

September 19, 2024

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

The undersigned 580 organizations, food hubs, farmers, and stakeholders, collectively write to express our deep-seated support for the Local Food Purchase Assistance program (LFPA) and to emphasize the importance of continuing its catalytic and impactful investments beyond the initial one-time investment.

Under your leadership, the Agricultural Marketing Service's effective implementation of LFPA offered an opportunity for states, Tribal nations, and territories to strengthen and develop new regional food supply chains by providing funding to purchase local foods from regional and underserved producers for food assistance programs. By building capacity at the local and state level, cooperators and partners have taken innovative approaches, tailoring their programs to reach every corner of the nation, including rural, hard to reach, and vulnerable communities.

LFPA's investments have quickly demonstrated the ability to serve the unique needs of an array of communities while generating significant revenue for local farmers. In 2022, LFPA's first year, the program directed \$6,248,646 toward purchasing local products from a diverse range of farmers, ranchers, and fishers, with \$2,927,218 (47%) of those dollars going toward direct purchases from underserved producers. In 2023, even more states and local entities stood up their programs, investing \$116,821,306 – nearly 19 times the previous year—of which more than \$80 million was used to purchase directly from underserved producers.

Alongside the immediate positive impact of direct purchases for producers, LFPA also fosters wide-ranging community, health, and economic benefits. Buying directly from a farmer or food hub aggregating local products allows farmers to retain a larger share of the dollar compared to when they sell to traditional retail outlets. In turn, those farmers and aggregators are more likely to buy inputs locally, generating even more local economic benefit. Families who receive food purchased with LFPA-funding have continuously shared that the program not only brings access to fresher food, it also brings greater access to food variety - offering foods that previously some have been unable to access.

Due in part to these widely-experienced benefits, LFPA's popularity has the program on pace to deplete existing funding by summer 2025. In fact, a handful of states have already allocated every dollar to specific distribution, personnel cost, or farmer invoice. Already, farmers are beginning to ask what and how much they should plant next year while organizations and businesses are anxiously waiting for Congress to reauthorize the Farm Bill.

Earlier this year, Senators Jack Reed (D-RI) and Sherrod Brown (D-OH [introduced the Expanding Access to Local Foods Act of 2024 \(S. 3982\)](#) to create a permanent pathway for LFPA to continue, which [was endorsed by more than 180 organizations, farmers and businesses](#). In May, Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) released the Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act framework, [which would codify the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreements](#). And most recently, 48 Members of the House delivered a letter encouraging USDA to identify a funding solution that would prevent any gaps in program implementation.

There is clear desire from Congress and stakeholders nationwide to maintain this pivotal investment in local and regional supply chains. LFPA has offered an effective approach at implementing federal food procurement in a manner that increases participation among farmers that have been underrepresented in other USDA commodity programs - underserved growers, small and mid-scale growers, beginning growers, and those new to institutional markets.

We urge you to identify a solution to continue funding for the existing program so that established partnerships and networks can continue to operate seamlessly while we await a reauthorization of a Farm Bill.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

Agricultural Justice Project

Agriitecture

Alden Services

Association Of Gleaning Organizations

Center for Good Food Purchasing

Coalition for Prisoners' Rights

Earth Neighborhood Productions

Farm Action

My Grow Connect

Friends of the Earth U.S.

GARDEN, Inc.

ImpactHumanity

Kings & Priests Community Development Corporation

National Farm to School Network

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

Seed Change Strategies

Slow Food USA

Wallace Center at Winrock International

Wholesome Wave

Women, Food and Agriculture Network (WFAN)

Regional Food Pantries, Technical Assistance Providers, and Coordinating Organizations

1 of 52 Hunger Network

ACOMERPR

Adams County Health Department

Alaska Farmers Market Association

Alaska Food Policy Council

ALCA

Andrea's No Cost Farmers Market

1 of 52 Hunger Network

Archuleta County Public Health-WIC
Archuleta Seniors Inc.
Arizona Farm to School Network
Arizona Food Bank Network
Atypical Roots
Baca County Public Health Agency
Bad River Food Sovereignty
Bag 'n Hand Food Pantry
BEN Initiative
Bernal Community Center
Big Oak Farm
Bisbone Ranch
Bonita Global
Brave Ground, LLC
Broomfield FISH Food and Family
Resource Center
Butte County Local Food Network
Capital Area Food Bank
Care and Share Food Bank
Casa De Peregrinos
Center for Community Servies
Carolina Farm Stewardship Association
Chicago Food Policy Action Council
Center for Innovative Food Technology
Circles of Jackson County, Inc.
Cissy Food Ministry
City Temple Food Pantry
Cleveland and Cuyahoga County Food
Policy Coalition
Coastal Enterprises, Inc.
Cochise Harm Reduction
Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger
Columbus Area United Way - Nebraska
Comedor de San Pascual

Commún
Community Action of Southeast Iowa
Community Alliance with Family Farmers
Community Food Bank of Grand Junction
Community Food Bank of New Jersey
Community of Hope Ministries Food Pantry
Community Spring
Consuelo's Place Emergency Homeless
Shelter
Cooking Matters EL Paso County
COTLG M.A.N.N.A. Food Pantry
Court Street Ministries
Creation Car Team North Carolina
Conference of the United Methodist Church
Creighton Community Foundation
Cultivate Kansas City
Denver Food Rescue
Eagles Community Outreach LLC
Earths Garden LLC
East St Louis Township
Eastern Market Partnership
Eastside Action Support Team
Eat Drink Washington County
Ecumenical Church of Pueblo West Food
Pantry
El Paso County Cooking Matters
Eva Clayton Rural Food Institute
Experimental Station
Fairmount Community Center
FairShare CSA Coalition
Falcon Locker and Food Pantry
Farm to School Procurement Consulting
Farmers Market Fund
Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin
Feeding Colorado

Feeding Florida
First UMC Franklin
Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry
Flagstaff Community Fridges
Flagstaff Family Food Center
Flagstaff Foodlink
Food Bank for Larimer County
Food Bank Network of the San Luis Valley
Food Bank of the Rockies
Food Bank of Western Massachusetts
Food For Free
Fort Lewis College Grub Hub
Fresh Approach
Fresh Foundation
Fresh Start Center of Colorado Springs
Full Force Ministries SOG
Georgia Organics
Good Food Collective
Good Sam's Food Pantry
Good Works, Inc.
Goodwill Northern Michigan, Food Rescue
Grace Grows
Greater Kansas City Food Policy Coalition
Greater KC LINC, Inc.
Green Umbrella
Groundwork Center for Resilient
Communities
Grow Food Northampton
Grow Your Own Meal, Inc.
Growing Gardens
Growing Home
Growing Places Indy
Guadalupe Healthy Kids Healthy
Communities
H.E.L.P. Services of Carroll County
Harm Reduction Garden
Harvest Hope Food Bank
Harvesters--The Community Food Network
Healthy Harvest of North Iowa
HeartCenter Art Studio, LLC
Hedberg Garden Group, LLC
Hispanic Womens Farming Proyecto
Ho-Chunk Nation
Hunger Free Colorado
Illinois Stewardship Alliance
Institute of American Indian Arts
Intervale Center
Iowa Valley Resource Conservation and
Development
Jacksonville Climate Coalition
Jefferson County Public Health
Just Roots
Kaizen Food Rescue
Kansas Food Bank
Kansas Rural Center
Kaying Family Farm
KC Farm School at Gibbs Road
Kings Park International Church
La granja de Nora
Lac Vieux Desert Agricultural Holdings,
LLC
Lakeshore Food Club
Landed
Lifespan Local
LiveWell Greenville
Los Pobres inc
Louisville Senior Services
Lowcountry Food Bank

Luna Community College
Maine Federation of Farmers' Markets
Manna Harvest Inc.
Marbleseed
Maryland Food Bank
Meals on Wheels Greenville
Meigs County Ohio Economic Development
Meigs Local School District
Menominee Tribal Dept of Ag and Food Systems
Michigan Food and Farming Systems
Mid-Ohio Food Collective
Mile High Farmers
Mountain Resource Center
Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center
New Jerusalem Seventh Day Adventist Church
New Mexico Healthy Soil Working Group
New Town Success Zone and Farmacy
North Kitsap Fishline
North Shore Economic Vitality Partnership
Northern Colorado Foodshed Project
Northwest and Rocky Mountain USDA Regional Food Business Center
Nourish Colorado
NSI Food Pantry
One Colorado
Operation Food Search
Oregon Food Bank
Ouray County WIC Program
Parfitt, Cooley & Associates CPAs
Pasa Sustainable Agriculture
Pine River Shares
Pinnacle Prevention
Pueblo Charro Association

Pueblo Community Health Center
Pueblo Community Soup Kitchen
Pueblo Cooperative Care Center
Pueblo Food Project
Recovery Friendly Taos
Roanoke Foodshed Network
Rocky Mountain Farmers Union
San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition
San Miguel County WIC Program
Seattle Good Business Network
Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio
Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina
Sierra Harvest
Slow Money San Luis Obispo
Small Town Project
Smithton Food Pantry
Smoky Mountain Harm Reduction
sokaogon chippewa community
Soul Food, LLC
Soup-n-Share Outreach Program
Springfield Food Policy Council
St Croix Valley Food Alliance
State Park Food Pantry
Stepping Stones of Dunn County, Inc.
Stockbridge Munsee
StonePath Business Solutions
Sugar Bush Foundation
Sustainable Nantucket
TARA Food Pantry
The 32209 Experience Inc.
The Charlotte Mecklenburg Food Policy Council
The Church of Christ Inc

The Empowered Kitchen
The Food Depot
The Green Urban Lunch Box
The Mind of Christ Church
The New Hampshire Food Bank
The TeaProject
The Wesley Foundation
Thurston County Food Bank
TrueNorth Community Services
Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Food
Distribution Program

Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians
Umpqua Valley Farm to School
UNF Center for Nutrition and Food Security
Unlimited Potential
UpRoot Colorado
Wasatch Community Gardens
Weld Food Bank
West Michigan Food Processing Association
West Virginia University Center for
Resilient Communities
Wisconsin Farmers Union

Farmers, Ranchers, Food Hubs, and Businesses

100xFarm | Modernfarmsteads
19 By 1950 Family Farm, LLC
2020 Farmers Cooperative
40 Acres Farms
4P Foods
A Greater Applegate
ACES Rock Bottom Ranch
Activate Food Arizona
Adam Lo Farm
Against the Grain
Agri-Cultura Cooperative Network | La
Cosecha
AH Farms
Alee Johnson
Ann & Mac Farms LLC
Another Spring farm
Aqua Garden LLC
AREA Farms Arizona
Asian community farmers & distribution
produce youth association of Portland

Atypical Roots Farm and Freeze Dried
Foods
AULGUR LIVESTOCK
Autumn Larch Farm LLC
Awada Farms
Back Pocket Provisions
Backyard Urban Gardens Farm
Barham Family Farm
Batchelder Family Farms
Beauvine Enterprises
Beet Street Farm
Behneman Farm
Belafonte Farm
Benson Farm Family Foods, LLC
BF Farm Enterprises, LLC
BF farms
Bidii Baby Foods LLC
Bierly Brewing
Black Food Sovereignty Coalition
Black Mountain Farm
Blosser Urban Garden

Blue Merle Farm
Blue Ridge Women in Agriculture
Blue Roof Orchard
Blue Sky Organic Farms
Bomani Farms
Bondadosa, LLC.
Boulder County Farmers Markets
BoysGrow
Bridle Barn and Gardens
Brisa Ranch
Bushel and A Peck LLC
CAMPO
Carolina Farm Stewardship Association
Casa Canaan Farm
Cattail Organics LLC
Ceres Community Project
Chama Valley Food Pantry
Chao Lor
Chef Lisa Pucci Delgado
Circle S Farm
CLiCK Inc.
Colorado Early Colleges InnoFarm
Community Action Services and Food Bank
Community Involved in Sustaining
Agriculture (CISA)
Concordia Charter School
Constant Springs Farm
Crossroads Community Farm, LLC
Daily Blessings Farm LLC
Daphine's Fresh
De Leon's Farm
Destination Dirt
Dickinson Family Farms
Doudlah Farms Organics, LLC

Dowell Farm and Gardens
Down at the Farms, LLC
Down East Coal Ash Environmental and
Social Justice Coalition
Duffek & Sons Pumpkins
Dynamite Hill Farms
E-I-E-AYO URBAN FARM
East Denver Food Hub
Eat Drink Rhode Island
Ela Family Farms
Ellen's Organic Infusions
Emerald Gardens LTD
Ent Wise Farm LLC
Falling Bear Farms
Farley Center
Farm Fresh Rhode Island
Farm of Song
Farmer Frog
Fat Donkey Farm
Feed'em Freedom
fiddlers green farm
Fields of Care: Goods Steward Farms
Fields to Plate Produce
Fitch Ranch
Florida Fish Pepper Company Inc.
Foodshed Cooperative
Foraged & Sown
Forestdale Farm
Fork Mt. Farm
Foxhole Farm
Freshlist LLC
Fresno BIPOC Produce Inc.
Friendly Hmong Farms
Fruit of The Spirit Ministries

Full Circle Community Farm
Full Moon Farm NC LLC
Glorified Dirt Farm LLC
Glorious Goat Ranch LLC
Go broke farms
GoFarm
Goldfinch Gardens LLC
Good Rain Farm
Good Turn Farm
Grand Rapids Farmers Market
Great Lakes Intertribal Food Coalition
Great Plains Fungi LLC
Green Toe Ground Farm
Green Wagon Farm
Greenfield farm
GreenGold Gardens
Greydanus gardens
GrowFood Carolina
GT Florists and Herbs
Guided By Mushrooms
Half Section Plus, LLC
Harbin Family Enterprises LLC
Hatch Chile NW
Hearts and Hands Food Pantry
Hell's Backbone Grill & Farm
Hertzog's Premium Beef, LLC.
High Country Conservation Center
High Energy Agriculture
Hightower Family Farm
Highwater Farm
Hilltown Community Development Corporation and The Hilltown Market
Hoffman Farms
Homegrown Farm

Honky Tonk Farms & Apothecary
Hukama Produce
Hundred Acre
Huss Project
Iskashitaa Refugee Network
JAAR Farms
Jackson Ranch LLC
Jake's Farm
JAS Family Farms Organics
JET Produce and Meats
Jireh Family Farm
JJ&S Sunrise Dairy Farm LLC
JL Produce LLC
Johnson Family Farm
Josephine County Farm Collective
Karmic Bounty Farms
Kasama Farm
Kaying Family Farm
Khalsa Family Farms Inc.
Kindness Farm
Kindred Market
Kindred Seedlings Farm
Kitsap Farms
KnL Organics
KTs Orchard and Apuary
La Chispa farm
La Finquita Farm
La Plata Family Centers Coalition
Laxey Creek Sheep Ranch LLC
Lee's Edible Acres
Lexington School District 3
Likha's Veggies
Lilliputopia farm
Little Colorado Meats

Little Fresh Farm
Local Environmental Agriculture Project
Local Food Connection, What Chefs Want
Lone Cedar Farm
Lor Thao Farm
Los Abuelos Farley Farm
Lowcountry Street Grocery
Mai Vang Farm
Mai Yia Lee Farm
Mai's Farmfresh 56
Manitou LLC
Manna The Durango Soup Kitchen
Marigold Livestock Company
McDowell Local Food Advisory Council
Meadowlark Community Mill
Men and Women United for Youth & Families
Middle Fork Farm
Millstadt Township Senior Services
Milo's Whole World Gourmet, LLC
Misfits Homegrown LLC
Montanas De Amor
Moody Root Farm LLC
Morris hydroponics and Produce
Mountain Roots Food Project
MR.FARMS
Mshko'Ode Farm
Mudbone Grown
Myrtle Creek Farm LLC
N & K Ginseng
Nalwoodi Denzhone Community
National Center for Appropriate Technology
National Center for Frontier Communities
Native Hill Farm

New Mexico Beef
New Mexico Harvest
New Roots Farm
Nicoya Farm
Nkauj Hli Lis Farm
Noah Family Farm
North Central Food Pantry
Oak holler farm
Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association
OKC Food Hub
Old Grove Orange
OLUSANYA LLC FARM
Oneida Nation Cannery
Open Farms Retreat
Open Ridge Farm
Ozark Akerz Regenerative Farm
Parktown Food Hub
Perez Produce
Persephone's Garden
Pick 42 Foundation Inc.
Piedmont Fresh
Pinnacle Farms
Pivot Produce
Platinum Sky Farm LLC
Podunk's Ranch
Poncha Creek Gardens
Proffer Wholesale Produce
Project protect food systems
Pueblo Farmers Market
Pura Vida Organic Farm LLC
Qhoua Lee Farm
Quarter Acre and a Mule farm
R FARM
Rancho Durazno

Raspberry Ridge Creamery
Red Cliff Fish Company
Red Clover Farm
Red Door Family Farm
Renewing the Countryside
Reunity Resources
Rhodarmer Creek Farm
Rhodesdale Farm
Riggs Family Gardens
rio Embudo Farm
Roan Creek Ranch
Root Mass Farm
Rose West
Rosebird Farms
Rottenbiller Farms
Rue de Bungalow Farm
Ryan Grist, LLC
Samaritan House, Inc.
Sandhill Farm
Santo Nino Carson food bank
Sasquatch Family Farms, LLC
Schmidt Family Farms LLC
Seasonal Harvest, LLC
Secret Garden
Ser Thao Farm
Shagbark Seed & Mill
Silver Spruce Partners
Singing Trees Farm
SLO Farmers Co-op
Small City Farm
Small Scale Farmer
Snowville Creamery
Soil Shine Farm & Ferments
Sola Gratia Farm

Soto'i Farms
Southside Community Land Trust
Spaces of Opportunity
Spade & Plow Organics
Spork Food Hub and Fiery Ginger Farm
SquyreStudio MicroFarms
Stagl Organics
Steadfast Acres
Steam Donkey Farms
Sterling Sports LLC
Street Fare Farm LLC
Struggle of Love Foundation
Success Gardening
Sugarbush Valley LLC
Sugarmoon Mushrooms
Sullivan Family Farm LLC
Sun Produce Cooperative
Sun Seeker Farm
Sunnybrook farm LLC
Sunshine compost
SuperCharge! Foods
Sweet Mercy Farms
Sweet Sauer Farm
Tanager Farm
TerraWalk Farm
The Beez Kneez, LLC
The Common Market
The Country Carrot
The Garden For All
The Help Center NC
The Liars Table LLC
The Melanin Urban Gardener
The Produce Box
Three Creeks Produce

Three Sisters Bean Farm LLC
Tidewater Grain Company
Tong Tou Vang
Toohnii Binaneest'a' Ahtaas'ei Alliance
(ToohBAA)
TRACTOR Food & Farms
Treetop Grows Farm
Trouvaille Farm
Tucson CSA
Turner Road Farm
Two Roots Farm
Tyonek Tribal Conservation District
Valadez Organic Produce
Valley Flora/Groundswell Farm
Valley Roots Food Hub
Veggielution
Village Bakery & Cafe
Virginua Farmers Market Hub
VIVANDU FARM
We Grow LLC
Well Fed Farmstead
Wendy's Pies
White Bison Farm
Winding River Mushrooms
Wisconsin Food Hub
WNC From the Ground Up
Wombyn's Wellness Garden LLC
Woodlyn Acres Farm LLC
Woodside Acres
Working Landscapes
Yia Lee Farm
Yubakami
Zed Farms
Zenger Farm
Zoom Out Mycology
Zunomi Garden LLC

CC

The Honorable Chair Debbie Stabenow and Ranking Member John Boozman
The Honorable Chair Glenn "GT" Thompson and Ranking Member David Scott