

# Equity at the Center of All USDA Activities

Advancing Fairness and Equal Access



## American Rescue Plan, as amended by the Inflation Reduction Act, & Equity

USDA places equity at the center of decision-making and policymaking. Section 1006 of the American Rescue Plan (ARP), as amended by the Inflation Reduction Act, provides more than \$2.7 billion in funding for USDA to take action to ensure underserved farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners have resources, tools, programs and technical support they need to succeed in agriculture.

Section 1006 provides funding to begin long-term equity work within USDA, which includes providing technical assistance, improving access to credit, addressing heirs' property claims and other land access issues, and ensuring that USDA programs are aligned with the needs and priorities of all producers. USDA has stood up an Equity Commission to identify barriers to accessing USDA programs. Section 1006 also provides funds to create career opportunities for next generation leaders in agriculture and to provide direct assistance to producers who have experienced past discrimination or bias in USDA programs.

For more information on USDA's equity efforts, please go to:

<https://www.usda.gov/equity>

## USDA's Equity Action Plan

USDA has a historic commitment to ensure equity across all of its policies and activities. To this end, USDA seeks to improve access to programs and services for all stakeholders and rural communities, especially underserved farmers, ranchers and forest landowners.

By putting equity at the center of decision-making and policymaking, USDA seeks to root out generations of systemic racism and lower barriers to access to ensure USDA programming is inclusive of all employees and customers.

USDA publicly released its [Equity Action Plan](#) in April 2022, to support Executive Order 13985 [Advancing Racial Equity and Support to Underserved Communities](#). The plan's main purpose is to build trust with technical assistance providers, using Section 1006, as amended, to support underserved producers.

Historically, USDA programs and services were designed to benefit those with land, experience, money and education, while leaving behind those without means, resources or privilege. For decades, congressional reports, investigations, court actions and stakeholder testimony have documented this long history of inequity and discrimination.

USDA's Equity Action Plan serves as an initial roadmap for ensuring programs and services are accessible.

## ARP Section 1006, as amended, Programs

### Increasing Land, Capital and Market Access

This Notice of Funding Opportunity is seeking partner organizations for projects that increase access to land, capital, and markets. Projects should be innovative and help move underserved producers from surviving to thriving.

Total Value: Up to \$300 million, FSA

### From Learning to Leading: Cultivating the Next Generation of Diverse Food and Agriculture Professionals

This competitive funding opportunity is aimed at attracting, inspiring and retaining diverse and talented students at eligible institutions for careers in food, agriculture and related disciplines, with emphasis on federal government employment.

Total value: \$250 million, NIFA

If you have questions, please reach out to USDA's Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE)  
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