

Grant recipients for fiscal year 2014 are listed below:

### **Alabama**

- Alabama A& M University - Intensive Southeastern Training Expansion Program for African-American Landowners. The ultimate long-term goal of this project is to help make underserved and socially disadvantaged landowners', veterans' and farmers' farmlands more economically viable, productive, and self-sustaining and in the process prepare minority students for careers in forestry and land management or consulting. These students, on graduation, will help to increase the pool of minorities trained in forestry and agriculture to meet the National demand for minority professionals.

Contact Info: Colmore Christian, [colmore.christian@aamu.edu](mailto:colmore.christian@aamu.edu), 256-372-4335

- Alabama State Association of Cooperatives - Outreach assistance for black belt counties of Alabama. It is anticipated, with this new grant, there will be assistance a number of the farmers and landowners, including those who are veterans, contacted through outreach to apply for loans and other program benefits from USDA; provide agriculture-related training and technical assistance; continue to assist the identified clusters of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (SDFRs) involved in the USDA class action and claims processes; and help build and improve relationships between SDFRs and USDA in a 12-county service area.

Contact Info: John Zippert, [jzippert@aol.com](mailto:jzippert@aol.com), 205-652-9676

- Tuskegee University - The Tuskegee University Small Farmer Outreach, Training, and Technical Assistance Project will serve the Black Belt and adjacent counties of South-central Alabama by conducting outreach and technical assistance to encourage and assist socially disadvantaged farmers to own and operate farms; provide information on loan applications and farmer programs; assist in accessing the full range of USDA programs including equipment, livestock, housing, and youth loans and grants including cost-share and specialty crops; outreach and education on the USDA class action and claims processes; develop and enhance farm and business management and marketing skills; and develop a long-range base for self-sustaining farm business analysis services. Special focus will address land loss, heir property and estate planning as well as the recruitment and support of new, beginning and established veteran farmers.

Contact Info: Robert Zabawa, [zabawar@mytu.tuskegee.edu](mailto:zabawar@mytu.tuskegee.edu), 334-727-8114

### **Alaska**

- Alaska Tribal Conservation Alliance - Objective is to provide financial/technical assistance to Alaska Tribal Conservation Districts to acquire business licenses, complete governing documents, comply with state and federal laws, provide templates for job descriptions for board and staff members, organize and implement a statewide symposium for ATCDs, USDA and federal agencies, and potential partners; collaborate and connect to Tribal Conservation Districts and Advisory Councils in the contiguous U.S. that have implemented effective innovative outreach and technical assistance techniques supported by USDA that will address the needs of Alaska Native people, Alaska Native Villages, and Alaska Federally-Recognized Tribes; to bring USDA

Programs to Alaska Tribal Conservation Districts for the restoration of fish and wildlife and their habitat restoration, flood mitigation, air and water quality, and local food production.

Contact Info: Angela Sandstol, [aktribalconservationalliance@gmail.com](mailto:aktribalconservationalliance@gmail.com), 907-317-5133

### **Arizona**

- Developing Innovation In Navajo Education, Inc. - The goal the Native American Producers Success II Project is to increase growth and long-term sustainability of socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers through improved profitability in the marketplace. To achieve this goal, the project will implement activities by improving farming/ranching operations; increase farmer/rancher knowledge of USDA programs and services; provide on-farm/ranch assistance; provide leadership training for officers and members of the *Navajo Farmers and Ranchers Congress*; and engage the *Navajo Farmers and Ranchers Congress*, *USDA*, and the Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture in mutually beneficial collaborations.

Contact Info: Michael Patrick, [jmpat@nmsu.edu](mailto:jmpat@nmsu.edu), 575-202-4235

### **Arkansas**

- Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation - Our project will include four regional/quarterly conferences conducted in the four regions of our 42-county service area to assist socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers/ranchers in: production agriculture, sustainable farming, nutrient management, conservation planning, risk management, heir property, civil rights, topics of current interest, and USDA programs. Seven on-farm field days will be conducted to demonstrate best practices. Farm Management Training will be conducted to ensure an understanding of material and successful implementation of techniques, procedures, record keeping, planning, etc., covered by farm management plans, conservation plans, soil/nutrient management plans and risk management plans.

Contact Info: Calvin King, [calvinrkingsr@yahoo.com](mailto:calvinrkingsr@yahoo.com), 870-734-1140

- University of Arkansas System - Pine Bluff – This project will target socially disadvantaged and veteran producers in 24, mostly StrikeForce counties, in eastern and southwest Arkansas. The goal of this program is to assist producers in owning and operating farms and ranches while increasing their participation in USDA and other programs. The objectives are to help producers own and operate farms and ranches by helping them to develop business plans; to help improve their land and crops and reduce their risk by using USDA Programs; to help livestock producers own and operate their ranches by using science-based best management practices and the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) pasture management practices; to help row crop producers own and operate their farms by helping them use science-based best management practices and the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) to improve land and crops; and to help small acreage producers own and operate farms by educating and assisting them in marketing and producing alternative crops (vegetables).

Contact info: Henry English, [englishh@uapb.edu](mailto:englishh@uapb.edu), 870-575-7246

## California

- Agriculture & Land Based Training Association - Our mission is to advance economic opportunity among limited-resource farmers who aspire to establish small-scale organic farming businesses. ALBA provides long-term education, technical and business assistance to help transition socially disadvantaged farmers (SDFs) into independent organic farm owner-operators. The Farmer Education and Enterprise Development (FEED) project will support SDF development activities, improvements to our curriculum and tools, and outreach to other SDFs in the tri-county area and nationwide. The proposed FEED project leverages existing support for farmer development activities from other USDA programs and numerous local foundation grants in addressing the OASDVFR Priority Areas.

Contact Info: Christopher Brown, [chris@albafarmers.org](mailto:chris@albafarmers.org), 831-758-1469

- Farmer Veteran Coalition – The 2501 Farmer Veteran Project aims to assist current and prospective veteran farmers and ranchers in developing economically-viable farm operations. The project involves a coalition of National organizations who have over 300 years of combined experience supporting veteran farmers, farm families, and beginning farmers in the U.S., namely the Farmer Veteran Coalition (FVC), Drake University Agricultural Law Center (ALC), American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) and the Farm Credit Council (FCC).

Contact Info: Michael O’Gorman, [Michaelo@farmvecto.org](mailto:Michaelo@farmvecto.org), 530-756-1395

- Fresno Area Workforce Investment Corporation - The *Agricultural* Connection Project (ACP) directly addresses the issues surrounding the cultural disconnect between educational entities and disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. The ACP will use a range of strategies – from culturally-sensitive outreach programs to rigorous workshops – to equip veterans and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers with the tools and knowledge needed to utilize various government programs focusing on USDA and best-business practices to achieve economic prosperity.

Contact Info: Blake Konczal, [bkonczal@workforce-connection.com](mailto:bkonczal@workforce-connection.com), 559-490-7102

- Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission - Fresno EOC Drought Emergency and Educational Preparedness Program’s (DEEP) purpose is to join with, and add a critically important service to, region-wide drought relief coalition efforts that have formalized in support of businesses and individuals decimated by this state’s unprecedented drought. Why such a focus? The drought has become so severe, the water table so depleted, that many farmers, especially small, minority, socially disadvantaged farmers and many Hmong immigrant farmers, are in serious jeopardy of losing their farms – for many their only source of income.

Contact Info: Jensen Vang, [Jensen.vang@fresnoeoc.org](mailto:Jensen.vang@fresnoeoc.org), 559-263-1583

- National Hmong American Farmers, Inc. – The goal is to provide agricultural services and programs that help small, limited resource, minority farmers and ranchers and their families become more economically self-sufficient through outreach and education

efforts. NHAF acts as a bridge between these farmers at the grassroots and institutions such as USDA and landowners. We serve as a trusted and reliable resource for farmers as they strive to increase their markets, build their agricultural proficiency, as well as access government programs and resources. NHAF can help USDA meet its Limited English Proficiency (LEP) mandate by serving as an on-call interpreter and in advising USDA and other agencies on how to best reach this underserved audience.

Contact Info: Chukou Thao, [cxthao05@gmail.com](mailto:cxthao05@gmail.com), 559-313-3339

### **Delaware**

- Delaware State University - The DSU Farm School Mentoring Program will provide intensive education and technical assistance through a 24-month mentoring program to reach at least 50 socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers from the target area per class. After the first class, this process will be repeated and expanded to more farmers, as we continue to move forward with this program. The goals of this comprehensive farm-mentoring program (DSU Farm School) is to reach new target audiences, including socially disadvantaged and veteran participants, to facilitate farm ownership, and provide the knowledge and skills to be successful.

Contact Info: John Clendaniel, [jclendaniel@desu.edu](mailto:jclendaniel@desu.edu), 302-857-6425

### **Federated States of Micronesia**

- College of Micronesia - The overarching goal of this project is to provide science-based education, outreach, personalized training and technical assistance to socially disadvantaged island communities in integrated climate-smart agriculture strategies to establish and maintain small family farms. The goal is in encouraging and assisting socially disadvantaged farmers in their efforts to become owners of income generating farming activities. Awareness about the program will also stimulate the community to increase their participation in various USDA programs and services.

Contact Info: Murukesan Krishnapillai, [vazhaveli@hotmail.com](mailto:vazhaveli@hotmail.com), 691-350-5752

### **Florida**

- Florida International University - Training and Government Program Access for Veteran and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Nursery Growers in South Florida. The specific objectives of the project are: to assist more than 80-100 existing and 20 new VSD-FNG and provide them with technical, managerial, marketing, legal, safety and regulatory training through a combination of workshops, on-farm demonstrations, farm apprenticeship, and one-on-one consulting; increase VSD-FNG's participation in USDA's benefits and assistance programs, including environmental, direct loans, crop insurance, economic development, and traditional extension programs; increase the participation of eligible VSD-FNG in the USDA class action lawsuits and claims process; and to develop and disseminate web-based and print material on different farming-related (financial, land, equipment and other farm inventory), and government assistance-related information.

Contact Info: Mahadev Bhat, [Mahadev.Bhat@fiu.edu](mailto:Mahadev.Bhat@fiu.edu), 305-348-1210

- North-South Institute - Outreach and Assistance to Socially Disadvantaged, Veteran, Black and Hispanic Tenant Women and Youth Farmers and Ranchers in Selected Counties in Florida. Provide on-site training and technical assistance sessions, webinar training programs, demonstration and a regional symposium targeted to 450 beneficiaries in educational programs for the production, management techniques, direct marketing of crops as well as the "basket of services" ® provided by USDA programs through AMS, FSA, NRCS, RMA, RD and NIFA; and to provide access to farmland for 450 beneficiaries (60+ per cluster) through the Institute's landbank referral and technical assistance program to Socially Disadvantaged, Veteran, Black and Hispanic Tenant Women and Youth Farmers and Ranchers in 37 counties in Florida.

Contact Info: Samuel Scott, [nsied2002@aol.com](mailto:nsied2002@aol.com), 954-434-8220

## Georgia

- Albany State University - Outreach to Application: On-Farm Conservation Implementation Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers in the Coastal Plain of Georgia. Primary activities include: One-on-one meetings and workshops with socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers to provide education and technical assistance; technical assistance to aid farmers *with NRCS staff* in completing farm conservation plans in the project area; and education and technical assistance to support the adoption of environmental management tools *including demonstrations* of remote monitoring technology to improve irrigation efficiency, water quality best management practices, energy efficiency, land/forest management and habitat conservation.

Contact Info: Mark Masters, [mmasters@h2opolicycenter.org](mailto:mmasters@h2opolicycenter.org), 229-430-2900

- Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund - Outreach to Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers. Goals are to recruit Minorities and Veterans to conduct One-on-One Technical Assistance; conduct scheduled farm visits weekly based on existing requests for assistance and responses to farmer recruitment; introduce farmers to USDA programs and services; schedule workshops introducing farmers to USDA programs, including FSA Loan Programs, NRCS Programs and Services, Risk Management, Sustainable Forestry, Alternative High-Value Crop Production, Raised-Bed Herb Production, Hoop Houses, Good Ag Practices, Post-Harvest Handling Practices, WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Programs, Farm-to-School Marketing; provide innovative technical assistance in workshop setting; schedule and conduct workshops on production planning, cooperative development, value-added vegetable packaging and marketing, and hoop house production.

Contact Info: Cornelius Key, [corneliuskey@federation.coop](mailto:corneliuskey@federation.coop), 229-432-5799

- Fort Valley State University - Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers. The proposed project will allow Socially Disadvantaged or Veteran Farmers or Ranchers (SDVFR) to develop the latest and most effective strategies associated with farming. These strategies are targeted to provide information on the following areas: farm ownership, production, marketing,

financial, and legal. SDVFRs will receive technical assistance for farm sustainability through workshops and demonstrations.

Contact Info: James Brown, [brownj01@fvsu.edu](mailto:brownj01@fvsu.edu), 478-825-6269

- Georgia Organics, Inc. - Opening the Pathways for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Producers in Georgia is a three-tiered process to provide outreach and education to SDVFR who are largely new and underserved. Georgia Organics will: leverage significant resources of its annual conference to offer educational programming designed for socially disadvantaged and veteran producers and will provide 75 scholarships for them, plus travel assistance for 40 producers from StrikeForce counties; empower five representatives of socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers across the state to act as liaisons between those respective communities and agricultural service providers and to conduct a needs assessment that will enable nonprofit organizations and state and Federal agencies to provide more flexible and direct outreach; produce 10 videos—seven to 10 minutes each—profiling producers from the diverse socially disadvantaged and veteran communities in Georgia. Not only will these videos highlight technical innovation and participation in USDA programs when available, they will also create a sense of identification that encourages underserved producers to seek out USDA programs. Each video will be used for the promotional purposes of both Georgia Organics and the USDA.

Contact Info: Donn Cooper, [donn@geoergiaorganics.org](mailto:donn@geoergiaorganics.org), 678-702-0400

- Truly Living Well Center for Natural Urban Agriculture, Inc. – Our organization will partner with the Georgia Micro Enterprise Network to implement the “Transfarming” Georgia: 2501 Program to provide valuable local food sources, create jobs, improve economic viability of both urban and rural Georgia communities; impact overall health outcomes; increase the number of new socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers engaged in growing produce using sustainable, natural and organic practices; and target people with little or no experience in farming, but with an interest in urban agriculture, sustainable food production, food security and new business opportunities. In addition, the program will increase awareness and receptivity of USDA programs among beginning and older farmers in Georgia, specifically populations who conduct farming and agribusinesses, including value-added businesses: African Americans, women, veterans, new agribusiness owners, youth who may be considering agribusiness as a career, and agribusinesses located in urban areas or inside of Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA).

Contact Info: Carol Hunter, [carol@trulylivingwell.com](mailto:carol@trulylivingwell.com), 678-873-0997

## **Hawaii**

- The Kohala Center - Agricultural Training and Technical Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Agricultural Producers in Hawaii. The overall objectives of the program are to reach out to SDVFR producers to: increase knowledge of farming and ranching production practices; increase access to land and the amount of acreage in production; increase their familiarity with and participation in USDA and non-USDA programs that support agriculture; increase the economic viability of their farms and ranches, and; expand and strengthen their agricultural networks. To achieve these objectives, the

project will implement an agricultural training program coupled with technical assistance in agribusiness development to provide assistance to a minimum of 46 beginning and experienced SDVFR producers on Hawaii Island and across the state.

Contact Info: Derrick Kiyabu, [dkiyabu@kohalacenter.org](mailto:dkiyabu@kohalacenter.org), 808-887-6411

## **Idaho**

- Mountain States Group, Inc. - Global Gardens Outreach Program for Refugee and Native American Farmers in Idaho reaches and trains beginning farmers with cultural, linguistic, or economic barriers to success which might prevent them from otherwise becoming successful farmers or accessing more mainstream farmer training programs. Our long-term goal is to create sustainable, profitable, independent small farm businesses. Our focus is mainly on organic or spray-free vegetable production with direct sales through farmers' markets and Community Supported Agriculture projects (CSAs). A few growers will be ranchers and will work on direct marketing for their beef. The project will specifically increase refugee and Native American farmers' participation as vendors offering fresh produce for sale to persons receiving USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, and as participants in the USDA National Resource Conservation Service's (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

Contact Info: Katie Painter, [kpainter@idahorefugees.org](mailto:kpainter@idahorefugees.org), 208-336-4222

## **Kentucky**

- Kentucky State University - Assisting Veteran, Beginning and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers to Improve Their Profitability through Local Food Systems and USDA Programs. Goals are: to assist socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers in owning and operating successful farms, including beginning farmers and limited-resource farmers in Promise and Strike Force Zones; to improve participation among socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers in USDA programs; to build relationships between current and prospective socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and USDA's local, state, regional and National offices; to provide outreach and education to socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers on USDA class action lawsuits and claims processing; and to introduce agriculture-related information to socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers through innovative outreach and technical assistance techniques.

Contact Info: Marion Simon, [marion.simon@kysu.edu](mailto:marion.simon@kysu.edu), 502-316-5423

## **Louisiana**

- Southern University and A & M College - Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Institute proposes a multi-institutional, system-wide initiative to offer leadership training to small, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in 18 states with 1890 land-grant universities to continue the legacy of providing leadership training, free of charge, to the small and socially disadvantaged farmers in the targeted area. It remains the only such opportunity in the entire United States for small and socially disadvantaged farmers to receive this type of instruction.

Contact Info: Dawn Mellion-Patin, [dawn\\_mellion@suagcenter.com](mailto:dawn_mellion@suagcenter.com), 225-771-3532

## **Maine**

- Cultivating Community - Growing Together: Building the Capacity and Skills of Socially Disadvantaged Beginning Farmers and Agricultural Service Providers in Maine. The foundational goal of this project is for a continually increasing number of low-resource, socially disadvantaged farmers to be operating successful independent farm businesses and attaining and sustaining economic well-being.

Contact Info: Daniel Ungier, [Daniel@cultivatingcommunity.org](mailto:Daniel@cultivatingcommunity.org), 207-761-4769

## **Maryland**

- University of Maryland - Small Farm Outreach Initiative for Limited-Resource, Socially Disadvantaged, and Veteran Farmers and Landowners. The overall goal of the project is to equip farmers with the knowledge and skills needed to own and operate a farm business successfully by doing the following: increase awareness and participation among limited-resource, socially disadvantaged, and veterans in USDA and other agricultural programs offered by the state; assist farmers in identifying marketing options best fit for their farm business that will help them stay competitive and increase profitability; equip farmers with the ability to make sound business decisions and manage resources in a way that will provide environmental, societal, and financial benefits; and introduce and educate farmers on new alternative enterprises and cost-efficient production practices that promote sustainability.

Contact Info: Berran Rogers, [blrogers@umes.edu](mailto:blrogers@umes.edu), 410-651-6206

## **Michigan**

- Michigan Integrated Food & Farming Systems - Supporting the Many Faces of Farming through Farm Bill Opportunities will assist farmers and ranchers in owning and successfully operating viable farms/ranches in Michigan by: linking our USDA agency partners with our farmer and non-profit customers; conducting seven hands-on workshops throughout the state and 17 conference workshops on USDA programs and services, and; developing success stories that illustrate the benefits of using USDA programs to help own and grow agricultural enterprises that will be posted on the MIFFS website, social media and USDA blog.

Contact Info: Michelle Napier-Dunnings, [michelle@miffs.org](mailto:michelle@miffs.org), 517-432-0712

## **Minnesota**

- Hmong National Development, Inc. - Leading Engaging and Promoting Hmong Farmers Program (LEAP). The LEAP program creates economic prosperity by advancing the business and entrepreneurial skills of Southeast Asian farmers and ranchers. Program services emphasize connections to USDA resources, costs savings, improved efficiencies, and expanded product offerings. The project will serve 500 Hmong farmers in Arkansas and Missouri through workshops and peer to peer technical assistance, and reach an additional 4,000 Southeast Asian farmers nationally through distribution of educational materials.

Contact Info: Bruce Thao, [brucet@hndinc.org](mailto:brucet@hndinc.org), 651-495-1517

## Mississippi

- Alcorn State University Educational Building Corporation - Small Farm Outreach Training and Technical Assistance Project. The project collaborates with the local and state USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRS), Rural Development (RD) and Risk Management Agency (RMA) agencies to assist five hundred and twenty-five farmers/ranchers to ensure farmers/ranchers gain knowledge on various aspects of risk management. The project will provide technical assistance and outreach and sponsor twelve (12) Risk Management and Rural Development training workshops and provide two farm production tours of various traditional and non-traditional crops and alternative enterprises. The overall goal of the project is to provide outreach, technical assistance and ensure farmers/rancher have the opportunity to apply for various USDA programs and services.

Contact Info: Carolyn Banks, [cbanks@alcorn.edu](mailto:cbanks@alcorn.edu), 601-877-6260

- Tougaloo College - Tougaloo College Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers in the Mississippi Delta. This project seeks to respond to issues expressed by SDVFRs concerning education as well as language and cultural differences and barriers. The need for technical assistance and support, information from expert sources, advocates, practical advice and infrastructure are common themes expressed by SDVFRs. The project's overarching goals will be to: assist SDVFRs in owning and operating farms and ranches through increased participation in USDA programs and services; and demonstrate agriculture's connection to access to healthy food and community and economic development.

Contact Info: Sandra Hayes, [shays@tougaloo.edu](mailto:shays@tougaloo.edu), 601-977-6179

- Tri-County Agricultural Cooperative - TCAC designed its socially disadvantaged producers program to provide a basic foundation for production, marketing, management, and networking among entrant and mature farmers in the Mississippi Delta region. It will focus on developing diversified farms, structured plans, the use of production and management strategies, and business management decisions to support strategies that enhance long-term viability of socially disadvantaged farmers.

Contact Info: Robert Gates, [RGates@tricountycoop.org](mailto:RGates@tricountycoop.org), 601-624-5682

- Winston County Self Help - Winston County Self Help Cooperative's efforts have afforded small farmers and ranchers with opportunities to gain market access, improve management skills, enroll in financial assistance and incentive programs and improve the viability, sustainability and the overall farm income of their agricultural enterprises.

Contact Info: Frank Taylor, [fltaylor@bellsouth.net](mailto:fltaylor@bellsouth.net), 601-291-2704

## Montana

- Fort Peck Community College – The project will increase socially disadvantaged American Indian participation in Federal Farm Programs on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation and in Montana. Fort Peck Community College will also address disparities in the participation of American Indians in USDA programs and services.

Contact Info: Craig Smith, [Csmith@fpcc.edu](mailto:Csmith@fpcc.edu), 406-768-5555

- Indian Nations Conservation Alliance - INCA is the key National organization whose goal it is to help tribal conservation districts (TCD) and the USDA work together to get USDA programs on the ground. We will build relationships between current and prospective SDFRVFR and USDA's local, state, regional and National offices via the TCD's and INCA staff.

Contact Info: Richard Gooby, [inca@3rivers.net](mailto:inca@3rivers.net), 406-684-5199

## Nebraska

- Center for Rural Affairs - Individualized Support and Networking for Beginning Latino Farmers and Ranchers. As this population continues to grow and be recognized, it is important that the beginners, among these, Latino farmers and ranchers, make the most of the difficult start-up period by accessing USDA programs and other resources that can help them achieve success.

Contact Info: Kathie Starweather, [kathies@cfra.org](mailto:kathies@cfra.org), 402-617-7946

## New Mexico

- New Mexico Acequia Association - NMAA works to protect arable land and water resources associated with Acequia irrigation communities and to strengthen the agricultural economy. The NMAA's long term goals are to improve the economic viability of farming and ranching, and to protect the historic land and water rights that are the foundation of the agricultural economy in rural communities in New Mexico.

Contact Info: Cheryl James, [Cheryl@lasacequias.org](mailto:Cheryl@lasacequias.org), 505-995-9644

- Taos County Economic Development Corporation - Rural Ranch Traditions: A Food System in Action. Funding is critical to provide services to the Hispanic, Native American (Including Tribal Bison Programs), and Veteran populations served. TCEDC's mobile slaughter and processing facility (the second approved and inspected facility in the US) will assist ranchers with increased access to USDA programs.

Contact Info: Pati Martinson, [tcedc@tcedc.org](mailto:tcedc@tcedc.org), 575-758-8731

## New York

- International Rescue Committee, Inc. - Given the agrarian background of many refugee and immigrant populations, the agricultural sector offers a natural home for these individuals as they bring their skills, aptitude and experience to their new communities. To help unlock their potential, the IRC has developed an integrated package of activities under the auspices of the New Roots Program, which provides linguistically and culturally appropriate training, technical assistance and small business counseling to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers with limited English capacity.

Contact Info: Ellee Igoe, [ellee.igoe@rescue.org](mailto:ellee.igoe@rescue.org), 646-599-2949

- National Audubon Society, Inc. - The purpose of Audubon Arkansas's Native Agriculture to InVigorate Ecosystems (NATIVE) Project is to help farmers adapt to climate change by assisting them with production of a climate change-resistant specialty crop, and with enrollment in USDA conservation programs that promote on-farm biodiversity.

Contact Info: Dan Scheiman, [dscheiman@aubon.org](mailto:dscheiman@aubon.org), 501-244-2229

## North Carolina

- North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University - Housed in the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (SAES) at NCATSU, the Center's mission is to serve the needs of rural businesses and cooperatives especially that of small scale farmers in facilitating economic development through the marketing of higher value-added products and services, both locally and nationally/internationally.

Contact Info: Osei-Agyeman Yeboah, [oyeboah@ncat.edu](mailto:oyeboah@ncat.edu), 336-285-4727

### North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers

The purpose of this project will address the critical needs of SDVFR that are aspiring to become productive and more economically viable in their agricultural entrepreneurship by spreading "good farming" practices and promoting job creation through business and strategic planning.

Contact Info: Wendy Burnette, [wendy@landloss.org](mailto:wendy@landloss.org), 919-682-5969

- Veterans Employment Base Camp and Organic Garden - Veterans Employment Base Camp and Organic Garden (VEBCOG) seeks to provide transitional employment and training for homeless and disadvantaged veterans. We provide a location for the rehabilitation of disabled veterans using Horticulture Therapy. We also train veterans with emphasis on farm concepts, agricultural time management skills, USDA programs, and the 2014 Farm Bill.

Contact Info: Lovay Wallace-Singleton, [lovayvebcog@embarqmail.com](mailto:lovayvebcog@embarqmail.com), 252-637-9350

- Whitaker Small Farm Group Inc. - Currently, WSFG is training a team of specialists to work with socially disadvantaged loan applicants to improve on the loan approval rate and significantly reduce rejection rate of 95%. WSFG officials are accompanying socially disadvantaged farm owners to USDA offices to apply for assistance. By doing so, socially disadvantaged farm owners have been approved for USDA funds to install dozens of hoop houses, irrigation wells, pumps and irrigation systems for their produce production needs.

Contact Info: Charles Whitaker, [c.l.w.whitaker@comcast.net](mailto:c.l.w.whitaker@comcast.net), 919-412-1432

## Ohio

- Asian Services in Action, Inc. - Refugee/Immigrant Agricultural Project of Northeast Ohio. This program provides training, technical assistance, mentoring, linguistic assistance, and other support to assist socially disadvantaged refugees and immigrants start small farm enterprises in rural Ohio and adjacent areas.

Contact Info: Michael Byun, [mbyun@asiaohio.org](mailto:mbyun@asiaohio.org), 330-535-3263

## Oklahoma

- Oklahoma Women In Agriculture Association - This project NWIAA will strengthen and enhance opportunities for women to provide linguistic technical training, outreach, and build and strengthen capacity to advance the quality of agriculture education, and expose socially disadvantaged and veteran citizens to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs.

Contact Info: Tammy Gray-Steele, [womeninag@gmail.com](mailto:womeninag@gmail.com), 405-424-4623

## Oregon

- Adelante Mujeres – There is a growing trend which reflects a significant population of Hispanic immigrant residents with the skills and interests in farming, but who lack the logistic knowledge and support to adapt their skills to Oregon’s environment and business reality. Adelante Mujeres conducted a needs assessment for Latino farmers in 2009-12 and found a number of farmers who produced diversified crops, but flew under the radar either because of the size and scope of their operation, or because they were not ready to formally register their farm business. The Coalition for the Advancement of Latino Farmers supports new, beginning and existing Latino farmers in the Willamette Valley to operate successful small-scale farming operations.

Contact Info: Anne Morse, [amorse@adelantemujeres.org](mailto:amorse@adelantemujeres.org), 503-992-0078 x208

## Puerto Rico

- Puerto Rico Agricultural Extension – There is no statistical data for veteran farmers and ranchers (VFR) in Puerto Rico. The Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology Department from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez (Ag-Econ UPRM) will be conducting an assessment to gather data of VFR and military family members and their needs. This information will help PD and Co-PD identify this target audience and include them in the educational activities.

Contact Info: Alexandra Gregory, [Alexandra.gregory@upr.edu](mailto:Alexandra.gregory@upr.edu), 787-265-3860

## Rhode Island

- South Side Community Land Trust - SCLT proposes to use USDA funding to offer multiple types of training and technical assistance. Through a group planning process undertaken in 2013 and 2014, SCLT constituent farmers identified the following opportunities for improving farm sustainability: 1) Increasing access to land; 2) Increasing productivity - maximizing yields using bio-intensive and other methods; 3) Technical assistance with marketing at farmers markets, accepting WIC/SNAP benefits, selling to restaurants or through CSAs; 4) Training in small business operations such as

record keeping, financial planning, and very specific business development assistance including tax planning, organizational structure and legal assistance related to farm expansion off of SCLT owned properties.

Contact Info: Margaret DeVos, [Margaret@southsideclt.org](mailto:Margaret@southsideclt.org), 401-273-9419

### **South Dakota**

- Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate - In an effort to stimulate a new generation of tribal members who seek help and support in using their own land to make a living rather than continue past practices of leasing it to non-members, the Tribe recently enacted a new land lease policy. The purpose of the *Land Lease Policy* is to “protect, preserve and promote the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Land Resources of the Lake Traverse Reservation”. These policies identify, evaluate and protect all land resources, including cultural, traditional and environmental resources. The Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate is determined to preserve and promote its resources by regulating undertakings and other acts upon its lands within its territorial boundaries and enforce such codes and laws.

Contact Info: Bruce Renville, [brucer@swo-nsn.gov](mailto:brucer@swo-nsn.gov), 605-698-3911

### **Tennessee**

- Tennessee State University - Educating and Training Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Landowners in Tennessee. The proposal will encourage and assist socially and financially disadvantaged farmers and producers to operate presently owned farms more efficiently and/or purchase new farmland to become the new and successful farmers and producers.

Contact Info: Fitzroy Bullock, [fbullock@tnstate.edu](mailto:fbullock@tnstate.edu), 615-963-5449

### **Texas**

- Prairie View A & M University - The project is expected to substantially increase the number of SDFR and veteran farmers and ranchers by identifying and actively engaged them in programs aimed at increasing their profitability and sustainability over and beyond the life of this project. Overall, the project will engage approximately 4,000 limited resource farmers.

Contact Info: Nelson Daniels, [ndaniels@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:ndaniels@ag.tamu.edu), 936-261-5112

- Texas A & M. AgriLife Extension Service - This project will work jointly with extension agents included in four counties of the Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV) and specialists that will work jointly in multidisciplinary areas on pest management of field crops and vegetables; irrigation and water usage, best management practices for small livestock and cattle, technical aid in financial aid, loans and use of USDA resources as well as marketing techniques for sustainable farming.

Contact Info: Raul Villanueva, [rtvillanueva@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:rtvillanueva@ag.tamu.edu), 956-968-5581

- University of Texas - Pan American - Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Agriculture Producers Initiative. Socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers need conservation assistance through conservation cost-share programs provided through the USDA Natural

Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), including assistance through EQIP, CSP, CRP, and other conservation programs. These producers also need financial assistance through farm operating and farm-ownership loan programs, commodity-, and disaster-assistance programs. These programs are critical to sustaining veteran farmers and ranchers.

Contact Info: Ludivina Rodriguez, [ktrod@utpa.edu](mailto:ktrod@utpa.edu), 956-665-7370

### **Vermont**

- Sterling College - Veterans Access to USDA Programs, Business Training and Low Impact Forestry Skills. Sterling College has increased the number of veterans enrolled in sustainable agriculture and natural resources courses from three in 2012 to six in 2014. The total student population is 135 students for this small four-year liberal arts college. Veteran graduates of Sterling College are employed in agricultural production and several are moving towards ownership of businesses. Sterling College will develop an on-going low impact forestry association to provide on-going education and collaboration amongst loggers and land owners utilizing the practice.

Contact Info: Louise Calderwood, [lcalderwood@sterlingcollege.edu](mailto:lcalderwood@sterlingcollege.edu), 802-586-2239

### **Virginia**

- American Indian Higher Education Consortium – The American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC), which collectively is the nation's 37 Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), will hold three regional conferences that will deliver best business practices training, information and contacts for USDA programs, services and claims processes, and technical assistance to Native American farmers and ranchers (including Native American veterans), on best agricultural business practices. The project also includes an innovative video storytelling component that will document best practices by experienced and successful Native American farmers and ranchers.

Contact Info: Carrie Billy, [cbilly@aihec.org](mailto:cbilly@aihec.org), 703-838-0400

- Virginia State University - The aim is to close socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers service delivery gaps that limit their participation in USDA and other agricultural programs. Recently, the loss family of farms and lands due to foreclosures and forced sales has increased. Many of these landowners lack adequate knowledge in estate planning, risk management, financial and farm management and agricultural production. This project will assist in this effort.

Contact Info: William Crutchfield, [wcrutchfield@vsu.edu](mailto:wcrutchfield@vsu.edu), 804-524-6245

### **Washington**

- Grow Food - The long-term goal of this project is to increase farm ownership, productivity, economic stability, and natural resource conservation among Washington's immigrant and veteran agriculturists through innovative educational approaches. The project will have a particular focus on beginning producers.

Contact Info: Ethan Schaffer, [ethan@growfood.org](mailto:ethan@growfood.org), 206-914-9497

- Seattle Tilth Association - Seattle Tilth's proposed partnership with King County, WSU, and Pike Place Market PDA will address some of the most pressing issues facing Hmong and other socially disadvantaged farmers in the Puget Sound Region, including land access, in-language training and technical support, connection to USDA programs, and expanded market access.

Contact Info: Andrea Dwyer, [andreadwyer@seattletilth.org](mailto:andreadwyer@seattletilth.org), 206-633-0451

### **West Virginia**

- West Virginia State University - The West Virginia Minority/Veteran Farmers Program (WVMVFP) is a multi-agency collaboration designed to develop agribusinesses, address the chronic poverty and job security issues of the region, and provide occupational training to promote agriculture enterprise development, expansion, and long-term sustainability in an innovative, research-based environment. The target groups are minority farmers, US military veterans and citizen soldiers in the West Virginia National Guard (active and retired).

Contact Info: Melissa Stewart, [williaml@wvstateu.edu](mailto:williaml@wvstateu.edu), 304-532-1670

### **Wisconsin**

- Farley Center - Linda and Gene Farley Center for Peace, Justice and Sustainability, Inc. – We will offer (1) linguistically and culturally-appropriate outreach and training to farmers throughout Wisconsin, (2) vocational rehabilitation work at a veteran-led farming project, (3) a new Hmong language track at the MOSES Organic Farming Conference, (4) a land link project to help socially disadvantaged farmers secure access to farmland and to plan with partner groups for two new farm incubator / collaborative farming hubs, (5) a farm incubator that is a major regional hub of support for socially disadvantaged growers, where farmers will take the lead and create new models for cooperative land management and investment in essential farm infrastructure, and (6) innovative marketing programs, including collaborative CSAs and farm stands at hospitals.

Contact Info: Cella Langer, [info@farleycenter.org](mailto:info@farleycenter.org), 608-228-9096

- Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College Inc. - The function of the college is to analyze educational and training needs of the communities it serves, and to custom-design curriculum and educational programming at the postsecondary level that incorporates traditional Ojibwe heritage and values. The Lac Courte Oreilles Band (LCO) of Lake Superior Chippewa Reservation is located in northern Wisconsin amidst mixed forests of deciduous and coniferous trees in Sawyer County. Forested areas on the reservation are accessible through treaty rights, are highly valued and associated with many uses including: subsistence hunting and gathering, tribal income (timber harvest), cultural and religious activities, plus recreational use.

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Funding of individual recipients is contingent upon their meeting the terms of the grant agreement.