



Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement

Revised: 9/30/2024

Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program (Fiscal Year 2024)

State	Senators	Representatives	Recipient	Grant	Project Description
AR	John Boozman & Tom Cotton	J. French Hill (02)	Division of Agriculture of the University of Arkansas	\$749,586	<p>This is a statewide project designed to deliver technical assistance, implement a comprehensive outreach program and increase participation of underserved and veteran farmers and ranchers in USDA programs. The technical assistance will be provided by highly qualified extension specialists and county extension agents part of the Cooperative Extension Service with a mobile laboratory (TransformLab) equipped for real-time results, which will increase significantly the accuracy of the recommendations and the excellence of the service. Several seminars, field days, webinars, workshops and farm demonstrations will be organized to train and educate the target clientele in multiple areas of agriculture, from business planning to production, processing and marketing. An online resource center will be launched to reunite learning resources, and social media platforms will be extensively used to connect with the participants. Additionally, the project will promote events and case-by-case consultations to increase their participation in USDA programs, providing education, support and the tools needed to succeed. Therefore, the project will improve socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers' and ranchers' ability to start and maintain successful agricultural and/or forestry-related operations by adopting good farming practices for sustainable agriculture. Geographic Service Area: Arkansas (Statewide) Contact Info: Dr. Dan Quadros dquadros@usda.edu (501) 425-4657</p>



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CA	Alex Padilla & Laphonza R. Butler	Juan Vargas (52)	Foodshed Cooperative	\$750,000	Foodshed Cooperative is a farmer- and worker-owned, mid-supply chain aggregator and distributor in Southern California that is deeply invested in strengthening our independent farm businesses and co-creating a more resilient and just food system. As a “food hub” we have found that we are uniquely positioned to identify and address the technical assistance needs of farmers and ranchers based on the quality and quantity of the products they move through our market channels and the relationships we have established by growing our businesses together. With support from the 2501 Program, we will deliver relevant, personalized and culturally appropriate training and technical assistance (in English and Spanish) to 175 socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers so that they can unlock the federal, state and local resources they need to thrive. Geographic Service Area: Southern California (Imperial, Orange, Riverside, and San Diego counties) Contact Info: Alexandra Trimm alex@foodshedcoop.com (619) 389-8220



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DC	N/A	Eleanor Holmes Norton (At-Large)	Rural Coalition	\$750,000	<p>Rural Coalition (RC) will partner with Compañeras Campesinas (CC) to develop sustainable, innovative, agricultural practices and resilient livelihoods among historically underserved farmers and communities in Puerto Rico and meet the community's needs for sustainable food production. We will intensify qualified and language appropriate technical assistance in their communities, improve relationships and confidence in USDA, secure their eligibility in USDA programs, and strengthen their business and conservation planning, and recordkeeping practices. We place special emphasis on risk management and conservation strategies to increase the resilience of their operations in the face of increasing natural and climate related disasters by building their effective participation in NAP (Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) and crop insurance. We expect to serve approximately 2000 historically underserved small-scale and peri-urban farmers organized in a network of 23 farmer hubs, with low participation in USDA programs, and low confidence and trust in USDA agencies and services, as documented in Rural Coalition's extensive technical assistance work in the recent the USDA Discrimination Financial Assistance Program and building on our 45+ years of experience serving our historically underserved members across the US.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Puerto Rico (23 Municipalities underserved producers located in rural and peri-urban areas in remote, hard to reach and climate vulnerable areas across Puerto Rico)</p> <p>Contact Info: Carine Meyer-Rodrigues carine@ruralco.org (954) 864-6864</p>



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FL	Marco Rubio & Rick Scott	Carlos A. Gimenez (28)	Florida International University Board of Trustees	\$740,220	<p>The Florida International University, in collaboration with Redland Ahead, Inc. (a veterans and non-profit organization), and three private farms (Cool Runnings, the Little Farm, and Miami Compost Project), proposes a three-year project to assist Socially Disadvantaged Farmers (SDF) in the most poverty-stricken agricultural belt of South Florida. This project targets veterans and urban youth, particularly from impoverished urban and suburban neighborhoods. The long-term goals of InFUSEE are to:</p> <p>(a) Equip SDFs with knowledge in climate-smart and sustainable farming, value-added and marketing skills, aligning farm production with local food systems, and financial management. (b) Increase access to expensive land, farm resources, and government assistance programs. Key components of the project include: (i) Establishing 20 incubator farms where underserved farmers gain the knowledge, skill and financial means to be able to transition into their own farming; (ii) Offering 18 technical workshops; (iii) Conducting 36 paid farm apprenticeships and managerial apprenticeships at private farms; (iv) Providing individualized consultations to at least 100 underserved SDFs for USDA loans and conservation subsidies; and (v) Organizing conference trips. This project is widely supported by state and local USDA agencies, veterans' and farmers' organizations, and experienced private and community farms. By increasing the participation of underserved, young, and veteran farmers in USDA programs, this project will advance all five programmatic mission areas of the 2501 Program.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Florida (Broward and Miami-Dade counties) Contact Info: Dr. Mahadev Bhat bhatm@fiu.edu (305) 348-1210</p>



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GA	Jon Ossoff & Raphael G. Warnock	Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (02)	Golden Triangle Resource Conservation & Development	\$636,915	<p>Golden Triangle RC&D Council (GTRCDC) is launching a comprehensive project to support historically underserved farmers and military veterans. This initiative addresses critical economic and environmental challenges in one of the nation's most impoverished regions. We aim to enhance the financial stability and sustainability of these farmers through targeted outreach, education, and technical assistance. The project will deliver personalized support, including conservation planning, business management, and marketing workshops. We will also use drone technology for crop monitoring and offer specialized assistance for timberland owners. Furthermore, the program includes the development of educational videos and a Landowner Academy to provide in-depth training on various agricultural and forestry practices.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Southwest Georgia (37 counties) Contact Info: Rhonda Gordon rgordon@goldentrianglercd.org (229) 995 2027</p>



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GA	Jon Ossoff & Raphael G. Warnock	A. Drew Ferguson, IV (03)	The Widget Business Training Company	\$729,477	<p>This project will collaborate with underserved farmers and beginning farmers and veterans to grow and harvest fruits and vegetables that can be converted into value added products. Crops are graded based on their appearance to be placed into the marketplace by the numbers 1, 2, and 3. The “1s” are the products that are visually appealing and will be purchased by the store or can be sold at a farmer’s markets or on-farm markets. The “2s” may be misshaped or have minor burses but can be sliced or diced, bagged, and sold. The “3s” are the produce items that are not visually appealing because they may be missed shaped or severely bruised. In the typical scenario, the farmer is not able to sale these items and is forced to absorb the loss. By processing, or cooking these vegetables into value-added products, they can become a very financially viable option for this class of vegetables. Using the infusion of berry by-products or honey into the “3s”, converts these unsellable products into a financially viable opportunity. We will be serving socially disadvantaged farmers, socially disadvantaged new and beginning farmers and veterans.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Georgia (Clay, Mitchel, Spalding, and Sumter counties)</p> <p>Contact Info: Frances L. Martin francesmartin@widgetdc.com (404) 695-0142</p>



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HI	Brian Schatz & Mazie Hirono	Jill N. Tokuda (02)	Hawaii Institute of Pacific Agriculture	\$748,015	<p>The proposed initiative aims to foster a resilient, sustainable agricultural community by empowering socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers through a Residential Apprenticeship Program (RAP) and Local Instructional Farmer Training (LIFT) series. The project will be serving an area markedly underserved and characterized by a significant presence of socially disadvantaged and underrepresented groups—this initiative is strategically designed to address a critical void in agricultural training resources, making a substantive and meaningful impact on the local agricultural sector while fostering growth and sustainability in a region where such support is acutely needed. In partnership with the Kohala Food Hub, Kahua Pa‘a Mua, GoFarm Hawai‘i, The Kohala Center, and other community-based organizations, HIP Ag targets the county’s challenges, notably an aging farmer population and a heavy reliance on food imports. The program offers unique, adaptive training that merges traditional, indigenous, and contemporary agricultural methodologies, designed specifically for Hawai‘i’s unique ecosystem and the diverse needs of its agricultural community. The program will offer hands-on workshops, mentorship field days, educational sessions, and technical assistance to equip farmers with essential skills and knowledge. Expected outcomes include: 1) Increasing economic resilience and market access for farmers by 25%, 2) Ensuring at least 75% of participants demonstrate the application of at least one new sustainable practice or climate resilience strategy within one year of training, and 3) Strengthening access to USDA resources and programs, with at least 90% of participants becoming proficient in navigating these resources. Our strategic partnerships and comprehensive training, HIP Ag will nurture a new generation of farmers, promote food security, sustainability, and community empowerment.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Hawaii (Hawaii and North Kohala counties) Contact Info: Erika Kuhr erika@hipagriculture.org (808) 896-1331</p>



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KS	Jerry Moran & Roger Marshall	Jake LaTurner (02)	Camp CARVER Agricultural Vocational Trades Institute	\$679,494	<p>The overall goal of this project is to empower socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers (SDVFR), in Kansas and Missouri, to successfully own and operate Sustainable Farm businesses. The project will focus on USDA programs and services, land acquisition and retention strategies, financial planning and management, production, and marketing of tested and marketable high value crops/livestock. Using outreach, workshops, hands-on demonstrations, farm and market tours, mentoring, one on one consultations, etc. a variety of topics will be addressed to provide SDVFR with the information and skills needed for them to sustainably operate successful farm businesses, while increasing their participation in USDA programs and services. The primary audiences to be served in this project are the socially disadvantaged, veteran and beginning farmers and ranchers. The expected results of the project are enhanced economic opportunities and an improved quality of life of these farmers and ranchers, their families, and their communities.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Kansas (Anderson, Atkinson, Doniphan, Douglas, Franklin, Jefferson, Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami, and Wyandotte counties) and Missouri (Andrew, Bate, Buchanan, Caldwell, Cass, Clay, Clinton, DeKalb, Henry, Jackson, Johnson, Lafayette, Platte, Ray, and St. Claire counties)</p> <p>Contact Info: Rev. John Drew themightymen@hotmail.com (816) 797-6645</p>



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MA	Elizabeth Warren & Edward J. Markey	Richard E. Neal (01)	All Farmers	\$750,000	<p>All Farmers with Community Involved In Sustaining Agriculture works with Peer Teachers in BIPOC refugee and immigrant farmer communities to bring innovative, climate-resilient farming strategies and access to USDA programs to underserved farmers adapting their traditional farming practices to the Greater Springfield, Massachusetts climate. The results of our first project have been clear in farmers’ fields as Peer Teachers have linguistically and culturally “translated” new farming techniques for farmers and provided hands-on technical assistance to farmers to implement these systems and techniques. The Rooted in Community: Peer Networks for Climate Resiliency and Sustainable Community Farms project builds on these strengths and infrastructure to support underserved farmers adapting to the realities of climate change including implementing water conservation practices with high-efficiency irrigation systems designed and installed through NRCS programs. Refugee and immigrant farmers will receive culturally and linguistically accessible advanced training in low-till soil management practices, transitioning the 60+ acre community farm site to ecologically sustainable practices managed directly by the communities served. At-capacity over 400 farmers and gardeners will benefit from shifting to climate-resilient and sustainable practices with the support of USDA programs. The produce the farmers grow supports diverse and low-income families through our farmers’ markets, local grocery stores, and informal sales. The better we can support their growth, effectiveness, and efficiency the better equipped these farmers are to meet the food needs of local marginalized communities.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Massachusetts (Hampden and Hampshire counties along with the Greater Springfield area)</p> <p>Contact Info: H. Nelle Spare nelle@allfarmers.world (413) 342-0064</p>



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MS	Roger F. Wicker & Cindy Hyde-Smith	Bennie G. Thompson (02)	In Her Shoes, Inc.	\$591,513	<p>In Her Shoes, Inc (IHS) proposes a training and technical assistance project geared toward strengthening sustainability among socially disadvantaged (SD) farmers in the Mississippi Delta through enhancements to our existing Farm Business Enhancement Program (FBEP). The project will continue to offer education and technical assistance resources to all eligible socially disadvantaged farmers (SDF) in order to develop thriving, sustainable new farm businesses and increase underserved farm business viability. Resources and services are proposed for SD farm businesses in the rural communities through our comprehensive FBEP that offers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • paid apprenticeship opportunities • education and technical assistance in land access and retention • education and support in farm business expansion • new market integration and support <p>Through this project, the FBEP will expand to include poultry (broiler) production and processing certificate program offer more accessible apprenticeship program opportunities develop new markets for more access opportunities. The project will result in estimated 12 new farm startups, improved operating efficiency of 35 existing SD farm businesses, and facilitation of at least 15 new market access entries among participants during the 3-year project term. Though most service and support opportunities will be available to all SD farmers in the Delta, outreach will target SD farmers in the stated rural counties.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Mississippi (Bolivar, Coahoma, Leflore, Panola, Quitman, and Tallahatchie counties)</p> <p>Contact Info: Marquitrice Mangram inhershoesinc@outlook.com (678) 898-2285</p>



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MS	Roger F. Wicker & Cindy Hyde-Smith	Michael Guest (03)	SR1	\$750,000	SR1, located in Ridgeland, MS, is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that seeks to eliminate disparities in health, education, and technology through partnerships and research with over five years of experience working with underserved, socially disadvantaged and beginner farmers in Mississippi. SR1's Community Oriented Opportunities for Learning (C.O.O.L.™) Agriculture Project's goal is to encourage and assist socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers and ranchers to own and operate independent farm businesses, as well as engaging youth in agriculture equitable participation in a full range of agricultural, forestry, and related programs. SR1's Community Oriented Opportunities for Learning (C.O.O.L.™) Agriculture Project's will address three of the 2501 Programmatic Mission Areas for socially disadvantaged and beginning Black, Latinx, and Indigenous farmers who reside in Central Mississippi Geographic Service Area: Mississippi (Hinds, Leake, Madison, Neshoba, Rankin, Scott, and Smith counties) Contact Info: Tamu Green tgreen@sr1tech.org (601) 206-4544



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MS	Roger F. Wicker & Cindy Hyde-Smith	Bennie G. Thompson (02)	The Alcorn State University	\$708,184	<p>Agriculture is vital to Mississippi's economy, contributing \$9.72 billion and employing 17.4% of the workforce. The state has 34,988 farms spanning 10,415,136 acres. However, certain groups of farmers face challenges due to limited resources. Climate and weather-related obstacles impact crop production. Limited water resources, transportation issues, and the lack of available land further hinder productivity. Access to capital, affordable land, and skilled labor are crucial for small-scale producers to compete with larger operations. Underserved beginning and military veteran farmers transitioning to civilian life encounter barriers in the agriculture industry. Military veterans perceive farming as expensive and demanding. The agricultural sector contributes 10.5% of US employment, with 21.1 million jobs in 2021. From 2020 to 2025, an average of 59,400 job openings annually in agriculture-related fields, introducing students to careers in agriculture. The Alcorn State University Extension Program (ASUEP) Small Farm Outreach Project (SFOP) collaborates with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and other agencies to identify and assist 735 underserved farmers and ranchers, military veteran farmers and ranchers, beginning farmers and ranchers and 250 youths in grades 9th-12th and 75 collegiate students majoring in agriculture. The ASUEP SFOP implementation includes information delivery and engagements, training instructions, technical assistance and support, and evaluation and assessment.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Mississippi (Adams, Bolivar, Claiborne, Coahoma, Covington, Hinds, Holmes, Jefferson, Lincoln, Pike, Quitman, Sunflower, Walthall, Warren, and Yazoo counties)</p> <p>Contact Info: Carolyn Banks cbanks@alcorn.edu (601) 877-6260</p>



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NC	Thom Tillis & Tedd Budd	Kathy E. Manning (06)	North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University	\$746,950	<p>The USDA reports that Socially Disadvantaged Farmers, Ranchers, and Veteran Farmers (SDFRVs) need greater connection to technical assistance resources to gain ownership of sustainable and profitable farms. The United States has historically struggled with how to treat all its citizens equitably and fairly, while wealth and power are concentrated in a very small segment of our society. North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University's outreach model represents growth in several dimensions, including a One-Stop Network platform for SDFRVs to participate in peer-to-peer technical assistance in AgrAbility, agricultural entrepreneurship, business and financial planning, resilient and inclusive market access, resilient food supply and nutrition, especially among children and youth, and business and economic development through workforce training, heirs' property retention, veteran and beginner farmer transition services and youth involvement. This initiative will be a network of integrated learning and hands-on opportunities in agricultural and related topics that utilize existing and new materials pertaining to USDA priorities in climate smart agricultural production, digital agriculture, heirs' property retention, agricultural entrepreneurship and agricultural education. To ensure USDA technical agreement alignment, responsiveness and relevance, the proposed work is derived from careful strategic planning that incorporates feedback from SDFRVs stakeholders. North Carolina and Georgia both have several poverty persistent counties with Black populations exceeding 40 percent. Geographic Service Area: North Carolina and Georgia Contact Info: Dr. Osei Agyeman Yeboah oyeboah@ncat.edu (336) 285-4727</p>



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NM	Martin Heinrich & Ben Ray Luján	Gabe Vasquez (02)	New Mexico State University	\$740,509	<p>This Navajo Sustainable Agriculture II Project seeks to enhance Navajo farmer and rancher sustainability and profitability through workshops, field demonstrations, “how to” videos, technical assistance and mentoring focused on production, marketing, and recordkeeping and financial planning “best practices” and increased access to and use of USDA programs and services. The primary underserved farmers and ranchers and military farmers and ranchers to be served are Navajo farmers and ranchers.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Arizona (Apache and Navajo counties) and New Mexico (Cibola, Mckinley, and San Juan counties)</p> <p>Contact Info: Michael Patrick jmpat@nmsu.edu (575) 202-4253</p>



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NY	Charles E. Schumer & Kirsten E. Gillibrand	Jerrold Nadler (12)	International Rescue Committee (IRC)	\$749,997	<p>This project helps refugees, asylees, and immigrants, achieve stability and flourish after resettlement in 28 cities across the U.S. IRC’s food security and agriculture program assists socially disadvantaged new American farmers to use their skills to grow food and start farming operations. The New Roots Growing Opportunities (GO) project will address key needs by assisting 110 socially disadvantaged farmers to grow their farm businesses by gaining skills, marketing opportunities, and access to resources, in Salt Lake County, Utah, and South King County, Washington. The project will help farmers in three key areas: (1) improve client climate-smart agricultural practices over 3 years through linguistically and culturally appropriate group training and 1:1 technical assistance (2) assists socially disadvantaged farmers in gaining access to new markets (3) Assist farmers with improving their farm business management practices through providing targeted and linguistically appropriate support with recordkeeping, financial planning, and credit access. (4) Engage refugee youth in agriculture through providing service learning and work opportunities in local agriculture. IRC will assist the USDA with reaching this farmer group through developing linguistically appropriate materials and leveraging existing networks to conduct outreach and provide training in small group and in 1:1 context. Farmers involved are people of color and/or members of ethnic minorities, originating from countries including Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Bhutan, Myanmar, Somalia, Chad, and Mexico, who are subjected to racial prejudice without regard to their individual identity, and lack financial assets and skills, as well as business and technical assistance support.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Utah (Salt Lake county) and Washington (South King county)</p> <p>Contact Info: Aley Kent aley.kent@rescue.org (212) 551-3000</p>



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NY	Charles E. Schumer & Kirsten E. Gillibrand	Marcus J. Molinaro (19)	Khuba International	\$723,304	<p>Through on-farm education and training, Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), Veterans, and Formerly Incarcerated People of Color will learn about food production strategies; climate smart farming; land access connections; markets and distribution opportunities; cooperative farm models; 1:1 mentorship opportunities with established BIPOC and veteran farmers; and productive connections to USDA programs. The Project’s activities will prioritize in-person events and mentorships as demonstrated methods for supporting beginning farmer success, with YR 3 multi-day intensives to further advance BIPOC, veteran, and formerly incarcerated people of color farmer cohorts. The project will connect the target audiences with USDA programs, highlighting NRCS and State Forestry initiatives, to pursue farm tract numbers to get on track for EQIP and other funding opportunities which support conservation, infrastructure, and season extension farm goals. Regenerative agriculture, climate and community resilience, and climate change mitigation and adaptation are priorities highlighted throughout all project and partner activities. On-farm trainings will promote climate smart and regenerative farm strategies including soil science and soil health; season extension; drip irrigation; cover cropping; no/low till; perennial crops; and appropriate technology. Khuba International, Rise & Root Farm, NuLegacy, and Cornell’s Small Farms Program will collaborate with each other to engage socially disadvantaged prospective farmers.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: New York (Delaware, Orange, and Tompkins counties, the Catskills and Finger Lakes regions, along with the Hudson Valley, and throughout New York City)</p> <p>Contact Info: Christa Nunez christanunez@gmail.com (707) 570-5178</p>



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OH	Sherrod Brown & J.D. Vance	Michael R. Turner (10)	Central State University	\$749,880	<p>The goal of this proposal is to provides opportunities for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and veterans who farm or are interested in farming in Ohio to connect to create advice and social networks to improve market access, financial sustainability, climate resiliency, and knowledge for their farming operations. BIPOC farmers are less than one percent (0.9%) of the farmers in Ohio according to the 2022 Census of Agriculture. This is compared to a national average of 4.9%. Building advice and social networks for farmers will help to create sustainability for current farms and infrastructure to support new and beginning farmers to grow the number of BIPOC and veteran farmers. Network building will be intentional with farmer-to-farmer skill sharing groups, a statewide conference to connect BIPOC and veteran farmers, and training classes and workshops on subjects to build farm sustainability through focus on topics such as niche marketing, value-added products, farm financial planning and climate resiliency. These activities will create opportunities for farmers to network together. This grant proposal is led by Central State University (CSU), the only 1890 Land Grant Institution in Ohio and fulfills the mission of programs for underserved, underrepresented populations. The objectives of the grant are to: 1. Create Farmer to Farmer (F2F) Skill Sharing Groups to build local networks for BIPOC farmers; 2. Conduct annual Urban and Small-Scale Farming Connection Conference at Central State University; and 3. Connect farmers with resources through regional workshops to develop sustainable BIPOC and veteran farms.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Ohio (42 counties in Northwest, Northeast, Southeast, Southwest, and Southern regions)</p> <p>Contact Info: Alcinda Folck, Ph.D. afolck@centralstate.edu (937) 376-6101</p>



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OR	Ron Wyden & Jeff Merkley	Suzanne Bonamici (01)	Ecotrust	\$749,997	<p>The proposed Ecotrust project, “Strengthening Climate Resilience, Stewardship Practices & Peer-to-Peer Learning Opportunities for Underserved Farmers in Oregon,” will support the goals of USDA’s OPPE 2501 program to increase the number of farmers and enhance their success and sustainability. Between September 2024 to August 2027, Ecotrust, in close collaboration with our community partners, Black Food Sovereignty Coalition (BFSC) and Oregon State University Center for Small Farms and Community Food Systems (OSU), will: 1) increase the viability of agricultural businesses operated by socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers (SDVFRs) in peri-urban and rural areas by providing essential knowledge, skills, and tools to support business development and their capacity to manage the impacts of climate change through farmer peer-to-peer, cohort-based learning models; 2) increase engagement among underserved Oregon farmers in local, state and federal agriculture programs, including informing underserved farmers/ranchers about USDA’s resources, such as those that assist SDVFRs in making knowledgeable, science-based decisions to support climate change mitigation and build climate resilience that considers emissions reductions and carbon sequestration. Beneficiaries of this project will experience improved farm business survivability, greater resilience to a changing climate, and improved access to other USDA programs designed to benefit socially disadvantaged producers.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Oregon Contact Info: Eric Rodriguez erodriguez@ecotrust.org (503) 825-0845</p>



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OR	Ron Wyden & Jeff Merkley	Earl Blumenauer (03)	Friends of Zenger Farm	\$685,274	Friends of Zenger Farm, aka Zenger Farm's project Pathways to Farming within BIPOC Communities in Multnomah County, Oregon seeks to shift the demographics of who owns and operates farms in Oregon. Zenger Farm is a 24-acre non-profit, urban farm located in East Portland. The project utilizes a Beginning Farmer Training program that has existed for 14 years, a network of beginning farmer alumni, as well as a farm-based youth education program that's evolved for over a decade. This project will serve Black and Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC). Geographic Service Area: Oregon (Multnomah County) and East Portland Contact Info: Rob Cato rob@zengerfarm.org (503) 282-4245
OR	Ron Wyden & Jeff Merkley	Earl Blumenauer (03)	Rogue Farm Corps	\$745,848	Rogue Farm Corps (RFC) and Adelante Mujeres (AM) are reducing barriers to farm ownership and agricultural employment for socially disadvantaged Latine/BIPOC farmers and ranchers (SDFR) in Oregon with 0 - 10 years of experience, who are seeking to start a farm business. We provide culturally and linguistically accessible beginning farmer job training, racial equity training for farm employers, and strengthen connections between SDFRs and USDA services and resources. Geographic Service Area: Oregon Contact Info: Jennifer Hamilton jennifer@roguefarmcorps.org (801) 649-6041



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PR	N/A	Jennifer Gonzalez-Colen (At-Large)	University of Puerto Rico Piedras Campus	\$750,000	<p>This project aims to assist underserved coffee farmers in Puerto Rico with the goal of increasing farmer's income, address food insecurity and reduce Puerto Rico's reliance on food imports. To achieve these goals, we will conduct three workshops per year to train 120 coffee farmers to diversify their operations with beekeeping and shade coffee. This will serve to 1) Increase coffee yield and provide specialty high-value products such as honey and pollen, adding to farm income. 2) Augment tree performance used for shade coffee. Native and fruit trees such as avocados, citrus and mango will increase fruit set and yield, further increasing products and income. 3) Provide long-term ecological stability of coffee farms, resulting in the increase of coffee quality, important for the Certification of Origin of Puerto Rican coffee and agritourism. Additionally, the structural stability of the shade coffee system will serve to protect coffee plants from the negative effects of climate change and hurricane damage, reducing the farm's recovery period after storms. The project will provide information and training to establish beekeeping and manage shade coffee as well as hands-on training and network opportunities with other farmers and USDA personnel to facilitate participation in USDA programs and access funding opportunities. The educational and training material generated will be available via the University of Puerto Rico and Florida International University websites and serve the approximately 4,000 Puerto Rico coffee farmers in perpetuity. Information dissemination will be aided by the community-operated NGO Casa Pueblo through its radio podcast programs.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Puerto Rico Contact Info: Tugrul Giray, Ph.D. tugrul.giray@upr.edu tgiray2@yahoo.com (787) 449-8522</p>



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State	Senators	Representatives	Recipient	Grant	Project Description
SC	Lindsey Graham & Tim Scott	Ralph Norman (05)	Foundation for Community Impact & Health Equity	\$748,210	<p>The AgriAssist SC Project by the Foundation for Community Impact & Health Equity aims to further support underserved farmers in South Carolina by providing resources, technical assistance, and educational programs to help them succeed in farming, improve participation in USDA programs, and address barriers to equitable participation in the agriculture sector. Participants will learn about best practices in farming, sustainability efforts, and innovative techniques to improve their operations. The economic growth that the project provides by supporting underserved farmers will increase productivity and profitability, contributing to the overall economic growth of rural communities. By targeting underserved farmers, the project will promote equity and inclusion in the agricultural sector, ensuring that all farmers have access to the same information. By assisting farmers in accessing USDA programs, the project can contribute to local and national food security by supporting sustainable agriculture practices and increasing food production.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: South Carolina Contact Info: Quintasha Knox qknox@fcihe.org (803) 728-6137</p>



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State	Senators	Representatives	Recipient	Grant	Project Description
SC	Lindsey Graham & Tim Scott	James E. Clyburn (06)	South Carolina State University	\$749,656	<p>The primary goal of the SCSU 1890 AgriTech Outreach and Training Initiative (AOTI) is to empower underserved farmers and ranchers, including military veterans, by providing access to cutting-edge agricultural technologies and sustainable farming practices. The SCSU 1890 AgriTech Outreach and Training Initiative (AOTI) offers workshops, training sessions, and resources on emerging technologies such as AI, robotics, drones, and automation. Leveraging the expertise of South Carolina State University's faculty and students, the program includes virtual and in-person training, a comprehensive online resource library, and mobile technology clinics. By fostering collaboration and community engagement, AOTI aims to enhance the efficiency, productivity, and sustainability of farms across South Carolina. Primary underserved or military veteran groups to be served:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals operating small farms or ranches often face financial constraints and limited access to advanced agricultural technologies. • African American, Hispanic, Native American, and other minority farmers and ranchers have historically had less access to resources and support. • Military Veterans transitioning to agriculture careers need specialized support and training to succeed in this field. <p>Geographic Service Area: South Carolina (Bamberg, Clarendon, Marion, Orangeburg, and Williamsburg counties) also Military Bases and surrounding communities, namely Fort Jackson in Richland County and Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter County Contact Info: Mari Maja, Ph.D. jmaja@scsu.edu (803) 536-7134</p>



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State	Senators	Representatives	Recipient	Grant	Project Description
SD	John Thune & Mike Rounds	Dusty Johnson (At-Large)	Tanka Fund	\$748,611	<p>Tanka Fund will recruit Native and Native Military Veteran Buffalo Producers to engage in USDA programs and provide technical assistance in order for the producers to enter local and regional food supply markets. The project addresses increased technical assistance specific to USDA programs, increasing Tanka Fund relationships with USDA offices across Indian Country where Native Buffalo Producers live, and focused effort to support producers seeking entry into local and regional food supply markets. Technical assistance and training will include introductions to USDA programs, support building relationships with local USDA staff and applying for USDA programs, as well as technical assistance and training on marketing, food distribution options, and value-added product development.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: South Dakota Contact Info: Dawn Sherman dawn.sherman@tankafund.org (605) 390-0768</p>



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State	Senators	Representatives	Recipient	Grant	Project Description
TX	John Cornyn & Ted Cruz	Joaquin Castro (20)	Family Endeavors, Inc. dba Endeavors	\$749,907	<p>This project aims to address the daily challenges farmers and ranchers face by providing essential tools to enhance productivity and sustainability. Through a comprehensive suite of virtual and in-person workshops, the project will cover farm and ranch management, agricultural practices, business management, financial planning, budgeting, marketing strategies, and access to USDA grants and loans. Participants will learn about the latest farm management software, precision agriculture technologies, and mobile apps, with technical assistance for effective utilization. The project includes workshops on navigating agricultural regulations, ensuring compliance, and assisting with permits and documentation from relevant agencies. Our initiative, rooted in our extensive experience since 2021, is uniquely designed to meet the distinct needs of Puerto Rican farmers and ranchers, fostering new opportunities, and improving application rates to USDA programs. Target Groups: Underserved and military Veteran farmers and ranchers in Puerto Rico (SDVFR), including women and people with disabilities interested in starting up or continuing their agricultural activities.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Puerto Rico (all 78 municipalities) Contact Info: Cubero Alers ccubero@endeavors.org (787) 613-4427</p>



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State	Senators	Representatives	Recipient	Grant	Project Description
TX	John Cornyn & Ted Cruz	Randy K. Weber, Sr. (14)	Harvest for the Hungry, Inc.	\$750,000	<p>Harvest for the Hungry (H4H), a CBO, proposes a 2501 Program to assist socially disadvantaged (African American and Asian American) and military veteran farmers (SDVF), including beginning farmers in owning and operating successful farms in rural Brazoria, Fort Bend, and Harris County, Texas. The objectives are: 1) To create equitable and inclusive programs and services; 2) To impart sustainable production methods; and 3) To assist in accessing capital, funding, and USDA programs and resources. The expected outcomes are: 1) To recruit 80 SDVF; 2) To have 80 SDVF attend, gain knowledge and improve production practices; and 3) To have 80 SDVF attend, gain knowledge, and develop farm business practices that earn income. Over 36 months, two training cohorts of 40 (total 80) will be offered year-long training consisting of quarterly modules on farming (crop production), USDA programs, agribusiness, and a hands-on practicum. In addition, 1:1 production consultations, agribusiness development and financial consultations, and technical assistance in accessing grants, USDA programs, and/or loans will be offered. The collaborating institutions/organizations/farmer groups are Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Texas Tech University, University of Houston, and Brazoria County Master Gardeners. All collaborators have expertise in farming, USDA programs, and/or agribusiness training and outreach.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Texas (rural Brazoria, Fort Bend, and Harris counties)</p> <p>Contact Info: David Huang h4thtx@gmail (936) 577-5770</p>



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State	Senators	Representatives	Recipient	Grant	Project Description
TX	John Cornyn & Ted Cruz	Michael T. McCaul (10)	Texas A&M AgriLife Extension	\$750,000	<p>Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service's project Expanding Agriculture Opportunities for Veteran Farmers & Ranchers (EAO-VFR), will</p> <p>1) Increase outreach and technical assistance to military veteran farmers and ranchers (mvfr) in Texas to increase their knowledge of and participation in USDA programs 2) Add enhanced agriculture production training courses and hands-on learning opportunities that include training for mvfr in a) Funding and technical resources for mvfr (USDA-AMS, FSA, NRCS, RD; Farm Credit; Farmer Veteran Coalition; Texas Dept. of Ag; other local, regional, national farmer & rancher support programs) b) strategies for accessing USDA programs/services & overcoming barriers c) farm business management d) financial planning e) strategies to expand the food supply chain and strengthen local & regional food systems to support food & nutrition security, especially in rural areas f) business opportunities and economic development in rural areas. Through webinars, online courses, hands-on learning events and outreach events, this project will increase the number of mvfr in Texas and enhance their sustainability. Estimated Outcomes: 410 individuals served (180 improve farming success and 90 start farming/ranching). Project Management team has over 18 years of experience in managing and implementing large multi-year grant projects, twelve of which support educational and agriculture hands-on learning opportunities for military veterans.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Texas Contact Info: Erin Kimbrough erin.kimbrough@ag.tamu.edu (979) 321-5228</p>



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State	Senators	Representatives	Recipient	Grant	Project Description
TX	John Cornyn & Ted Cruz	Michael T. McCaul (10)	Texas Center for Local Food	\$749,756	<p>The Texas Center for Local Food (TCLF) and the National Women in Agriculture Association - Texas Chapter (WNWIAA) will lead the "Training Texas' Brazos Valley Farmers for Whole Farm Success" project to achieve three main objectives: strengthening local farm businesses, demonstrating farmer success through training and technical assistance, and supporting socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers (SDVFRs) in accessing USDA programs. They will deliver a comprehensive training and technical assistance program, including workshops, webinars, independent study groups, personalized technical assistance, field days, and a concluding conference. The project will focus on nine counties in Texas' Central Brazos Valley. Over three years, the project expects to engage 400 SDVFRs through direct training and more via outreach. Anticipated outcomes include increased knowledge of agricultural topics for 240 SDVFRs, enhanced business operations for 200 SDVFRs, greater USDA program awareness for 170 SDVFRs, increased sales for 30 SDVFRs, successful USDA program participation for 15 SDVFRs, new sales channels for 12 SDVFRs, and the establishment of 5 new farm or ranch businesses. Both TCLF and WNWIAA have extensive experience serving SDVFRs and managing federal grants. The project will address the needs of SDVFRs in Texas' Brazos Valley, particularly Black and Hispanic farmers, by offering a holistic approach to farm success encompassing production, business management, marketing, and USDA program access. The collaboration leverages both organizations' strengths, ensuring a sustainable impact on the local food system and community food security.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Texas' Central Brazos Valley (Bell, Brazos, Burleson, Falls, Hill, Limestone, McLennan, Milam, and Robertson counties)</p> <p>Contact Info: Sue Beckwith SueB@TexasLocalFood.org (512) 496-1244</p>



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State	Senators	Representatives	Recipient	Grant	Project Description
VA	Mark Warner & Tim Kaine	Jennifer L. McClellan (04)	Virginia State University	\$749,983	<p>The project's goal is to equip our targeted audiences (TA), Limited Resourced, Socially Disadvantaged Veteran Farmers and Ranchers with the tools and skills needed for them to make informed decisions in owning and operating profitable farm businesses, while increasing their participation in U.S Department of Agriculture programs. The supporting objectives are: To improve awareness and increase participation among TAs in USDA-farm programs and services. (Priority Area PA2 and 3); To enhance the knowledge and skills in farm estate, financial, and business planning and management; and in utilizing technology as a management and resource tool (PA 1 and 4); To improve the knowledge, skills and abilities to own, retain, and operate sustainable and profitable farm businesses (PA 1, 4); to increase profits by identifying new markets, connecting to markets and effective marketing strategies (PA 1 and 4); To introduce socially disadvantaged youths to Agriculture (PA5). The project area is comprised of areas where there is a high concentration of farmers who have been traditionally underserved and plagued by several barriers such as, limited access to credit and capital, lack of skills in business and financial planning, lack of knowledge of USDA programs and services, lack of skills in farm businesses and, limited access to new and existing markets. This project will address these barriers with a holistic approach, with the expected result of an improved quality of life of farmers, their families, and communities.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Virginia, Maryland, along with 54 North Carolina counties</p> <p>Contact Info: William Crutchfield wcrutchfield@vsu.edu (804) 892-4316</p>



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State	Senators	Representatives	Recipient	Grant	Project Description
WA	Patty Murray & Maria Cantwell	Adam Smith (09)	Wakulima USA	\$750,000	<p>The project provides personalized support to disadvantaged new and beginning farmers, helping them develop the skills to manage and grow their operations sustainably. It focuses on increasing farmland access, improving production skills and facilities, establishing and expanding market connections, and providing a support system for immigrant and refugee farmers. The project is refugee and immigrant led, with 100% of key personnel identifying as refugees, immigrants, or the children of immigrants. By the end of the project, 70 socially disadvantaged farmers will be to apply the knowledge gained on land acquisition to access more land; adopt and implement climate-smart agronomic practices, adopt and use market connections to expand beginning farm businesses and improve market sales, increase the number of community members to begin farming</p> <p>Primary Groups to be Served: The project targets immigrant and refugee farmers. The project will serve those who are BIPOC, and originate from a range of countries including Burundi, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Bhutan, Myanmar, Somalia, Chad, and Mexico.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Washington State (South King County)</p> <p>Contact Info: Dickerson Njeri dickson@wakulimausa.org (425) 908-9144</p>



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State	Senators	Representatives	Recipient	Grant	Project Description
WI	Ron Johnson & Tammy Baldwin	Scott Fitzgerald (05)	Michael Fields Agricultural Institute	\$703,714	<p>Michael Fields Agricultural Institute will lead the project “Deepening Relationships for Staple Crops in Our Communities.” This project will provide increased opportunities for historically under-resourced farmers to collaborate, share risks and resources for procuring staple crops at a local level, while developing the critical skills diversified farmers require to maintain a long-term career in farming and regional food systems through entrepreneurship and marketing skills. Specifically, this project will: 1) build pathways for historically underserved diversified producers to understand and access USDA programs – FSA, NRCS, RMA, RD, AMS, SNAP, LFPA – allowing small farm business’ to diversify sustainably and increase access to nutritionally dense staple crops, 2) increase learning opportunities for farmers to source culturally relevant grain and staple crops in the Midwest by developing collaborative relationships for increased regional production on small acreage farms, and 3) evaluate barriers to bridging the rural - urban divide for underserved farmers and strengthen community systems to provide consistent local staple crop foodways and bolster resiliency to regional food systems. Relevant staple crops will be identified and addressed by each organization to best serve their farmers and community constituent needs: Fondy Food Center (Hmong/Hmoob), Chicago Bread Club (African American and Latinx), Michigan Food & Farming Systems (BIPOC, Immigrant, and Veterans). Geographic Service Area: Wisconsin and Illinois (Cook, Kankakee, Lake and McHenry counties)</p> <p>Contact Info: Christine Johnson cjohnson@michaelfields.org (847) 971-3092</p>



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State	Senators	Representatives	Recipient	Grant	Project Description
MS	Roger F. Wicker & Cindy Hyde-Smith	Bennie Thompson (02)	ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY POLICY RESEARCH CENTER (PRC)	\$1,500,000	<p>The purpose of this agreement is to fund the <i>Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy Research Center (Policy Center) at Alcorn State University</i> for fiscal year 2025 (September 30, 2024, through September 30, 2025). The Policy Center was created as a vehicle for minority farmers to have a voice in the development of agricultural policies that impact their livelihoods. The rationale for the Policy Center is that farm policies shape the reality of the agricultural sector, and policies can be ambivalent from the point of view of offering possibilities on one hand but imposing constraints on the other. The Policy Center provides a vehicle for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (SDFRs) to be involved in policy construction, interpretation, and implementation and has been operational since 2016. The Policy Center is national in scope with a strategic focus in the 18 states with 1890 universities to assist in reaching SDFRs in high concentrated areas. The mission of the Policy Center is to conduct research, analyze policy and make recommendations seeking to achieve equitable and economic integration of USDA programs and policies for socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers, communities, and rural landowners. The vision of the Policy Center is to be the premiere authority for information on the history, current conditions, trends and future projections of socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers (SDFRs) and communities. The Policy Center uses a transparent management structure with a focus on stakeholder engagement, active research, policy development and strategic outreach. These four areas, when strategically integrated, produce a platform for relevant active research, policy development, ongoing stakeholder dialogue, and continuous dissemination of research findings.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Nationwide Contact Info: Eloris Speight espeight@asu.edu (601) 877-6601</p>