

Fiscal Year 2021 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 State Plan Requests and Allocations for Fiscal Year 2021 Farm to Food Bank Projects](#).

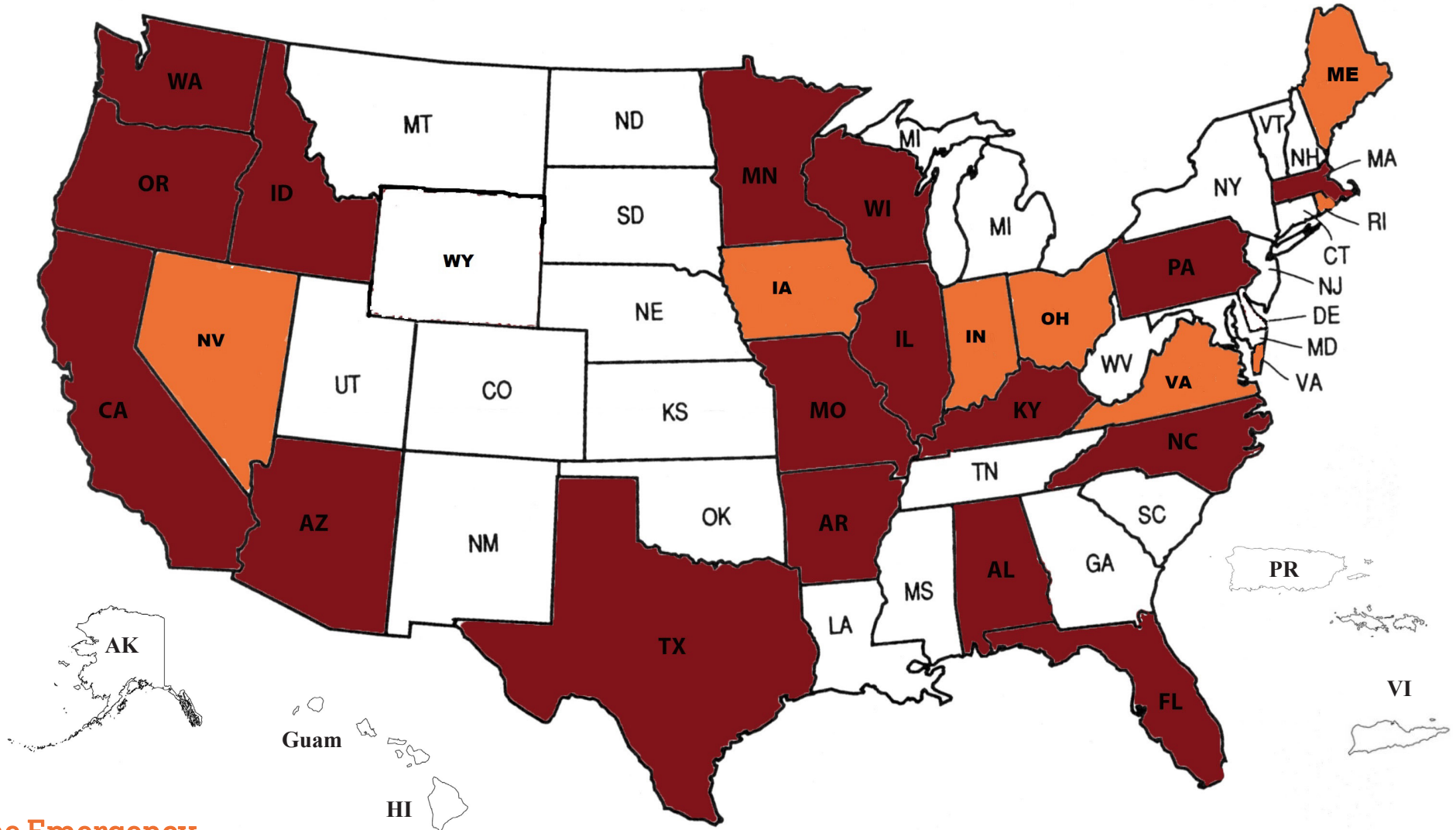
FY 2021 Funding Summary

During the second year of Farm to Food Bank Project funding, FNS allocated \$3.764 million to 24 TEFAP State agencies that submitted plans to implement Farm to Food Bank Projects. Seventeen of those States received FY 2020 funding and seven are newly participating States. The 24 State agencies that received an award are identified on the map on page 2.



States conducting a Farm to Food Bank project in FY 2021 are highlighted in the map below. States highlighted in maroon also received a Farm to Food Bank project award in FY 2020. States highlighted in orange are newly participating States in FY2021. **For an interactive version of this document please [click here](#).**

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



Northeast Region

State

Maine

Total Project Allocation

\$19,630

Project Description

The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry will partner with Healthy Acadia on its FY 2021 Farm to Food Bank Project. Project funds will be used to distribute family-size packages of frozen blueberries assembled with donated berries from local Washington and/or Hancock County family farm operations. Healthy Acadia will work with these farms to harvest and process berries that would otherwise not be utilized. Local processor freezer facilities will be used to package and store the berries before they are distributed to emergency feeding organizations and families in need.

State

Massachusetts

Total Project Allocation

\$114,437

Project Description

Massachusetts will partner with the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts (FBWMA) on its FY 2021 Farm to Food Bank Project. Funds will be used for the harvesting, packaging, and/or transportation costs of farmers who donate produce to the FBWMA. Without this compensation, farmers would be forced to leave surplus produce in the fields to rot. The project will allow the FBWMA to strengthen relationships with the farming community by demonstrating a commitment to a reciprocal relationship. This FY 2021 Farm to Food Bank Project is an expansion of an existing successful Farm to Food Bank operation that is also run by the FBWMA.

State

Rhode Island

Total Project Allocation

\$18,216

Project Description

The Rhode Island Department of Human Services will partner with the Rhode Island Community Food Bank and Hope's Harvest Rhode Island on its FY 2021 Farm to Food Bank Project. Hope's Harvest Rhode Island will mobilize volunteers to rescue food from local farms that would otherwise go to waste. These donated foods will then be distributed to food distribution sites across the State by the Rhode Island Community Food Bank.

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Midatlantic Region

State Pennsylvania

Total Project Allocation \$237,288

Project Description The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture will use FY 2021 Farm to Food Bank Project funds to supplement the Commonwealth's existing Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System (PASS). Created by the Pennsylvania General Assembly through in 2010, PASS provides an efficient mechanism for Pennsylvania's agricultural partners to donate safe, wholesome food products and be reimbursed for the costs involved with harvesting, processing, packaging, and transporting these foods. Without PASS, these food products would otherwise be left to rot in the field, be plowed under, be dumped, or be landfilled.

State Virginia

Total Project Allocation \$116,797

Project Description The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will use project funding to create a partnership between the Federation of Virginia Food Banks and local agricultural producers, processors, and distributors to distribute surplus food products to Virginia residents in need. The Federation of Virginia Food Banks has already developed relationships with growers, producers, processors, and distributors of locally grown foods. Project funding will pay for any harvesting and packaging costs related to food that is donated by these partners for distribution through the emergency food system.

Southeast Region

State Alabama

Total Project Allocation \$88,256

Project Description Using FY 2021 Farm to Food Bank funding, the 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 then work to divert those foods to emergency feeding organizations throughout the State.

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State	Florida
Total Project Allocation	\$363,251
Project Description	The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will expand its current partnerships with the Society of St. Andrew and Christians Reaching to Society Ministries for its FY 2021 Farm to Food Bank Projects. Both organizations work with Florida farmers to encourage gleaning of leftover crops for donation to emergency feeding organizations. Farm to Food Bank Project funding will be used to support these initiatives.

State	Kentucky
Total Project Allocation	\$86,213
Project Description	The Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s FY 2021 Farm to Food Bank Project will reduce waste at the agricultural production level by diverting fresh food that would otherwise have been plowed under to food banks across the State. Project funds will be used to cover Pick and Pack Out fees which equate to the producers’ costs of picking, packing, and transporting donated agricultural products to emergency feeding organizations. Feeding Kentucky will partner with the State on the project and play a large role in project management.

State	North Carolina
Total Project Allocation	\$181,973
Project Description	North Carolina’s FY 2021 Farm to Food Bank Project will be implemented in partnership with the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, the Food Bank of the Albemarle, and the Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina. The three 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 to distribute the food to those in need.

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Midwest Region



State
Total Project Allocation
Project Description

Illinois

\$224,203

The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) plans to use FY 2021 Farm to Food Bank Project funds to establish an Agricultural Surplus Capture Program within the State. Illinois will partner with Feeding Illinois and eight TEFAP food banks to capture agricultural surpluses and direct the surpluses to food banks and food pantries. Since this is a new program, 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 Illinois State agencies, other States, and additional agricultural partners as the program expands.

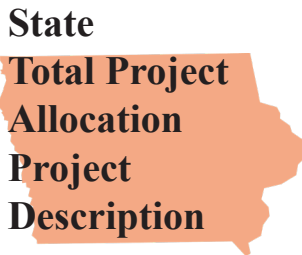


State
Total Project Allocation
Project Description

Indiana

\$111,719

Indiana will use its Farm to Food Bank Project funding to expand Fresh Connect, a social enterprise of Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana. Currently, 20 billion pounds of fresh produce never make it off of Indiana farms and are either plowed under or dumped into landfills. Fresh Connect works with growers to rescue as much of this food as possible and redirect it to food banks. Through established relationships with Indiana Grown and the AgriInstitute, Fresh Connect negotiates a fee to cover the harvesting, packaging, and transportation costs associated with any food donations and works with Indiana food banks to distribute the donated produce.



State
Total Project Allocation
Project Description

Iowa

\$47,650

The Iowa Department of Human Services will partner with Iowa food banks to reduce food waste by transporting, packaging, and distributing an assortment of donated foods that would otherwise be wasted. Through an existing partnership with local distributors, fresh products will be transported to food banks that will then package the foods for single-family use and distribute them to people in need. The project will reduce food waste, build community partnerships, and provide Iowa residents with nutritious produce such as cucumbers, zucchini, potatoes, tomatoes, onions, and carrots.

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Minnesota

\$75,858

The Minnesota Department of Human Services will partner with Second Harvest Heartland for its FY 2021 Farm to Food Bank Project. Second Harvest Heartland will engage MN farmers, growers, distributors, and processors as food donors, and apply project funds to any harvesting, processing, packaging, and transportation costs incurred by 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 these existing initiatives.



Ohio

\$217,165

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services in partnership with the Ohio Association of Foodbanks and emergency feeding organizations, will partner with Ohio agricultural producers to secure produce donations for the FY 2021 project. Project funds will be used to reimburse producers for their cost to pick, pack, and transport the donated foods to food banks throughout Ohio. The project aims to strengthen and expand upon already existing relationships between agricultural producers, processors, distributors, and emergency feeding organizations within the State.



Wisconsin

\$89,116

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services will partner with the Hunger Task Force, Inc. (a charitable food bank in Milwaukee County) on its FY 2021 Farm to Food Bank Project. Project funding will be used to process donated milk into cheese, package the cheese, and transport it to needy households in Milwaukee County. The project aims to provide cheese to all 36 pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters in Milwaukee County that currently distribute TEFAP foods.

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Southwest Region

State
Total Project Allocation
Project Description

Arizona

\$133,608

In FY 2021, the Arizona Department of Economic Security will apply its Farm to Food Bank Project funds to the Southwest Produce Cooperative, an initiative launched by the Community Food Bank (CFB) in Tucson. The Cooperative reduces food waste in Arizona 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.

State
Total Project Allocation
Project Description

Arkansas

\$56,436

The 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. In the past, donated produce was gleaned by volunteers or staff. In order to save volunteer time for other 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 and producers for the costs of harvesting and packaging donated foods. Through the project, emergency feeding organizations will also be able to negotiate the type and quantity of donated foods with participating farmers and producers.

State
Total Project Allocation
Project Description

Texas

\$511,725

The Texas Department of Agriculture will apply FY 2021 Farm to Food Bank Project funding to an existing state grant program which connects emergency feeding organizations with surplus agricultural products. The program offsets the cost of donating surplus agricultural products by subsidizing the harvesting and transporting of donated foods to emergency feeding organizations across the State, thereby reducing agricultural food waste and fostering positive relationships throughout the agricultural community.

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Mountain Plains Region



State Missouri

Total Project Allocation \$100,664

Project Description The Missouri Department of Social Services will partner with the Southeast Missouri Food Bank, Ozarks Food Harvest, and the Second Harvest Community Food Bank on its Farm to Food Bank Project in FY 2021. The project will reduce food waste at the agricultural production, processing, and distribution levels and provide food to individuals in need by supporting the harvesting, processing, transportation and distribution of donated agricultural products. The food banks will build upon existing partnerships with agricultural producers to secure donations of fresh fruits and vegetables, rice, beans, dairy products, and beef and pork products.

Western Region



State California

Total Project Allocation \$717,702

Project Description The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) will use project funds to pay for the harvesting, processing, packaging, and transportation of foods donated by a variety of agricultural producers, processors, and distributors across the State. CDSS will partner with CalFood Logistics and deliver donated foods to numerous California food banks.



State Idaho

Total Project Allocation \$16,373

Project Description The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's FY 2021 Farm to Food Bank Project funding will be utilized to strengthen and expand existing relationships between agricultural producers, processors, distributors, and emergency feeding organizations by paying for the transportation and packaging costs of donated surplus produce. The State will pilot the project with the El-Ada Community Action Partnership, a TEFAP emergency feeding organization, and plans to expand the project to involve other interested organizations in the future.

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State

Nevada

Total Project Allocation

\$41,880

Project Description

The Nevada Department of Agriculture will partner with the Fallon Food Hub and the Food Bank of Northern Nevada to identify agricultural products that may go to waste, collect those products, and then distribute them through TEFAP channels. Farm to Food Bank recovery efforts will focus primarily on fruits and vegetables, but may also include dairy products.

State

Oregon

Total Project Allocation

\$70,675

Project Description

The Oregon Department of Human Services will partner with the Oregon Food Bank (OFB), which works closely with farms across the State to ensure the safe and timely donation of produce from across the region. Project funding will be used to cover any associated pick and pack out fees associated with the donations. Foods will be distributed all 20 regional food banks in the OFB network.

State

Washington

Total Project Allocation

\$123,165

Project Description

The Washington State Department of Agriculture will work with the Central Kitsap Food Bank, the Chelan-Douglas Community Action Council, the Clark County Food Bank, and Hopelink on several different Farm to Food Bank Projects. Each of these TEFAP emergency feeding organizations is involved with efforts to recover food that would otherwise be thrown away due to overproduction, blemishes, or low demand, and works to provide rescued food to TEFAP clients.

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