

Farm Service Agency U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Nine Partner Organizations to Provide Assistance with ERP Phase Two Applications

WASHINGTON, May 26, 2023 — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is extending the deadline for the Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Phase Two and Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP) to July 14, 2023, to give producers more time to apply for assistance. The original deadline was June 2.

Additionally, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is partnering with nine organizations to provide educational and technical assistance to agricultural producers and provide assistance in completing an ERP Phase Two application.? The extended deadline will give producers more time to work with these partner organizations and apply for assistance. ?

"Farm Service Agency recognizes that there is a learning curve for producers applying for our new revenue-based programs and we want to make sure producers have the time they need to apply for assistance," said FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux. "Partnering with these organizations through cooperative agreements provides additional educational and technical assistance to producers who may need help with the Emergency Relief Program Phase Two application process. The deadline extension gives producers more time to locate and work with these organizations to complete their program application."?

Cooperative Agreements for ERP Phase Two Application Assistance ?

Through cooperative agreements with FSA, the following organizations are providing free assistance to producers across the United States and territories.???

- Alabama State Association of Cooperatives
- Farmers Legal Action Group, INC.?
- Flower Hill Institute

- Intertribal Agriculture Council, Inc,?
- North South Institute
- Renewing the Countryside II
- Rural Advancement Foundation International USA
- Rural Coalition
- Texas Small Farmers and Ranchers CBO

Depending on a producer's location, these nine partners can provide assistance either by phone or through online meeting software like Zoom or Microsoft Teams.??

There is never a charge for technical assistance provided by FSA employees or cooperative agreement recipients.? These organizations will assist producers with completing the application and any follow-up future insurance coverage requirements. Producers who receive ERP payments are statutorily required to purchase crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for the next two available crop years. These organizations will not collect producer records, complete or sign the application form, or act on the producer's behalf in any way throughout this process.????

Find more information on FSA cooperative agreements and contact information for the nine organizations please visit fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/cooperative-agreements/index.?

PARP Application Assistance

USDA will host a webinar that focus on completing the PARP application form on June 8, 2023 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. eastern with members of the National Farm Income Tax Extension Committee. Register here.

Eligibility??

To be eligible for ERP Phase Two, producers must have suffered a decrease in allowable gross revenue in 2020 or 2021 due to necessary expenses related to losses of eligible crops from a qualifying natural disaster event.? Assistance will be primarily to producers of crops that were not covered by Federal Crop Insurance or NAP, since crops covered by Federal Crop Insurance and NAP were included in the assistance under ERP Phase One.??

To be eligible for PARP, an agricultural producer must have been in the business of farming during at least part of the 2020 calendar year and had a 15% or greater decrease in allowable gross revenue for the 2020 calendar year, as compared to a baseline year.?

FSA offers an online <u>ERP tool</u> and <u>PARP tool</u> that can help producers determine what is considered allowable gross revenue for each respective program.

Producers should contact their local FSA office to make an appointment to apply for ERP Phase Two and PARP assistance. Producers should also keep in mind that July 15 is a major deadline to complete acreage reports for most crops. FSA encourages producers to complete the ERP Phase Two application, PARP application and acreage reporting during the same office visit.??

More Information??

For more information, view the? <u>ERP Phase Two Fact Sheet</u>, <u>PARP Fact Sheet</u>, the? <u>ERP Phase Two-PARP Comparison Fact Sheet</u>, <u>ERP Phase Two application video tutorial</u>, <u>PARP application video tutorial</u>, myth-buster blog or contact your local USDA Service Center. ???

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America and committing to equity across the department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit?usda.gov.????

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