

Expanding Access To (EAT) Local Foods Act Section-by-Section

Section (a) Definitions.

Defines an eligible unit of government, partnership, and collaborated in the context of the EAT Local Foods Program.

Section (b) Program.

Establishes the “Expanding Access To (EAT) Local Foods Program” to improve food and agricultural supply chain resiliency and expand economic opportunities for small and underserved farmers while promoting food security. Under the program, the Secretary will enter into cooperative agreements with eligible units of government to purchase food from local, regional, and underserved producers, and distribute that food within the bounds of the eligible unit of government.

Section (c) Funding Allocation.

- a. 10 percent will be allocated to Tribal governments, using a formula determined by the Secretary;
- b. Of the remaining funds, one (1) percent will be allocated to each state;
- c. After allocations (a) and (b), remaining amounts will be allocated using The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) formula.

Section (d) Applications.

Requires eligible units of government to submit an application before receiving funding under the EAT Local Foods Program. The application shall include a plan that lays out how the funds will be used to grow a local food system and promote food security. The plan must also detail the lead agency and community partners involved in implementation. The Secretary shall review and then accept or reject each application.

Section (e) Requirements.

Under the program, food shall be purchased from producers and processors that are within the geographic bounds of the eligible entity, or from within 400 miles of the food delivery destination. At least 51 percent of the total value of products purchased shall be from small, beginning, or underserved producers, and food distribution shall be prioritized to underserved communities.

Funds shall be expended within 3 years. A maximum of 25 percent of available funding shall be for program administration and technical assistance, at least half of which must be used for technical assistance.

Section (f) Use of Funds.

To operate the program, the eligible unit of government may provide subawards to partners and collaborators. Any subawards shall be inclusive of all costs associate with implementing the program.

Section (g) Availability of Funds.

Requires the Secretary to provide at least 50 percent of the awarded funds before food is distributed and the remaining funds at or before the midpoint of the performance period.

Section (h) Food Safety Training and Certification.

Permits the Secretary to require that participating producers have undergone food safety training or received a food safety certification. Prohibits federal Good Agricultural Practice certification from being a requirement for participating producers.

Section (i) Reports.

Requires recipients to submit reports on implementation data to the Secretary.

Section (j) Funding.

Provides \$200 million in mandatory annual funding through the Commodity Credit Corporation and authorizes to be appropriated an additional \$200 million per year.