



## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Iowa Receives Additional \$2.9M for Local Food Purchasing Assistance Program**

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. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Local Food Purchase Assistance program as part of the "Build Back Better" initiative authorized by the American Rescue Plan, 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, and the state has just announced an additional \$2.9 million for the LFPA Plus to total \$5.67 million over 3 years to continue building on the initial successes of the first year. During Phase One, Iowa distributed \$684,456 in food value, including \$393,193 to socially disadvantaged producers in the state.

The ILFPA program is expected to purchase from at least 300 Iowa farmers and producers with a tiered equitable purchasing standards with an aim reach of 2,000 food distribution sites through partnerships with the 16 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.

Bob Howard, with Country View Dairy in Hawkeye, Iowa, an Iowa LFPA producer, says that the LFPA program has been very beneficial to their business and that they are happy to be involved. "It is a great thing to grow local food sales, keep the money in Iowa, and help those in need," he added.

To learn more about the program and how to support it, visit [www.iowalfpa.org](http://www.iowalfpa.org), <https://iowaagriculture.gov/ILFPA>, or contact Iowa Valley RC&D's Program Director Giselle Bruskewitz at [info@iowalfpa.org](mailto: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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