



Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program (Fiscal Year 2021)

State	Senators	Representatives	Recipient	Grant	Project Description
AK	Lisa Murkowski & Don Sullivan	Don Young At Large (01)	Alaska Village Initiatives	\$739,754	Alaska Village Initiatives project entitled “From Food Deserts to Farms” seeks to expand the number of socially disadvantaged/veteran farmers in rural Alaska villages through educational programs that include a land-based farm school to address obstacles of beginning farmers. The three-year program combines hands-on training, coupled with online courses on sustainable farming practices with agriculture-related digital resources with specific learning outcomes, required skills, and associated proficiency. The program will raise awareness on food issues, assist farmers in applying for USDA programs, and teach management and budgeting skills. Geographic Service Area: Alaska Contact Info: Red Bradley red@akvillage.com (907) 830-5862
AK	Lisa Murkowski & Don Sullivan	Don Young At Large (00)	Kodiak Archipelago Leadership Institute	\$531,408	The overall goal of this three-year project is to support the establishment of a regional network of Alaska Native farmers in the Alutiiq Homeland of the Kodiak Archipelago in support of economic development and regional food security. The project’s three objectives focus on the delivery of an annual cycle of technical training and information that includes beginning farmers from all six of the archipelago’s communities of Akhiok, Kodiak, Larsen Bay, Old Harbor, Ouzinkie and Port Lions. At least 25 Alaska Natives will participate in the project’s technical assistance activities, at least 8 Alaska Native owned farms will obtain financial and operational sustainability by September 2023. Geographic Service Area: Alaska Contact Info: Roberta Townsend Vennel robbietownsendvennel.kali@gmail.com (907) 299-6185
AR	John Boozman & Tom Cotton	Bruce Westerman (04)	University of Arkansas System at Pine Bluff	\$750,000	The project is designed to assist Socially Disadvantaged Producers (SDPs) in accessing and using USDA Programs, to provide training and technical assistance in farm financial planning as well as crop and livestock production, to assist SDPs in developing plans and marketing fresh vegetables, and to provide assistance to heir property owners. Geographic Service Area: Arkansas Contact Info: Henry English englishh@uapb.edu (870) 575-7246

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AZ	Kyrsten Sinema & Mark Kelly	Raul Grijalva (03)	University of Arizona	\$594,301	To provide multi-pronged education to 7 regions of Arizona and New Mexico. It includes: 1) a series of six consecutive training workshops in each region (in total, 42 trainings) on USDA programs (FSA, NRCS, RMA, AMS, NIFA and RD), conservation plans, good business and agricultural practices, innovative production, niche marketing strategies, agri-tourism opportunities for producers, financial literacy, and climate resilient literacy; 2) one-to-one assistance to SDVFRs; 3) two week-long modular agribusiness management literacy trainings on University of Arizona campus for 50 to 60 SDV adults; and 4) monthly dissemination of market outlook information via email to over 500 SDV producers. In-person livestock and crop-oriented trainings are expected to reach 150 and 120 unique SDV producers, respectively. Geographic Service Area: Arizona and New Mexico Contact Info: Dr. Russell Tronstad tronstad@ag.arizona.edu (520) 621-2425
CA	Diane Feinstein & Alejandro Padilla	Jimmy Panetta (20)	Agriculture Land-Based Training Association	\$750,000	The Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association (ALBA) will implement the ‘Farmers access Resources, Education and Enterprise Development (FREED)’ Project under the USDA/OPPE 2501 program. ALBA is headquartered 10 miles south of Salinas at a hundred-acre farm in the heart of the Salinas Valley on California’s Central Coast. At least 90% of ALBA participants are socially disadvantaged farmers, a clear majority of whom are Mexican immigrant farmworkers who come to ALBA to pursue career advancement or independent farm ownership. FREED will benefit 200 socially disadvantaged farmers who benefit from on-farm education, subsidized farmland and farm equipment, and hands-on business and production assistance from ALBA and partners. New entrants to the program will enroll in a year-long, 240-hour course designed to prepare them to launch an organic farm. Graduates of the course may then establish their farm enterprise ALBA’s during the project period while more experienced farms transition off to farm independently in the region. ALBA participants and another 200 socially disadvantaged farmers will receive information and training on accessing USDA programs. Geographic Service Area: Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz counties Contact Info: Nathan Harkelroad nathan@albafarmers.org (831) 758-1469
CA	Diane Feinstein & Alejandro Padilla	Alan Lowenthal (47)	Kitchen Food Ventures, Inc.	\$424,524	The project will include “Heir Property Assessment, Strategic Review and Property Restoration” to rightful heir owners, Business and Financial Development Services Including Farm/Business Plan, Technical Assistance, USDA Loan Information, QuickBooks & Marketing Education to (150) Socially Disadvantaged Farmers & Ranchers. Geographic Service Area: San Bernardino and Riverside counties and 15 cities (Adelanto, Aguanga, Bryn Mawr, Calimesa, Forest Falls, Grand Terrace, Joshua Tree, Lucerne Valley, Mentone, Mira Loma, Newberry, Phelan, Thermal, Wildomar and Yucca Valley) Contact Info: Cherie Beasley kitchenfoodventures@msn.com (310) 920-7001

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CO	Michael Bennet & John Hickenlooper	Ken Buck (04)	First Nations Development Institute	\$750,000	<p>The project responds to needs identified in First Nations' March 2021 survey of Native producers which verified that post-Covid-19 pandemic, producers are seeking to advance their operations by increasing access to new markets, addressing soil health, developing business goals, and expanding their network.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Two rural, tribal communities in the Southwest (in Arizona –Navajo Nation and in New Mexico – Pueblo of Jemez)</p> <p>Contact Info: Jackie Francke jfrancke@firstnations.org (303) 774-7836</p>
GA	Jon Ossoff & Raphael Warnock	Nikema Williams (05)	Global Growers Network Inc.	\$749,997	<p>The goal of the project is to establish equitable and accessible systems of support for beginner and aspiring Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) farmers, including immigrants and refugees, through connections to knowledge, networks, and capital.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Metro Atlanta</p> <p>Contact Info: Diana Bui diana@globalgrowers.org (404) 254-6175</p>
GA	Jon Ossoff & Raphael Warnock	David Scott (13)	In Her Shoes, Inc.	\$253,425	<p>The project goal is to increase access to resources including, capital and USDA aid programs by providing education workshops and technical assistance on legal business formation, recordkeeping, business planning and farm loan applications. The project will also improve crop management operations and cut operations cost through technical assistance and best practices workshops in crop input management techniques.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Mississippi Delta counties (Coahoma, Bolivar, Quitman, Leflore, Tallahatchie, Yalobusha, Desoto and Holmes)</p> <p>Contact Info: Marquitrice Mangham inhereshoesinc@outlook.com (678) 898-2285</p>
GA	Jon Ossoff & Raphael Warnock	Jody Hice (10)	Stag Vets, Inc.	\$711,445	<p>The curriculum for the institutes includes the following sections: 1. Getting Started (Heir Property, USDA Programs, Business formation, and collecting payments from Consumers); 2. Protections (Product Liability Insurance, GAP Certification, Biosecurity on their farms); 3. Production (traditional gardening, aeroponics/ hydroponics, intensive growing systems, animals), Value-added production; 4. Marketing (branding, advertising, selling, packaging, setting up curb markets and CSA's).</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Georgia</p> <p>Contact Info: jon@stagvetsinc.org (706) 577-9236</p>
HI	Brian Schatz & Mazie Hirono	Kaiali'i Kahele (02)	Sustainable Molokai	\$649,746	<p>To grow the number of socially disadvantaged (SD) beginning farmers on the island as well as provide tools to SD farmers and SD beginning farmers to enhance their successes and financial viability. To address the needs of our community through collaborate with community partners to offer 4 different agricultural education/training programs as well as technical assistance and USDA program coordination in order to foster the development and expansion of SD farmers and SD beginning farmers. They include: (1) Egg Production Workshops, (2) a University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH CTAHR) Chicken Crop Foraging workshop, (3) Agricultural Internships (4) GoFarm Hawaii AgBusiness Workshops, and (5) USDA program coordination.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Hawaii</p> <p>Contact Info: Jamie Ronzello jamie@sustainablemolokai.org (808) 560-5410</p>

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IA	Charles Grassley & Joni Ernst	Ashley Hinson (01)	Iowa Valley RC&D	\$689,454	Iowa Valley will create and facilitate a Train the Trainer program with UWMF with culturally and linguistically appropriate curriculum so immigrant and refugees in year one will become trainers in years 2 and 3 to share knowledge around (Iowa farming seasons, purchasing seed, operating machinery, etc.) and are introduced to USDA programs (such as farmland ownership loans, microloans, conservation cost share programs at Farm Service Agency and Natural Resource Conservation Service). Geographic Service Area: Iowa Contact Info: Jason Grimm jason@ivrcd.org (319) 622-3264
IA	Charles Grassley & Joni Ernst	Cynthia Axne (03)	Lutheran Services in Iowa, Inc.	\$324,707	This program will provide enhanced support to graduates that wish to secure long term land options as this is a primary barrier to their long-term sustainability. The GG program will offer trainings and technical assistance to GG farmers in the Des Moines area and others across the state through its proven technical assistance model for market, production and business start-up and growth. Geographic Service Area: The three metro areas of Iowa, including Waterloo (Blackhawk County), Des Moines (Polk, Dallas and Warren Counties) and Iowa City (Johnson County) Contact Info: Nicholas Wuertz nicholas.wuertz@lsiowa.org (515) 271-7443
KY	Mitch McConnell & Rand Paul	Garland Barr (06)	Kentucky State University	\$750,000	KSU and CFA will educate and assist farmers and ranchers through a battery of programs, educational opportunities, and one-on-one assistance with production and marketing. Geographic Service Area: Kentucky Contact Info: Marion Faye Simon marion.simon@kysu.edu (502) 316-5423
MA	Elizabeth Warren & Edward Markey	James McGovern (02)	Community Involved in Sustaining Ag	\$750,000	The goal of this project is to accelerate the growth and productivity of farms operated by refugee and immigrant farmers in the Springfield, Massachusetts metro area (Hampden County) and to assist those farms in participating in USDA programs. Investing in refugee and immigrant peer teachers is an enduring resource to the refugee and immigrant farming community and the community at large, leading to more productive farms and gardens and increased fresh food access in diverse urban neighborhoods. Geographic Service Area: Springfield, Massachusetts metro area (Hampden County) Contact Info: Kelly Coleman kelly@buylocalfood.org (413) 665-7100 ext. 14
MA	Elizabeth Warren & Edward Markey	Ayanna Pressley (07)	Trustees of Tufts College	\$742,056	New Entry Sustainable Farming Project's goal is to provide training and technical assistance to 900 socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers to improve their direct market, high-value commercial farming enterprises. Expected outcomes are that farmers will access land, own and operate economically viable farms, meet community demands for locally grown food, and access USDA programs and services. "Explore Farming" for skills and asset assessment, experiential Crop Production Courses, a demonstration plot, and FSA-accredited Farm Business Training Courses to improve climate-smart production and farm management skills. Incubator farms and individual technical assistance will connect producers to USDA loan programs, conservation planning, cost-share, and marketing programs. The New Entry website (www.nesfp.org) will host updated resources and guides to USDA services. Geographic Service Area: Massachusetts Contact Info: Jennifer Hashley Jennifer.Hashley@tufts.edu (617) 636-3793

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MD	Benjamin Cardin & Chris Van Hollen	Kweisi Mfume (07)	Future Harvest Inc.	\$606,119	For this mission, Future Harvest will partner with Common Grain Alliance and Fields 4 Valor to create a tailored learning experience for BIPOC and veteran farmers to advance agriculture excellence and leadership building through purposeful enrichment. We will work with largely beginning farmers throughout DE, MD, DC, WV, and VA, as well as intermediate and experienced farmers. Geographic Service Area: Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, West Virginia, and Virginia Contact Info: Amyrose Foll amyrose@futureharvest.org (410) 549-7878
MN	Amy Klobuchar & Tina Smith	Ilhan Omar (05)	Food Group Minnesota, Inc.	\$554,667	This project aims to increase the diversity of farmers participating in USDA and Big River Farms programming. To expand our network of BIPOC farmers, Big River Farms will create an Outreach Specialist staff position and offer programming in collaboration with BIPOC-led organizations. Geographic Service Area: Minnesota Contact Info: Laura Mirafuentes lmirafuentes@thefoodgroupmn.org (651) 433-3676
MO	Roy Blunt & Joshua Hawley	Blaine Luetkemeyer (03)	Lincoln University	\$623,189	Lincoln University aims to directly assist a core group of 300 SDVBFR in being successful with their businesses or start new operations. Geographic Service Area: Northeast, Northwest, and Central Missouri Contact Info: Dr. Touria Eaton Eatont@LincolnU.edu (573) 681-5174
MO	Roy Blunt & Joshua Hawley	Vicky Hartzler (04)	University of Missouri System	\$653,783	Project aims to increase participation in USDA Programs by socially disadvantaged farmers and veterans with formal education, informal training, and independent learning events/activities. Farmers will learn business planning, sustainable agriculture, and forestry practices to preserve soil and natural resources, create new and fair marketing opportunities, and value-added production. Through Team-to-One Coaching, participants will move beyond learning to work on critical thinking and application to entrepreneurship. Geographic Service Area: East Central, Southeast, and Southwest counties Contact Info: Karen Brents Funkenbusch funkenbuschk@umsystem.edu (573) 884-1268
NC	Richard Burr & Thom Tillis	Kathy Manning (06)	North Carolina A&T State University	\$748,800	The BECCH Project directly addresses recognized constraints by employing marketing, ageconomics, agricultural big data, and innovations to support a statewide up thrust in SDFRVs technical assistance. The collective effort is built on personal relationships and a shared agenda among faculty members, cooperative extension personnel and community champion partners. The BECCH model represents growth in several dimensions including a statewide iDISCOVERY Network and shared facilities. This initiative will be a statewide “ease of access” network of integrated learning and hands-on opportunities in agricultural topics that utilize existing and new materials pertaining to USDA priorities in climate smart agricultural production, digital agriculture, heirs’ property/minority farm ownership, and agricultural entrepreneurship. Geographic Service Area: North Carolina Contact Info: Gregory Goins ggoins@ncat.edu (336) 285-2191

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NC	Richard Burr & Thom Tillis	George Butterfield (01)	Operation Spring Plant	\$595,700	Identify new markets, connecting them to existing markets, and assist them with effective marketing strategies. The project will involve activities in planning, production and marketing of tested and marketable high value crops and livestock. Using outreach, training, and technical assistance approach, 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. Geographic Service Area: Edgecombe, Franklin, Granville, Halifax, Nash, Orange, Northampton, Person, Warren, Wilson, Vance, Durham, Johnston, and Wake counties Contact Info: Dorathy Barker operationspringplantinc67@gmail.com (252) 431-5568
NM	Martin Heinrich & Ben Lujan	Yvette Herrell (02)	New Mexico State University	\$720,621	The project seeks to 1) increase the profitability and sustainability of Navajo farmers and ranchers through education and training and increased access and use of USDA programs and service, and 2) increase the local production and consumption of fresh vegetables, fruits, and healthy food by Navajo families and individuals. Geographic Service Area: San Juan, McKinley, and Cibola counties (Northern and Eastern Navajo Nation Agencies Contact Info: Michael Patrick jmpat@nmsu.edu (575) 646-5682
NY	Charles Schumer & Kirsten Gillibrand	Carolyn Maloney (12)	International Rescue Committee, Inc.	\$749,999	The International Rescue Committee (IRC) will assist target groups to achieve stability and flourish after resettlement in 25 cities across the U.S. IRC's food security and agriculture program, New Roots, assists socially disadvantaged new American farmers to use their agricultural skills to grow food and start farming operations. Geographic Service Area: Salt Lake County, Utah; Pima County, Arizona; and South King County, Washington Contact Info: Aley S. Kent Aley.Kent@rescue.org (212) 729-1790
OH	Sherrrod Brown & Robert Portman	Michael Turner (10)	Central State University	\$566,148	This project's goal is to increase the viability of African American and Hispanic owned farms by assisting them to adopt diversified technologies, target profitable markets, increase their ability to expand and diversify by using USDA programs, and better manage their farm businesses. Geographic Service Area: Ohio Contact Info: Dr. Siddhartha Dasgupta sdasgupta@centralstate.edu (937) 376-6625
PR	n/a	Jennifer Gonzalez-Colon (98)	Puerto Rico Agricultural Extension	\$749,998	PRAES will continue to provide outreach efforts to connect with and assist socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers and to provide them with information available on USDA resources. The proposed project will build on a successful previously funded grant under the same program, impacting new farmers and ranchers and, providing continuity to those that already successfully completed prior workshops leading to the completion of requests for USDA funded programs. Geographic Service Area: Puerto Rico Contact Info: Alexandra Gregory alexandra.gregory@upr.edu (787) 265-3860

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TX	John Cornyn & Ted Cruz	Pete Sessions (17)	Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service	\$524,309	<p>To increase the sustainability and retention of socially disadvantaged farming operations in the LRGV. Tailored training workshops, field days, hands on experiences, online resources, and mentoring opportunities will be developed and implemented. Training and outreach activities will be focused on crop production, irrigation and water management, livestock production, value-added creation, marketing, and business planning, and how to successfully participate in USDA assistance programs.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Hidalgo, Cameron, Starr and Willacy counties Contact Info: Samuel Zapata samuel.zapata@tamu.edu (956) 968-5585</p>
TX	John Cornyn & Ted Cruz	Vincente Gonzalez (15)	University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	\$744,131	<p>Project activities will improve the operational and financial sustainability of Hispanic socially disadvantaged farmers in South Texas, increase the equitable participation in and address barriers to accessing USDA programs, improve market access and access to capital, and promote sustainable agricultural practices that build climate-change resilience and resource conservation. This project will address these specific needs through bilingual and culturally relevant outreach, training, and technical assistance that effectively links SDFRs with critical USDA programs, improving their ability to own and operate successful farms and ranches and expanding the reach of USDA program within persistent poverty counties in rural South Texas.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: 36 persistent poverty counties in rural South Texas Contact Info: Aisha Cruz-Reyes aisha.cruzreyes@utrgv.edu (956) 298-0709</p>
WI	Ron Johnson & Tammy Baldwin	Thomas Tiffany (07)	Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship, Inc.	\$654,084	<p>Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship's federally registered Apprenticeship, which combines on-farm training and employment with related classes, group discussions, and networking, is the most comprehensive training program for dairy farming in the United States. The goal of this project is to provide socially disadvantaged producers, especially Hispanic beginning farmers/ farmworkers and veterans, with a pathway to advancement in the dairy industry and potential independent farm ownership.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Michigan, Missouri, Oregon, and Wisconsin Contact Info: Joseph Tomandi, III joe@dga-national.org (715) 560-0389</p>