USDA Local Food Purchase Assistance Program
What is the LFPA?

- Funded through American Rescue Plan (P.L. 117-2)
- USDA Ag Marketing Service program
- Cooperative Agreement
- State and tribal governments eligible

Note: Powerpoint content derived from “LFPA Webinar Presentation Slides, December 16, 2021
How does this program work?

- State of Illinois applies for LFPA
- Illinois eligible for $14.4 million in funding
- State enters into cooperative agreement with USDA for purchase of local domestic food targeting socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers to be distributed targeting underserved communities
- Two-year cooperative agreement period from time of award (2022-2024)
  - Year 1: Planning and Implementation
  - Year 2: Growing-Purchasing-Distribution
Three Overarching Goals

1. Provide an opportunity for States and Tribal Governments to strengthen their local and regional food system

2. Help to support local and socially disadvantaged farmers/producers through building and expanding economic opportunities

3. Establish, strengthen, and broaden partnerships with producers and the food distribution community, local food networks, and non-profits distributing fresh and nutritious foods in rural, remote, or underserved communities
LFPA Timeline

- Application date extended from April 5 to May 6, 2022
- Illinois Department of Agriculture in partnership with Illinois Department of Human Services submits application
  - State may partner with a nonprofit organization as subrecipient to achieve procurement or distribution activities
- Awards to states will be made after they are submitted, reviewed and approved
Request for Information

- Definitions
- Eligible beneficiaries
- Reporting requirements
Request for Application - Definitions

- Socially disadvantaged farmer
  - is a farmer or rancher who is a member of a Socially Disadvantaged Group.

- A Socially Disadvantaged Group
  - a group whose members have been subject to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and, where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.
Underserved Communities

- Underserved communities are those defined in accordance with Executive Order 13985
- Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government, Jan 20, 2021
  - For purposes of the EO, the term “equity” means the consistent and systemic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment, such as Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality
Underserved Communities (cont.)

- The term “underserved communities” refers to populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life, as exemplified by the list in the preceding definition of “equity”
Eligible Beneficiaries

- Production and distribution of local domestic food
  - Farmers
  - Producers
  - Processors
  - Distributors of local domestic product that meet the definition of a local or regional producer (as defined in RFA)
What types of products can be purchased?

- **Local or regional food**: food that is raised, produced, aggregated, stored, processed, and distributed in the locality or region where the final product is marketed to consumers, so that the total distance that the product travels between the farm or ranch where the product originates, the point of sale to the end consumer is at most 400 miles, or both the final market and the origin of the product are within the same State, territory, or tribal land.

- **Domestic food**: “Agricultural Commodity” means a product grown, processed and otherwise prepared for sale or distribution exclusively in the US or its territories, except with respect to minor ingredients.
Reporting Requirements

- Performance metrics will be collected to measure the impact of the program on communities of growers-producers-distributors

- Quarterly Reports
  - Data on procurement and distribution to ensure program goals are met

- Annual / Final Report
  - Summary of data from quarterly progress reports.
  - Narrative addressing the new marketing opportunities for the socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.
  - Reporting of distributions carried out to reach additional underserved communities.
  - % of new marketing opportunities established by purchasing from local and regional farmers/producers and of those, what % will likely be sustained after the funding is expended
  - % of new marketing opportunities established by purchasing from socially disadvantaged farmers/producers, and of those, what % will likely be sustained after the funding is expended
  - % of purchases distributed beyond current food distribution networks to serve underserved communities, and of those, what % will likely be sustained after the funding is expended
Next Steps

State is seeking input on how to create a sustainable system beyond the grant term.

Further guidance will be provided on IDOA website.

Includes FAQ.

Updates will be provided to this list of registered attendees.
Resources

- Local Food Purchase Cooperative Agreement Program

- Request for Application
  - https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/LFPA_RFA.pdf

- USDA AMS Frequently Asked Questions
  - https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/LFPA_RFA.pdf