



South Carolina
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Hugh E. Weathers, Commissioner

LOCAL FOOD PURCHASE ASSISTANCE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT PROGRAM (LFPA)

Request for Applications

Application Due Date: March 11, 2022

Publication Date: March 4, 2022

Implementation Date: May 2022

PROGRAM SOLICITATION INFORMATION

Funding Opportunity Title: Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA)

Dates: Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on March 11, 2022, through email to cdoyle@scda.sc.gov. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered for funding.

Executive Summary: The AMS branch of the USDA is establishing the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA). The purpose of this program is to maintain and improve food and agricultural supply chain resiliency to support local, regional, and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers through the purchase of domestic local foods and distributing to under-served communities. In addition to increasing local food consumption, funds will help build and expand economic opportunity for local and socially disadvantaged producers. The expectation of this program is for agencies to spend the predominance of awarded funds on food purchases. No funds can be spent on agricultural production activities.

Eligible applicants must demonstrate that they are able to fulfill at least one of the following functions: produce, purchase, aggregate, store, transport, and/or distribute SC locally grown, raised, or caught agricultural products to be delivered to under-served communities in SC. At a minimum, participants must meet the following criteria:

1. **Be willing to participate in an application and reporting process and provide applicable company information such as current food safety certifications.**
2. **Distributors and Purchasers must be able to show they are working predominantly with socially disadvantaged farmers and recipients.**
3. **Comply with regular commercial, federal, state, and local food safety guidelines.**

The dollar amount awarded to each selected eligible applicant will be decided based on distribution capabilities, number of partnerships with South Carolina producers, potential community impact, and total funding available. The intent is to strategically contract with multiple entities with the goal of targeted coverage across South Carolina. This will increase access for SC farmers to communities in need while strengthening the SC supply chain by building upon current supply chain relationships and creating new opportunities for SC producers.

OVERVIEW

1. **Performance Periods:** This is a two-year program from USDA. Awards will be on an annual basis. Application for LFPA does not guarantee an award.
2. **Income:** Income from this program should be considered as supplemental income.
3. **Notes about the application:** This application has three parts – one for a producer, transporter/aggregator, or distributor. Complete all sections that apply to you. Some of the questions are open ended. Describe what works best for you. All indirect costs must be limited to 10% or less unless you have a previously federal negotiated indirect cost rate.

Save this form to your computer first before filling in and submitting electronically.

PROJECT CONTACT

Applicant Organization Name _____

Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address (Award Notification) _____

Farm Address _____

Check all that apply: Producer Transporter/Aggregator Distribution

FINANCIAL CONTACT *(If different from above)*

Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address (Payments) _____

Do you have all the appropriate safety certifications for your operation?

Yes No

If you plan to purchase food, will you be able to provide documentation proving the predominance of your purchases will be from socially disadvantaged farmers?

Yes No

If you plan to distribute food, will you be able to provide documentation proving you will be serving under-served communities?

Yes No

PRODUCERS

What locally grown, raised, or caught agricultural products will you be able to provide for the LFPA program and when will they be available?

Do you have packaging capabilities? (i.e. boxes, individual packaging, ability to break down to individual-sized packages, pallets, etc.)

Yes No

Not including the purchase of the food or production cost, please explain what cost you might incur with an estimated dollar amount?

Do you qualify as socially disadvantaged as defined by the USDA?

Yes No

Would you like to have your contact information shared with potential purchasing agencies?

Yes No

How far are you able to drive to deliver products?

In one page or less, please describe your operation and how it might fit into the LFPA program. Be sure to include how you would continue these activities beyond the end of this partnership.

TRANSPORTERS/AGGREGATORS

What capabilities do you have? Please include equipment and detail the cities and counties you operate in or can operate in.

What requirements would be needed at pick up or drop off point (ie dock height, fork lifts, etc)?

Please outline your cost structure.

Approximately how many socially disadvantaged producers will you purchase from?

What requirements would farmers be required to meet in order to sell to your operation?

What types of locally grown, raised, or caught agricultural products is your operation able to handle?

In one page or less, please describe your operation and how it might fit into the LFPA program. Be sure to include how you would continue these activities beyond the end of this partnership.

DISTRIBUTORS

What areas will you be distributing in? (Please provide details including cities and counties.)

Do you have packaging capabilities?

Yes No

Not including the purchase of the food, please explain what cost you might incur with an estimated dollar amount?

How will you identify qualified producers and end recipients?

Approximately how many socially disadvantaged producers will you purchase from?

Approximately how many under-served or socially disadvantaged communities will you serve every month?

What requirements would farmers be required to meet in order to sell to your operation?

What types of locally grown, raised, or caught agricultural products is your operation able to handle?

In one page or less, please describe your operation and how it might fit into the LFPA program. Be sure to include how you would continue these activities beyond the end of this partnership.

RETURN FORM

SAVE & EMAIL

Save this form to your computer first before filling in and submitting electronically.

cdoyle@scda.sc.gov

PRINT & MAIL

SC Department of Agriculture
ATTN: Chris Doyle
PO Box 11280
Columbia, SC 29211



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