



Food Hub Organic Mentorship Program

Program to support small-scale handlers and aggregator/distributors (food hubs)

Facilitated by the [California Food Hub Network](#) at [UC Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education Program](#) (SAREP) and the [California Certified Organic Farmers \(CCOF\) Foundation](#)

TOPP Transitioning Producer Mentee Qualifications:

To become a food hub mentee and be connected to an Organic Mentor through the USDA Transition to Organic Partnership Program, a transitioning food hub operator must own or be employed by an existing food hub. Ideally, a mentee also has a minimum of two years of owning/operating, and/or equivalent experience, and are:

- Planning to transition an existing food hub to organic,
- In the process of transitioning a food hub to organic,
- Adding new scopes of organic certification,
- And/or starting a new certified organic operation.

Transitioning Food Hub Mentee expectations:

- Intend to become certified organic.
- Have ability to fulfill the time commitment of mentorship including communication, travel, site-visit.
- Have reliable access to a means of attending site-visits.
- Have access to appropriate technology for communication. Communication Plan and modes of communication are determined between mentor and mentee.

In the mentorship year, mentees will:

- Commit to between 40 hours per yearly program cycle (12 months)
- 10 hours individual mentorship, including site visits (optional)
- Create Mentor/Mentee agreement to support the structure of experience.
 - Includes Communication Plan - Expected modes of communication include video, telephone, text, email, video communications and in-person meetings.
 - Self-certification of intent to develop an Organic System Plan.
- Communicate in a timely and consistent manner with mentees and program staff.
- Participate in mid-year and year-end mentorship evaluations.
- Receive a \$500 travel & education stipend.

How to apply: Complete this short form <https://forms.gle/xREVno1ze1tQZQWg6>

Questions? Contact Alicia Baddorf: akbaddorf@ucanr.edu