



Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association

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Letter of Support Overview OSCIA Cost-Share Program Support

There are cost-share funding programs delivered by OSCIA that require **a letter of support from an Ontario accredited Agricultural Advisor (Certified Crop Advisor or Professional Agrologist)**. This letter of support (LOS) is to be prepared and signed by a qualified third-party expert and submitted as part of the application process. The signing expert must be fully accredited and have their membership in good standing. The specific qualifications required of the expert can vary based on the funding category. The current programs that require a letter of support from an Ontario Advisor are:

- **On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF)**
 - The letter of support for OFCAF is a professional recommendation for a specific activity or practice.
- **Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP)**
 - The letter of support for RALP describes the proposed project activities and includes important considerations for the proposed project.

The LOS is an important piece of an application used by OSCIA Programs Analysts to assess the quality, viability, and impact of a proposed project. As such, the LOS should be prepared by the signing authority and **should not be “rubber stamped” without thorough consideration of the proposed project. By signing a LOS, the Advisor is putting their professional accreditation behind the proposed activities.**

Considerations for site visits:

- While a site visit is not required, an Advisor should use their professional judgement before signing a LOS for a project that has not been visited, particularly for projects under RALP.
- For some projects, a strong understanding of the applicants' current farming practice and their land is sufficient.

By signing the letter of support, an Advisor is indicating support for the project only, with no further involvement required. For a RALP project, you may be asked by the project applicant to provide a written confirmation that the project has been completed. Additionally, OSCIA may contact you to request additional information or context around the project.

On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF)

For OFCAF, OSCIA has provided a document that outlines the minimum requirements for a letter of support for each Core BMP. **These requirements can be found in the *Documentation Required with the Application* section in the [program guide](#) for the appropriate project category** or as listed below. The minimum requirements vary between BMPs and activities, but generally the LOS requires that the proposed activity is described in detail (e.g., rates, timing, product, specific locations, product, crop, etc.). In cases where recommendations differ greatly from industry standards, it is recommended that further justification is included to support the proposed activity. For example, a recommendation for high rate of manure as part of a synthetic fertilizer substitute project in OFCAF. Compensation from OSCIA is not available to support the completion of a letter of support. For more information, email ofcaf@ontariosoilcrop.org.

OFCAF Letter of Support Minimum Requirements	
Cover Cropping	Click Here
Nitrogen Management	Click Here
Rotational Grazing	Click Here

Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP)

For projects under RALP, OSCIA has prepared templates that must be used when preparing a letter of support. Qualified experts who provide letters of support will receive \$200 compensation for each completed letter (one letter per application). Compensation is contingent upon the completion of all requested data fields in the template. **These templates can be found in the *Documentation Required with the Application* section in the [program guide](#) for the appropriate project category** or as listed below. The intake period for RALP projects remains open until the budget has been fully allocated. For more information, email scap@ontariosoilcrop.org.

RALP Letter of Support Templates	
Natural Grassland Establishment	Click Here
Perennial Biomass Crops	Click Here
Perennial Warm Season Pastures	Click Here
Reduced Tillage	Click Here
Tree and Shrub Planting	Click Here
Water Retention Features	Click Here
Wetlands	Click Here
