



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Iowa Local Food Purchasing Assistance Program Surpasses Two Million Dollar Mark

The Iowa Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (ILFPA) was launched in September 2022 and achieved early, nationally recognized, 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 (IDALS). The IDALS program is being managed in partnership with Iowa Valley Resource Conservation and Development.

A total of \$5.67 million over 3 years was awarded to Iowa to continue building on the strengths in our local food system. This January, the program surpassed two million dollars in food value sourced, distributed, and received through the program across 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 partnerships to strategically work towards positive impacts for food access across Iowa. The program emphasizes a decentralized approach, allowing local experts to meet community needs through individual implementation plans designed by distribution partners.

Since the start of the program in 2022, 230 beginning, established, and socially disadvantaged farmers and producers throughout the state have sold through the LFPA, getting food to the people who want it, without short changing the farmer.

Giselle Bruskewitz, Iowa Valley RC&D Senior Program Director, says "the challenge of food insecurity is a state-wide and global issue. People lack access to food. In the state of Iowa, we are finding we can produce a significant amount of food locally to feed ourselves but we have a distribution problem. The Iowa LFPA is working to address this challenge by connecting the dots between our talented farmers and underserved Iowa communities with strong partnerships and our local food infrastructure."

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 LFPA team at info@iowalfpa.org. The Iowa LFPA 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