



South Carolina DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Hugh E. Weathers, Commissioner

LOCAL FOOD PURCHASE ASSISTANCE AGGREGATOR APPLICATION INFORMATION

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. However, at this time, additional applicants will only be approved on an “as-needed” basis. If an aggregator spot opens up and your application is approved, SCDA will contact you.

The Local Food Purchase Assistance program is a cooperative agreement between the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service and the South Carolina Department of Agriculture (SCDA). SCDA was awarded \$4.7 million to purchase food from local, socially disadvantaged producers to distribute to underserved populations within our communities. In addition to increasing consumption of local, healthy, and culturally unique foods, this program will help build and expand economic opportunity for the socially disadvantaged producers of South Carolina.

USDA defines a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher as a farmer or rancher who has been subject to discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or disability.

To achieve the goals of the LFPA program, SCDA is working with local aggregators throughout the state that will buy and distribute food.

Eligible aggregator applicants must demonstrate that they are able to purchase, aggregate, store, transport, and distribute locally grown, raised, or caught agricultural food products to be delivered to underserved communities in South Carolina. At a minimum, participants must meet the following criteria:

1. Must be willing to participate in an application and reporting process and provide applicable company information such as current food safety certifications.

2. Must already be in the business of handling food products and have the proper infrastructure for transport and storage of food products.
3. Must comply with regular commercial, federal, state, and local food safety guidelines.
4. Must purchase from the list of Approved Producers and must make every effort to prioritize purchases from those producers designated as socially disadvantaged.
5. Must be able to coordinate with food bank and nonprofit recipients to ensure culturally appropriate food is delivered and supply and capacity needs of the recipient organization are met.
6. If you require GAP certification, must have the ability to purchase from farmers, ranchers, and producers that are not GAP certified.
7. Must be a South Carolina registered vendor.
8. Must have financial wherewithal to purchase.

Quarterly subaward agreements are estimated at \$25,000 for food purchase and \$10,000 for administration, storage, and transportation costs. However, award amounts are subject to change. SCDA may, at its discretion, request additional information or documentation and conduct reviews before approving an application.

LOCAL FOOD PURCHASE ASSISTANCE AGGREGATOR APPLICATION

Business Name _____

Point of Contact Name _____

Business Address Line 1 _____

Business Address Line 2 _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ County _____

Email _____ Phone _____ Website _____

How many Socially Disadvantaged producers do you work with currently?

Please describe your plans for increasing your purchasing from Socially Disadvantaged producers.

What recipient sites do you plan to work with, and how will you ensure that the product being delivered meets their needs in terms of product mix, delivery schedule, volume, community impact, etc?

Signature _____ Printed Name _____ Date _____

You may print and sign on the signature line or you may provide a typed s-signature in the following format: /s/ John Doe

RETURN FORM

SC Department of Agriculture
Attn: LFPA
PO Box 11280
Columbia, SC 29211

**Save this form to your computer first before filling in and submitting electronically.
Do not submit from an internet browser.**

lfpa@scda.sc.gov