



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Iowa Local Food Purchasing Assistance Program Surpasses One Million Dollar Mark

The Iowa Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (ILFPA) was launched in September 2022 and has achieved early success in purchasing high-quality food from local farmers and producers at a fair price and distributing it to underserved communities throughout the state. Funding for the Iowa LFPA is made possible by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service through the American Rescue Plan and USDA Commodity Credit Corporation, which was awarded to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. The program is being managed in partnership with Iowa Valley Resource Conservation and Development.

In the initial award, Iowa received \$2.7 million in funding, this past spring the program funding was increased to total \$5.67 million over 3 years to continue building on the initial successes of the first year. This August, the program surpassed one million dollars in food value sourced, distributed, and received through the program throughout the state of Iowa.

The ILFPA program is expected to purchase from at least 300 Iowa farmers and producers with a tiered equitable purchasing standards with an aim to reach every county in Iowa through partnerships with 15 distributors, including food hubs, food banks, and the Meskwaki Nation who are managing aggregation, distribution, and local strategies to make the program impactful across Iowa. The program emphasizes a decentralized approach, allowing local experts to meet community needs through individual implementation plans designed by distribution partners.

Emily Roberts, Program Manager with Field to Family Food Hub in Iowa City, says that through the LFPA program "I've seen connections within the local food world deepen and become more fortified. Farmers are selling out of their products before they add them to a compost pile, enhancing their lives because they're being recognized for their hard work. Many of the recipients I connect the food to are so grateful for the fresh, local produce."

To learn more about the program and how to support it, visit www.iowalfpa.org, <https://iowaagriculture.gov/ILFPA>, or contact Iowa Valley RC&D's Program Director Giselle Bruskewitz at info@iowalfpa.org. The ILFPA program is building new partnerships and infrastructure across the state to continue serving communities with high-quality local food.

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Photos: credit PJ Pasturczak Photography