

Dear Certified Public Accountant or tax preparer:

Natural Capital Investment Fund, a US Treasury-certified community development lender ([www.ncifund.org](http://www.ncifund.org)) based in Chapel Hill, NC, is pleased to announce the launch of the **Accounting Assistance Cost-Share Program for Disadvantaged Farmers**.

The program *provides grants to reduce the cost for farmers* to work with qualified tax preparers, so limited resource farmers can improve their financial record-keeping practices (e.g., by separating personal from farm records) and file accurate tax returns. The overall goal: help disadvantaged farmers increase their farm income and economic stability. *This program is made possible through a grant from the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission.*

**How the program works:**

- **NCIF will contract with accountants or tax preparers to provide services to participating farmers.** The maximum cost covered by the grant for these services for any one farmer is \$1,000.00, once the farmer has paid \$250.00 towards the cost of services. Natural Capital Investment Fund will make the payments out of grant funds provided by the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission.
- Eligible farmers: 1) Have farm revenue > \$10,000 in 2015; 2) Are **not** currently working with an accountant, or have not worked with an accountant for at least 2 years; and 3) must be located in Eastern NC or the Sandhills region.
- Eligible accountants or tax preparers will:
  - Have substantial experience working with ag enterprises and preparing their tax returns;
  - Be current on all licenses and certifications;
  - Have no overdue tax debts, as defined by N.C.G.S. 105-243.1, at the federal, State, or local level; and have no personal and/or professional relationships with the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission or Natural Capital Investment Fund (state requirement).
- Engagements will include:
  - An initial interview with the farmer to understand the farm operations;
  - Preparing the farmer's Federal and State tax returns, including any extensions as needed;
  - Advising the farmer on record-keeping practices;
  - At least one post-tax filing meeting to discuss bookkeeping and reporting practices.

We are currently accepting applications (see next page) from accountants or tax preparers who would like to offer services in the Accounting Assistance Cost-Share Program. Questions? Please contact Rick Larson, Senior VP, Natural Capital Investment Fund at 919-951-0113 or [rlarson@conservationfund.org](mailto:rlarson@conservationfund.org).



**ACCOUNTANT/TAX PREPARER APPLICATION**

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANCE COST-SHARE PROGRAM FOR DISADVANTAGED FARMERS

**YOUR INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred method of contact: \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR ELIGIBILITY**

Are you a Certified Public Accountant or authorized tax preparer?  Yes  No

Are you current on all licenses and certifications?  Yes  No

Do you have substantial experience working with agricultural enterprises and preparing their tax returns?  Yes  No

*In submitting this application, I affirm that 1) I have no overdue tax debts, as defined by N.C.G.S. 105-243.1, at the Federal, State, or local level; 2) I have no personal and/or professional relationships with the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission or Natural Capital Investment Fund (State of NC requirement); and 3) I am current on all certifications and licenses required of CPAs or tax preparers in the State of North Carolina.*

**Signed:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name

Please submit signed and completed applications via **email (preferred)** or **mail** to:  
Rick Larson, Senior VP, Natural Capital Investment Fund, P.O. Box 271, Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
or [rlarson@conservationfund.org](mailto:rlarson@conservationfund.org)



Accountant Application for NCIF Accounting Assistance Cost-Share Program

Sponsored Project

