

Fiscal Year 2020 Farm to Food Bank Project Summaries

Program History

Section 4018(b) of the [Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018](#) (PL 115-334) amended Section 203D of the [Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983](#) to provide funding to State agencies administering The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) to pay for projects to harvest, process, package, or transport commodities donated by agricultural producers, processors, or distributors for use by emergency feeding organizations (EFOs). These projects are known as “Farm to Food Bank Projects.”

The purpose of Farm to Food Bank Projects is to (a) reduce food waste at the agricultural production, processing, or distribution level through the donation of food, (b) provide food to individuals in need, and (c) build relationships between agricultural producers, processors, and distributors and EFOs through the donation of food. For more information, please refer to [TEFAP Farm to Food Bank Projects State Plan Requests and FY 2020 Allocations](#).

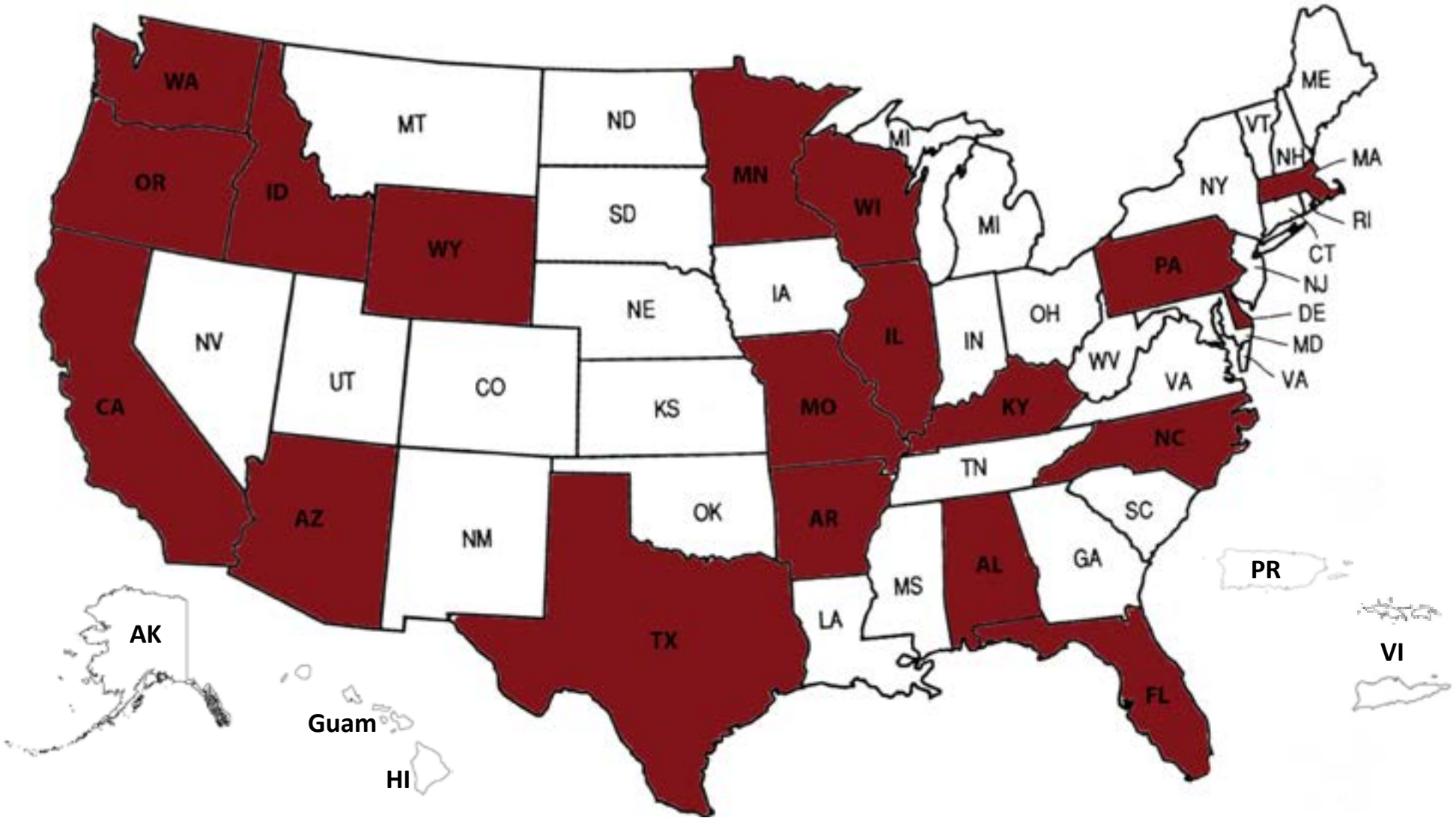
FY 2020 Funding Summary

During the inaugural year of Farm to Food Bank Project funding, FNS allocated \$3,752,000 amongst the 19 TEFAP State agencies that submitted plans to implement Farm to Food Bank Projects. These 19 State agencies are identified on the map on page two.



States conducting a Farm to Food Bank Project in FY 2020 are highlighted in maroon. **For an interactive version of this document please [click here](#).**

A summary of each State's project can be found on the following pages.



State Alabama

Total Project Allocation \$111,139

Project Description Alabama State Department of Education - Food Distribution will work with the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries and the Farm to FNS Programs Alliance (which includes multiple partners across Alabama), to identify agricultural products that may be at risk of going to waste and divert those foods to emergency feeding organizations for distribution to people in need.

State Arizona

Total Project Allocation \$167,935

Project Description The Arizona Department of Economic Security will work with the Southwest Produce Cooperative, an initiative launched by the Community Food Bank (CFB) in Tucson. The Cooperative reduces food waste by funneling produce that is unable to be sold in a timely manner to food banks across the State. CFB, a TEFAP emergency feeding organization, is the primary sourcing entity for the Cooperative, and Arizona Food Bank Network provides logistical support to deliver the food to other food banks in the State. Last year, this partnership prevented 28 million pounds of produce from being wasted.

State Arkansas

Total Project Allocation \$69,090

Project Description Arkansas Department of Human Services will partner with seven food banks in the State to streamline processes for gleaning leftover produce that farmers and producers would like to donate to emergency feeding organizations (EFOs). In the past, donated produce was gleaned by EFO volunteers or staff. In order to save volunteer time for other EFO activities and to allow for a more convenient process for producers and farmers, Farm to Food Bank Project funds will be used to pay farmers/producers for the costs of harvesting and packaging these donated foods.

State California

Total Project Allocation \$822,857

Project Description The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) will use project funds to pay for the harvesting, processing, packing and transporting of foods donated by a variety of agricultural producers, processors, and distributors across the State. CDSS will partner with the California Association of Food banks, the Community Partnership of San Bernardino County, Feeding America Riverside, and the San Bernardino Food Banks on the project.

State Delaware

Total Project Allocation \$18,190

Project Description Delaware will partner with the Food Bank of Delaware on its FY 2020 Farm to Food Bank Project. The project will cover costs associated with harvesting and packaging produce that will be donated to the Food Bank for distribution through the emergency food system. The Food Bank team will proactively communicate with partners in the agriculture sector about the opportunity to participate in the project and take a leading role in project management.

State Florida

Total Project Allocation \$420,209

Project Description The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will expand its current partnership with Society of St. Andrew. The Society of Saint Andrew is a food gleaning organization that harvests leftover crops from farmers' fields after commercial harvests or in cases where it is not economically profitable to harvest, and then donates the foods to emergency feeding organizations.

State Idaho

Total Project Allocation \$16,416

Project Description Idaho’s FY 2020 Farm to Food Bank funding will be utilized to transport, harvest, and distribute donated produce, and to strengthen and expand existing relationships between agricultural producers, processors, distributors, and emergency feeding organizations (EFOs) within the State. EFOs will prepare (i.e., package and sort) donated produce to distribute through existing emergency food networks. The State is hoping to increase the capacity of EFOs to distribute fresh produce through this project.

State Illinois

Total Project Allocation \$263,529

Project Description The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) plans to establish a State-run program that will partner with 8 different TEFAP emergency feeding organizations in the Chicago, St. Charles, Bridgeton (MO), Springfield, Urbana, Peoria, Davenport (IA), and Evansville (IN) areas to capture agricultural surpluses and direct the extra food to food banks and food pantries. Since this is a new program that will be created from the ground up, planned activities include hiring staff members, creating basic program infrastructure, conducting outreach, identifying transportation resources, and entering into contracts with stakeholders. IDHS plans to involve other IL State agencies, States, and agricultural partners such as universities as the program expands.

State Kentucky

Total Project Allocation \$106,253

Project Description Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s Farm to Food Bank Project will reduce waste at the agricultural production level by diverting fresh food to food banks that would otherwise have been plowed under in the field due to economic factors. Project funds will be used to cover Pick and Pack Out (PPO) fees which equate to the producers’ costs of picking, packing and transporting donated agricultural products to an emergency feeding organization. Feeding Kentucky will partner with the State on the project and play a large role in project management.

State Massachusetts

Total Project Allocation \$112,815

Project Description Massachusetts will work with The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts to subsidize costs related to the harvesting, packing, and transportation of donated foods from farmers throughout the State, so that farmers are able to more easily donate the foods to the food bank.

State Minnesota

Total Project Allocation \$91,519

Project Description Minnesota Department of Human Services will partner with Second Harvest Heartland, a food bank serving residents in 41 MN counties. Second Harvest Heartland will engage MN farmers, growers, distributors, and processors as food donors, and funnel project funds into the harvesting, processing, packaging and transportation costs incurred by those donors as part of their donation activities. Second Harvest Heartland has been organizing similar produce donation activities since 2013, and project funds will be used to expand this existing initiative.

State Missouri

Total Project Allocation \$116,878

Project Description The Missouri Department of Social Services (MDSS) will partner with the Southeast Missouri (SEMO) Food Bank on its FY 2020 Farm to Food Bank Project. The SEMO Food Bank will provide support to agricultural producers by assisting with the harvesting of row crops and the processing and packaging of agricultural products. MDSS plans to work collaboratively with the Missouri Department of Agriculture to identify agricultural producers to participate in the project.

State North Carolina

Total Project Allocation \$219,455

Project Description North Carolina’s FY 2020 Farm to Food Bank Project will be implemented in partnership with the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina and the Food Bank of the Albemarle. The food banks will work collaboratively with local growers to rescue produce that does not meet standards of the retail market and that would otherwise be wasted, and then distribute the food to those in need.

State Oregon

Total Project Allocation \$87,558

Project Description The State of Oregon Department of Human Services will partner with the Oregon Food Bank to transport, package, and distribute products that would have otherwise gone into the waste stream. The food will be donated to a network of 20 regional food banks and 647 recipient agencies throughout the State.

State Pennsylvania

Total Project Allocation \$255,373

Project Description The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture will use FY 2020 Farm to Food Bank Project funds to supplement the Commonwealth’s existing Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System (PASS). Created by the Pennsylvania General Assembly in 2010, PASS provides an efficient mechanism for Pennsylvania’s agricultural industry to donate safe, wholesome food products while being reimbursed for the costs involved in harvesting, processing, packaging, and transporting these foods. Without PASS, these food products would likely otherwise be left to rot in the field, be plowed under, be dumped, or be landfilled.

State Texas

Total Project Allocation \$615,786

Project Description The Texas Department of Agriculture will apply Farm to Food Bank funding to an existing state grant program which connects emergency feeding organizations with surplus agricultural products. The program offsets the barrier to donation of surplus agricultural products by covering the cost of harvesting and transporting donated products to a network of EFOs across the State, thereby reducing agricultural food waste and fostering positive relationships throughout the agricultural community. This program has been running for nearly 20 years, and was able to donate around 65 million pounds of agricultural products to EFOs in 2019.

State Washington

Total Project Allocation \$147,619

Project Description The Washington State Department of Agriculture will work with the Chelan-Douglas Community Action Council, the Olympic Community Action Council, the Rural Resources Community Action Council, and Harvest Against Hunger on its FY 2020 Farm to Food Bank Project. They will work with local agriculture producers to glean produce to be distributed to emergency feeding organizations. Funding will target building and fortifying partnerships, delivery improvements in rural areas, and value-added processing of donated foods.

State Wisconsin

Total Project Allocation \$98,723

Project Description Wisconsin Department of Health Services will partner with The Hunger Task Force, Inc. (HTF), a food bank in Milwaukee, on a project to divert harvested, unprocessed, and unpackaged milk that would otherwise be wasted, process it into cheese, and deliver it to food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters in the State. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent closure of restaurants, schools, hotels, and food service businesses, milk cooperatives in the State have been forced to order member dairy farms to dump milk that can no longer be utilized due to shutdowns. HTF will contract with dairy processors in the State to process and package this otherwise wasted product and distribute it to TEFAP participants.

State Wyoming

**Total Project
Allocation** \$10,656

**Project
Description** Wyoming Department of Family Services will partner with Wyoming Food Bank of the Rockies (WFBR) to support the transportation and distribution of donated agricultural products across the State. Food will be picked up from participating farmers and redistributed to food banks. WFBR will work collaboratively with the Wyoming Food Coalition on the project.