



Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement

Revised: 10/04/2022

Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program (Fiscal Year 2022)

State	Senators	Representatives	Recipient	Grant	Project Description
AK	Lisa Murkowski & Dan Sullivan	Don Young (At Large)	Catholic Social Services	\$670,456	<p>This project will expand our Long-standing Refugee Agriculture Program. The project goal is to adapt our farming practices to meet Alaska’s changing climate as well as connect socially disadvantaged refugee farmers with Alaska USDA offices and information on available USDA resources. We propose to expand our program by hiring additional personnel needed to offer further educational programming for Anchorage refugee farmers and to help facilitate relationship building with local USDA offices. This program serves refugee clients from the following populations: Afghani, Congolese, Ukrainian, Burmese, Sudanese, Somali, and Nepali.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Alaska Contact Info: Issa Spatrisano, M.Ed. mspatrisano@cssalaska.org (907) 222-7341</p>
AK	Lisa Murkowski & Dan Sullivan	Don Young (At Large)	University of Alaska, Fairbanks	\$730,585	<p>The long-term overarching goal of this project is to ensure that Tribes in Alaska are food sovereign and secure. This project is focused on helping Tribal communities start new gardens, farms, ranches, or other endeavors that promote community food security, resiliency, and economic diversity, while upholding traditional knowledge and traditional ways of securing food and serving Alaska’s 115,000 Alaska Natives and 227 Federally Recognized Tribes. COVID-19 and climate change have stressed important traditional sources of food which has triggered a greater interest in growing food. Activities include implementing a 3-day tuition-free workshop each year to learn about regenerative agriculture practices.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Alaska Contact Info: Heidi B. Rader hbrader@alaska.edu (907) 474-6620</p>



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AL	Richard Shelby & Tommy Tuberville	Mo Brooks (05)	Alabama A&M University	\$750,000	<p>Alabama A&M, in collaborating with Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Federation of Southern Cooperatives, Holistic Management International, and other community-based organizations, will develop mentoring programs and deliver holistic outreach assistance to veterans, limited resource, and socially disadvantaged farmers in Alabama. The target audience comprises of African Americans, Latino and Hispanic Americans, Native-Americans, and other minority populations in rural Alabama. The goal is to empower producers and assist them build resilient farms through increased program participation and improved farm management skills acquired through financial education, heirs' property or estate planning, experience-based training, collaborative mentoring programming, and other training opportunities.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Alabama's 38 Rural Counties Contact Info: Dr. Duncan M. Chembezi duncan.chembezi@aamu.edu (256) 372-4970</p>
AL	Richard Shelby & Tommy Tuberville	Terri A. Sewell (07)	Alabama State Association of Cooperatives (ASAC)	\$750,000	<p>The Alabama State Association of Cooperatives (ASAC) is an experienced community-based non-profit with a long history of working with African American farmers and other low-income people. This project will provide education and technical assistance by holding farm visits, workshops, farm demonstrations, tours, and contact by phone and Zoom to acquaint farmers with the programs and resources available from USDA, in terms of credit, conservation, marketing, extension, risk management and other areas. ASAC will assist farmers in applying for loans, cost-shares and other services and benefits available from USDA. ASAC will help farmers to organize and support cooperatives, as a self-help means to improve their lives, livelihoods, and communities. Assistance will be provided to help farmers with heir property and land tenure problems, including curing and clearing land titles to enhance eligibility for USDA program and resources.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: The 20-county area of the Alabama Black Belt Contact Info: Pamala Madzima Pmadzima@yahoo.com (205) 652-9676</p>



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AR	John Boozman & Tom Cotton	Rick Crawford (01)	East Arkansas Enterprise Community (EAEC)	\$749,744	<p>The EAEC project will provide technical assistance and outreach to enable farmers to implement USDA programs and practices to improve their farm business enterprises. EAEC will provide education and outreach to attract non-traditional new and beginning socially disadvantaged young farmers with no practical experience-based knowledge of farming and related careers. Most farmers in the project region have shifted from row crops to alternative fruit and vegetable producers. Due to the limited size of their farms and the cost of precision-based farm equipment, they are seldom able to produce commodity crops which are commonly produced by the large independent and corporate farms in Arkansas.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: East Arkansas Delta (Lee, Phillips, St. Francis, and Monroe counties)</p> <p>Contact Info: Robert Lee Cole eaec@sbcglobal.net (870) 630-9077</p>
AR	John Boozman & Tom Cotton	French Hill (02)	WSBZ Farms	\$750,000	<p>WSBZ Farms seeks to advance farming, workforce development, and economic growth opportunities for socially disadvantaged farmers and youth who are African American and are identified as low-income within Arkansas. The project will increase the number of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers as well as provide support to said farmers which will help their enterprises grow. Project goals include connecting farmers with USDA programs, offering planning and marketing assistance, teaching crop and livestock cultivations techniques, and addressing local food systems and value-added enterprise goals. Project goals will also enable the establishment of a local food chain for local producers to gain access to food service distribution into restaurants, create awareness of locally produced food to consumers, and provide an avenue for restaurant owners to purchase locally produced food.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Arkansas (Lonoke and Pulaski counties)</p> <p>Contact Info: Elizabeth Bell-Simpson liz@wsbzfarms.com (505) 413-3834</p>



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CA	Dianne Feinstein & Alejandro Padilla	David G. Valadao (21)	California State University Fresno Foundation	\$750,000	<p>This project seeks to assist 435 farmers, ranchers, and veterans by providing monthly workshops and forums on various topics and programs that are available to them. Topics covered are AgTech, Precision Agriculture, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Agricultural technology training, technical assistance in grant applications, and assisting farmers, ranchers, and veterans in developing business and marketing plans. Facilitating the farmers' collaboration with different industry experts, USDA representatives, and other relevant parties and partners is another goal of the project.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: California (Central Valley)</p> <p>Contact Info: Eduardo Gonzalez edgonzalez@csufresno.edu (559) 278-0542</p>
CA	Dianne Feinstein & Alejandro Padilla	Salud Carbajal (24)	Peoples Foundation for Connecting Community, Military & Veterans	\$750,000	<p>The Legacy Innovation Farming Economics (LIFE) project brings together the unique experiences of the Peoples Foundation CCMVS. Our goal is to address barrier challenges and increase potential for success, facilitate continued ownership of land, and enhance involvement in agricultural production. Increased participation will be achieved through culturally sensitive agricultural education programs addressing resource access, technical assistance, succession insight, and agribusiness development needs of socially disadvantaged farmers, and building relationships between organizations serving this audience such as Farmer Veteran Coalition, National Black Farmer's Association, and USDA representatives. Reach will be maximized through virtual offerings, digital resources (online webinars/trainings), and in-person workshops. These methods support the vision of reaching our farmers where they are.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Alabama, California, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Texas</p> <p>Contact Info: Tameka Peoples tpeoples@peoples-foundation.org (805) 738-3123</p>



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DC	N/A	Eleanor Holmes Norton (Delegate)	Common Good City Farm	\$640,454	<p>Common Good City Farm has designed a certificate program in regenerative urban agriculture to support socially disadvantaged farmers in Washington, DC. The program offers educational opportunities in regenerative and climate-responsive agriculture and business development. Through a three-part, 80-hour curriculum, the Regenerative Urban Agriculture Certificate Program provides both classroom and hands-on learning to train farmers in growing techniques that reduce the impact of agriculture on the environment, while preparing them for successful startup and management of farm businesses. The curriculum includes regenerative techniques with a focus on carbon-soil sequestration, business development, and accessing USDA programmatic resources.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Washington, DC Contact Info: Josephine Chu josephine@commongoodcityfarm.org (202) 559-7513</p>
DC	N/A	Eleanor Holmes Norton (Delegate)	Dreaming Out Loud	\$749,994	<p>This project will leverage its supply chain aggregation capacity and technical assistance expertise to increase the wholesale readiness and representation of Black, Brown, and other farmers in the Mid-Atlantic region's food aggregation supply chain. Resources geared toward promoting their ability to participate as vendors in the Dreaming Out Loud Food Hub and other regional sourcing initiatives will be provided. These resources include workshops, contraction orientation sessions, infrastructure grants and access to USDA technical assistance programs. Today, just 1.4 percent of farmers identify as Black or mixed race as compared to 14 percent 100 years ago. This challenge offers an opportunity to be proactive in identifying and creating effective communication channels using networks and databases which will lead to higher rates of successfully sustained and operated farms.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Washington, DC., Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina Contact Info: Christopher Bradshaw chris@dreamingoutloud.org (202) 800-2612</p>



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DC	N/A	Eleanor Holmes Norton (Delegate)	National Immigrant Farming Initiative (NIFI)	\$540,000	<p>The goal of this project is to assist disadvantaged and other limited resource producers and veteran producers in owning and operating viable agricultural enterprises. NIFI engages with a network of training partners to serve farmers and ranchers. NIFI will support participation in programs and build relationships among participants and USDA staff. NIFI will be providing agriculture training and technical assistance through innovative techniques that are linguistically accessible and culturally appropriate. Trainings will focus on production, business, and marketing. Trainings on land access, natural resource planning and management will also be provided.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: New Mexico and Texas (Paso Del Norte region) Contact Info: Rigoberto Delgado rigo@immigrantfarmers.org (915) 490-3180</p>
FL	Marco Rubio & Rick Scott	Al Lawson (05)	Florida A&M University	\$750,000	<p>Minority farmers, once a critical component of Southern agriculture, have decreased in numbers and significance since the 1970s. Rural communities in the U. S. have undergone a transition in how the economy typically functions in those areas. This situation and others have resulted in a decline in minority-owned farms. This project is designed to help suppress and mitigate the factors that cause farms owned by the targeted audience to fail. The expected outcomes of this project will include the acquisition of skills required to help socially disadvantaged/underserved, minority, veteran farmers, and ranchers effectively compete in a modern agricultural environment and the return of a larger number of them to farming.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Florida (Columbia, Jackson, Jefferson, and Madison counties) Contact Info: Angela McKenzie-Jakes angela.mckenziejakes@famuedu (850) 412-6535</p>



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State	Senators	Representatives	Recipient	Grant	Project Description
FL	Marco Rubio & Rick Scott	Al Lawson (05)	Wealth Watchers	\$703,740	<p>This project will provide farmers and ranchers with the resources and assistance needed to acquire, own, operate and retain agriculture businesses and participate in USDA programs and services. The goal is to assist farmers with creating an economically sustainable system for farming, ranching and land conservation. Participants will benefit from outcomes such as increased usage of USDA programs and services, improved financial literacy, increased retention of agricultural entrepreneurs, and increased use or implementation of conservation practices. Outcomes will be accomplished by implementing outreach strategies such as workshops, on-farm demonstration projects, agribusiness education, youth-related agriculture STEM programs, and hosted events with USDA and other participants.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: North and Northeast Florida (including Gadsden, Madison, and Putnam counties) and Southeast, Southwest and Central Georgia</p> <p>Contact Info: Carrie Davis carriedavis@wealthwatchersfl.com (904) 265-4736 ext. 4057</p>
FSM	N/A	Peter M. Christian & Ferny S. Perman (Statewide)	Marine and Environmental Research Inst. of Pohnpei	\$749,761	<p>The goal of the project is to expand the number of socially disadvantaged aquaculture farmers and strengthen capacity and resiliency of existing farmers in the Federated States of Micronesia and Hawaii through training and technical outreach in established aquaculture techniques. Objectives include increasing participation in sustainable aquaculture and agriculture through workshops and hands-on trainings, supporting scaling-up, diversification, and effectiveness of existing farmers through a multi-tiered approach to extension and training, and increasing agricultural participation in USDA and other U.S. and State sponsored programs overall.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, the islands of Hawaii and Lanai and Molokai in the state of Hawaii</p> <p>Contact Info: Simon Ellis scellis@hawaii.edu (691) 320-7984</p>



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GA	Jon Ossoff & Raphael Warnock	Nikema Williams (05)	Georgia Heirs Property Law Center	\$749,818	<p>Heirs' property is an unstable form of land ownership that limits a family's ability to make improvements, manage farm/timberland, and build generational wealth because the family cannot qualify for USDA grants or loans, bank financing, and other rehabilitation programs. This exposes the negative impact heirs' property has on farmers, rural communities, and the State of Georgia. Objectives include providing technical assistance such as legal services, clearing titles, and preventing heirs' property creation. Participants will execute Estate Plans that prevent heirs' property loss; receive Title Audits to identify title issues; receive Title Clearing Services to attain clear land titles; and will begin the process of enrollment in and applying to USDA programs. Producers will complete forestry management plans, conservation plans, or business plans, or a similar document that articulates a reasonable vision for generating revenue from their land. Geographic Service Area: Rural South Georgia (Bibb, Dougherty, and McIntosh counties)</p> <p>Contact Info: Skipper StipeMaas skipperstipemaas@heirsproperty.org (706) 372-8787</p>
HI	Brian Schatz & Mazie Hirono	Kaiali'i Kahele (02)	North Shore EVP	\$722,161	<p>The overarching goal of this project is to assist socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers and beginning farmers and ranchers with owning and operating farms and ranches and enhancing their capacity to participate in the full range of USDA agricultural programs fully and equitably. Activities such as creating awareness and providing access to USDA programs, training, and outreach and education focus on engaging Thai and Mandarin speaking farmers that are often excluded from participation in USDA programs due to socioeconomic and language barriers. The project will deploy translated versions of smartphone apps that will facilitate the collection of farm food safety and financial records to help build successful farming and ranching operations.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Kaua'i and O'ahu</p> <p>Contact Info: Kevin Kelly kevink@nsevp.org (808) 383-4481</p>



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HI	Brian Schatz & Mazie Hirono	Ed Case (01)	University of Hawaii Systems	\$743,667	<p>Hawaii has a diverse agricultural community, including a large population of immigrant farmers primarily from the Asia-Pacific region. Many are Limited English Proficient (LEP), having limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English. This group has historically been underserved by traditional agricultural support services, demonstrating a critical need for increased outreach, technical assistance, and language accessibility. This project will offer a workshop series designed to support farmers in improving their business and production practices and increasing their ability to qualify for USDA support programs with an emphasis on Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) incentives programs. One on one farm visits following each workshop will provide individualized support and technical advising. Supplemental hands-on workshops and training videos on conservation will further farmers' ability to successfully implement these practices, thereby supporting a thriving local agricultural economy.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Hawaii Contact Info: Emilie Kirk erkirk@hawaii.edu (808) 274-3471</p>
IL	Richard Durbin & Tammy Duckworth	Bradley Schneider (10)	Adelante Center for Entrepreneurship	\$748,148	<p>The Urban Ag success for Vets and Latinx program provides training and certification in urban farm systems setup, operations, food handling, sustainable packaging, and distributions to 243 low-income Latinx, BIPOC and veteran beginning farm and ranch candidates in two Illinois counties. With the acquisition of a third indoor farm site, we expand existing apprenticeship programs to new candidates, volunteers, and staff. This approach provides training and a direct pathway immediately upon completion of training for new farmers to start profitable farm, ranch, or value add products businesses that will sell into existing distribution channels. Our mission is rooted in entrepreneurship. We have the expertise and resources in-house to mentor new farmers and ranchers to ensure success within the first 5 years after completion of the program.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Illinois (Lake and Cook counties) Contact Info: Ken Barber ken@adelantecenter.org (847) 800-0896</p>



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IL	Richard Durbin & Tammy Duckworth	Lauren Underwood (14)	Global Garden Refugee Training Farm	\$208,962	<p>Global Garden Refugee Training Farm’s ‘Training in Mixed Vegetable Production for Displaced Refugee Farmers’ project will provide linguistically and culturally appropriate training and technical assistance for refugee farmers who operate incubator farm plots at Global Garden Refugee Training Farm and for other refugees interested in learning about vegetable farming in the Midwestern United States. Displaced refugee farmers will be introduced to the USDA agencies and resources which can provide these aspiring farmers with further assistance towards their goal of operating independent commercial mixed-vegetable farms.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Chicago, Illinois Contact Info: Linda Seyler globalgardenfarm@gmail.com (630) 277-0907</p>
KS	Jerry Moran & Roger Marshall	Tracey Mann (01)	Kansas Black Farmers Association	\$750,000	<p>The Kansas Black Farmers Association provides outreach, education, and technical assistance, focusing on cooperative economic development and land retention in rural communities throughout Kansas for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) landowners, farmers, and ranchers. The project will assist BIPOC farmers in retaining, expanding, and sustainably utilizing their landholdings. It will encourage farmers to gain equitable access and utilization of all USDA programs, resources, and services. Programs to help farmers organize cooperatives for more significant economic benefits and increase farm and ranch and Specialty Crop income will also be covered.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Kansas (all counties); Missouri (Jackson, Boone, Jefferson counties and St. Louis, Missouri) Contact Info: JohnElla Holmes, Ph.D. johnella@ksu.edu (785) 236-9014</p>



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MA	Elizabeth Warren & Edward Markey	James McGovern (02)	Cooperative Development Institute	\$483,433	<p>The Cooperative Development Institute, with its partners, Cultivating Community and Northeast Farmers of Color and others, will implement the New American Sustainable Agriculture Project (NASAP) project in Maine. The New American Sustainable Agriculture Project (NASAP) will begin the implementation of over a decade of learning we have accumulated as we've included the socially disadvantaged farmers in our training programs. The program will provide training, technical assistance support, and networking opportunities to current socially disadvantaged NASAP farmers, who now lead farm-stands in 8 Maine cities and towns; many specifically located to target low-income consumers or to leverage other federal and state nutrition and food access programs. The program will also do community outreach and engage future farmers and others interested in farming and food; while fostering collaboration between them and public entities, funders, and lenders.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Maine Contact Info: Katherine Bessey kbessey@cdi.coop (207) 751-3331</p>
MA	Elizabeth Warren & Edward Markey	Ayanna Pressley (07)	Third Sector New England	\$748,772	<p>The project addresses the thousands of socially disadvantaged refugees engaged in beginning farming via participation in over 50+ refugee farming incubator projects (RFIPs) nationwide. Unfortunately, educational resources are inadequate for refugee farmers due to their limited English language, literacy issues, and lower education. They simply cannot use mainstream materials. Having access to customized instructional and informational resources emphasizing high visual content, plain language and plain speaking will strengthen delivery of overall outreach, training, and technical assistance. Participants are refugees and beginning farmers with limited English literacy, arriving from Bhutan, Rwanda, D.R. Congo, and Burundi. Geographic Service Area: Greater Boston, Massachusetts; Charlottesville, Virginia; Des Moines, Iowa; Kansas City, Kansas; and Missouri Contact Info: Hugh Joseph, Ph.D. hughjoseph@comcast.net (617) 636-3788</p>



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State	Senators	Representatives	Recipient	Grant	Project Description
MA	Elizabeth Warren & Edward Markey	Lori Trahan (03)	World Farmers	\$749,810	<p>The World Farmers project will provide comprehensive services and technical assistance to socially disadvantaged farmers in Florida to build farmer capacity in market and resource access, food safety, and production, resulting in viable small-scale farm businesses that are eligible for USDA programs. Trainings and hands-on support in soil health, irrigation, pest management, overall production of crops in high market demand, access to production infrastructure will be provided. We aim to advance market access by mentoring farmers on niche immigrant serving market opportunities and build farmers' capacity in market readiness. Activities will be conducted in Spanish, the primary language of all project farmers.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Florida (Hendry, Miami-Dade, and Volusia counties)</p> <p>Contact Info: Henrietta Isaboke hisaboke@worldfarmers.org (978) 918-8669</p>
ME	Susan Collins & Angus King, Jr.	Chellie Pingree (01)	Cumberland County Food Security Council (CCFSC)	\$599,820	<p>The Cumberland County Food Security Council (CCFSC) proposes a project with the goal of assisting Afro indigenous, Black, and other limited resource producers in owning and operating agricultural enterprises. CCFSC will support these producers in participating equitably in the full range of agricultural and related programs offered by USDA. This project will also inspire socially disadvantaged youths' interest in agriculture. With a network of training partners serving farmers and ranchers in Maine, we will provide outreach and technical assistance designed to support ranchers with the knowledge, skills, and tools to make good farm business decisions and enhance enterprise sustainability by participating in cooperative entities in the local meat value chain. This will include development of livestock production, processing, and animal protein marketing cooperatives.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Maine</p> <p>Contact Info: James Hanna jhanna@ccfoodsecurity.org (207) 939-3854</p>



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MN	Amy Klobuchar & Tina Smith	Betty McCollum (04)	Hmong American Partnership	\$726,016	<p>This project responds to an initiative to improve participation and build relationships among Hmong and Southeast immigrants and refugee farmers and ranchers in accessing the services of USDA. Hmong American Partnership's 15-year technical assistance program and educational model has supported over 800 farmers and ranchers, and over 100 agricultural businesses grow and expand as they contribute to the state's economy and food production needs. Program activities will focus on providing culturally informed technical assistance in USDA products and services including application assistance, training and workshop classes, business plan development, credit counseling, and assistance in securing USDA loans and grants.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Minnesota (Twin Cities metropolitan area) Contact Info: Mai Moua, Ph.D. maim@hmong.org (651) 495-1517</p>
MN	Amy Klobuchar & Tina Smith	Betty McCollum (04)	Latino Economic Development Center	\$629,204	<p>The project will build a comprehensive financial literacy and business development program that would position Latin farmers to fully understand their farm's financial situation and enable them to access the financial capital they need to make their farms viable. The emphasis will be on long-term resilience and sustainable profits and practices. The program will deliver trainings in a culturally appropriate and language specific manner. With successful completion of the program, farmers would be eligible for small grants and be able to apply for up to \$150,000 in farm loans.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Minnesota (Anoka, Benton, Clay, Dodge, Freeborn, Hennepin, Kanabec, Mower, Olmstead, Ramsey, Steele, Stevens, Swift, Todd, and Waseca counties); Wisconsin (Barren and Pepin counties) Contact Info: Rodrigo Cala rodrigo@ledcmn.org (651) 331-1439 and Aaron Blyth aaron@ledcmn.org (651) 395-4030</p>



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MN	Amy Klobuchar & Tina Smith	Angie Craig (02)	Renewing the Countryside II	\$749,742	<p>The project will rely on our proven model of providing support through peer “Connectors,” who deliver culturally relevant trainings and offer one-on-one support to assist SDFs in understanding and accessing USDA resources. We will use existing connections to Black, African, Southeast Asian, Latinx, and beginning farmer networks and farmers to inform and support them in participating in FSA, NRCS and Rural Development programs and services. An estimated 750 participants will gain awareness of these programs and services through innovative, culturally relevant workshops, videos, and online offerings. We will build relationships between farmer clients and USDA staff through Zoom and in-person meetings, office visits, one-on-one coaching, and webinars from trained Regional Connectors. We expect about 200 applications for USDA programs or services.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Minnesota and Wisconsin Contact Info: Jan Joannides jan@rtcinfo.org (612) 251-7304</p>
MO	Roy Blunt & Joshua Hawley	Billy Long (07)	Springfield Community Gardens	\$749,999	<p>The proposed project will use a hands-on, peer-to-peer model to educate and train veteran and socially disadvantaged farmers to design and manage small-scale farms focused on best-practices in regenerative agriculture and agricultural business management. The project seeks to invest in the Ozarks’ heritage and immigrant specialty crops with socially disadvantaged populations with the added support of connections to career support networks and resources to provide outreach, workshop knowledge, hands-on training, and wrap-around services from an experienced, collaborative, team of experts and staff who have a history of successful collaboration. The project will leverage a newly established 4-week regenerative internship program to provide a pathway for veteran and socially disadvantaged farmers to access land, infrastructure, knowledge, markets, and capital.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Missouri (Douglas, Greene, Ozark, and Taney counties) Contact Info: Maile Auterson maile.auterson@springfieldcommunitygardens.org (417) 414-7129</p>



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MS	Roger Wicker & Cindy Hyde Smith	Bennie Thompson (02)	Mississippi Association of Cooperatives	\$668,816	<p>The overall goal of the proposed project is to include technology, inform of USDA programs, and implement an educational outreach program to improve 220 socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers and veterans farm income and enhance their quality of life through better farm management practices, financial management, and marketing of a profitable mix of traditional and alternative enterprises for production. Collaborators on the project are Alcorn State University Extension Services and Mississippi State University Extension Services.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Mississippi (Covington, Forrest, Jefferson Davis, Noxubee, Perry, and Simpson counties)</p> <p>Contact Info: Ben Burkett benburkett@earthlink.net (601) 944-0592</p>
MS	Roger Wicker & Cindy Hyde Smith	Trent Kelly (01)	Mississippi Minority Farmers Alliance	\$750,000	<p>The project will educate and distribute research-based information that will influence the ability of 300 socially disadvantaged and limited resource farmers and ranchers, veterans, and forest landowners, to compete and thrive. Participants will be exposed to issues that engage them in a model of learning through hands-on training, mentoring and outreach programs which will enhance self-employment in farming, ranching, and forestry opportunities. Participants will have the ability to apply knowledge gained through research-based information to solve new and complex problems; effectively manage their enterprise for profitability; and become knowledgeable in both economic and ecological subjects. Participants will also gain the tools to make better production, management, and marketing decisions.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Mississippi (Calhoun, Chickasaw, Clay, Lee, Lowness, Monroe, Oktibbeha, and Pontotoc counties)</p> <p>Contact Info: Carolyn Jones msmfa2008@gmail.com (662) 213-2433</p>



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MS	Roger Wicker & Cindy Hyde Smith	Michael Guest (03)	Two Brothers Farms	\$566,004	<p>The project will provide regenerative agriculture and business education that establishes a culture of learning and networking opportunities among farmers in the region. It will ensure farmers understand and implement these practices for long term healing of farmland and climate-smart agriculture by using innovative approaches to better business practices and to enhance farm businesses overall profitability. Farmers will be introduced to new market opportunities to ensure that socially disadvantaged and Veteran farmers have the knowledge and skills to launch successful food-related enterprises to increase income and consumer access to fresh local food by connecting to new markets. This project will introduce program participants to federal, state and USDA agencies relating to grant and loan programs.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: East Mississippi (Clarke, Kemper, Lauderdale, and Newton counties)</p> <p>Contact Info: Courtney Cunningham 2brothersfarms@gmail.com (601) 490-0306</p>
MS	Roger Wicker & Cindy Hyde Smith	Trent Kelly (01)	Winston County Self-Help Cooperative (WCHSC)	\$750,000	<p>Through twenty-one comprehensive workshops and intensive field days covering climate-smart agriculture and forestry solutions, food safety, marketing, financial planning, record keeping, and heir's property, and countless hours of technical assistance, 250 socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers, landowners (SDFRLs), veterans, beginning, and youth will be thoroughly educated and assisted in applying research-based information to own and profitably operate sustainable farms, ranches, and forestry land. In doing so, WCHSC will increase participation in agricultural programs and services provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and work to alleviate barriers to USDA programs. Additionally, this program fosters youth's interest in agriculture by recruiting young adults into our established farm and ranch apprenticeship program. WCHSC will serve in Mississippi's rural, persistent poverty counties.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Mississippi (Attala, Choctaw, Noxubee, Scott, Wayne, and Winston counties)</p> <p>Contact Info: Frank Taylor ftaylor@bellsouth.net (601) 291-2704</p>



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State	Senators	Representatives	Recipient	Grant	Project Description
NE	Deb Fischer & Benjamin Sasse	Mike Flood (01)	Center for Rural Affairs (CFRA)	\$744,073	<p>This project will provide education and technical assistance to current and emerging Latino farmers through enterprise specific workshops and programming. Farmers will host on-farm workshops that will compliment online business classes. Conservation practices and programs will be highlighted in “Farminars” that will be supplemental content posted online. The workshop and the classes will be made available offline as needed. This project will focus on assisting socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in owning and operating farms and ranches but addresses all five mission areas of the 2501 Program. CFRA, along with its partner Practical Farmers of Iowa (PFI), will conduct this project with support from other resource providers and technical advisors.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Nebraska (Blair, Crete, Fremont, Grand Island, Lexington, and Norfolk counties) and Iowa (Iowa City, Muscatine, North Liberty, and Red Oak)</p> <p>Contact Info: Sandra Renner sandrar@cfra.org (402) 687-2100</p>
NY	Charles Schumer & Kirsten Gillibrand	Sean Patrick Maloney (18)	Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orange County	\$365,838	<p>The Wholesale Producer Readiness Program was implemented in 2014. The program offers technical assistance mainly regarding food safety education to many socially disadvantaged and underserved farms including veteran farmers in Hudson Valley and New York. Programs were generally focused on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) trainings, as well as one-on-one technical assistance with farms seeking GAPs audits, FSMA compliance, or general food safety information. This program provides one-on-one technical assistance and classes for new farmers and landowners who are seeking to add commercial agriculture ventures to their property.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: New York (the Hudson Valley, including Bronx, Clinton, Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, and Westchester counties)</p> <p>Contact Info: Nathaniel Lartey nl498@cornell.edu (917) 635-9966</p>



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State	Senators	Representatives	Recipient	Grant	Project Description
OH	Sherrod Brown & Robert Portman	Joyce Beatty (03)	Council of Development Finance Agencies (CFDA)	\$750,000	<p>The Council of Development Finance Agencies and the NASDA Foundation are creating an innovative partnership of the nation’s development finance agencies and departments of agriculture to provide targeted access to capital expertise to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. The project will provide dedicated education, research, and networking for state development finance agencies and state departments of agriculture to improve access to capital programs and services across the nation. CDFFA and the NASDA Foundation will develop culturally significant programming that can be accessed both in-person and virtually to showcase the most effective ways to align and leverage public and private sources of capital to encourage increased investment in socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. In addition, targeted technical assistance will be delivered through a “train the trainer” model to serve Hispanic, Native American, and Hmong farmers and ranchers.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Minnesota and New Mexico Contact Info: Katie Kramer kkramer@cdfa.net (614) 705-1300</p>
OH	Sherrod Brown & Robert Portman	Troy Balderson (12)	Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association	\$547,846	<p>This project is designed to provide education, direct technical assistance, and network building for socially disadvantaged farmers to improve their ability to own and operate viable farms, utilize climate-smart, sustainable agricultural practices, access land, and utilize USDA programs. Outputs include workshops on building production and business planning skills, introducing farmers to USDA programs, and education and resources devoted to land access; and one-on-one technical assistance to address whatever farming challenges are of concern, along with relationship building among growers to create networks for sharing knowledge and support. We will identify the barriers that prevent underserved farmers from more fully utilizing USDA programs and share this information with USDA agency representatives so that these challenges can be addressed. The focus for this work is farmers who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC).</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Ohio Contact Info: Renee Hunt renee@oeffa.org (614) 421-2022</p>



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State	Senators	Representatives	Recipient	Grant	Project Description
OK	James Inhofe & James Lankford	Kevin Hern (01)	Healthy Oklahomans' Nutrition Alliance (HONA)	\$749,998	<p>This project will engage core groups of Hmong, Burmese, and Afghan new immigrants who have experience and interest in building agricultural businesses. HONA and its project partners will work to build an agricultural network within each immigrant group. Groups will be linked to USDA, State, and local agriculture service providers. Technical training will be provided, and production guides and video sets will be developed and utilized to bring more interested immigrants into the project in years two and three. Group-specific marketing training and immigrant youth will be engaged from each core group. Participants will learn about career options in agriculture and food businesses, and USDA Youth Loans.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Central and Eastern Oklahoma (Adair, Cherokee, Muskogee, Oklahoma, and Tulsa counties)</p> <p>Contact Info: Lainey Porter healthyoklahomans@gmail.com (918) 304-7643</p>
OK	James Inhofe & James Lankford	Stephanie I. Bice (05)	National Women in Agriculture Association (Oklahoma)	\$750,000	<p>The National Women in Agriculture Association (NWIAA) is proposing a project which targets minority women and black farmers looking to expand their existing agribusiness through crop diversification and exposure to new markets to gain increased revenue. The project will provide training and financial resources which support small-scale expansion and increased market exposure in the state of Oklahoma, where the National Women in Agriculture Association (NWIAA) is headquartered.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Oklahoma</p> <p>Contact Info: Dr. Tammy Gray-Steele womeninag@gmail.com (405) 424-4623</p>



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State	Senators	Representatives	Recipient	Grant	Project Description
OR	Ron Wyden & Jeff Merkley	Suzanne Bonamici (01)	Adelante Mujeres	\$351,224	<p>The overall objective of this project is to build a sustainable production, marketing, and distribution system for Socially Disadvantage Latinx Farmers (SDLF) in the Western Oregon region through the production and marketing of high value specialty crops (fruits, herbs, and vegetables). The supporting objectives are to: 1) Increase the knowledge of SDLF in USDA programs and services through culturally responsive and bilingual programming in order to increase their participation; 2) Improve the knowledge of SDLF in farmland access, financial planning, and management; 3) Cultivate new market channels for locally grown specialty crops by SDLF; and 4) Build relationships between current and new SDLF and USDA’s local, state, regional, and national offices. With Adelante’s 20-year track record as a culturally specific organization, we are ready to lead this essential project to ensure increased market development and sales for SDLF. This project will support the long-term solution to ensure health and economic prosperity of our communities is achieved through equitable food distribution systems.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Western Oregon Contact Info: Suraya Arslan sarslan@adelantemujeres.org (503) 992-0078</p>
PA	Robert Casey, Jr. & Patrick Toomey	Chrissy Houlahan (06)	Chester Housing Initiatives	\$750,000	<p>Chester Housing Initiatives will assist socially disadvantaged and limited resource veteran aspiring, beginning, and existing farmers through collaboration with partners at incubator farm and food hub sites in the Delaware Valley region. Through hands-on innovative organic agricultural training, business planning, introductions through webinars and resource fairs to USDA service providers and programs, through individual technical assistance and agricultural workshops as well as stipend-supported field-based training, we anticipate supporting at least 100 SDVFR youth and adult aspiring, beginning, and existing farmers annually in improving the sustainability of the agricultural farming operations in the Delaware Valley.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Pennsylvania (Philadelphia), and Delaware (Delaware Valley) Contact Info: Natania Schaumburg natania.schaumburg@gmail.com (201) 788-8158</p>



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State	Senators	Representatives	Recipient	Grant	Project Description
PA	Robert Casey, Jr. & Patrick Toomey	Scott Perry (10)	Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA)	\$749,215	<p>The Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA) project will allow engagement of socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers with on-the-ground strategies through on-farm trainings, curated listening sessions and facilitation of affinity groups to drive application pursuit, and word of mouth verification of services and hub office mentorship to connect qualified applicants to FSA and USDA program resources. The project includes plans to develop relational connections between the USDA program offices to local farming communities across the state of Pennsylvania; in parallel, PASA will extend outreach messaging and connection campaigns to partners in the mid-Atlantic region and the greater Northeast. Engagement strategies focus on facilitation of trusted relationships through community engagement pathways that PASA currently facilitates such as on-farm educational events, annual conferences, and regular virtual listening sessions.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Pennsylvania Contact Info: Meg De Brito meg@pasafarming.org (814) 349-9856</p>
PA	Robert Casey, Jr. & Patrick Toomey	Scott Perry (10)	Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation	\$543,296	<p>Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation in partnership with the Pennsylvania Veteran Farming Project will conduct a three-year project to assist Veterans in owning and operating farms in the Commonwealth. Through targeted, multi-channel outreach to the military/veteran community, annual statewide Conferences, and regional events, participants will gain knowledge of how USDA and other programs will help make their farm operations more sustainable. With a focus on agribusiness knowledge, Building Ready and Resilient Veteran Farms will foster connections among beginning veteran farmers and service providers to create a supportive network that will enable farms to thrive. The project will build on successes among our growing network of veteran farmers and create new opportunities for participants.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Pennsylvania Contact Info: Mimi Thomas-Brooker pavetsfarm@gmail.com (724) 691-1087</p>



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State	Senators	Representatives	Recipient	Grant	Project Description
PR	N/A	Jennifer Gonzalez-Colon (Delegate)	Universitat Interamericana De Puerto Rico	\$750,000	<p>The Puerto Rico Small Business & Technology Development Centers represented by its Host Institution the Inter American University of Puerto Rico have developed the AgriBIZ Learning and Business Development Program. The purpose of this learning and business development center is to provide training, capacity building and assist entrepreneurs in Puerto Rico in the USDA program funding opportunities and to start up their business in areas related to agriculture. This program will teach participants the business start-up process, business plan creation, financing, new technologies, and the specific needs of the Puerto Rican population. Through this program we will increase the agricultural businesses in Puerto Rico and the production of local products. This results in the decrease of the need of exported products and increase in the quality of the products served in our island.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Puerto Rico Contact Info: Ivonne Negron inegron@prsbtdc.org (787) 763-6811 ext. 250</p>
RI	John Reed & Sheldon Whitehouse	Jim Langevin (02)	Pocasset Pokanoket Land Trust (PPLT)	\$593,037	<p>PPLT is a regional leader in indigenous land stewardship, outreach, and education while exemplifying the American Indian/indigenous peoples' respect for Mother Earth. Our project will help the socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (SDFRs) reduce barriers to financial and environmentally sustainable farm operation and ownership. PPLT will reach out to SDFRs in urban and rural tracts of persistent poverty, connect them with USDA resources, and provide them with education and training services to help their agricultural endeavors grow and thrive. SDFRs will learn indigenous farming practices that are now widely recognized as "climate smart." Trainings on the use of soil amendments, composting, marketing, financial and business strategies, and assistance with applications for USDA funding opportunities will be culturally and linguistically appropriate.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Southern New England (Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, portions of Maine, and Vermont) Contact Info: Chief George Spring Buffalo chiefgeorgespring@gmail.com (973) 868-1571</p>



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State	Senators	Representatives	Recipient	Grant	Project Description
RI	John Reed & Sheldon Whitehouse	Jim Langevin (02)	Southside Community Land Trust (SCLT)	\$749,934	<p>This project includes SCLT’s management of cooperative farm sites where farmers pay affordable prices for both land, infrastructure, and equipment. We partner with farmers in this way so they can partner with people in persistent poverty communities to strengthen the food supply chain and build fair, local food systems that provide social and economic opportunities while improving health outcomes. It also includes the development of partnerships that deliver training and services to farmers while also developing the skills, knowledge, and cultural sensitivities of program partners to serve socially disadvantaged farmers going forward. The project will provide support for Black and Latinx farmers as well as people originally from countries in western and central Africa, south and southeastern Asia, Central America, and the Caribbean. We will work with both urban and rural farmers.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Rhode Island (the greater Providence area) Contact Info: Margaret DeVos margaret@southsideclt.org (401) 287-4302</p>
TX	John Cornyn & Ted Cruz	Lizzie Fletcher (07)	Plant It Forward	\$739,302	<p>The overall purpose of this project is to strengthen the long-term viability of refugee/immigrant-owned agricultural enterprises by making comprehensive systems of farm support accessible and available. This will be accomplished by providing targeted farmers with formal training opportunities and individualized technical assistance, as well as by creating/adapting online learning tools. The project addresses the root causes of inequity in farming and the successful sustainability of farming operations by enhancing knowledge and skill in production, livestock management, financial literacy, and how to access available USDA resources. A series of workshops and individualized mentorships along with access to regionally relevant, evidence-based knowledge of best practices in small-scale farming/ranching for those with limited English skills will be translated into at least 3 languages for Congolese, Liberian, Sudanese, and Burmese Americans.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Texas (Houston’s 13-county metro region) Contact Info: Rachel Lockhart Folkerts rachel@plant-it-forward.org (832) 974-0729</p>



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State	Senators	Representatives	Recipient	Grant	Project Description
VA	Mark Warner & Timothy Kaine	Don Beyer (08)	American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC)	\$749,999	<p>The project will provide underserved Native American farmers, ranchers, and community food producers with increased knowledge and access to USDA programs and services; best practices that promote sound financial and agribusiness management that lead to increased success and sustainability of operations; and increased capacity of 1994 land grant extension programs to provide training and technical support to Native producers. AIHEC covers approximately 80 percent of all Indian trust lands. This project directly ensures USDA programs and services are delivered equitably; that Native agricultural production is increased and sustained; and that economic development and prosperity are enhanced in Native communities.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Multi-State (Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Washington, and Wisconsin)</p> <p>Contact Info: Dr. John L. Phillips jphillips@aihec.org (706) 310-4199</p>
WA	Patty Murray & Maria Cantwell	Adam Smith (09)	Feed Seven Generations	\$749,524	<p>This project is designed to work with multiple partners including USDA to provide resources for current and beginning Native farmers and ranchers in Washington to create and facilitate a platform(s) for to share information and resources including USDA programs; provide training, educational material, and technical assistance to Native farmers and ranchers on programs that support climate smart conservation, regenerative agriculture, and urban agriculture practices; provide training and educational material to current and beginning Native farmers and ranchers to increase markets and business enterprises; and reduce barriers for Native farmers and ranchers to access USDA programs by implementing the Native Food Strategy. We will perform outreach to six tribal Nations – Duwamish, Suquamish Indian Tribe of Port Madison Reservation, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, Tulalip Tribe of Washington, and Puyallup Tribe of the Puyallup Reservation.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Washington (Seattle area Native Nations)</p> <p>Contact Info: Romajeane Thomas romajeanefn7@gmail.com (253) 353-9008</p>



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State	Senators	Representatives	Recipient	Grant	Project Description
WI	Ron Johnson & Tammy Baldwin	Mark Pocan (02)	Easter Seals Wisconsin	\$368,343	<p>This project will, through outreach, technical assistance, and education, expand the access and success of new SDA (socially disadvantaged) and veteran farmers in perusing farming and accessing USDA programs. This initiative provides the information and assistance necessary to access, engage and follow through on participation in USDA programs. A few planned stated project goals for the project include: 1) increase the number SDA and veteran farmers who will be educated on available USDA services; 2) provide SDA and veteran farmers financial consulting, farm mediation services, and transition planning services; 3) provide mentorship opportunities for beginning farmer veterans; and 4) create and expand online educational opportunities relating to niche enterprises for veterans.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Wisconsin (rural and agricultural communities) Contact Info: Jeff Kratochwill jkatochwill@eastersealwisconsin.com (608) 279-9436</p>
WI	Ron Johnson & Tammy Baldwin	Mark Pocan (02)	Groundswell Conservancy	\$750,000	<p>HMoob (commonly written as Hmong) farmers are important contributors to local food systems in Wisconsin, but they face significant access barriers. This project will build on a coalition of Hmong-led organizations and farm organizations to help Asian-American farmers access USDA programs, reach additional markets, and get support from Extension, agricultural lenders, and peers. Activities include making information resources available in accessible formats, as well as providing programming specifically for HMoob audiences on topics such as tools and strategies for accessing farmland; and providing language and logistical support for farmers to attend established farm conferences and field days. The project will also work with next generation farmers to create equitable opportunities in agriculture.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Wisconsin Contact Info: Yimmujang Yang yimmujang@groundswellconservancy.org (608) 258-9797</p>



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State	Senators	Representatives	Recipient	Grant	Project Description
WV	Joe Manchin & Shelley Capito	Alex Mooney (02)	Kanawha Institute for Social Research & Action	\$750,000	<p>KISRA (Paradise Farms) and Patriot Gaurden's have partnered to create an opportunity to actively reach and teach active military, veterans, military family members, minorities and youth who are interested in agricultural production as a source of income, mental health and stress management and business training. The project will take place mostly in Kanawha County but would have the ability to draw participation from surrounding counties through strategic partnerships with other entities. This project will use a hands-on approach to education and participant recruitment through existing programmatic partnerships around workforce development, veteran services, recovery, and others.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: West Virginia (Cabell, Kanawha, and Putnam counties, primarily)</p> <p>Contact Info: Clinton Arnold carnold@kisra.org (304) 768-4232</p>
MS	Roger Wicker & Cindy Hyde Smith	Bennie Thompson (02)	Alcorn State University Policy Research Center	\$1,500,000	<p>The objective of the operation of the Socially Disadvantaged Farmer and Rancher Policy Research Center for fiscal year 2023 is to conduct research on the impact of Agricultural Policy, as stated in the Farm Bill, on socially disadvantaged farmers and to develop policy recommendations. Funding in the amount of \$1,500,000 was provided to continue policy research.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Nationwide</p> <p>Contact Info: Eloris Speight espeight@asu.edu (601) 877-6601</p>