

Local Food Purchasing Assistance Program



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Extension

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In 2021, USDA launched the \$900M Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) Program, a key step in transforming food systems, with participation from every state. Of this, \$691M funds were directly invested in farmers, producing a \$1.53B local economic impact! (LFPACAP, 2024)

LFPA GOALS

- Implement bold, systemic solutions to enhance food security and combat hunger.
- Foster resilient food supply chains and equitable food systems through trust-building and sustainable relationships.
- Strengthen native foodways and local supply chains by investing in new, beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers.



“ We were able to build a strong network of farmers, food hubs, and community partners by leaning into preexisting relationships and actively working to maintain trust by advocating for their needs.”

- Value Chain Coordination
Survey Respondent

WHAT'S WORKING WELL?

The LFPA Program is uniquely tailored to the specific needs and assets of each community.

Key features include:

- A cooperative agreement model offering flexibility in procurement approaches across states.
- Empowerment of tribal and local governments to administer the program and equitably select implementation partners.
- Diverse partnerships leveraging existing relationships with food hubs, food banks, farms, schools, nonprofits, hospitals and early childhood education programs, demonstrating significant impact.
- A community of practice established to support production, address gaps and inform future program iterations.

A partnership of Nevada counties; University of Nevada, Reno; and the U.S. Department of Agriculture

NEEDS FOR THE FUTURE

Growers need land, capital, technical support & infrastructure to scale up, but the lack of long-term USDA commitment makes infrastructure investment difficult.

Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program | [ODphp.health.gov](https://odphp.health.gov). (2024).

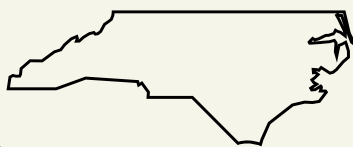
<https://odphp.health.gov/foodismedicine/federal-resource-hub/local-food-purchase-assistance-cooperative-agreement-program#:~:text=Key%20Points,local%2C%20regional%20and%20underserved%20producers>.

State programs inspired by LFPA

NEVADA – HOME FEEDS NEVADA

Nevada Department of Agriculture's producer network and state food banks distributed over 2 million pounds of fresh food to food-insecure families through \$3.5M in funding with 20+ producers. Nevada Department of Agriculture's leadership in logistics ensured success, promoting local agriculture, food security and a resilient food system despite the absence of a food hub.

NORTH CAROLINA



- The Carolina Farm Stewardship Association launched FarmsSHARE in 2020 and expanded it in 2021-2022. It now forms the basis of North Carolina's LFPA Program.
- Fourteen food hubs collaborate with the association, aggregating food from around 120 sustainable farms in North Carolina into CSA-like food boxes.
- These hubs partner with assistance organizations and community-based groups to distribute food boxes to people facing food insecurity.
- The association's network and FarmsSHARE pilot made it a key partner for North Carolina's LFPA Program.

MINNESOTA



- Minnesota's LFPA Program is hosted by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and, focuses on socially disadvantaged farmers.
- Food is distributed at no cost to underserved communities statewide.
- Funded though \$3.4 million distributed as mini-grants to deliver food directly to pantries or networks, and \$3.1 million is still available for a second round of funding, with previous applicants eligible to reapply.
- Farmers and organizations can apply through a competitive process with a 70% acceptance rate.

ALASKA



- Alaska's LFPA Program awarded 419 subgrants in 2022 and 220 in 2021.
- Subgrants targeted food-insecure areas and aimed to increase community food security.
- Recipients must provide a 10% cost match and distribute food for free.
- Repeat awards to the same grantees are not allowed, ensuring broader program reach.



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