Fiscal Year 2026 Description of Funded Projects

Number of Grants Awarded: 46
Amount of Funds Awarded: $13,844,215

For more information, please visit the grant program's website:
https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/lfpp

Alabama

Recipient: Venture Milk, *Slocomb, AL*
District: AL-001
Implementation District: AL-001
Project Type: Implementation
Award Amount: $500,000
Cost Share Amount: $155,000
Total Project Cost Amount: $655,000

Rebuilding the Deep South Milk Shed: Expanding Regional Processing Capacity and Value-Added Production at Venture Milk

This project supports the purchase of specialty equipment to expand fluid milk processing capacity and enable product diversification into drinkable yogurts, cup yogurts, kefirs, and hard-pack ice cream while reducing the energy intensity per gallon processed. The expanded processing capacity will enable direct purchase relationships with additional regional producers, creation of full-time processing jobs, and the launch of a value-added product line that gives small producers access to higher-margin markets that they cannot reach independently. Project work is anticipated to benefit regional dairy farms, small ice cream and value-added brands for which Venture Milk co-packs, and area consumers.

Alaska

Recipient: Calypso Farm and Ecology Center, Ester, AK*
District: AK-001
Implementation District: AK-001
Project Type: Implementation
Award Amount: $317,290
Cost Share Amount: $79,600
Total Project Amount: $396,890

Interior Alaska Local Food Hub Pilot

This project will help farmers, ranchers, and local food businesses in Interior Alaska reach more buyers through a shared online marketplace and coordinated distribution system. Project activities will make it easier for producers to manage orders and deliveries while connecting them with restaurants, grocery stores, nonprofits, and other buyers in the Fairbanks region. The project will also offer training on food safety and selling to larger buyers so producers can confidently access new markets. These efforts will expand sales opportunities, improve coordination across the local food system, and increase access to Alaska-grown food. Designed as a simple and replicable model, the pilot can be used by other communities to strengthen local food distribution across the state.

Arizona

Recipient: Arizona Food Bank Network, *Phoenix, AZ*
District: AZ-003
Implementation District: AZ-All
Project Type: Turnkey Recruitment and Training
Award Amount: $99,961
Cost Share Amount: $90,858
Total Project Cost Amount: $190,819

Arizona Food Bank Network's Friends of the Farm - Farmer Development Series

This project will expand the Arizona Food Bank Network's Farmer Development Series to equip Arizona growers with the tools, knowledge, and connections needed to strengthen operations and build long-term sustainability. These educational sessions will cover a wide range of subjects, including market development, farm infrastructure, technical support, education, distribution and aggregation systems. The project will provide educational webinars, in-person interactive workshops, and additional technical assistance opportunities. All content will be guided by an annual farmer needs assessment to ensure topics reflect the most relevant needs of a broad range of farmers.

Recipient: International Rescue Committee, Inc., *Tucson, AZ*
District: AZ-006
Implementation District: AZ-006
Project Type: Turnkey Recruitment and Training
Award Amount: $100,000
Cost Share Amount: $25,000
Total Project Cost Amount: $125,000

IRC in Tucson Local Food Promotion Project

This project will expand market opportunities by improving vendor and producer recruitment strategies, partnering with food system intermediaries, and delivering targeted training and technical assistance to support increased sales across multiple market channels. Project activities include convening vendor collaborators and producers to identify market opportunities, barriers, and growth strategies; developing and delivering a structured training and technical assistance plan to ensure adherence to vendor expectations and product quality standards; and designing practical tools for vendor engagement. The project will implement a series of trainings on topics, including food safety compliance and market

readiness, alongside individualized coaching to reinforce skills and support producers entering new vendor relationships.

Arkansas

Recipient: St Joseph Center of Arkansas Inc, *North Little Rock, AR*
District: AR-002
Implementation District: AR-002
Project Type: Implementation
Award Amount: $399,187
Cost Share Amount: $99,816
Total Project Cost Amount: $499,003

SJCA Central Arkansas Food Network

This project will expand the central Arkansas food system by increasing Farm Store capacity through the addition of cold storage infrastructure and expanding chef-direct sourcing opportunities with local restaurants. It will strengthen connections between northwest and central Arkansas food systems through a wholesale route and aggregation partnership with Spring Creek Food Hub, while also piloting value-added product development using surplus produce to generate additional revenue for farmers and the food hub. The project will further support local food distribution by coordinating the movement of seconds produce and increasing access to locally sourced food. These efforts are expected to create new revenue opportunities for area farmers and ranchers, support local food jobs, and expand fresh food access across Pulaski County.

California

Recipient: Project New Village, *San Diego, CA*
District: CA-052
Implementation District: CA-053
Project Type: Planning
Award Amount: $100,000
Cost Share Amount: $25,000
Total Project Cost Amount: $125,000

Business Development Planning for The Village Community Food and Urban Agriculture Resource Hub

This project will create a business development plan that integrates intake, storage, aggregation, vendor activity, and distribution activities for The Village Community Food and Urban Agriculture Resource Hub in Southeastern San Diego. The project will support the creation of a comprehensive operational and financial plan needed to launch a permanent food hub, centering on the shared-use commercial kitchen and storage areas to support the viability of San Diego County farmers, ranchers, and value-added producers.

Colorado

Recipient: Chef Ann Foundation, *Boulder, CO*

District: CO-002
Implementation District: CO-All
Project Type: Implementation
Award Amount: $434,445
Cost Share Amount: $108,612
Total Project Cost Amount: $543,057

Cultivating Food Business and Intermediary Readiness and Supply Chain Development for the California K-12 Institutional Market

This project will strengthen regional food supply chains by connecting California agricultural producers, food businesses, and intermediaries with K-12 school food purchasing opportunities through California Values-Aligned Purchasing Collectives (VAPCs). It will develop demand forecasting tools and readiness assessments, while providing technical assistance, training, and buyer-supplier networking opportunities to support engagement with institutional markets. The project will expand participation in VAPCs by onboarding additional School Food Authorities and coordinating values-aligned procurement activities. Finally, it will create a replicable playbook and supporting tools to strengthen regional supply chains and increase agricultural sales to K-12 markets.

Recipient: Onward! A Legacy Foundation, *Cortez, CO*
District: CO-003
Implementation District: CO-004
Project Type: Implementation
Award Amount: $298,885
Cost Share Amount: $75,000
Total Project Cost Amount: $373,885

Aggregation, Handling, and Market Adoption of Drought Tolerant and Regionally Adapted Grains and Legumes

This project will form a new mid-tier value chain that prioritizes supplying regional farm stores, bakeries, mills, and restaurants with certified organic heritage and drought tolerant grains and pulses. Project work will focus on expanding aggregation, packing, and shipping infrastructure; developing training materials to assist buyers with adoption of drought tolerant grains and legumes; creating cooperative marketing capacity and materials; and conducting outreach to buyers.

Recipient: The Farm Collaborative, *Aspen, CO**
District: CO-003
Implementation District: CO-003
Project Type: Implementation
Award Amount: $499,312
Cost Share Amount: $127,058
Total Project Amount: $626,370

Expanding the Farm Collaborative's Farm Co Market to Streamline Sales Opportunities in Colorado's Western Slope

This project aims to offer residents and visitors of Colorado's western slope a full diet's worth of locally produced food, including produce, eggs, dairy, meat, grains, and value-added products. The project will formalize operations and logistics infrastructure to ensure streamlined systems, improve product aggregation and availability, accelerate business growth through strategic operational improvements and scalable system development, and use well-connected partners to increase consumer awareness of the Farm Co Market through outreach and educational initiatives. These efforts aim to expand sales opportunities for farmers and ranchers while making fresh, local food more accessible to the Aspen community and surrounding areas. With this project, the Farm Co Market is expected to generate significant new revenue that helps producers maintain stable, year-round operations.

Connecticut

Recipient: CLiCK Inc, *Windham, CT*
District: CT-002
Implementation District: CT-002
Project Type: Planning
Award Amount: $99,712
Cost Share Amount: $24,928
Total Project Cost Amount: $124,640

Growing the Eastern CT Regional Food Hub: A Comprehensive Facility Expansion Planning Project

This project will evaluate transitioning to a new property to establish a high-capacity regional aggregation and distribution network. Partnering with New Ventures Advisors and a Food Connects Food Safety Consultant, the project team will conduct technical site evaluations, design FDA Food Safety Modernization Act-compliant operational workflows, and execute field interviews with both producers and institutional buyers to validate regional supply and market demand. In addition, an eight- to ten-member farmer steering committee will guide two virtual workshops to ensure the operational programming directly addresses on-farm post-harvest deficits. The project team will synthesize findings into a comprehensive site feasibility package, market workbooks, a five-year financial pro forma, and a master strategic operating plan.

Recipient: Partners for Sustainable Healthy Communities, *Litchfield, CT*
District: CT-005
Implementation District: CT-All
Project Type: Turnkey Marketing and Promotion
Award Amount: $66,000
Cost Share Amount: $16,510
Total Project Cost Amount: $82,510

Increasing the Visibility and Regional Impact of the Northwest CT Food Hub

This project will increase public visibility and engagement with the Northwest Connecticut Food Hub, enabling expansion of existing programs through increased sales and coordination with three other collaborating food hubs. The project will identify new market opportunities, implement a marketing

plan, and purchase marketing materials. All marketing insights will be shared with collaborating food hubs to increase coordination and expansion of cross-docking and shared distribution efforts, to strengthen purchasing power, expand market reach into targeted areas, and better serve institutional buyers. The project aims to establish and expand access to locally grown produce at market points including wholesale buyers, food hubs, and school programs; increase engagement between local agricultural producers and market access points; and increase aggregation of local produce at regional hubs.

District of Columbia

Recipient: American Farmland Trust, *Washington, DC*
District: DC-001
Implementation District: IL-ALL
Project Type: Planning
Award Amount: $99,940
Cost Share Amount: $25,916
Total Project Cost Amount: $125,856

Farm to School Cohorts: Building Farmer Readiness for Wholesale Markets

This project will develop and pilot a one-year training curriculum and educational resources to prepare Illinois specialty crop growers to better supply schools and institutional markets, address Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification barriers, and strengthen a statewide local food procurement partner network. By organizing geographically-based farmer cohorts aligned with purchasing opportunities and establishing strategic partnerships, the project aims to enhance wholesale offerings while increasing market viability for growers. The curriculum and training materials will be shared with local, regional, and national partners to support broader adoption, expanding opportunities for farmers to successfully enter and compete in wholesale markets.

Hawaii

Recipient: City and County of Honolulu, *Honolulu, HI*
District: HI-001
Implementation District: HI-All
Project Type: Implementation
Award Amount: $499,024
Cost Share Amount: $432,551
Total Project Cost Amount: $931,575

Unlocking Institutional Markets for Local Agriculture in Oahu's Visitor Industry

This project will strengthen Oahu's mid-tier food economy by helping small- and mid-sized agricultural producers better leverage hospitality sector demand. Project activities will include buyer assessments, producer readiness profiles, buyer and farmer institutional market toolkits, buyer technical assistance, curated buyer-producer connection events, farmer mentorships; and market readiness technical assistance for producers. The project will also assist producers pursuing Harmonized Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) or GAP+ certification and will prototype scalable data tools to support institutional

sourcing. The project is anticipated to then establish a scalable proof of concept for expanding institutional purchasing of Hawaii-grown food across Oahu.

Recipient: Hawaii Good Food Alliance, *Kailua, HI*
District: HI-002
Implementation District: HI-002
Project Type: Implementation
Award Amount: $500,000
Cost Share Amount: $125,000
Total Project Cost Amount: $625,000

ʻAiaola Hawaiʻi Nutritional Meals Capacity Initiative

This project will strengthen Hawaiʻi's emerging Food is Medicine market channel through local procurement, workforce development, value-added processing, technical assistance, and institutional food systems coordination. The project will engage a range of stakeholders through a statewide nutrition-focused meals cohort model. Project activities will focus on technical assistance, menu development, local procurement coordination, value-added food production, and operational readiness. The project aims to strengthen Hawaiʻi's regional food economy while increasing market access opportunities for local farmers and food producers.

Kentucky

Recipient: 525 Kitchen, Incorporated, *Frankfort, KY**
District: KY-006
Implementation District: KY-006
Project Type: Turnkey Marketing and Promotion
Award Amount: $68,876
Cost Share Amount: $17,500
Total Project Amount: $86,376

Kentucky Farm-to-Kitchen Market Access Initiative

This project will strengthen market channels for Kentucky food producers with coordinated marketing activities across food businesses, chefs, food entrepreneurs, and shared-use kitchen tenants; supplier matchmaking; sourcing promotion; and collaborative marketing activities. The project addresses growing consumer demand for locally produced foods while helping producers and food businesses overcome barriers to identifying sourcing opportunities.

Louisiana

Recipient: Acadiana Food Alliance, *Lafayette, LA*
District: LA-003
Implementation District: LA-003
Project Type: Implementation
Award Amount: $247,450
Cost Share Amount: $61,863
Total Project Cost Amount: $309,313

Strengthening Acadiana's Local Food System through Producer Market Expansion and Regional Coordination

This project will strengthen market access, producer capacity, and coordination of the regional food system across Acadiana, Louisiana. The project will address persistent barriers that limit local producers' ability to access profitable markets, to expand production, and to participate in coordinated local food supply chains. Key activities include producer recruitment and engagement, producer readiness and technical assistance, coordinated aggregation and delivery services, buyer outreach, market development, community-based consumer education, and related local food promotion activities. The project is anticipated to increase economic opportunities for producers, enhanced access to local foods, and support a stronger regional food system.

Maine

Recipient: Mere Point Oyster Company, LLC., *Brunswick, ME**
District: ME-001
Implementation District: ME-001
Project Type: Implementation
Award Amount: $494,996
Cost Share Amount: $125,000
Total Project Amount: $619,996

Facilitating Maine's Growing Oyster Industry: Making improvements to the Mid-Tier Supply Chain through Aggregation, Processing, and Distribution

This project will support the development of Maine's oyster industry by improving the mid-tier supply chain logistics and strengthening community education. It will expand capacity for aggregation, processing, storage, distribution, and food safety, enabling producers to move oysters more efficiently through the supply chain. The project will also facilitate connections among local oyster producers and with larger distribution networks to meet the growing demand in Maine and broader New England's oyster market. Funds will support cold chain upgrades, new specialized processing equipment testing, improvements to packing and processing systems, and associated personnel costs. Together, these efforts intend to strengthen producer readiness, expand market access, and support long-term industry growth.

Maryland

Recipient: Appalachian Farm and Food Alliance, Inc, *Mt. Lake Park, MD*
District: MD-006
Implementation District: MD-006
Project Type: Implementation
Award Amount: $294,000
Cost Share Amount: $77,000
Total Project Cost Amount: $371,000

I-79/I-68 Appalachian Food Corridor Market Development - Expansion of Local Food Market Access and Farmer Development in Northeast WV and Western MD

This project will expand local food market access and farmer participation across a 13-county region in northeast West Virginia and western Maryland. The project will provide dedicated coordination capacity to connect the region's underdeveloped markets. The project will conduct systematic restaurant market research to establish purchasing relationships with new regional restaurants; design and launch a Farm to Business workplace delivery program targeting individual subscribers; implement a 12-month farmer education and mentorship program to bring new producers into the local food market; and hire a marketing coordinator.

Recipient: Moon Valley Farm Inc, *Woodsboro, MD*
District: MD-06
Implementation District: MD-06
Project Type: Implementation
Award Amount: $499,769
Cost Share Amount: $125,500
Total Project Cost Amount: $625,269

From Waste to Nourishment: Transforming Farm Seconds into School-Ready Produce

This project will invest in processing staff, infrastructure, and food safety systems to transform unsellable farm seconds into school-ready products and strengthen connections between local and regional farms and institutional buyers that are already requesting these products. This will create new revenue for farmers and deepen the existing local food supply chain. The project will expand processing and distribution capacity to transform farm surplus into value-added products, increase revenue for farms by growing institutional demand for processed local produce, and build long-term regional infrastructure to reduce food waste and strengthen farm viability. This project aims to strengthen the economic sustainability of diversified farms serving local markets by creating new revenue streams, reducing waste, and connecting them to reliable, long-term buyers.

Massachusetts

Recipient: Berkshire Agricultural Ventures, *Great Barrington, MA*
District: MA-001
Implementation District: MA-All
Project Type: Implementation
Award Amount: $406,754
Cost Share Amount: $110,923
Total Project Cost Amount: $517,677

Massachusetts Protein Value Chain Collaborative

This project will strengthen the Massachusetts regional protein value chain and expand institutional market access for small and mid-sized meat producer-processors. The project will support a collaborative group of Massachusetts-focused producer-processors and will include producer-processor assessments; buyer demand analysis; product mix, pricing, packing, processing, storage, and distribution alignment; development of shared buyer-facing product specification sheets and sales materials; creation or improvement of transaction and feedback tracking systems; and development of onboarding tools and standard operating procedures for future producer participation. The project is anticipated to help farms move toward a more coordinated value-chain model that supports more consistent institutional purchasing.

Recipient: South Shore Young Mens Christian Association, *Quincy, MA*
District: MA-008
Implementation District: MA-008
Project Type: Planning
Award Amount: $100,000
Cost Share Amount: $25,000
Total Project Cost Amount: $125,000

Growing Connections: South Shore Farm-to-Community Food System Planning Initiative

This project will assess how the the applicant's expanding farm, pantry, and community infrastructure can be leveraged to create a more coordinated regional food distribution network. The project will conduct strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, feasibility analysis, and infrastructure assessment. The project will explore opportunities for aggregation, storage, transportation, distribution, and partnership development that increase the flow of locally produced food to area communities. The project will generate a regional food system assessment, infrastructure and distribution analysis, stakeholder engagement process, and implementation roadmap for future investment and growth. The project aims to benefit local farmers, food access organizations, and communities while informing a growing national network of YMCA-operated farms working to strengthen community-based food systems.

Recipient: Trustees of Tufts College, *Boston, MA*
District: MA-007
Implementation District: MA-006
Project Type: Implementation
Award Amount: $500,000
Cost Share Amount: $125,000
Total Project Cost Amount: $625,000

Scaling Local Food through Producer Wholesale Readiness, Food Hub Compliance, and Regional Distribution Partnerships

This project will strengthen local and regional food systems by enhancing small and mid-sized diversified vegetable farms' access to institutional and wholesale markets in eastern Massachusetts. The project will develop a comprehensive wholesale market readiness course and resource guide tailored to the needs of these farms. This online training program will cover crop planning and forecasting, food safety compliance, pricing, packaging standards, and buyer engagement, supported by practical farmer and buyer experiences. Through targeted technical assistance, the project is anticipated to assist farms to scale operations, improve infrastructure, and meet food safety standards.

Montana

Recipient: Western Sustainability Exchange, *Livingston, MT*
District: MT-002
Implementation District: MT-All
Project Type: Implementation
Award Amount: $211,210
Cost Share Amount: $52,825
Total Project Cost Amount: $264,035

From Table to Transaction: A Montana Ranch Exposure Program to Accelerate Direct-to-Consumer Sales

This project will reduce barriers that very remote Montana ranchers face in connecting to customers by conducting strategic marketing. Through a collaborative network of restaurants and agricultural organizations, the project will feature ranches in a “Ranch of the Month” series – utilizing custom marketing templates to tell their unique stories. The project will recruit, train, and support participants in developing e-commerce websites, as well as featuring them in Local Food Guides and Food Maps across Montana.

Nebraska

Recipient: Nebraska Farmers Network, LLC., *Lincoln, NE**
District: NE-001
Implementation District: NE-All
Project Type: Implementation
Award Amount: $492,645
Cost Share Amount: $123,600
Total Project Amount: $616,245

From Ranch to Region: Nebraska Farmers Network La Vista Market Hub

This project will help Nebraska farmers and ranchers reach more local and regional buyers through a new producer-led market hub that improves how food moves from farms to institutions and businesses. It will map producer capacity, offer food-safety training, and help farmers prepare to sell to larger buyers such as restaurants, schools, and hospitals. The project will also host structured buyer meetings, build a pre-order and coordination system, and create a simple onboarding process that can be used for future market locations across the state. These efforts will give hundreds of producers a reliable pathway into stronger market channels while helping buyers gain steady access to Nebraska-raised products. Overall, the project will expand sales, improve coordination, and strengthen Nebraska's local food supply chain.

New Hampshire

Recipient: The Cornucopia Project, *Peterborough, NH*
District: NH-002
Implementation District: NH-002
Project Type: Planning
Award Amount: $99,400
Cost Share Amount: $25,000
Total Project Cost Amount: $124,400

Contoocook Valley Food/Farm Hub Plan

This project will conduct a regional planning initiative to design a regional food and farm hub serving 13 towns in New Hampshire's Contoocook Valley. Through structured partnerships of farms, school districts, public agencies, and institutional food service providers, the project will develop a cooperative hub model and assess the systems required for coordinated aggregation, ordering, and distribution. Project activities will include supply and demand analysis, infrastructure and logistics evaluation, governance and financial modeling, and assessment of shared food safety pathways. The project will produce an implementation-ready hub plan that defines operational, financial, and governance structures needed to align farm capacity with institutional demand. This plan will position the region to expand market access for small and mid-sized farms, increase availability of local food in schools, and establish a scalable model for coordinated regional food system development.

New Jersey

Recipient: Fairgrown Farm LLC, *Hopewell, NJ*
District: NJ-012
Implementation District: NJ-012
Project Type: Implementation
Award Amount: $497,500
Cost Share Amount: $125,000
Total Project Cost Amount: $622,500

Connecting NJ's Farm Network with Neighbors in Need

This project will build critical aggregation and distribution capacity, increasing local sourcing and distribution volume of Jersey Fresh produce to regional food banks, pantries, and soup kitchens. Project

activities include hiring a full-time Wholesale Manager, purchasing two cargo vans, a box truck with liftgate, and a forklift, and implementing standardized communication and ordering systems for both farms and institutional customers. By investing in staffing, equipment, and outreach, the project will streamline coordination between growers and food security agencies, creating new wholesale channels for farmers and reducing supply chain inefficiencies for food banks. The project will also foster stronger relationships between agriculture and the food security sector by hosting statewide engagement events, including farm tours and stakeholder roundtables. The project will result in a scalable model for long-term sustainability and replication.

New York

Recipient: Chester Agricultural Center, *Chester, NY*
District: NY-018
Implementation District: NY-018
Project Type: Implementation
Award Amount: $466,921
Cost Share Amount: $116,230
Total Project Cost Amount: $583,151

Establishing A Northeast Group GAP Network: Scaling Institutional Market Access for a New York State Food Aggregator

This project will establish a Northeast Group Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)-certified entity, opening access for network farms to institutional and large-scale wholesale markets. It will certify a pilot cohort of six farms by guiding them through pre-audit assessments, individualized technical assistance, food safety plan development, and Group Quality Management System training before the formal USDA Group GAP audit. The project will then develop and share a Group GAP Toolkit with three regional partner hubs representing 118 additional farms, creating a replicable model for certification across the region.

Recipient: Cornell University, *Ithaca, NY*
District: NY-019
Implementation District: NY-023
Project Type: Turnkey Marketing and Promotion
Award Amount: $100,000
Cost Share Amount: $25,000
Total Project Cost Amount: $125,000

Expanding Access to Affordable Local Meat through MeatSuite in New York

This project will expand sales of affordable, locally produced meat in New York State by implementing a targeted marketing strategy for MeatSuite.com, an online platform connecting consumers with farmers selling bulk meat. The campaign will focus primarily on reaching low-income and low-access consumers in rural areas to expand its current reach of 250 active farms and 13,500 annual users. Marketing efforts will include coordinated digital ads, social media outreach, creative messaging, and targeted farmer engagement to increase participation and visibility. The project will expand access to affordable local meat, grow farm sales, and strengthen resilience in the regional food system.

Recipient: Farm to People LLC, *Brooklyn, NY*
District: NY-007
Implementation District: NY-007
Project Type: Implementation
Award Amount: $500,000
Cost Share Amount: $140,031
Total Project Cost Amount: $640,031

Farm to People (FTP): Expanding Aggregation Capacity and Producer Access on the Finger Lakes to New York City Corridor

This project will expand a proven supply chain that moves Finger Lakes products through a western New York cross-dock and into FTP's New York City distribution facility. FTP aims to increase the corridor's capacity from 25 pallets per week to four semi-trailer runs—about 80 pallets per week—adding needed cross-dock space and staff. The project will also grow the producer base from roughly 30 farms to 100 or more through dedicated buyers and structured onboarding. The primary beneficiaries are these farm operations, many of which cannot affordably access the NYC market on their own. By expanding an already efficient corridor, the project opens the nation's largest market to dozens more farms.

Recipient: Finger Foods Soups, LLC., *Bloomfield, NY**
District: NY-024
Implementation District: NY-024
Project Type: Turnkey Marketing and Promotion
Award Amount: $100,000
Cost Share Amount: $26,700
Total Project Amount: $126,700

Building Markets and Revenue for New York Farmers by Expanding Demand for Farm-to-Freezer Frozen Meals

This project will help Finger Foods Farm expand retail sales of its frozen farm-to-freezer meals made with New York-grown ingredients. A year-long retail growth campaign will aim to help emerging food brands reach new stores and increase shelf presence. The project will also fund targeted online advertising to boost product visibility and drive stronger sales performance in retail settings. These efforts will help reach more customers, strengthen long-term placement in retail channels, and increase demand for New York agricultural products. Overall, the project will support business growth while creating new market opportunities for local producers.

Recipient: Seven Turns Permaculture, LLC., *Closter, NY*
District: NJ-005
Implementation District: NJ-005
Project Type: Implementation
Award Amount: $484,225
Cost Share Amount: $122,700
Total Project Cost Amount: $606,925

Strengthening a Small Farm-Based Regional Food System Through Expanded Cold-Chain Capacity and Market Access

This project will expand Closter Farm's capacity to source, store, market, and distribute more locally and regionally produced food, ensuring greater revenue for small farms and improved access for urban and low income/low access communities. It will increase refrigeration and freezer storage, expand refrigerated transport to serve more rural partner farms, upgrade inventory and point-of-sale systems to scale the outright-purchase model with stronger traceability and forecasting, and document and share this model so it can be replicated by other farms and communities.

Ohio

Recipient: Cuyahoga County Board of Health, *Parma, OH*
District: OH-009
Implementation District: OH-All
Project Type: Implementation
Award Amount: $452,324
Cost Share Amount: $118,897
Total Project Cost Amount: $571,221

Food System to School: Increasing Aggregation Capacity and Producer Readiness to Serve Ohio K-12 School Markets

This project will expand Closter Farm's capacity to source, store, market, and distribute more locally and regionally produced food, ensuring greater revenue for small farms and improved access for urban and low-income/low-access communities. It will acquire and install additional refrigeration, freezer storage, and refrigerated transport equipment; expand refrigerated transport to serve more rural partner farms; deepen existing producer relationships and recruit new partner farms, with dissemination support from NOFA-NJ; upgrade inventory and point-of-sale systems to scale the outright-purchase model with stronger traceability and forecasting; and marketing, and distribution. The project will also document and share the model's results, impact data, and lessons learned so that it can be replicated by other farms and communities.

Oklahoma

Recipient: The OKC Food Hub, Incorporated, *Oklahoma City, OK**
District: OK-005
Implementation District: OK-001
Project Type: Implementation
Award Amount: $500,000
Cost Share Amount: $125,715
Total Project Amount: $625,715

Increasing Local Food Sales by Developing Oklahoma Farm-To-Market Collaboration of Local Retailers

This project will launch and expand a statewide Farm-to-Market retail network that will help connect independent farm stores, restaurants, grocers, and food hubs with Oklahoma-grown products. It will strengthen statewide local food infrastructure by increasing producer visibility, encouraging retailers to

source through the OKC Food Hub and improving how purchases are tracked across the network. The project will also formalize participation standards and build a unified marketing approach so retailers can promote local food more effectively. These efforts will help producers reach more customers, support consistent purchasing from retail partners, and expand access to fresh, locally grown food. Overall, the project will create a stronger, more connected statewide market system that supports long-term growth for Oklahoma's local food economy.

Oregon

Recipient: Oregon Farm to School Network, *Dallas, OR**
District: OR-006
Implementation District: OR-All
Project Type: Implementation
Award Amount: $499,356
Cost Share Amount: $176,569
Total Project Amount: $675,925

Expanding Oregon Food Hubs Through Institutional Market Development

This project will expand a proven food hub intermediary model that connects farm operations through aggregation, distribution, and specialized sales support, addressing significant barriers small and mid-sized farms face in accessing institutional buyers. This project will provide targeted technical assistance and business planning to three growing Oregon food hubs: George Farmer Collective, Lane County Bounty, and Agricultural Connections. The project will develop new institutional customers, grow institutional sales, and build food hub capacity to serve more producers and buyers sustainably. Oregon Farm to School Network will also facilitate peer learning among food hubs and institutional buyers, and will coordinate promotional campaigns to generate new purchasing relationships among schools, early childhood education centers, and regional food hubs.

Rhode Island

Recipient: Rhode Island Food Policy Council, *Providence, RI*
District: RI-001
Implementation District: RI-All
Project Type: Turnkey Marketing and Promotion
Award Amount: $100,000
Cost Share Amount: $25,000
Total Project Cost Amount: $125,000

Connecting Beginning Farmers with Consumers in the Ocean State: Maximizing the Impact of the 'RI Grown' Label

This project will provide Rhode Island beginning farmers with strategic marketing and promotional support to strengthen consumer awareness, identify target audiences, build customer loyalty, and develop strong farm brands. The Rhode Island Food Policy Council will produce RI Grown video content, develop and deliver storytelling and marketing curriculum through four workshops reaching 40 beginning farmers, and run a social media campaign featuring six farmers from target communities. The

project will also evaluate the impact of these efforts. Expected outcomes include increased viability of beginning farmers' operations and increased consumer purchasing of local agricultural products.

South Dakota

Recipient: Hadrick Ranch LLC, *Faulkton, SD*
District: SD-001
Implementation District: SD-001
Project Type: Planning
Award Amount: $92,427
Cost Share Amount: $23,108
Total Project Cost Amount: $115,535

Planning Expansion for Local Beef in South Dakota: Assessing Feasibility, Marketing, and Educational Needs to Strengthen Producer Capacity and Rural Sustainability

This project will develop a scalable framework that connects more beef producers with local markets in response to growing restaurant demand. It will assess the feasibility of expanding direct market access for South Dakota–raised beef through stakeholder engagement, focus groups, and industry outreach. The study will evaluate supply-chain infrastructure, processing capacity, distribution systems, and market opportunities, while identifying barriers to growth and strategies for coordinated marketing based on an already successful restaurant-focused model. The project will also outline an educational program to help producers adapt management practices for local food markets and conduct community and business outreach to share infrastructure gaps and the project's economic impacts.

Tennessee

Recipient: Appalachian RC&D Council, *Johnson City, TN*
District: TN-001
Implementation District: TN-001
Project Type: Implementation
Award Amount: $365,835
Cost Share Amount: $92,304
Total Project Cost Amount: $458,139

Good Food Starts with Good Governance: Filling Gaps in Food System Networks for Appalachian East Tennessee Producers and Food Business Hubs

This project will strengthen the region's local food sector through collaborative partnerships, improved infrastructure, and direct support for producers by engaging value chain intermediaries that can help farmers scale. This project will document existing and emerging food hub intermediaries, provide technical assistance, share findings through a primer and peer learning, publish a Good Food Good Governance guide with case studies and best practices, and launch a Good Food Starts With Local Roots consumer campaign featuring Food and Farm Tours for local intermediaries and the farms that supply them.

Recipient: Mountain Valley Vineyards, Inc., *Pigeon Forge, TN*
District: TN-001
Implementation District: TN-001
Project Type: Turnkey Marketing and Promotion
Award Amount: $99,443
Cost Share Amount: $25,261
Total Project Cost Amount: $124,704

Creating a Strategic Marketing Toolkit for Tennessee Wineries

This project will bring Mountain Valley Vineyards together with five collaborators to develop and implement a marketing plan for expanding and emerging wineries in Tennessee. Using real-world data and market research, the team will create guidance that supports growers, producers, and processors in addressing marketing challenges faced by small wineries. Project funds will support research on responsible outreach strategies and the purchase of marketing materials. Collaborators will provide feedback on how the plan affects their operations, and the final marketing plan and related materials will be shared statewide at wine festivals and agricultural conferences, including the Tennessee Farm and Agricultural Expo, the Memphis Wine Festival, and the Chattanooga Wine Festival.

Vermont

Recipient: Horned Lark LLC dba Bell & Burrow Farm, *Shaftsbury, VT*
District: VT-001
Implementation District: VT-001
Project Type: Planning
Award Amount: $98,700
Cost Share Amount: $25,000
Total Project Cost Amount: $123,700

Building a Vermont Grassfed Lamb Value Chain: A Regional Aggregation Feasibility Study

This project will complete the essential groundwork needed to establish a farmer-led, mid-tier value chain for locally produced grassfed lamb. Bell & Burrow Farm will convene a regional network of at least 190 small and midscale sheep producers to collaboratively define processing standards. Larklea will lead a feasibility study focused on co-packing and processing capacity. Together, the project team will validate product-market fit with regional distributor Rep Provisions, and Larklea will synthesize all findings into a comprehensive business development plan, benefiting these producers as well as distributors, regional lamb processors, and co-packers.

Virginia

Recipient: Arcadia Food, Inc., *Alexandria, VA*
District: VA-008
Implementation District: VA-All
Project Type: Implementation
Award Amount: $352,464
Cost Share Amount: $90,302
Total Project Cost Amount: $442,766

Farm to Community Pathways: Building Regional Food Coordination and Market Access

This project will strengthen food aggregation, distribution, and market access for producers and expand access to locally produced food, including by low-income and low-access communities, in the National Capital Region. It will build on Arcadia's Mobile Market program by creating an aggregation, storage, distribution, and market coordination hub at Arcadia Farm in Virginia that supports producers in Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. The project will also support Arcadia's Farmer-Chef Speed Sourcing Initiative, creating networking opportunities among farmers, chefs, institutional buyers, and food service operators to increase local food procurement.

Washington

Recipient: Carnation Farms, *Carnation, WA*
District: WA-008
Implementation District: WA-008
Project Type: Implementation
Award Amount: $491,953
Cost Share Amount: $312,225
Total Project Cost Amount: $804,178

Expanding Local Healthy Meat - Aggregation to Strengthen Puget Sound's Local Supply Chain

This project will establish a regional beef and sheep aggregation and distribution hub serving the greater Puget Sound region. Project activities focus on partnering with local regenerative ranchers to aggregate, market, and distribute grass-fed and grass-finished livestock products through wholesale, retail, and direct-to-consumer channels under a co-branded regional label.

Recipient: Mainstem Malt SPC, *Walla Walla, WA*
District: WA-005
Implementation District: WA-ALL
Project Type: Planning
Award Amount: $99,705
Cost Share Amount: $25,500
Total Project Cost Amount: $125,205

Confluence Supply: Creating a Scalable Platform Connecting Regional Agriculture with Premium Food and Beverage Manufacturers

This project will support three connected planning efforts that include exploring the merging of two entities to form a regional malt and beverage operation designed to better support local grain farmers; conducting a supply-chain analysis and a combined operations plan; and completing a market study to determine how this proposed new operation can best serve regional grain farmers and succeed in the marketplace.

Recipient: Puget Sound Food Hub Cooperative, *Mount Vernon, WA*
District: WA-002
Implementation District: WA-008
Project Type: Implementation
Award Amount: $500,000
Cost Share Amount: $125,000
Total Project Cost Amount: $625,000

2026 Puget Sound Food Hub South Seattle Expansion Project: Advancing Regional Market Access and Distribution Capacity

The project will improve aggregation, storage, and coordinated distribution infrastructure for producers and wholesale buyers in King, Pierce, and Thurston Counties, addressing a structural gap in western Washington's local food system. The project will transition PSFHC's successful South Seattle pilot program into an expanded, long-term leased warehouse facility built for continued growth in regional distribution. Activities include expanding delivery routes, onboarding additional South Sound producers, strengthening wholesale market channels, improving aggregation and logistics coordination, and launching new programs that broaden access to locally produced food.

Recipient: University of Washington, *Seattle, WA*
District: WA-007
Implementation District: WA-007
Project Type: Planning
Award Amount: $92,941
Cost Share Amount: $23,240
Total Project Cost Amount: $116,181

Charting Washington's (Sea)Food System: A Statewide Market Strategy Initiative

This project will bring together seafood harvesters, processors, retailers, state agencies, and community groups to help strengthen and unify Washington's seafood industry. Through a series of workshops, partners will create a statewide seafood marketing advisory group and develop a strategic plan for promoting Washington seafood—filling key gaps that will benefit the state and industry, with several partners including Washington Sea Grant, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Eat Local First, and the Coalition of Coastal Fisheries.

Wisconsin

Recipient: Michael Fields Agricultural Institute, Inc., *Milwaukee, WI*
District: WI-004
Implementation District: WI-005
Project Type: Turnkey Marketing and Promotion
Award Amount: $97,429
Cost Share Amount: $24,600
Total Project Cost Amount: $122,029

A Pilot to Strengthen Retail Markets and Branding for Local and Regional Organic Supply Chains

The project will promote sales of Wisconsin-grown or produced USDA certified organic products in grocery stores, retail cooperatives, food hubs, farm stores, and farmers markets statewide. Key activities include a market feasibility study; retailer and producer intakes; development of a comprehensive marketing plan, channel strategy, and retail branding toolkit; production of point-of-sale and promotional materials; in-store pilot implementation with participating retailers; and project evaluation.

Recipient: Seasonal Harvest, LLC, *Green Bay, WI*
District: WI-008
Implementation District: WI-All
Project Type: Implementation
Award Amount: $424,136
Cost Share Amount: $106,034
Total Project Cost Amount: $530,170

Expanding Reach, Deepening Roots: Building Distribution Capacity and Food Access Channels for Seasonal Harvest Regional Food Hub

This project will build further distribution capacity and food access channels with three main focus areas. Seasonal Harvest will set up contracted delivery routes with two partner farms and create three new cross-docking hubs—forming a five-node regional network that serves several Wisconsin counties and part of Michigan. The project will launch a home delivery service for local food, expanding from 500 existing households to 85 weekly orders, with outreach to rural communities through Wello. Seasonal Harvest will also support GroupGAP food safety certification for participating farms, helping them meet requirements for selling to school districts.