



Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program

State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
AL	Richard Shelby & Doug Jones	Terri Sewell (07)	Alabama State Association of Cooperatives	\$266,667	<p>The Alabama State Association of Cooperatives (ASAC), a community-based non-profit organization is proposing an outreach and technical assistance program to serve primarily African-American farmers in a 12-county area of the western Alabama Black Belt. This program builds on the prior experience of ASAC over the past decades in serving farmers in this part of Alabama, which is home to over a third of all the African-American farmers in the state. Our goals are to assist African-American farmers to retain, expand and utilize their landholdings in a sustainable manner; to assist these farmers to take advantage of all programs, resources and services offered by USDA, including areas of risk management, conservation, credit, and rural development; and to assist the farmers to organize cooperatives, as a means to work collectively for great economic benefits and increase in farm and forestry income. The proposal lists specific objectives—outputs and outcomes—expected in terms of farmers, including younger and beginning farmers, gaining equitable access and utilization of all USDA programs especially those of FSA, NRCS, Rural Development, AMS, and other agencies. The proposal lists specific objectives—outputs and outcomes—expected in terms of farmers, including younger and beginning farmers, gaining equitable access and utilization of all USDA programs especially those of FSA, NRCS, Rural Development, AMS, and other agencies. Through this program, ASAC plans to make a positive difference in the lives and livelihoods of underserved farmers in the Alabama Black Belt.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: The counties of Choctaw, Greene, Hale, Marengo, Perry, Pickens, Sumter, Wilcox, Clarke, Dallas, Monroe and Washington.</p> <p>Contact Info: Pamela Madzima pamelamadzima@federation.coop (205) 499-90827</p>
AR	John Boozman & Tom Cotton	Eric Crawford (01)	Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation	\$266,667	<p>Project will provide counseling, training, technical assistance, and consultation for mitigating racial disparities in participation rates and distribution of benefits from agricultural programs operated by USDA agencies. Project participants will learn to seek the services of USDA agencies resulting in increased utilization of USDA program services, including increased ownership and operating capital for farms and ranches. The project will also provide agriculture-related information at an understandable level through eletters and newsletters.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: 42 counties throughout Southern, Central, and Eastern Arkansas</p> <p>Contact Info: Calvin King calvinrkingsr@yahoo.com (870) 734-3005</p>

Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program

State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
CA	Diane Feinstein & Kamala Harris	Mike Thompson (05)	Napa Valley Farmworker Foundation	\$347,700	<p>The past eight months have been financially devastating for the Napa wine grape industry. Winegrape farmers have faced lost sales and increased costs due to COVID-19; extreme heat and rain have created challenging growing conditions; and now, in August 2020, deadly wildfires threaten the viability of the entire unharvested Napa wine grape crop – either from flames or smoke taint, which can damage surviving grapes and vines and cause grapes to go unsold. These factors combined prove troublesome for all farmers, but disproportionately impact socially disadvantaged farmers and socially disadvantaged farmworkers seeking to become farm owners, especially in Napa, where farmers have faced long-term financial challenges and lack of access to USDA programs. The Napa Valley Farmworker Foundation (NVFF) seeks to address these challenges through training and education that builds the financial literacy of current socially disadvantaged farmers, socially disadvantaged farmworkers who are current farm operators and prospective farm owners, and socially disadvantaged youth in the Napa Valley (geographic service area), all of whom are Hispanic (primary population). NVFF will conduct educational workshops, English Literacy courses, an educational video series, and direct technical assistance in preparing applications for USDA programs. Project seeks to provide the knowledge, skills and technical assistance needed for project participants to experience greater profitability and economic stability.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Napa Valley, California Contact Info: Sonya DeLuca sdeluca@napagrowers.org (707) 944-8311</p>
CA	Diane Feinstein & Kamala Harris	Anna Eshoo (18)	Pie Ranch	\$400,000	<p>Pie Ranch’s “Cascade Farm and Ranch Regenerator” project will provide a pathway to farm and ranch business ownership for socially disadvantaged beginning farmers and ranchers committed to organic and sustainable agricultural practices. In particular, this program seeks to provide opportunities to beginning and early-stage farmers and ranchers of color, women, former farm workers, Black, Latinx and Indigenous American producers, and people from under-resourced communities, who have experience working on farms and are ready to take the next step to establish a land-based enterprise. The program offers five years of support in the form of subsidized land leases, shared farm equipment, physical infrastructure, mentorship, agricultural and business skills training, facilitated connection to USDA services and other existing services, individual capital fund savings accounts, and facilitated access to regional sales markets. The project also features a unique partnership with the Amah Mutsun Land Trust (AMLT), which will operate a Native Plant Nursery at the site and train members of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band to propagate food crops and native grasses for the benefit of the Tribe and its members.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: San Mateo County, California, and immediately surrounding counties Contact Info: Sira Anderson sira@pieranch.org (510) 384-6012 or (650) 766-0346</p>
CO	Michael Bennet & Cory Gardner	Scott Tipton (03)	SLV Local Foods Coalition	\$283,416	<p>The San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition (LFC) is applying for funding to support its Farm Incubation and Regenerative Agriculture Education in Rural Southern Colorado project. LFC’s 38-acre Rio Grande Farm Park will serve as a laboratory for disadvantaged farmer education, demonstration, and land access. This project will primarily support Priority Areas 1, 4, and 5 through three program activities: 1. Expanded Outreach & Equitable Programming aims to provide equitable and inclusive programming and increase access to resources for disadvantaged farmers; 2. Regenerative Agriculture & Business Education works to establish a culture of learning and networking among farmers in the region and ensure that farmers understand and implement regenerative practices and innovative business practices in order to enhance their farming businesses; 3. New Markets programming will ensure that disadvantaged farmers have the knowledge and skills to launch successful food-related enterprises and increase disadvantaged farmer income and consumer access to fresh local produce by connecting to new markets.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: South-Central Colorado (San Luis Valley) Contact Info: Liza Marron directorslvlocalfoods@gmail.com (719) 539-5606</p>

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State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
FL	Marco Rubio & Rick Scott	Neal Dunn (02)	Center for Community & Economic Development, Inc.	\$400,000	<p>African American, Hispanic including veteran farmers in North Florida and South Georgia. The Institute will partner with USDA Agencies, Farm Credit Institutions, and community-based organizations to engage and empower beginning and future farmers who are veterans, equipping them with tools to build profitable and sustainable agribusinesses. The overall goal of the three-year project is to equip farmers with the information and skills needed to make informed decisions in owning and operating profitable farm businesses, while increasing their participation in U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs. The project objectives will include: Creating awareness and participation of farmers in USDA farm programs and improve their access to timely agriculture-related information; Improving the knowledge, skills, and abilities to own, retain, and operate sustainable and profitable farm businesses; Enhancing the knowledge and skills of farmers in farm estate, financial, and business planning and management, in using technology as a management and resource tool; Developing relationships with USDA agencies to enhance effective partnerships, and; Identifying new markets, connecting the farmers to existing markets, and assisting them with effective marketing strategies. The Institute proposes to reach a minimum of 500 eligible African American, Hispanic and veterans resulting in at least 30 new farms as a result of grant activities.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Forty (40) counties in North Florida along or near the I-10 corridor from Escambia to Duval counties, and the I-75 corridor from Lowndes to Monroe counties</p> <p>Contact Info: Patricia McGill, PhD pbwmcgill@theccedunited.org (850) 294-4994</p>
FL	Marco Rubio & Rick Scott	Debbie M. Powell (26)	Florida International University	\$400,000	<p>The Florida International University, in collaboration with Redland Ahead, Inc. (a Veterans and non-profit Organization), and three private farms, proposes to implement a three-year project in South Florida for the benefit of Socially Disadvantaged Farmers (SDFs) including veterans and youth. The long-term goal of the project is to equip the above groups of individuals (with a special emphasis on veterans, young and those SDFs from urban and sub-urban poor neighborhood) with necessary technical knowhow, farm entrepreneurial skills, and most importantly, increased access to government assistance programs. The project will offer at least six non-credit, on-farm courses and 18 short workshops, conduct 45 paid farm apprenticeships and managerial apprenticeships at private farms, offer online agricultural training materials, offer individualized consultation to at least 150 SDFs for applying for USDA loans and conservation subsidies, and organize conference trips for program participants. The project has a wide support from the state and local USDA agencies, veterans and farmers' organizations, and experienced private and community farms. The project has the ability to increase the participation of SDFs, young future farmers and veterans in the USDA programs and advance several priority areas of the 2501 Program.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: South Florida</p> <p>Contact Info: Mahadev Bhat bhatm@fiu.edu (305) 348-1210</p>

Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program

State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
FL	Marco Rubio & Rick Scott	Alcee Hastings (20)	North South Institute, Inc.	\$400,000	<p>The Institute and its partners continue to work with Under-served Producers in 42 counties in the state of Florida and the bordering counties of Alabama [14] and Georgia [12]. This project, over three years, connects under-served producers in 37 Florida counties to USDA programs. It ensures the transfer of knowledge and demonstration of technologies to 208 Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers, consisting of 154 Rural Underserved producers while supporting 54 Rural Beginning Under-served producers. Resources from the partnership will be provided in the form of training, outreach, technical assistance, as well as mobilizing hard investments and other resources. The primary populations/communities served are: Socially Disadvantaged, Veterans, Youth, Women Tenant Farmers and Ranchers.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Counties in Florida, Alabama, and Georgia. Contact Info: Dr. Samuel Scott nsied2002@aol.com (954) 434-8220</p>
GA	David Perdue & Kelly Loeffler	Jody Hice (10)	Athens Land Trust, Inc.	\$400,000	<p>The goals are to (1) increase the number of socially disadvantaged farmers in northeast Georgia, who have strengthened the operations' economics and sustainability - including stable farmland tenure, (2) increase their access to and participation in USDA programs; and (3) aid in the transition of farmland to the next generation and support the development of the next generation of farmers by providing sustainable agriculture education and training to socially disadvantaged youth. The project targets socially disadvantaged racial minority farmers in a 14-county region of northeast Georgia. The project will provide targeted 1:1 and group education and training through individual farm visits and on-the-farm workshops to increase knowledge of and ability to access and apply for USDA programs and implement sustainable farm practices; conduct needs assessments and develop action plans for each farmer; promote collaboration, networking, and mentoring opportunities to producers in the Athens Land Trust Farmer Network, and expand the benefits of the Network to include a tool share program; provide new farmers access to viable Certified Naturally Grown farmland through an incubator farm program at the Athens Land Trust-operated Williams Farm; and provide sustainable agriculture training to socially disadvantaged youth to prepare them for careers in farming.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Georgia counties: Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Jasper, Madison, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Taliaferro, Walton, and Wilkes. Contact Info: Mallory O'Steen mallory@athenslandtrust.org (706) 613-0122</p>
GA	David Perdue & Kelly Loeffler	(Vacancy)	Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund	\$266,667	<p>The Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund (FSC/LAF) project is entitled "Facilitating Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers in Georgia, South Carolina, Mississippi and Louisiana." For over 53 years, the FSC/LAF has provided outreach, education, and technical assistance, focusing on cooperative economic development and land retention in rural communities throughout the South for African American landowners, farmers, foresters and ranchers. FSC/LAF uses technology and grassroots educational efforts focusing on minority producers, veterans and youth.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Counties in Georgia: Baker, Dougherty Decatur, Early, Clay, Mitchell, Worth; Mississippi: Kemper, Noxubee, Winston, Jeff Davis, Forrest, Perry, Lamar, Holmes; South Carolina: Beaufort, Colleton, Charleston, Dorchester, Berkley, Georgetown; and Louisiana: Avoyelles, Evangeline, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, St. Laundry. Contact Info: Cornelius Key corneliuskey@federation.coop (404) 765-0991</p>

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HI	Mazie Hirono & Brian Schatz	Tulsi Gabbard (02)	Kohala Center, Inc.	\$400,000	<p>There is an urgency to re-establish a community-based food system to increase island self-reliance and economic diversification. This project of The Kohala Center (TKC), a non-profit 501(c)(3) based on Hawaii Island but serving the entire state, entitled “Fostering farm and food learning pathways for Hawaii’s socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers, ranchers, and youth” will facilitate the ownership and operation of economically, socially, culturally, and ecologically viable businesses by socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers (SDVFR). The long-term project goal is to enhance the capabilities of producers to own and manage agricultural operations, recruit new SDVFRs into the profession, facilitate rural economic development, and contribute to thriving community-based food systems. These goals will be met through three programs: 1) technical assistance to 240 SDVFR in agriculture production, agribusiness development, and farm and ranch capitalization through U.S. Farm Bill programs and others; 2) youth education connecting 64 high school students, their families, and support communities with land, agricultural skills, and career opportunities; and 3) adult farmer and rancher training through an intensive 100-hour classroom and field program for 36 beginning SDVFR. This project will serve SDVFR producers statewide, however farmer training programs will be available on Hawaii Island only.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Hawaii (statewide program) Contact Info: Nicole Milne nmilne@kohalacenter.org (808) 887-6411</p>
ID	Mike Crapo & James Risch	Michael Simpson (02)	Jannus, Inc.	\$400,000	<p>The goal of the incubator program is to help farmers run successful farming enterprises that they can run independently on leased or purchased land within one to three years. Unique features of this project include increasing land access to beginning farmers by leveraging public and private partnerships; outreach to youth future farmers through local high school FFA clubs; building new USDA relationships that benefit farmers and help them own and operate their own farms; and increasing profitability of small farming operations through effective and proven marketing strategies. Additional opportunities for farmers in Global Gardens include CSA program designed for local low-income childcare centers participating in the USDA CACFP; and training for chicken farming, mushroom production and bee keeping. Collaboration with the University of Idaho veteran training program will provide opportunities for staff to learn from UI faculty and share meaningful experiences that improve all training opportunities. Bringing together veteran beginning farmers with farmers of refugee backgrounds can forge new and supportive relationships and learning. All farmers will benefit from training in food safety offered by UI faculty and HROC, trauma workshop offered by the Project Manager, a certified facilitator. Our partnership with both UI and BSU faculty will enhance both process and outcome evaluation of the project. Farming creates career pathways and economic opportunities for farmers with refugee and veteran backgrounds that benefits the farmer and his/her family and the community by decreasing food scarcity, increasing household income, improving well-being, and building an inclusive food economy. Farming, combined with evidence-based trauma informed interventions provides a vehicle for healing from trauma, developing supportive connections and enhancing personal esteem that comes from meaningful work.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Southwest Idaho Contact Info: Karan Tucker karan.stephanie@jannus.org (208) 336-5533 or (208) 947-4300</p>

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State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
KS	Pat Roberts & Jerry Moran	Sharice Davids (01)	Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas, Inc.	\$398,000	The grant will help New Roots for Refugees, an existing and successful training farm and farm business incubator, support socially disadvantaged farmers by increasing our support for successful program graduates operating their own new farms, improving their participation in USDA programs and offerings and incorporating new educational activities that support both product and market diversification for both trainees and graduate farmers. Funds requested will be utilized for four new components aimed at improving success for beginning farmers: improved relationships/participation/access to USDA staff and programs, formalized aftercare featuring increased ongoing support for program graduates, establishing a tool library and product and market diversification into floriculture and fruit, all aided by our successfully piloted whole farm planning program and innovative instructional model. 100% of Granted Funds will impact 57 socially disadvantaged beginning farmers all refugees, asylees or former refugees in the Kansas City metro area (Wyandotte, Johnson and Leavenworth Counties in Kansas, Jackson, Platte and Clay Counties in Missouri). Among the outcomes include improved financial management, whole-farm planning and crop diversification. The project is designed to specifically meet the Priority Areas 1, 2, 3 and 4. Geographic Service Area: Kansas City Metro Area Contact Info: Meredith Walrafen mwalrafen@catholiccharitiesks.org (913) 906-8930
LA	John Kennedy & Bill Cassidy	Cedric Richmond (02)	Southern University Agricultural & Mechanical College	\$400,000	This three-year project is designed to assist socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and veteran farmers and ranchers in mitigating those stumbling blocks that have been detrimental to long-term sustainability. The Southern University Ag Center will partner with the Southern University Law Center (SULC) to assist targeted farmers in clearing up some of the legal issues associated with agricultural production such as land issues. Farmers will receive legal assistance and guidance which should provide some relief. It is our hope that after getting the legal issues cleared, that more farmers and ranchers will be able to participate in the various USDA program and services. Many small and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers experienced difficulties attempting to apply for COVID-19 relief provided by the CARES Act. Several reasons exist, but one was limited computer skills and the lack of broadband in some of the more rural areas. To address this issue, the Mobile Technology Education Center (M-TEC) will travel the state delivering computer based and video conferencing training to farmers and internet access when needed. In addition to the highly specialized training offered by the SULC and the M-TEC, the project will also offer traditional agricultural production training and assistance. Geographic Service Area: Louisiana with special emphasis on parishes/census tracts identified as opportunity zones. Contact Info: Dawn Mellion-Patin dawn_mellion@suagcenter.com (225) 771-3532
MA	Edward Markey & Elizabeth Warren	Richard Neal (01)	Nuestras Raíces, Inc.	\$400,000	Nuestras Raíces Nuestros Finqueros Training Enterprises (NFTE) is a three-year project to critically assist veterans, youth, and socially disadvantaged community members of Holyoke, Massachusetts in agriculture training and education. Recruited farmers (finqueros) will learn to successfully launch and operate farm projects by growing and selling culturally relevant crops. Outreach and training in a farmer incubation program at Nuestras Raíces' La Finca farm site will support beginner and seasoned farmers across Holyoke. NFTE will utilize curricula, tools and practices developed across its 30-year history with Latino youth, elders, and veterans, in partnership with UMASS Extension and Bilingual Veterans Outreach Centers of Mass, Inc. This trauma-informed curriculum will cover crop and pest management, pesticide use and safety, food safety, and risk management. UMASS Extension will provide critical, bilingual technical assistance and training to beginning farmers. Nuestras Raíces staff and programming will support beginning farmers with USDA financing opportunities and relationships with regional and state partners. Finqueros will also acquire business management skills by way of farmers' market management and sales through Nuestras Raíces Mobile Markets. Geographic Service Area: Holyoke, MA and surrounding Hampden region of Central Massachusetts. Contact Info: Hilda Roque hroque@nuestras-raices.org (413) 535-1789 ext. 205

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MD	Benjamin Cardin & Chris Van Hollen	Andy Harris (01)	University of Maryland Eastern Shore	\$274,109	The project will build on the success of a two-day farm conference program to feature educational opportunities that appeal to target audiences referenced above. IFARMS focuses on 3 main objectives: 1. Connect SDA and veteran farmers/landowners to appropriate agricultural resources that will increase their ability to start and maintain successful agricultural businesses; 2. Train and assist agriculture producers on how to become more business and market savvy during COVID-19 and in uncertain times; 3. Introduce and educate farmers on alternative crop opportunities along with new farm management practices to promote diversification and sustainability. Geographic Service Area: Southern MD (4 counties) and on the Delmarva Peninsula (6 counties). Contact Info: Catherine Bolek csbolek@umes.edu (410) 651-8993
MI	Debbie Stabenow & Gary Peters	Fred Upton (06)	Farm Research Cooperative	\$388,075	FRC will assist socially disadvantaged farmers, beginning, veteran farmers and youth (SDFBVF&Y) to own and successfully operate viable farms/ranches in four counties in Southwest Michigan by: 1) Linking our USDA agency partners with our SDFBVF&Y; 2) Developing Farmer mentoring circles that will provide the support and education needed by SDFBVF to take the steps needed to reach economic and ecological sustainability. Each of the five circles established in the first year (and 2 to 3 in subsequent years) will decide on the 9 to 12 workshops needed by their circle in each year; 3) Developing a youth mentoring program that will help bring in the next generation of farmers; 4) Bringing in college and high school interns who we will mentor to become the next generation of non-profit staff. FRC has a long history of assisting SDFVBF & Y in Southwest Michigan to improve their agricultural, business and marketing skills through hands-on educational sessions. This area has the highest population of Black and Hispanic specialty crop growers in Michigan. Hispanic growers commonly started their farming experience as migrants harvesting specialty crops. Geographic Service Area: Southwest Michigan Contact Info: Barbara James Norman barbarajames612@gmail.com (269) 208-4588
MI	Debbie Stabenow & Gary Peters	Debbie Dingell (12)	Southeast Michigan Producers Association	\$266,667	The overall objective of this project is to build a sustainable production, marketing and distribution system for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers (SDVF) in the Southeast Michigan region through the production and marketing of high value specialty crops (fruits and vegetables). The project is driven by the increasing markets for locally produced fresh fruits and vegetables in the urban areas, specifically in the food “deserts” of the metropolitan Detroit area. It will involve planning, production, marketing and distribution of tested, marketable, high demand and high value specialty crops. The supporting objectives are to: 1) Increase the participation of SDVF in USDA programs and services; 2) Improve knowledge of SDVF in farm estate planning, financial planning and management; 3) Enhance skills and abilities of SDVF to produce alternative high value and high demand fruit and vegetables, and exposing them to latest technologies; and 4) Enhance marketing strategies for SDVF and connect them to the existing and developing markets for locally produced fruits and vegetables. The project will focus on the following priority areas: 1) assist SDVF in owning and operating successful farms; 2) improve participation among SDVF in USDA programs; 3) build relationships between current and prospective farmers who are socially disadvantaged or veterans and USDA’s local, state, regional, and national offices; and 4) introduce agriculture-related information to SDVF. The expected results are an improved quality of life of these farmers, their families, and the community. Geographic Service Area: The following 7 Southeast region counties-Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne Contact Info: Cary M. Junior sempafarms@gmail.com (734) 931-0890

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MS	Roger Wicker & Cindy Hyde-Smith	Bennie Thompson (02)	Alcorn State University Educational Building Corporation	\$400,000	<p>The Alcorn State University Extension Program (ASUEP) Small Farm Outreach Project (SFOP) works persistently with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and other agencies to identify seven hundred thirty (730) socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, veteran farmers and ranchers, beginning farmers and ranchers and one hundred twenty (120) youth. ASUEP SFOP will emphasize its outreach efforts in seventeen counties: Adams, Bolivar, Claiborne, Coahoma, Hinds, Holmes, Issaquena, Jefferson, Lincoln, Pike, Rankin, Sharkey, Warren, Washington, and Yazoo, Tunica and Walthall. The project will work diligently with the USDA National Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), Farm Services Agency (FSA), Risk Management Agency (RMA), Rural Development (RD), Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC), USDA Office of Partnership and Public Engagement University Liaison and Community Based Organizations (CBO's). The primary criteria for farmers and ranchers to participate in the project will be the aspiration to farm or continue farming, the desire to enhance or sustain their farming operation, and the readiness to work with ASUEP SFOP staff and other USDA agencies as recommended. The participants will increase knowledge gained and provide hands-on demonstrations on the USDA customer Level e-authentication account and complete a loan for various programs and services offered by USDA agencies. ASUEP SFOP will collaborate with CBO's. The ASUEP SFOP implementation will be grouped in four (4) phases: educational informational dissemination, training, technical assistance, and evaluation.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: The following 17 targeted counties - Adams, Jefferson, Lincoln, Pike, Claiborne, Hinds, Rankin, Warren, Sharkey, Issaquena, Holmes, Yazoo, Washington, Bolivar, Coahoma, Tunica and Walthall.</p> <p>Contact Info: Carolyn Banks cbanks@alcorn.edu (601) 877-6260</p>
MS	Roger Wicker & Cindy Hyde-Smith	Bennie Thompson (02)	Tri-County Agricultural Cooperative University	\$400,000	<p>Tri-County Agricultural Cooperative (TCAC) project, entitled, "Creating Sustainable farms for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers in Rural Northwest Mississippi in the Delta Region." The overall goal of this project is to educate and distribute research-based information that will influence the ability of 225 socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers, including beginning farmers and youth, to compete and thrive in agriculture. Program participants will engage in a learning model that includes hands-on training, mentoring, and outreach programs. All of the program activities enhance self-employment in farming, ranching, and forestry opportunities for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. Thus, program participants will improve their farming operations through the knowledge gained from their participation. The program will ensure that research-based information is shared with participants to ensure that they can address new and complex problems and effectively manage their enterprise for profitability. Program participants will also be knowledgeable in both economic and ecological subjects and will have the tools to make better production, management, and marketing decisions. Tri-County Agricultural Cooperative will focus on improving the overall economics of small and disadvantaged farming operation and intends to assist a minimum of 225 socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers from Coahoma, Lafayette, Panola, Tate, Tunica and Yalobusha, all rural Mississippi counties. This project aims include a minimum of 10 percent military veterans and 10 percent youth.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: The Mississippi Delta Region.</p> <p>Contact Info: Robert Gates rgates@tricitycoop.org (601) 624-5682</p>

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MS	Roger Wicker & Cindy Hyde-Smith	Bennie Thompson (02)	Trinity Educators Development Corporation, Inc.	\$400,000	The overall goal of the proposed project is to provide educational information and technical assistance to socially disadvantage farmers/ranchers and veteran farmers/ranchers in owning and sustainably operating farms and ranches while increasing their participation in agricultural programs and services provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and other state and local agricultural agencies. Through farm training programs and technical assistance, Trinity will promote growth in agriculture by giving program participants the knowledge and skills they need to improve their livelihoods. Therefore, 300 socially disadvantaged farmers and veteran farmers and ranchers in seven north central Mississippi counties (Attala, Carroll, Grenada, Leflore, Montgomery, Sunflower and Tallahatchie) will be exposed to new knowledge of production practices and other agricultural-related information. Geographic Service Area: Northcentral Mississippi Contact Info: Clay Taylor ctaylor@trinityinc.org (662) 647-7250
MT	Jon Tester & Steve Daines	Greg Gianforte (at- large)	Stone Child College Corporation	\$400,000	Our project will assess the current condition of the reservations food systems. Based on the assessment, an informal sustainable agriculture education model and materials will be developed to address those conditions utilizing indigenous permaculture as the framework. The project will also provide outreach and hands-on instruction to socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers, veterans, and youth. We will collaborate with local, state, and regional USDA programs and services as well as industry professionals to provide informal education and technical assistance on an ongoing basis. The primary populations/communities you serve: Socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers, veterans, and youth on the Rocky Boy’s Indian Reservation, Montana. Geographic Service Area: (counties, state(s), etc.) - Rocky Boy’s Indian Reservation, Hill & Chouteau Counties, Montana. Contact Info: Mr. Beau Mitchell bmitchell@stonechild.edu (406) 395-4875 ext. 3282
NC	Richard Burr & Thom Tillis	David Price (04)	Whitaker Small Farm Group, Inc.	\$400,000	The project will primarily be delivered within the USDA Strike Force Initiative Counties in Eastern NC. This project will have a delivery plan that is specifically tailored to addresses the barriers faced by Socially Disadvantaged Farming Communities. This includes using experiential training through apprenticeship and mentoring on a model farm, classroom-based workshops and hands-on activities to build knowledge and skills required to make well informed business decisions and to operate sustainable and profitable farms. WSFG will conduct a 7-month “learning by doing” apprenticeship training program on two Model Farms for 36 veterans in Halifax County. The training model is designed to have beginning socially disadvantaged farmers shadow the host farmer to understand real farming experience by participating in many aspects of sustainable agriculture production and farm management practices. We will provide progressive training through a Business and Entrepreneurial Academy. This is a multifaceted training session designed to equip participants to improve on their business management skills, learn to add value to raw produce and explore Bee keeping as an additional source of income. This training is geared towards Beekeeping certification. We will increase awareness and participation in USDA programs by providing aggressive outreach, facilitate one-on-one assistance with appropriate agency specialist and, assist in applying for program assistance. We estimate to provide technical assistance to 360 veterans through our Connect to Ag. Resource Summits. Geographic Area: Eastern counties of Bertie, Franklin, Edgecombe, Gates, Beaufort, North Hampton, Harnett, Halifax, Johnson, Lenoir, Nash, Pender, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Pitt, Robeson, Sampson, Wayne, Wilson, Martin and Warren. Contact Info: Charles L. Whitaker c.l.w.whitaker@comcast.net (919) 412-1432

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State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
NM	Tom Udall & Martin Heinrich	Debra Haaland (01)	Hispanic-American Institute, Inc.	\$251,284	<p>The Multimodal Puerto Rico Outreach and Assistance Program (MPROAP) of the Hispanic-American Institute provides 1,200 Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers (SDVFRs), with outreach, training, technical assistance, distribution of USDA program information, and follow-up aimed at addressing USDA 2501 Program Priorities 1,2, 3, 4 and 5. The MPROAP provides remote, face-to face, and linguistically and culturally appropriate training to SDVFRS at our training sites and at their locations. Training activities include classroom and field-based education and peer-to-peer learning. Individual technical assistance is provided to SDVFRS at sites and times accessible to them. USDA program information and follow-up is provided to all participants. Project partners to the Institute are the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rico Cooperative of Veteran Farmers (CJCOOP), two entities with ample experience serving the target population.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: 47 contiguous municipalities in central and western Puerto Rico. Contact Info: Bruce Young-Candelaria byc@hainst.org 505-385-8494</p>
NM	Tom Udall & Martin Heinrich	Ben Ray Lujan (03)	New Mexico Acequia Association	\$400,000	<p>The New Mexico Acequia Farmer and Rancher Education Project will strengthen the agricultural operations of Hispanic farmers and ranchers who use acequias or community ditches. Acequias are centuries-old irrigation systems that support the livelihood of thousands of farmers and ranchers who use surface water irrigation. The New Mexico Acequia Association (NMAA) is a statewide, membership organization of acequias. The project builds upon over twenty years of experience in outreach, education, technical assistance, and training to Hispanic farmers and ranchers. This innovative three-year project will focus on a six-county region in northern New Mexico (Rio Arriba, Mora, San Miguel, Santa Fe, Guadalupe, Sandoval, Bernalillo). It will include training to beginning farmers and ranchers, increase participation in USDA programs, improve the operations of existing farmers and ranchers, and provide education to rural youth in acequia communities. NMAA will provide agricultural education and outreach in Hispanic, land-based communities.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Northern New Mexico Contact Info: Serafina Lombardi serafina@lasacequias.org 505-995-9644</p>
NM	Tom Udall & Martin Heinrich	Ben Ray Lujan (03)	Taos County Economic Development Corporation	\$400,000	<p>In the high desert mountains of Northern New Mexico, agriculture has always sustained the people beginning with the Indigenous peoples (now known as Taos Pueblo people), followed in the late 1500's by the Hispanic settlers and continuing until recent history when tourism and service industries have become prevalent. Taos County Economic Development Corporation (TCEDC), located in Taos, NM in the beautiful Taos Mountain Valley, is working to sustain the agricultural heritage and modernize the food system for a sustainable future for this majority Hispanic population area. This project will increase production of local foods by connecting Hispanic, Indigenous, Veteran and Young farmers and ranchers to USDA, state and local resources available to them for agricultural purposes. The project will offer entrepreneurial, marketing and business plan training for local food producers along with hands-on demonstrations of holistic and humane livestock management, slaughter and meat processing.</p> <p>TCEDC will sponsor local socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers to attend important annual conferences where they will have the opportunity to learn about current tools and techniques for organic and regenerative agriculture and to network with other farmers and ranchers for shared inspiration and encouragement. Project participants will gather each year for a Farmers and Ranchers Forum at the TCEDC campus to share experiences, meet USDA, state and local officials and enjoy a feast of locally grown foods.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Northern New Mexico Contact Info: Mercedes Rodriguez mercedes@tcedc.org (575) 758-8731</p>

Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program

State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
NV	Catherine Cortez Masto & Jacky Rosen	Mark Amodei (02)	Nevada System of Higher Education (Reno)	\$400,000	The project team led out of the University of Nevada, Reno is responding to this to continue their previous work and offer over 80 years of valuable and extensive expertise in working with American Indian populations in the West. The project team propose to hold 18 two-day educational workshops and offer one-on-one education to an estimated 240 American Indian producers to assist in sustaining and creating new American Indian agriculture operations. The project team has assessed the needs of American Indians using a variety of outreach and assistance methods and is currently completing a previous funded project that serves three states in the Southwest. This proposed project will cover 11 Western states where the project team has the relationships and requests from producers and Tribes for assistance. The project team is fluent in outreach and assistance models, works well with cultural barriers, and is connected professionally and socially on the majority of reservations and USDA agencies within the project area. The project team will build upon their previously funded projects. Partnerships include tribes in the project area, USDA, Farm Service Agency, the Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program, and Intertribal Agriculture Council. Geographic Service Area: 11 Western States Contact Info: Staci Emm emms@unr.edu (775) 475-4227 or (775) 945-3444 ext. 10
NY	Charles Schumer & Kirsten Gillibrand	Jerrold Nadler (10)	Rural Development Leadership Network	\$400,000	The Project will work with partners in two persistently poor rural counties to provide training, technical assistance and mentoring in farming practices and business development to African American and Hispanic socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. Our partners are Mississippians Engaged in Greener Agriculture (MEGA) in Bolivar County, Mississippi, and Collaborative Visions in Mora County, New Mexico. The Project aims to assist socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers to increase farm yield and income and improve the health of local people through the availability of locally grown food. Both groups will work intensively with youth during the grant period, helping to bridge the generational divide and keep land and families involved in farming. Project leaders will foster exchange among farmers themselves and with USDA staff, introducing new resources and markets. The NM and MS Coordinators are community-based “Farmer Leaders,” who have a history of helping farmers and will reach out on a peer basis to involve and assist the target groups. Both have been participating leaders in the national Rural Development Leadership Network. Other rural leaders across the country, will meet during the grant period, exchange best practices, and give the project a national impact. Geographic Service Area: Bolivar County, MS; Mora County, NM. Contact Info: Starry Krueger starrykru@aol.com (212) 777-9137 ext. 10
SC	Lindsey Graham & Tim Scott	Joe Cunningham (01)	Center for Heirs Property Preservation	\$400,000	This project will provide educational outreach and forestry and legal technical assistance to increase knowledge and to promote land retention and land utilization through owning and operating forestry and agriculture businesses. The primary activities to achieve this achieve this project includes community-wide presentations, legal and forestry educations seminars (HP/SF), succession/estate planning, Woodland Community Advocate Institute, media saturation, the creation, publication and dissemination of education materials, and the conducting of an annual “Rural and Limited Resource Landowner Symposium.” The Center’s efforts to connect directly with farmers on their land and facilitate their connection to FSA and NRCS will help build trust and enable landowners to make informed decisions and take action to access USDA programs and begin to move out of “persistent” generational poverty. Primary Population/Communities Served: Primarily low-wealth, rural, veteran and socially disadvantaged (SD) African American landowners – farmers and forest landowners—who have clear title or those owing it as heirs’ property (i.e. land owned by groups of legally undetermined joint heirs). Geographic Service Area: Calhoun, Clarendon, Lee, Marion, Marlboro and Orangeburg counties in South Carolina. (Note: The bolded words denote counties designated as having “persistent poverty.”) Contact Info: Dr. Jennie L. Stephens jstephens@heirsproperty.org (843) 745-7055

Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program

State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
SC	Lindsey Graham & Tim Scott	James Clyburn (06)	South Carolina State University	\$400,000	The project seeks to engage socially disadvantaged, underserved farmers and ranchers and veteran farmers and ranchers to organize in organizational development, build strong and consistent marketing opportunities and foster small scale family farm retention and land preservation. The project will assist in establishing outreach and technical assistance and training to help socially disadvantaged, underserved farmers and ranchers and veteran farmers and ranchers with limited means to better understand where their farm operations are relatively to the potential of their resource base through collaboration, networking and partnership. The proposed project seeks to build a strong educational partnership between local, state and USDA agencies and the socially disadvantaged, underserved and veteran farmers and ranchers. The project will provide on-site farm hands-on demonstration opportunities through use of a traveling mobile classroom and use of peer-to-peer training and various entrepreneurial partnership activities. Geographic Service Area: South Carolina I-95 Corridor along the 16 of 19 USDA designated strike force counties Contact Info: Edoe Agbodjan eagbodjan@scsu.edu (803) 533-3672
TN	Lamar Alexander & Marsha Blackburn	David Price (04)	Tennessee State University	\$400,000	This proposal will provide training and education to Tennessee's Socially Disadvantaged producers, veterans in all areas of Agriculture. The New Farm Academy and the Farm School will be offered in Memphis, Nashville, Wartburg and Johnson City will train new, beginning, veteran farmers in all areas of agriculture and USDA Programs and Services over a 6-month period. The Veteran Boot Camp will provide 4-day intense training and farm visits to assist new veterans in the areas of production and marketing. Women in Agriculture workshop held yearly for women producers. Various classes and workshops will be held in production and marketing of all types of vegetables and fruits, how to develop and grow your business, animal production and management, writing business plans. Through the Henderson County project, we will be training and educating new producers in various agricultural programs in this persistence poverty county. Tennessee State University will be collaborating with the Appalachian RC and D; Farmer Veteran Coalition and Henderson County (all 501 C3) with this three-year project on various training and educational programs statewide for Veterans, Socially Disadvantaged, New and Beginning Producers in Tennessee. Geographic Service Area: Tennessee (statewide program) Contact Info: Arvazena Clardy aclardy@tnstate.edu (615) 963-4887
TX	John Cornyn & Ted Cruz	Filemon Vela (34)	H.O.P.E for Small Farm Sustainability	\$400,000	Holistic Organic Practical Education for Small Farm Sustainability (HOPE for SFS, or HOPE) located in Harlingen, Texas is a nonprofit 501c3 community-based organization and farmer to farmers organic agricultural training center. Building on our historical local successes, with this project we are broadening our outreach and farmer collaboration, to reach socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers (SDVFRs) throughout 10 impoverished counties in the Gulf Coastal Plains of Texas. USDA funding programs are a big part of farmers' success. This project is designed to strengthen small farm sustainability through the networking of small to mid-sized SDVFRs and farmer organizations. We will provide outreach and information on innovative methods of marketing, networking, improving local food systems, incorporating business skills into farming, and USDA funding opportunities and how to layer them. We also address quality of life, mental health, reducing heirship issues, and teaching marketable skills to youth and at-risk youth in agriculture. We will add our sponsorship to the Texas Organic Farm and Garden Association (TOFGA) annual conference and promote SDVFR attendance at three Texas agricultural conferences. The Covid-19 crisis has made us very aware of the shortcomings of our broken food system and how vulnerable we are to not having food. This project will assist in redefining the local food system network to strengthen it and reduce our local food insecurity. Texas is a large state with many different climates and seasons, which can be networked together to provide a more coherent year-round production and access. Geographic Service Area: Gulf Coastal Plains of Texas Contact Info: Diana Garcia Padilla hopeforsfs@yahoo.com (956) 412-4916

Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program

State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
TX	John Cornyn & Ted Cruz	Michael McCaul (10)	Prairie View A&M University	\$400,000	<p>This project aims to work collaboratively with U.S.D.A. and Community Based Organizations (C.B.O.s) to assist Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers (S.D.V.F.R.s) population in East Texas counties to enhance rural prosperity, profitability and sustainability of S.D.V.F.R.s by accomplishing the following objectives: (1). Increase participation, (2) Building relationships with U.S.D.A., local, state, regional, and National offices, and (3) Sharing agriculture information through training and technical assistance techniques.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: East Texas Contact Info: Dr. Clarence Bunch clbunch@pvamu.edu (936) 261-5117</p>
TX	John Cornyn & Ted Cruz	Lloyd Doggett (35)	Texas State University	\$400,000	<p>The Small Producer Initiative’s Agricultural Mentoring Program (SPI-AMP) serves socially disadvantaged, and veteran, farmers and ranchers (SDVFRs) to aid their success in farming by mentoring them on: grant and loan applications for acquisition of capital to start or operate a farm, bookkeeping and financial management; and provide training workshops on marketing and new technologies. Thus, SPI-AMP addresses the training and technical assistance needs of SDVFRs in Texas. SPI-AMP provides these opportunities and addresses the following Priority Areas of 2501: 1) Assist socially disadvantaged or veteran farmers and ranchers in owning and operating successful farms and ranches; 2) Improve participation among socially disadvantaged or veteran farmers and ranchers in USDA programs; 3) Build relationships between current and prospective farmers and ranchers who are socially disadvantaged or veterans and USDA’s local, state, regional, and National offices; 4) Introduce agriculture- related information to socially disadvantaged or veteran farmers and ranchers through innovative training and technical assistance techniques. Specifically, SPI-AMP will document increases in bookkeeping and financial management abilities of SDVFRs, the number of SDVFR applications to USDA programs (FSA, EQIP, ACEP etc.), and the use of online marketing software and appropriate technology. Personalized consultation and mentoring to 20 SDVFRs in farm bookkeeping, 20 SDVFRs in grant and loan applications, and training for 60 SDVFRs in marketing and technology (e.g., dataloggers, field sensors, production apps) will be provided.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Texas (statewide program) Contact Info: Pratheesh Omana Sudhakaran pos6@txstate.edu (512) 245-2130</p>
WA	Patty Murray & Maria Cantwell	Suzan DelBene (01)	Northwest Agriculture Business Center	\$400,000	<p>NABC will assist socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers to participate in USDA programs. This will improve the business success for project participants. The project will include Latino/a, Hmong/Lao, African American, other people of color, and veteran participants. NABC will implement two key strategies. The first strategy will increase access to and participation in USDA-supported grant and loan programs. NABC will serve as a resource to connect to USDA programs by collaborating with USDA agency staff to present workshops and program materials in appropriate languages and supporting the cultivation of positive relationships between project participants and USDA. NABC will also provide technical assistance to support participants in order to meet application requirements, complete and submit accurate and compelling applications for USDA-funded programs, and obtain grants and loans. For its second strategy, NABC will work with collaborating organizations to offer workshops that will provide business development tools in the areas of business planning, marketing, market access, farm and food safety, and computer skills.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: King, Lewis, Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, and Whatcom counties in Washington. Contact Info: David Bauermeister david@agbizcenter.org (360) 336-3727</p>

Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program

State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
WI	Ron Johnson & Tammy Baldwin	Mike Gallagher (08)	Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council, Inc.	\$400,000	<p>The proposed project is a three-year plan addressing the multi-faceted needs of Tribal agriculture producers in Wisconsin. WTCAC will implement an outreach and training plan addressing needs identified by individual Tribal producers that are beginning an agriculture enterprise to feed their families and communities, for Tribal entrepreneurs who desire to establish a business to supply agricultural commodities to a Community Farmers Market, and for Tribal Nations working to increase food accessibility and food sovereignty. WTCAC, with this project will support all three: Tribal producers, Tribal entrepreneurs, and Tribal Nations. The proposed project will also focus on Tribal Youth by providing resources for youth farm apprentices and organizing youth-specific trainings for current and potential producers. Lastly, WTCAC will work with partners, Tribal Nations, and youth to place students in agriculture-related college programs into career placements at USDA via the Pathways Mentorship Program.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: All 11 Tribal Nations in Wisconsin. Contact Info: Jeffrey Mears jmears@wtcac.org (920) 639-7457</p>

Assistance to Persistent Poverty Farmers, Ranchers, Agriculture Producers and Communities Through
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State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
AL	Richard Shelby & Doug Jones	Mike Rogers (03)	Tuskegee University	\$400,000	<p>The proposed project, led by Tuskegee University, will build on lessons learned in past and recent years and focus on issues facing Black and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers, Ranchers (BSDFRs), and their rural communities. Such issues include access to capital, markets, labor, adding-value, Heirs property, and broadband (high-speed internet). Black Belt counties will be targeted with a focus placed on best practices for the following: fruit, vegetable, and hemp crop production, processing and marketing; cattle and goat pre-conditioning for farmer cluster sales, and small-scale, custom meat processing; and conservation practices that enhance and sustain crop and animal production systems. A pilot project will introduce high-speed broadband in rural Macon County guided by the Macon County Prosperity Council to facilitate and assess outcomes related to virtual learning, tele-agriculture, e-marketing, telemedicine, and overall rural community development.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Rural Alabama Contact Info: Walter Hill whill@tuskegee.edu (334) 727-8334</p>
AR	John Boozman & Tom Cotton	French Hill (02)	KKAC Foundation	\$400,000	<p>KKAC Foundation is a non-profit organization providing education and assistance to historically underserved/socially disadvantaged (SDGs), minority farmers and/or ranchers. KKAC has partnered with NRCS and NFWF for the past few years to conduct outreach on NRCS programs and compliance review for existing contracts. We are proposing a project entitled, Sowing Seeds for Success: A Youth Course in Agribusiness, designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to enter and advance in agricultural careers. This idea was developed to fill the gap where vocational and agriculture programs have been removed from high school curricula. Students will engage in educational and practical course including but not limited to Agriscience, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy. We will engage agriculture and business professionals, community, faith, educational, and government organizations to educate students and prepare them for the vast opportunities within the agricultural field and/or higher education opportunities. Students will test throughout the course to affirm comprehension and retention. Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will receive a certificate of completion. In addition, we will engage a third-party to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of our information and delivery.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Central Arkansas Contact Info: Tejon Mays tejonmays@gmail.com (202) 285-6286 or (501) 747-2968</p>
CA	Dianne Feinstein & Kamala Harris	Devin Nunes (22)	Asian Business Institute and Resource Center	\$237,500	<p>The Asian Business Institute and Resource Center (ABIRC) has served Asian businesses in the Central Valley with technical assistance and capacity building. When the COVID-19 shelter-in-place ordinances began, small-scale socially disadvantaged farmers[1] (SDF) of all ethnic backgrounds shared their emergent concerns with staff. Micro farmers who suffered disproportionately with disrupted supply chains expressed the need for assistance with filling out crisis relief applications and crop sales. Through an intake form, we found that our farmers did not qualify for crisis relief funding and many opportunities to access outside markets requiring food safety training. Additionally, they weren't aware of, or didn't qualify for the types of assistance that the USDA can provide to SDF. More than half of the farmers who completed our intake didn't have financial records in order or safe food handling training. Both of these processes take time and resources that we do not have funding for currently. ABIRC proposes to meet the SDF community's expressed need of financial literacy trainings and mentoring to access available USDA resources for robust economic development. In partnership with the UC Cooperative Extension in Fresno and Tulare counties, we will equip farmers with safe food handling trainings that meet requirements for institutional procurement opportunities and other sales venues. Short- and long-term outcomes will be monitored through logic models for community-based initiatives. The proposed project will run from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2022. This funding will assist SDFs in one of the world's most productive agricultural regions.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Fresno and Tulare counties in California Contact Info: Mr. Blong Xiong blongxiong@sbcglobal.net (559) 906-4331</p>

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State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
FL	Marco Rubio & Rick Scott	Neal Dunn (02)	New North Florida Cooperatives Association, Inc.	\$230,000	<p>New North Florida Cooperative Association, Inc. has had twenty-five years of experience working to enhance the economic viability of small-scale farm operations. NNFC has developed an effective model for market development that addresses the specific needs and capabilities of socially disadvantaged farmers, focusing on networking and capacity building. Socially disadvantaged farmers are experiencing many difficulties and obstacles navigating through the rapidly changing agricultural industry and need additional assistance in bringing existing operations to the point where they can take advantage of USDA programs and services. The proposed program seeks to assist persistent poverty communities to become economically sustainable through a locally driven bottom-up process. The program seeks to improve farm profitability and viability by assisting in the identification, development and establishment of alternative market opportunities, while encouraging participation of socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers in USDA programs. The concept for this innovative approach incorporates three major areas: collaboration, market development and educational networking. NNFC will be responsible for overall project planning, implementation, evaluation and fiscal management of the project. NNFC has also successfully managed funding from state sources including Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services Specialty Crop Program, as well as grants from Heifer International, Presbyterian Church Self-Help of People Program and Wallace Foundation/WinRock International.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: North Florida Contact Info: Glyen Holmes nnfc1995@yahoo.com (850) 352-2400</p>
GA	David Perdue & Kelly Loeffler	Sanford Bishop (02)	Fort Valley State University	\$336,325	<p>Fort Valley State University serves as Georgia's 1890 land-grant institution. Their Cooperative Extension program operates and provides staffing for 19 county offices, serving approximately 28 counties within rural Georgia. Their proposal, entitled "FVSU Extension's response to OPPE's Prosperity Councils for Persistent Poverty Communities," focuses its efforts on serving the following twelve persistent poverty counties in rural Georgia: Burke, Bulloch, Dooly, Dougherty, Hancock, Macon, Marion, Mitchell, Peach, Screven, Taylor, and Tattnall. The goal of the project is to utilize innovative methods to provide specialized targeted technical assistance to rural Georgia farming operations within these counties. Methods include providing the necessary training and support needed to assist farmers in securing GAP/GHP certification to provide them entry into new local markets, inclusive of regional grocers and local school systems. Funding will also be utilized to leverage the institution's land-grant status by purchasing equipment to implement a learning lab within the program's service delivery area to enhance educational opportunities for the project's target audience, in addition to marketing the programs and services provided by USDA and the Georgia Department of Agriculture.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Rural Georgia Counties: Burke, Bulloch, Dooly, Dougherty, Hancock, Macon, Marion, Mitchell, Peach, Screven, Taylor, and Tattnall. Contact Info: Joyce Johnson fvsu_osp@fvsu.edu (478) 825-4323</p>

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State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
GA	David Perdue & Kelly Loeffler	Sanford Bishop (02)	Golden Triangle RC & D	\$102,985	The Golden Triangle RC&D Council (GTRCDC) is a community based non-profit organization with extensive experience in providing technical support and educational outreach to agricultural producers regarding federal and state opportunities related to their operations. The GTRCDC has a long history of working in close partnership with Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers (SDVFR) in 26 counties in South Georgia, targeting and identifying their needs. This project is entitled Educational Outreach and Technical Assistance for Historically Underserved and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers in Rural South Georgia. Of the counties served by the GTRCDC, the percentage of SDVFRs ranges from 4.5% to over 20%. According to 2018 statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau, Southwest Georgia has a much higher rate of poverty and a much lower per capita income than most counties in the state. Through an established method of educational outreach, one-on-one assistance and technical assistance, this project will enhance SDVFR profitability and environmental sustainability. The project will provide classes, videos, and a Summit that will feature information on farm conservation planning, new and current USDA programs, recordkeeping, financial management, agricultural management, business essentials, forest management, understanding taxes, heirs property and estate planning. The activities and objectives are measurable, sustainable and transferrable. Through these avenues of support, the course aims to empower landowners to make their land more profitable and sustainable. Presenters will include the Georgia Heirs Property Law Center, NRCS, GFC, Rural Development, FSA, and others. Geographic Service Area: 26 counties in South Georgia Contact Info: Rhonda Gordon rgordon@goldentrianglercd.org (229) 995-2027 or (229) 726-1928
GA	David Perdue & Kelly Loeffler	Sanford Bishop (02)	Charles Sherrod Community Development Corporation	\$400,000	Charles Sherrod Community Development Corporation (CDC), a 501c3 nonprofit, will conduct a three-year outreach project in Persistent Poverty counties in Southwest Georgia that will increase the capacity of socially disadvantaged producers to farm profitably, utilize conservation practices and technology, and access new value-added markets. Partnering with the USDA State Food and Agriculture Council, the CDC will deploy educational workshops, field days, and regional Local Prosperity Summits to achieve its objectives and address no fewer than five programmatic priorities of USDA OPPE: to increase access to USDA programs and services, improve financial literacy, improve knowledge of agricultural business management, improve knowledge of agriculture and natural resources, and increase use and implementation of conservation practices. By the project's conclusion, the CDC will deliver measurable improvements in the number of socially disadvantaged producers participating in USDA loan, cost-share, and grant programs, the entrepreneurial abilities of socially disadvantaged farmers, and the level of coordinated community effort to reverse poverty and limited food access across the region. Geographic Service Area: Southwest Georgia-Dougherty, Terrell, Calhoun, Mitchell, Baker, Clay, Randolph, Early, Decatur, Grady counties Contact Info: Shirley Sherrod shirleymsherrod@gmail.com (229) 430-9870
IL	Richard Durbin & Tammy Duckworth	Kelly Robin (02) & Danny Davis (07)	Urban Growers Collective, Inc.	\$251,094	Socially disadvantaged beginning farmers in Opportunity Zones located in Chicago, Cook County, IL desire programs that are led by Black, Indigenous, People of Color Farmers (BIPOC) and that contribute to the economic sustainability of their farm operations and their communities. To address this, Urban Growers Collective proposes establishing a local prosperity council in collaboration with the Urban Stewards Action Network (USAN), an action-based transformational network of BIPOC community farmers and partner organizations in the Chicago food system facilitated by the Chicago Food Policy Action Council and Grow Greater Englewood. Based on the council's current coalition building, Urban Growers Collective will provide outreach, technical assistance, agriculture business management, and mentorship to farmers while the council coordinates with Federal, State, and local partners, to connect them with USDA programs and resources. Urban Growers Collective will collaboratively develop and offer a curriculum for the Farmers for Chicago Farmer Incubator's expansion in Englewood with Grow Greater Englewood that is driven by recommendations from the local prosperity council. Geographic Service Area: Chicago, Cook County, Illinois Contact Info: Erika Allen erika@urbangrowerscollective.org (773) 376-8882

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State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
MS	Roger Wicker & Cindy Hyde-Smith	Bennie Thompson (02)	E & L Development Foundation, Inc.	\$398,250	E & L Development Foundation, Inc., will develop vibrant and resilient communities for socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers and veterans through the establishment of Sustainable Farming Prosperity Councils aimed at increasing access to USDA programs and opportunities for socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers, veterans and women agricultural producers (SDFRV) in underserved, impoverished Strike Force communities located in Mississippi and North Carolina. Established with the mission of supporting and encouraging the sustainability of healthy, thriving small farms that contributes to food security, local food systems, healthy rural communities and the environment, E & L Foundation has provided a holistic approach to training and providing necessary resources for small farmers. Systemic issues and challenges that were presented by the community focused on poverty, unemployment, educational attainment, affordable housing and the lack of equity among race. Geographic Service Area: Communities in Mississippi Contact Info: Dalton McAfee daltonhmcafee@gmail.com (601) 874-3899
NE	Ben Sasse & Deb Fischer	Jeff Fortenberry (01)	Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska	\$400,000	The Umonhon Nation Agricultural Economic Development Program will provide economic development opportunities and increase food sustainability for its members. Like tribal communities nationwide, the Umonhon Nation struggles with food access and security, coupled with prevalent diet related health concerns. University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Extension, the lead applicant, with partners from Center for Rural Affairs (CFRA), Nebraska Indian Community College (NICC), and Whispering Roots, will develop agricultural entrepreneurs through classroom training and hands-on food growing experience, preparing trainees to begin farm businesses while rooting them in traditional tribal plant knowledge and practices. A prosperity council comprised of local leaders, program staff and representatives of USDA will support efforts and ensure the program upholds its commitment to trainees. The council's guidance, together with the expertise and resources of UNL Extension and the capacity and history of its partners to assist underserved farmers, will ensure the success of this program. Success will be measured by the number of tribal members who participate and complete the program, create their own gardens and farms, help feed their families and communities through neighborhood markets, and establish business pathways. Geographic Service Area: Umonhon Nation of Thurston County, Nebraska Contact Info: Dave Varner extensiongrants-DLV@listserv.Nebraska.edu (402) 472-3926
NY	Charles Schumer & Kirsten Gillibrand	Joseph Morelle (NY- 25) & Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon (PR- at-large)	PathStone Corporation	\$400,000	Efforts to reduce import dependence and restore Island agriculture have gained traction; however, these efforts require knowledge and resources to grow beyond backyard gardens to achieve resilience and sustainability. PathStone plans to: a) implement outreach, training and technical assistance with 180 Socially Disadvantaged Hispanic farmers, ranchers and agricultural producers; b) facilitate three Prosperity Councils benefitting 14 municipalities; and c) engage 60 young adults in agricultural career exploration. Many individuals in this area will qualify as Limited Resource Farmers or Ranchers. Long-term project goals are to enhance the capabilities of Puerto Rico's SD farmers, ranchers and agricultural producers to own and manage viable and sustainable agricultural operations; to recruit new SD farmers, ranchers and agricultural producers into the profession; to facilitate community-led rural economic development; and to increase food self-reliance in Puerto Rico. For over four decades, PathStone has directly supported Puerto Rico's Socially Disadvantaged Hispanic farmers, ranchers and agricultural producers: providing business services, loans, training and technical assistance; building agriculture workforce skills to match employer demand; and developing affordable housing for the agriculture workforce. PathStone partners with local USDA and CBOs to advance agriculture solutions: Avancemos community agricultural education and Plenitud PR's eco-education and farm conservation. PathStone delivers PRDA and EPA-approved occupational safety training to over 1,000 Socially Disadvantaged farmers, ranchers and agricultural employees annually. Geographic Service Area: Puerto Rico Contact Info: Jeffrey Lewis jlewis@pathstone.org (585) 340-3300

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Agriculture Resources Initiative

State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
PR	N/A	Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon (at-large)	Victus Puerto Rico, Inc.	\$400,000	<p>Victus Puerto Rico is a not for profit entity dedicated to enhancing local farmers' ability to become successful entrepreneurs, champions in agricultural conservation and providing island residents with reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food. Supporting Puerto Rico's underserved farmers is a timely and much-needed effort for jumpstarting many fragile local economies and revitalizing municipalities across the island. Through the PR Prosperity Farmers Project, Victus will implement a focused outreach effort to increase the capacity of disadvantaged farmers in entrepreneurship, agricultural conservation and natural resources, legal issues in farming and to grow the visibility of USDA programs and services. Farmer participating in the PR Prosperity Farmers Project will assist in the creation and promotion of Local Prosperity Councils (LPCs) in collaboration with USDA local officials and community leaders. The expected outcomes of this project include increasing USDA programs and services outreach for local farmers but more importantly to generate enduring or multiplier results that build agricultural success around the concepts of recognizing and underscoring farmers' skills and leadership among farming communities. The proposed plan is requesting \$450,000 for a three-year implementation period to fulfill the project objectives.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Puerto Rico-Mayaguez and Ponce Contact Info: José Sánchez jsanchez.victuspr@gmail.com (787) 458-2624</p>
VA	Mark Warner & Tim Kaine	Morgan Griffith (09)	Appalachian Sustainable Development	\$266,667	<p>This project provides veterans with the resources needed to succeed in agriculture. As part of our Strategic Planning process and history of work in the community, we have identified ways to assist socially disadvantaged limited veteran farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers in these Persistent Poverty Communities and Opportunity Zones. We will identify local leaders and partners to create a Local Prosperity Council to carry out local efforts needed to engage Federal, state, and local partners, to connect them with USDA programs and resources. This process includes conducting an assessment of local challenges and issues within identified veteran and agriculture communities. We will build a database and professional network of veteran's resources needed to assist their pursuits in agriculture careers to include concrete, practical opportunities for partnerships or projects of interest to the Local Prosperity Council, such as certifications, training in business planning, marketing, and specialty crop production. These veterans' resources will be accessible via interactive websites to create a sense of community among disparate groups. This will help participants identify local assets such as fellow farmers, veterans' groups, and other community resources we will leverage as the newly created Local Prosperity Council. We have identified some key collaborators and partners and will expand the list of potential and existing community partners with contact information. We host several community outreach events and will describe ongoing implementation efforts in the community to promote the program and recruit participants. Stakeholders in the community have participated in surveys and interviews to address the challenges independently and include the voice of the participants in programming. Our FARM program and Field School provides training and technical assistance to socially disadvantaged and/or veteran farmers, ranchers and agricultural producers. The individualized curriculum includes in-person workshops, online training, farm internships, webinars, and conferences on multiple practical topics. We assist communities in applying for programmatic resources, services, and opportunities including, but are not limited to bringing awareness to USDA capacity building programs, conservation awareness, urban agriculture awareness, and other types of trainings and workshops.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Central Appalachian region, at the convergence of VA, TN, KY, WV, and NC Contact Info: Kathlyn Terry kerry@asdevelop.org (276) 623-1121</p>

Socially Disadvantaged Policy Research Center

State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
MS	Roger Wicker & Cindy Hyde-Smith	Bennie Thompson (02)	Alcorn State University, PRC	\$1,500,000	<p>The Socially Disadvantaged Policy Research 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 SDFR 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 Research Center provides a vehicle for SDFRs to be involved in policy construction, interpretation and implementation. This grant will assist with the following priorities: Stakeholder Engagement, Research, Policy Development, and Strategic Outreach.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Nation-wide Contact Info: Eloris Speight espeight@alcorn.edu (601) 877-6601</p>