



Fiscal Year 2023 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.

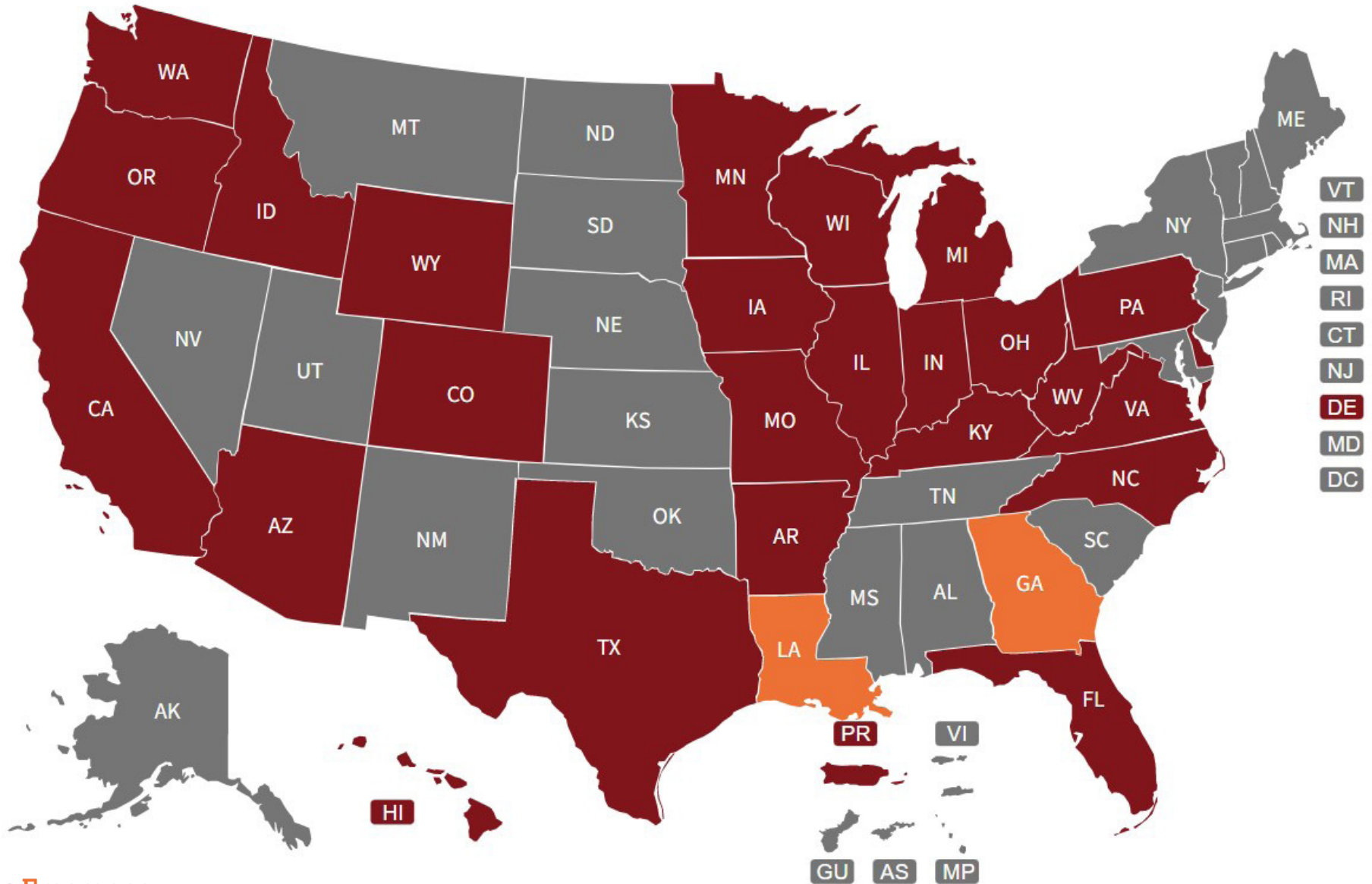
The purpose of Farm to Food Bank Projects is to (a) reduce food waste at the agricultural production, processing, or distribution level through the donation of food, (b) provide food to individuals in need, and (c) build relationships between agricultural producers, processors, and distributors and EFOs through the donation of food. For more information, please refer to [TEFAP State Plan Requests and Allocations for Fiscal Year 2023 Farm to Food Bank Projects](#).

FY 2023 Funding Summary

During the fourth year of Farm to Food Bank Project funding, FNS allocated \$3,772,000 to 28 TEFAP state agencies that submitted plans to implement Farm to Food Bank Projects. Twenty-six of those state agencies received funding in a previous fiscal year (FY) and two are newly participating agencies. The 28 state agencies that received a FY 2023 Farm to Food Bank Project award are identified on the map on page 2.



States/territories conducting a Farm to Food Bank project in FY 2023 are highlighted in the map below. States/territories highlighted in **maroon** also received a Farm to Food Bank project award in a previous fiscal year. States/territories highlighted in **orange** are newly participating in FY 2023. A summary of each state/territory's project can be found on the following pages. **For an interactive version of this document please [click here](#).**





Mid-Atlantic Region

State Delaware

Total Project Allocation \$13,204

Project Description The Delaware Office of Management and Budget and the Food Bank of Delaware will utilize FY 2023 Farm to Food Bank Project funds to support partnerships and business relationships with Delaware growers, and to secure fresh produce donations for distribution through the food bank’s distribution network. The Food Bank of Delaware will also use project funds to support an initiative that uses the Food Rescue Heroes app to facilitate donations of fresh farm products. Through the app, food bank volunteers pick up product from farms and drop it off at local food pantries.

State Pennsylvania

Total Project Allocation \$202,434

Project Description The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture will use FY 2023 Farm to Food Bank Project funds to continue support of the Commonwealth’s existing Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System (PASS). 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. Through PASS, Pennsylvania-grown products stay in the state to help meet people’s basic food needs.

Territory Puerto Rico

Total Project Allocation \$126,986

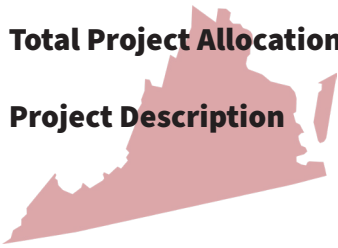
Project Description The Puerto Rico Department of the Family (ADSEF - Administración de Desarrollo Socioeconómico de la Familia) will work with the Banco de Alimentos Puerto Rico (BAPR) on its project, utilizing FY 2023 Farm to Food Bank Project funds to pay for the costs of converting donated milk into Ultra High-Temperature (UHT) pasteurized milk, which is shelf-stable. The finished food product will be distributed to underserved populations through the food bank’s network of 150 agencies that reaches all 78 municipalities in Puerto Rico including Vieques and Culebra.



State Virginia

Total Project Allocation \$104,517

Project Description

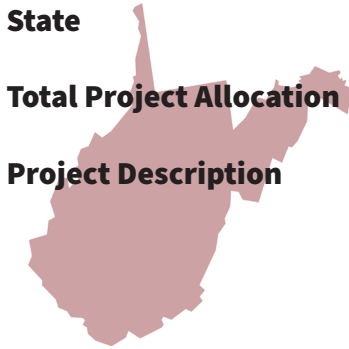


The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will use FY 2023 Farm to Food Bank Project funding to support already established partnerships between the Federation of Virginia Food Banks and local agricultural producers, processors, and distributors, who donate surplus agricultural products to the food banks for distribution to Virginians in need. The Federation of Virginia Food Banks will partner with Virginia producers to establish agreements to cover the costs associated with the harvesting and packaging of farm products to be donated to food banks for distribution throughout the state’s emergency food system.

State West Virginia

Total Project Allocation \$30,942

Project Description



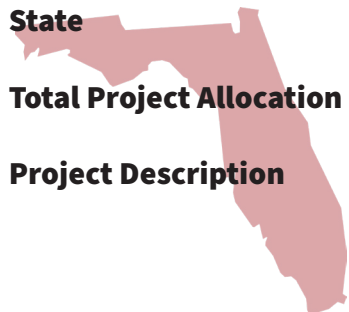
The West Virginia Department of Agriculture will use FY 2023 Farm to Food Bank Project funds to offset the costs of harvesting, packaging, and transporting local produce to Mountaineer Food Bank. This project will provide opportunities to cultivate new and continue current donor relationships between the food bank and producers in West Virginia.

Southeast Region

State Florida

Total Project Allocation \$321,122

Project Description



The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) will continue its efforts to reduce food waste through its partnership with two contracted gleaning organizations, the Society of St. Andrew and Christians Reaching to Society (CROS) Ministries. 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

Georgia

Total Project Allocation

\$163,093

Project Description

The Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS), the TEFAP state agency in Georgia, will operate its FY 2023 Farm to Food Bank Project in collaboration with the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) and Feeding Georgia, Inc. (formerly known as the Georgia Food Bank Association - GFBA). Project funds will be applied to an existing farm to food bank program within the state that secures donations of surplus commodities directly from Georgia producers for distribution through a network of eight food banks.

State

Kentucky

Total Project Allocation

\$74,240

Project Description

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s FY 2023 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 fees” associated with the donations 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 agency on the project and play a large role in project management.

State

North Carolina

Total Project Allocation

\$164,742

Project Description

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services’ FY 2023 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 and distribute produce that does not meet standards of the retail market and that would otherwise be wasted.



Midwest Region

State	Illinois
Total Project Allocation	\$193,180
Project Description	<p>The Illinois Department of Human Services will use FY 2023 Farm to Food Bank funds to support a state-wide program that provides fresh, locally sourced foods to food-insecure families and individuals. Feeding Illinois coordinates the program on behalf of the state agency, working to rescue excess farm-fresh food and redirect it to food banks. This program fosters relationships between local producers and emergency feeding organizations, improves access to fresh food, supports Illinois farmers, and reduces food waste.</p>

State	Indiana
Total Project Allocation	\$88,766
Project Description	<p>The Indiana Department of Health will continue to leverage Farm to Food Bank Project funding to support Fresh Connect, a social enterprise of Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana. Fresh Connect is committed to reusing farm fresh produce and redirecting it to food banks. Through established relationships with partners such as Indiana Grown and the AgriInstitute, growers donate unmarketable products so they are not wasted. Fresh Connect negotiates a fee to cover costs associated with harvesting, packaging, and transporting the products. In some cases, the food bank will process and package the products on site, in two USDA-approved clean rooms.</p>

State	Iowa
Total Project Allocation	\$37,898
Project Description	<p>The Iowa Department of Human Services will partner with several Iowa food banks on its FY 2023 Farm to Food Bank Project. Several of the food banks will use project funds to transport donated products from producers to the food banks, for redistribution to people in need. Funds will also be used for supplies to repackage the donations. River Bend Food Bank and Northeast Iowa Food Bank will use their funds to pay an agreed upon fee to select farmers, including dairy producers, for the harvesting, processing, packaging, and transportation of food that might otherwise not make it to market or be destroyed.</p>



State Michigan

Total Project Allocation \$149,495

Project Description The Michigan Department of Education will again partner with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to connect with agricultural experts and farms to source viable agricultural products that would otherwise be disposed of. These products will be processed and distributed through the Food Bank Council of Michigan and its seven partner agencies. These food banks will then distribute the products through their TEFAP distributions.

State Minnesota

Total Project Allocation \$60,988

Project Description The Minnesota Department of Human Services will continue its partnership with Second Harvest Heartland for its FY 2023 Farm to Food Bank project. Second Harvest Heartland will engage MN farmers, growers, distributors, and processors as food donors, and funnel projects funds into harvesting, processing, packaging, and transportation costs incurred by those donors as part of their donation activities. The project supports over 300 food pantries statewide.

State Ohio

Total Project Allocation \$179,555

Project Description The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) will continue its partnership with the Ohio Association of Foodbanks (OAF). OAF will work with cheese producers to facilitate the processing, packaging, and transportation of “cheese trim” (excess cheese when making block cheese) that would otherwise go to waste. ODJFS will also support and expand the existing Ohio Agriculture Clearance Program. This program is a partnership between ODJFS and Ohio farmers, growers, and commodity producers to secure excess fruits, vegetables, and protein foods. The funds would reimburse the partners for harvesting, processing, packaging, and transporting these donated foods to the Ohio food banks for distribution at pantries. Additionally, ODJFS, OAF, the Center for Innovative Food Technology, and the Ohio State University will work to locate and fund a processor to roast and package soybeans into 1/4 lb. individual soy nut snacks for distribution to homeless shelters and food banks.



State Wisconsin

Total Project Allocation \$67,034

Project Description Wisconsin Department of Health Services will partner with the Hunger Task Force on a Farm to Food Bank project that provides Gouda cheese to people in need, using milk that would have otherwise been wasted. Hunger Task Force, Inc. is a food bank in Milwaukee that has an extensive network of 15 distribution hubs across Wisconsin. This project involves coordination from local dairy farmers, cheese processors, distributors, and local food banks.

Southwest Region

State Arizona

Total Project Allocation \$111,280

Project Description In FY 2023, the Arizona Department of Economic Security will work with the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona (CFB) on its Farm to Food Bank Project, which will transport, sort, and package donated produce in the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona’s (CFB) five county service area. CFB receives a wide variety of donated seasonal fruits and vegetables, including potatoes, tomatoes, melons, squash, greens, onions, lettuce, and other produce. This produce has a very quick shelf life and requires timely sorting and distribution. Project funds will help to ensure that the produce is efficiently processed so that it can be provided to low-income households in need.

State Arkansas

Total Project Allocation \$48,440

Project Description The Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education will work with six food banks in the state (Arkansas Food Bank, River Valley Regional Food Bank, Food Bank of North Central Arkansas, Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas, Harvest Texarkana Regional Food Bank, and Northwest Arkansas Food Bank) and their community partners on its FY 2023 Farm to Food Bank Project. Funds will be dispersed to the food banks to carry out allowable Farm to Food Bank project activities within their respective communities.



State Louisiana

Total Project Allocation \$95,057

Project Description The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry will work with Feeding Louisiana to reduce food waste by connecting with farmers throughout the United States through donation websites created to identify the availability of fresh produce offered through donation. Food at risk of going to waste will be diverted to emergency feeding organizations for distribution to people in need. Project funds will be utilized to pay farmers or producers for the costs of harvesting, processing, and transporting donated produce. Once acquired, TEFAP agencies will distribute foods through their collaborating emergency feeding organizations such as food pantries, soup kitchens, and homeless shelters.

State Texas

Total Project Allocation \$498,310

Project Description Since 2002, the Texas Department of Agriculture has provided state grant funds to help emergency feeding organizations gain access to surplus agricultural products. The state funds have offset the barrier to the donation of surplus agricultural products by covering the cost of harvesting and transporting Texas-grown products to the network of emergency feeding organizations across the state, thereby reducing agricultural food waste and fostering positive relationships throughout the agricultural community. The funding provided by FNS for FY 2023 Farm to Food Bank projects will increase the reach of this existing initiative.

Mountain Plains Region

State Colorado

Total Project Allocation \$83,610

Project Description FY 2023 Farm to Food Bank funds awarded to the Colorado Department of Human Services will be used to support ongoing collaborations with Colorado’s Feeding America food banks and Colorado farmers. These collaborations focus on rescuing grown, raised, or processed food items that do not meet the standards of the retail market and would otherwise be wasted. Rescued food is distributed to those in need through the statewide network of programs and hunger relief partners.

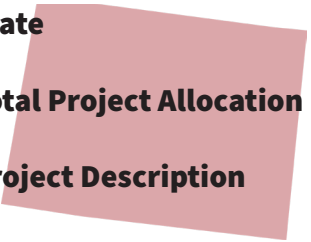
State Missouri



Total Project Allocation \$82,797

Project Description The Missouri Department of Social Services will partner with Southeast Missouri Food Bank; Ozarks Food Harvest; and Second Harvest Community Food Bank on its FY 23 Farm to Food Bank Project. Funds will be utilized to support the harvesting of donated foods that would otherwise go to waste; the processing and packaging of those foods if needed; the transportation of the products to emergency feeding organizations; and the distribution of the products to Missourians in need. This project will reduce food waste by allowing excess product to be distributed instead of going to waste.

State Wyoming



Total Project Allocation \$7,670

Project Description The Wyoming Department of Family Services will work with the Food Bank of Wyoming on its FY 2023 Farm to Food Bank project. The food bank will utilize project funds to obtain, transport, process, and distribute donated, locally-grown produce and locally-raised sources of protein. This will be done by working with growers throughout the state of Wyoming and region. Donated foods will be distributed to local food pantry partners for further distribution to those facing hunger in Wyoming. The Food Bank of Wyoming hopes to build stronger relationships with agricultural producers, processors and partner organizations throughout the state through participation in the program.

Western Region

State California



Total Project Allocation \$665,958

Project Description For a second year in a row, the California Department of Social Services will utilize Farm to Food Bank Project funds to support The California Association of Food Banks' (CAFB) Farm to Family Program. Through the program, CAFB arranges for donated produce to be gleaned, transported, and distributed through food banks. The continued partnership with the Farm to Family Program will increase distribution levels of donated food to several communities and provide additional support to agricultural growers, shippers, and packers across the state.



State

Hawaii

Total Project Allocation

\$22,750

Project Description

The Hawaii Office of Community Services will continue to work with The Hawaii Foodbank - Oahu (Honolulu County) and Kauai (Kauai County) Branches and The Food Basket (Hawaii County) on its FY 2023 Farm to Food Bank Project. The project aims to secure donations of unharvested, unprocessed, and unpackaged fresh foods from local producers and farmers by having volunteers glean the surplus produce and by providing transportation of the gleaned produce from the producers/farmers' locations to food distribution locations.

State

Idaho

Total Project Allocation

\$20,859

Project Description

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) will work with Idaho Foodbank on its FY 2023 Farm to Food Bank Project. Funds will be utilized by Idaho Foodbank to conduct outreach to local farms to solicit donations, to help transport donated food from the farms to Idaho Foodbank's distribution facilities for processing, and to distribute the processed donations to pantries and meal sites across the state. The project aims to strengthen and expand existing relationships between the food bank and agricultural producers across the state.

State

Oregon

Total Project Allocation

\$59,167

Project Description

The Oregon Department of Human Services will focus FY 2023 Farm to Food Bank Project funds on an existing partnership with the Oregon Food Bank (OFB). Working within its established network of regional food banks, OFB will work to connect farm donors with emergency feeding organizations across the state, and coordinate the transportation, packaging, and distribution of donated produce. FY 2023 Farm to Food Bank Project funds will be applied to this existing operation.



State

Washington

Total Project Allocation

\$97,906

Project Description

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) will use a portion of FY 2023 Farm to Food Bank funds to support the ongoing work of the Farm to Food Pantry Initiative, which is an initiative operated by Harvest Against Hunger. The initiative purchases and distributes gleaning, processing, and packaging materials to gleaning organizations to help divert surplus produce to food banks. WSDA will use FY 2023 Farm to Food Bank Project funds to administer a competitive subgrant to emergency feeding organizations in the state that operate TEFAP. The subgrant program will allow emergency feeding organizations to carry out allowable Farm to Food Bank Project activities in their service areas.