant Program.

Led the charge to create a state-level Organic Transition Program in California that was signed into law with **\$5 million** in funding.

"Organic" incorporated into the California definition of **"climate smart ag."**

For the first time, California set an organic target in its climate strategy—**20% of cultivated land in the state to be organic by 2045.**



This grant was essential in my continuation of a higher education in agriculture. I depend on paying for my education and living expenses through work and scholarships, so having this additional monetary support has also allowed me to indulge in activities and opportunities that focus on the specialization of my education: regenerative agriculture. There are things that just can't be learned through a book or a class. Because the grant gave me the freedom to attend conferences and other networking events, I was able to meet real farmers, and learn about the real issues they tackle.

My goal is to develop regenerative agricultural practices and promote them. Although there are many regenerative methods for crops like orchards, vineyards, and pastures, I wish to expand the inclusion of regenerative practices in row crops such as strawberries. I want to always be an ambassador of organic and sustainable practices, but especially regenerative farming. I want to develop strategies and practices that can be translated into different crops to improve production and benefit farmers.



— **Karla Ahumado
Regalado**

Future Organic Farmers grant recipient.

Financials

CCOF was founded in 1973 when 13 farmers sat around a kitchen table and made a commitment to organic farming and supporting each other. Guided by our founders' wisdom, we know that community support and dedication to integrity are key to expanding organic.

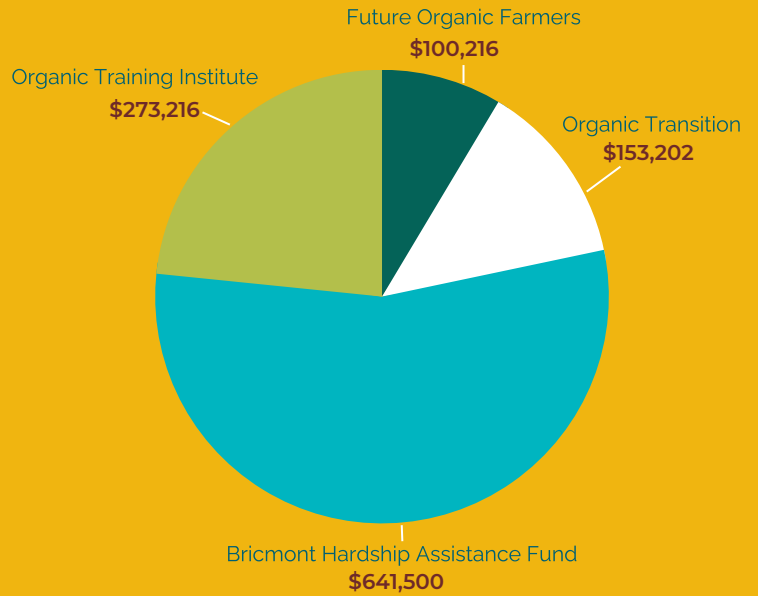
CCOF Foundation 2022 Program Expenditures

CCOF Foundation Revenue

\$2,137,427 provides intentional education, financial support, and growth opportunities for organic professionals.

CCOF Member Contribution to the CCOF Foundation

CCOF certified organic members seeded \$274,575 in the CCOF Foundation from CCOF Certification Services, LLC revenue. This bloomed into a \$2,137,427 budget to support the organic community.



Grants Awarded by the CCOF Foundation in 2022

\$750,000

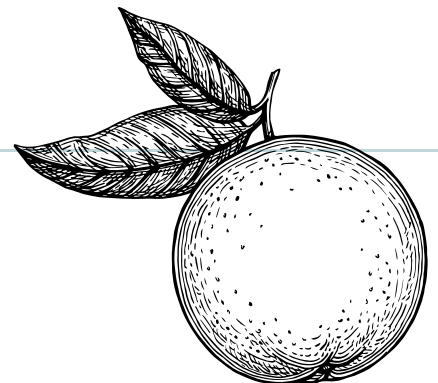
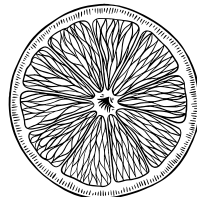
Bricmont Hardship Assistance Fund
\$641,500 given to 55 organic producers

\$500,000

\$250,000

Future Organic Farmers
\$100,000 given to 20 students

Organic Transition
\$120,000 given to 12 farmers



Thank You to Our 2022 Supporters!

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FUTURES FUND**

**In Memory of
Becky Blythe**



DAILY HARVEST

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The Fore Fund



**The Margaret
and Daniel Loeb
Foundation**

patagonia



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Laura Wies
Tom and Denese Willey

Thank you to all CCOF-certified members for choosing CCOF for their organic certification. We invest 2% of our certification revenue back into the organic community and appreciate the additional support provided by our Foundation donors, listed above by level of giving.



CCOF

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You can cultivate an organic world.

Domitila Tapia
CCOF Organic Transition Grantee

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Stewarding the Promise of Organic