



## Food Justice Certification Fees Guidance

There are two types of costs for obtaining the 3<sup>rd</sup>- party verified Food Justice Certification:

1. charges for the certification process managed by the approved certifiers and
2. a licensing fee set by AJP and ultimately paid to AJP once certification is granted.

Both are annual costs.

### Certification Cost Formula:

**Certification Fee + Audit Costs + AJP Licensing Fees** = Total cost of 3<sup>rd</sup> party Food Justice Certification

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### Certification + Audit Cost Estimates

Examples of Previous Charges for Certification and Inspection through Approved Certifiers for Food Justice Certification		
Small farms with little or no labor	\$1,500	<i>Notes: Inspection costs can be economized with multiple inspections occur at the same time by the same inspector in geographic proximity. Inspections costs are highly dependent on the complexity of the operation.</i>
Mid-size farm or business operations with one site and requiring no more than 1 day of inspectors time	\$3,500	
Larger scale operations and brands and grower groups with multiple sites across vast geographic area, requiring multiple days of inspectors time	\$8,000	

**The Cost Share program** supported by AJP's Social Justice Fund was created to support small-scale family farms and businesses that want to become Food Justice Certified (FJC). Small-scale family farms and independently owned retailers and retail cooperatives often do not have the resources to make improvements, let alone add meaningful certification. AJP has long understood this as a necessary part of the FJC program and in order to enable smaller-scale family farms and smaller retailers to afford the Food Justice Certification we set aside 5% of all grants towards the Social Justice Fund, a portion of which is used to subsidize certification fees under our Cost Share program. Cost Share subsidies are awarded up to 75% of certification costs. The total amount is dependent on funding for the year in this fund. Cost share funds apply to certification fee and inspection/audit costs only (cost share does not cover the licensing fee). The award is paid directly to the certifier upon receipt of an invoice. The client is responsible for any remaining balance and the licensing fee.

### Who is eligible for the cost share program?

Smaller-scale, independent, family or community farms and smaller-scale, independently owned retailers and retail cooperatives with economic hardship can request Cost Share. In order to qualify for the fund, submit the Social Justice Fund application and provide a description of their economic hardship. Applications are reviewed by AJP staff and approved by the AJP Board. Funding is awarded on a case-by-case basis.



## AJP Licensing Fee

The Agricultural Justice Project (AJP) Licensing Fees for Certified Entities are NOT included the above fee structure. Licensing fees are calculated based on the total certification costs, which are the (Certification Fee + Audit Cost), the total of which is multiplied by the licensing fee rate = FJC Licensing Fee). Licensing fees are calculated by operation type at the following rates:

## AJP Licensing Fee

Operation Type	AJP Licensing Fee Rate
Producer/Small Retailer	15%
Grower Group	30%
Brand Holder	45%

$$\text{(Certification Fee + Audit Cost)} \times \text{Licensing Fee Rate} = \text{AJP Licensing Fee}$$

\*If you are unsure of where your operation fits in the licensing fee structure please contact AJP directly at [info@agriculturaljusticeproject.org](mailto:info@agriculturaljusticeproject.org). The AJP Licensing Fees are not set by certifier; they are collected by the certifier and passed through to AJP. These licensing fees contribute to funding the extensive stakeholder process for maintaining and revising the standards, AJP-conducted promotion of the Food Justice Certification program and certified entities, including providing direct promotional support to certified entities as requested.