



Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement

Revised: 9/28/2023

Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program (Fiscal Year 2023)

State	Senators	Representatives	Recipient	Grant	Project Description
AL	Tommy Tuberville & Katie Britt	Mike Rogers (03)	Tuskegee University	\$537,504	<p>The overall goal is to conduct outreach and technical assistance to encourage and assist socially disadvantaged groups to own and operate farms; and to provide information on loan applications and farmer programs. Specific objectives: (1) develop and implement programs so that eligible SDFs may apply for and acquire farm ownership and operating loans; (2) assist SDFs with access USDA programs including equipment, livestock, housing, youth loans, and grants including cost-share and specialty crops; (3) develop and enhance farm and business management and marketing skills; (4) develop the financial documentation of the farm and other applicable rural enterprises; (5) develop a long-range base for self-sustaining farm business analysis services through existing associations and institutions; and (6) increase service to and participation of other SDFs and their family members, and address heir property and estate planning.as well as the recruitment and support of new and beginning and established veteran farmers.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: South-Central Alabama’s Black Belt and adjacent counties</p> <p>Contact Info: Robert Zabawa rzabawa@tuskegee.edu (334) 727-8114</p>
CA	Dianne Feinstein & Alex Padilla	Kevin Kiley (03)	California Association of Resource Conservation Districts	\$750,000	<p>This project will work closely with two Community Based Organizations [Kitchen Table Advisors (KTA) and North Coast Growers Association (NCGA)] and 11 pilot Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) to provide technical assistance to Underserved Farmers and Ranchers (UFRs) in the Northern and Central California, focusing on personalized business advising, land access, lease negotiation, market connection, and capital access, resource conservation, and access to USDA program. NCGA will work with Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, and Trinity RCD to assist 75 Latino and Tribal farmers. KTA will work with Yolo, Alameda, Santa Cruz, and Monterey RCD to assist 95 Latino, Asian, and Tribal farmers. CARCD will work with North Santa Clara, Loma Prieta, and San Benito</p>



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					<p>RCD to assist 135 local Asian farmers. In total, this grant will allow CARCD, KTA, and NCGA to host 17 workshops and 7 outreach events reaching over 305 UFRs, provide direct one-on-one technical assistance to over 130 UFRs. CARCD will convene KTA, NCGA, and pilot RCDs in at least 15 gatherings to share experiences and expanding the collaboration model to statewide 97 RCDs so that RCDs can provide ongoing support and technical assistance to UFRs on resource conservation and climate-smart farming even after the funding period.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: California Contact Info: Cam Tredennick cam-tredennick@carcd.org 916-708-3889</p>
CA	Dianne Feinstein & Alex Padilla	Jimmy Panetta (19)	California Farmlink	\$750,000	<p>This project will serve primarily Latino farmers and other socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in California with the training and technical assistance (TA) they need to protect farm income and prepare their farm and ranch businesses to access land, capital and USDA programs to build farm business assets and own land. The project will serve low-income, rural communities in over 30 California counties, primarily in the Central Coast and Central Valley region of the state. We will also focus on business development and utilize a partnership strategy in counties with the types of operations we already serve while reaching out to new communities in the South Coast from Santa Barbara to San Diego counties.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: California (Central Coast, South Coast, and the Central Valley region – 30 counties) Contact Info: Tina Cosentino tina@cafarmmlink.org (831) 435 0303</p>



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CA	Dianne Feinstein & Alex Padilla	Jimmy Gomez (34)	Community Partners	\$750,000	<p>The Los Angeles Food Policy Council (LAFPC), a project of Community Partners, Cultivating Farms & Farmers program will seek to address the major challenges faced by BIPOC and beginning farmers and ranchers in the Los Angeles region: land tenure, language barriers, minimal engagement between underserved farmers and government representatives, and a lack of awareness of available resources and programs. The Cultivating Farm & Farmers program will uniquely aim to support urban BIPOC farmers, centering around partnership with the Compton USDA Service Center, which houses the FSA Committee for Urban Agriculture & Innovative Production. LAFPC's approach will involve three forms of assistance (workshops, 1-on-1 coaching, and office hours) coupled with resources that can exist in perpetuity (online tutorials and a culminating white paper). Topics covered throughout the assistance will include but are not limited to water conservation techniques, NRCS Conservation Practice Standards, navigating & accessing USDA resources, land access and tenure strategies, obtaining a Certified Producer Certificate, farm to market pathways, and regional urban farm policies.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: California, Los Angeles region Contact Info: Alba Velasquez alba@goodfoodla.org (626) 665-9212</p>
CA	Dianne Feinstein & Alex Padilla	Mike Thompson (04)	Napa Valley Farmworker Foundation	\$702,024	<p>Napa Valley Farmworker Foundation (NVFF) seeks to provide training and technical assistance to its Hispanic, socially disadvantaged farmers and farmworkers in the Napa region in Spanish on financial literacy, climate-smart agricultural practices, and USDA programs that can assist in increasing profitability and climate resiliency. Outputs will include educational workshops and trainings on financial literacy, USDA programs, wine markets, and climate-smart agricultural practices; an educational video on financial literacy topics; and direct technical assistance in applying for USDA programs. Project activities will reach an estimated 905 current socially disadvantaged farmers/farmworkers who are</p>



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					<p>current farm operators and prospective farm owners. Outcomes/performance measures will be tracked through pre/post evaluations and post activity surveys. Geographic Service Area: California Contact Info: Sonya DeLuca sdeluca@napagrowers.org (707) 944-8311</p>
CO	John Hickenlooper & Michael Bennet	Doug Lamborn (05)	Goodwill of Colorado	\$734,637	<p>Goodwill of Colorado’s FarmAble Program will assist veteran and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers across Colorado with obtaining long-term economic stability. The proposed FarmAble Program will provide information and resources to 900 farmers and ranchers and intensive workshops, training, and mentoring to 50 farmers and ranchers each year. The program will assist participants with owning and operating successful farms and ranches, improve participation in USDA programs, build relationships between current and prospective farmers and ranchers and USDA’s offices and introduce agriculture-related information to participants through training and technical assistance. The proposed program will primarily serve military veteran and underserved farmers across Colorado, with a specific focus on Native Americans and other people of color in agriculture. Geographic Service Area: Colorado (rural plains and mountain communities as well as the Southern Ute and Mountain Ute tribes of southern Colorado) Contact Info: James Sanchez jsanchez@goodwillcolorado.org (720) 878-3200</p>



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CO	John Hickenlooper & Michael Bennet	Lauren Boebert (03)	SLV Local Foods Coalition	\$521,480	<p>This project will build connections as a demonstration farm for regenerative vegetable production and small business development. It will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expanded Outreach & Equitable Programming aims to provide equitable and inclusive programming and increase access to resources for underserved and beginning farmers; 2. Regenerative Agriculture Land Demonstration through a) Expert-led training and workshops on regenerative agriculture and business practices, b) Consistent implementation of regenerative agriculture practices, and c) Farmer-led demonstration of regenerative agriculture as a learning opportunity for other farmers across the region to learn about innovative practices and enhance their farming businesses; and 3. The Rio Grande Farm Park will enhance its role as a Resource & Relationship Building Hub for underserved and beginning farmers to share resources, information, and build connections to improve and grow the farm businesses of Colorado's rural San Luis Valley and surrounding regions. <p>Geographic Service Area: Colorado Contact Info: Max Gibson max.slvlocalfoods@gmail.com (720) 320-6457</p>
CT	Chris Murphy & Richard Blumenthal	Joe Courtney (02)	University of Connecticut	\$602,966	<p>UConn Extension and 3 community-based organizations will work together over 3 years to develop and implement a new cohort-based intensive training opportunity for underserved farmers in Connecticut and Rhode Island. Our project, Farm School CT-RI, will target underserved farmers who identify as Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) and who are either aspiring to farm or are launching their farm business (0-3 yrs. experience). Farm School CT-RI will take place over 5-7 months, featuring 60 hours of virtual content, 10 in-person farm field days, and a capstone event at the end of the course. Participants will acquire new skills in farm business management and financials, market access, leadership, mental health & wellness, opportunities to access federal and state programs, and climate smart production practices. The CT/RI Farm School</p>



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					<p>will welcome youth (grades 10-11-12) during the 4 farm field days for the production module in order to develop their interest in agriculture. The training program will be primarily led, governed, and taught by BIPOC staff and trainers who can comfortably and credibly navigate the intersection of beginning farmer training and social justice issues faced by BIPOC farmers and communities.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Connecticut and Rhode Island Contact Info: Jennifer Martin jiff.martin@uconn.edu (860) 875-0220</p>
DC	N/A	Eleanor Holmes Norton (At-Large Delegate)	The American Farmland Trust	\$707,787	<p>American Farmland Trust and California FarmLink will improve access to USDA technical and financial assistance resources on the part of Latino agricultural producers in California’s San Joaquin Valley and Central Coast. Project partners will carry out an assessment of financial literacy needs and risk management tool adoption barriers, a series of producer workshops, 1 on 1 support for individual producer needs, and cultivate a referral network of linguistically and culturally competent professionals from whom producers can seek services. Producers will be supported in overcoming barriers to participation in USDA programming, including capital access support, business skill development, land access and mutually beneficial lease agreement development between landlords and farming tenants, crop insurance navigation, farm input savings and additive revenue stream potential, returns on investment with conservation practice adoption, and nutrient management bookkeeping. The project will be delivered in Spanish, as well as by culturally appropriate and trusted service providers, so as to ensure gaps in services to these producers are being addressed. Primary Populations/Communities Served: Socially disadvantaged Latino agricultural producers.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: California’s San Joaquin Valley and Central Coast Contact Info: Jeff Schreiber jschreiber@farmland.org (707) 596-3897</p>



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FL	Rick Scott & Marco Rubio	Sheila Cherfilus- McCormick (20)	North South Institute, Inc.	\$624,736	<p>This project connects 300 underserved producers in the geographical area of 38 Florida counties to USDA programs. The objectives are aligned with USDA/2501 Program Priorities, where these producers use USDA Programs and their own resources to address the challenges in small and medium-sized farming and ranching. Resources from the partnership will be provided in the form of training, education and outreach, technical assistance, as well as mobilizing hard investments and other resources. The Key outcomes are: (i) 90% (270) of targeted producers accessing and utilizing USDA programs, (ii) 50% of target producers (150) implementing strategies for farm sustainability to include On-Farm Financial and Non-Financial Sustainability, Farm Resilient Fund, Pre-Cooperative Groups or Group Production and Marketing Entities. The primary populations/communities served are: African American, Hispanic or Latino, and Immigrant farmers and ranchers, Socially Disadvantaged, Veterans, Women Tenant Farmers and Ranchers.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Florida (38 counties) Contact Info: Dr. Samuel Scott nsied2002@aol.com (954) 434-8220</p>
GA	Jon Ossoff & Raphael Warnock	Mike Collins (10)	Athens Land Trust	\$388,690	<p>The goal of the project is to create a navigable path for beginning underserved farmers to build successful farm businesses, and to cultivate interest and knowledge of careers in agriculture for underserved youth, through three years of scaled technical assistance and farm business resources. We will employ the following objectives to meet this goal: (1) Operate the Williams Incubator farm with a model market garden as a training tool for up to six underserved farmer lessees per year to enhance strengths in crop planning, succession planting, and profitability. The incubator farm provides affordable access to Certified Naturally Grown farmland, training, and networking opportunities. The incubator program curriculum addresses skill gaps and specific needs to improve underserved farmers' ability to access USDA resources, including funding. (2) Provide</p>



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					<p>targeted group education and training through on-the-farm and classroom workshops that will increase participants' knowledge of and ability to implement sustainable farm and farm business practices and access USDA programs. (3) Build capacity in younger generations to pursue careers in agriculture by engaging underserved high school students in education in sustainable agriculture and farm operations; and promoting cross generational learning among youth and incubator farmers. Through Athens Land Trust's Young Urban Farmers (YUF) program, underserved high school students will gain skills and understanding of future opportunities in the field of agriculture through hands-on farm work and collaboration with incubator farmers. The project will target farmers and youth of color, with an emphasis on serving African American participants.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Georgia (Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Jasper, Madison, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Taliaferro, Walton, and Wilkes counties)</p> <p>Contact Info: Anthony Gayles tony@athenslandtrust.org (706) 613-0122</p>
GA	Jon Ossoff & Raphael Warnock	Sanford D. Bishop Jr. (02)	Flint River Fresh, Inc.	\$737,191	<p>The project is to assist socially disadvantaged farmers learn to start and successfully operate a "U-Pick" fruit and vegetable operation. In this project, we have several current "U-Pick" owner operations who have agreed to teach classes about their operation-cost, food safety, operation, etc. In addition, the project will inform participants about the programs and practices of USDA agencies. They will learn about soil health and growing healthy fruits and vegetables.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Georgia's Southwest region (Dougherty, Baker, Calhoun, Decatur, Early, Grady, Miller, Macon, Tift, and Mitchell counties)</p> <p>Contact Info: Fredando Jackson fredando@flintriverfresh.org (229) 352-6591</p>



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GU	N/A	James Moylan (At-Large Delegate)	Farm To Table – Guam Corporation	\$750,000	<p>This project provides specialized training, education, and mentorship efforts in the areas of business and financial planning, technical assistance in crop production and distribution, promoting economic development, which will ultimately improve the livelihoods of Pacific Islander farmers, increase food security and will help strengthen the food supply chain in Guam. Farm to Table-Guam will continue and expand their current Farmer Training Program for underserved farmers on Guam to increase farm skills and business knowledge needed to start and operate a small-scale farm, to learn about USDA programs and will also provide opportunities for experienced farmers to expand their operations and avenues for farmers to sell their produce. The specialized program offers a mix of small group and one on one customized trainings, hands-on learning, farmer site visits and ongoing mentorship, encouraging biodiversity, climate smart methods and conservation practices that will strengthen Guam's ecosystem and enhance farmers productivity and profitability.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Guam Contact Info: Cassie Brady cassie@farmtotableguam.org (671) 689-8141</p>
HI	Mazie K. Hirono & Brian Schatz	Jill N. Tokuda (02)	Oahu Agriculture and Conservation Association	\$750,000	<p>The project focuses on increasing financial literacy, developing agritourism initiatives, strengthening relationships and promoting access to USDA programs and raising agricultural interest and awareness. By providing training, education, and agribusiness support the project aims to enhance the sustainability and profitability of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander-operated farms. The project's four main objectives focus on increasing financial literacy and farm sustainability, strengthening relationships, identifying barriers, and promoting agricultural awareness through workshops, on-farm events, field trips, an agritourism pilot program and a marketing campaign for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander crops. These training and networking opportunities will be complemented by 1:1 business support, and grant writing services while cultural education and</p>



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					ongoing needs assessment and feedback will help strengthen relationships and understanding between producers and USDA staff. Through collaborative efforts and tailored support, this project will support Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander farmers to thrive in the agricultural sector and contribute to the economic resilience of Hawaii's Communities. Geographic Service Area: Hawaii Contact Info: Amanda Shaw oahuaca@gmail.com (808) 429-5310
LA	Bill Cassidy & John Kennedy	Troy A. Carter (02)	Recirculating Farms Coalition, Inc.	\$749,776	This project is designed to serve Veterans, student-Veterans, active military transitioning to Veterans, and those from socially and economically disadvantaged populations. Participants will be offered internships at working farms and the VA and matched with local mentor-farmers for long-term support on future endeavors. The project will provide farming education, training, connections to USDA programs and support, internships, and mentoring to Veterans. Geographic Service Area: Louisiana (Orleans, Jefferson, and Plaquemines parishes) Contact Info: Marianne Cufone mcufone@recirculatingfarms.org (813) 785-8386
MD	Ben Cardin & Chris Van Hollen	Andy Harris (01)	University of Maryland Eastern Shore	\$687,176	The IFARMS 2 project will play a significant role in impacting a minimum of 350 farmers over a 3-year period. Of this total, at least 50% (175) will be classified as socially disadvantaged farmers; 40% (140) as limited-resource or 'underserved'; and 20% (70) as veterans. will be centered around the following 4 main objectives: 1) Connect socially disadvantaged, veteran farmers/landowners to appropriate agricultural resources, support systems or networks, and funding opportunities that will increase their ability to own and manage a farm operation successfully. 2) Establish a farm incubator training program to help socially disadvantaged and aspiring farmers gain access to land and equip them with the skills to implement sound agricultural production practices. 3) Strengthen farmers' business planning skills that will enable them to make smarter financial



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					<p>decisions and better adapt during times of change. 4) Create new markets for socially disadvantaged farmer audiences based on their capabilities and help them meet agriculture regulatory requirements to capitalize on these economic opportunities.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Southern MD (4 counties) and on the Delmarva Peninsula (7 counties in 3 states; DE, MD, and VA)</p> <p>Contact Info: Berran Rogers bloggers@umes.edu (410) 651-6993</p>
MI	Debbie Stabenow & Gary Peters	Elissa Slotkin (07)	Michigan Integrated Food & Farming Systems	\$749,621	<p>Michigan Food and Farming Systems (MIFFS) will assist socially disadvantaged farmers (SDF) and farmer Veterans to own and successfully operate viable farms/ranches in Michigan by: 1) Supporting peer-to-peer networks in Michigan for beginning and historically underserved farmers, including diverse women, Veterans, Latino and beginning farmers that provide linguistically appropriate support and education needed by SDF and farmer Veterans to become successful agriculture entrepreneurs; 2) Utilizing MIFFS USDA technical assistance specialists to work one-on-one with SDF/R and veterans to assist in navigating and applying for USDA programs and link MIFFS' USDA agency partners with our farmer and non-profit customers; 3) Planning, marketing, and facilitating an annual statewide conference with more than 25 workshops (covering many of the USDA Farm Bill programs and services) where SDF/ farmer veterans (and youth) come together to learn, share resources, and network; 4) Hosting at least 2 annual USDA technical assistance clinics onsite in underserved communities to build relationships with local USDA staff, identify challenges and opportunities to respond to the needs of SDF/R and farmer veterans in real time, highlight existing technical support services available in Michigan, and develop additional support mechanisms that enable SDF/R's to effectively participate in USDA Farm Bill programs; and 5) Delivering Farm Business Management and Sustainable Agriculture curriculum in Spanish (2 semesters annually) in partnership with the Julian Samora Research Institute.</p>



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					<p>Geographic Service Area: Michigan Contact Info: Jennifer Silveri jen@miffs.org (517) 709-8268</p>
MN	Amy Klobuchar & Tina Smith	Betty McCollum (04)	The Good Acre	\$711,411	<p>The Good Acre is a nonprofit food hub in Falcon Heights, Minnesota working to unlock economic opportunity for farmers in our region, especially those who historically have been excluded from opportunities to make a viable living. Our unique combination of personalized support and market development promotes economic well-being, generational wealth, and a more sustainable, resilient, and community-centered food system. Our project, Increasing Grower and Wholesale Capacity for BIPOC Specialty Crop Farmers, aims to provide high quality technical assistance to farmers through 1:1 farm visits, small and large group trainings, and day-to-day interactions while simultaneously scaling wholesale opportunities. This dual approach leads to quick and sustainable success for farmers working to expand their business or shift from direct-to-consumer sales. This funding will support both the direct work with growers and successful operation of our food hub in creating market access opportunities. We work primarily with Hmong, Latino, and East and West African produce farmers.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Minnesota (Twin Cities and the surrounding 150-mile radius) Contact Info: Sarah Hovseth sarah@thegoodacre.org (612) 367-6740</p>
MO	Josh Hawley & Eric Schmitt	Emanuel Cleaver (05)	Cultivate Kansas City, Inc.	\$666,534	<p>Cultivate Kansas City co-operates the New Roots farm training and business incubation program with Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas. The program is a land-based program historically open only to refugees who have been resettled in the Kansas City, KS area. In our proposal, New Roots Farm Incubator Expansion to Facilitate Better Outcomes for Program Graduates, we are requesting funding to allow us to expand and refine our existing program in ways that we are certain will increase the viability and</p>



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MS	Roger Wicker & Cindy Hyde Smith	Bennie G. Thompson (02)	Tri-County Agricultural Cooperative	\$630,300	<p>The overall goal of this project is to educate and distribute research-based information that will influence the ability of socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers, ranchers, and foresters including beginning farmers and youth, to compete and thrive in agriculture. Program participants will engage in a learning model that includes hands-on training, mentoring, and outreach programs. All the program activities enhance self-employment in farming, ranching, and forestry opportunities. Thus, program participants will improve their farming operations through the knowledge gained from their participation. The program will ensure that research-based information is shared with participants to ensure that they can address new and complex problems and effectively manage their enterprise for profitability. Program participants will also be knowledgeable in both economic and ecological subjects and will have the tools to make better production, management, and marketing decisions.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Mississippi (Coahoma, Leflore, Panola, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tunica and Yalobusha counties)</p> <p>Contact Info: Robert Gates rgates@tricitycoop.org (601) 624-5862</p>



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NC	Thom Tillis & Ted Budd	Valerie P. Foushee (04)	Croatian Institute	\$731,807	<p>Grant funding will be used to establish FARMWISE NC, a new project to help 500+ underserved North Carolina farmers, ranchers, and foresters increase their financial literacy, access USDA programs and services, and improve their farm operations. To accomplish these goals, FARMWISE NC will: 1) Conduct financial health (FinHealth) workshops that improve participants' financial skills and capacity; 2) Create an OnDemand FinHealth Module that will give more underserved North Carolina farmers/ranchers/foresters access to FinHealth training; 3) Conduct a series of FinHealth/USDA Informational Webinars in collaboration with USDA staff on potential financial benefits of USDA programs and public/private capital; 4) Hold annual Farmer Stakeholder Meetings that provide opportunities for program participants, partner stakeholders, and USDA staff to connect and learn about program observations, successes, and challenges; 5) Create the FARMWISE Resource Center, a new clearinghouse for farmer and landowner education that will provide access to FinHealth training, a new NC Equitable Foodshed map, and USDA and partner resources; and 6) Enhance the North Carolina Equitable Foodshed Map, an interactive overview of nonprofits, mission-aligned lenders, and USDA offices offering financial, legal, and business assistance, among other services.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: North Carolina Contact Info: Sharlene Brown sharlene@croatianinstitute.org (919) 794-7440</p>
NC	Thom Tillis & Ted Budd	Donald G. Davis (01)	Southeast Raleigh Vicinity Emerging	\$698,050	<p>The goal of the Knowledge, Elevation, and Education for Producers (KEEP-NC) in North Carolina Project is to assist black farmers in owning and operating farms by providing outreach and networking opportunities that will introduce them to new markets and provide trainings that will allow them to improve upon their current farming operations. The KEEP-NC project will also include workshops that will engage black farmers on</p>



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					<p>the availability of resources from the USDA and provide them with the knowledge needed to capture capital from multiple sources. This project will also educate and energize black and indigenous youth and increase their interest in agriculture. The project is led by the nonprofit organization “Southeast Raleigh Vicinity Emerging (S.E.R.V.E.)” which provides support services to black farmers in the following counties: Wake, Durham, Warren, Halifax, Franklin, Vance, and Granville counties.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: North Carolina (Wake, Durham, Warren, Halifax, Franklin, Vance, and Granville counties)</p> <p>Contact Info: Demetrius Hunter sustainablefoodsonwheels@gmail.com (919) 796-4776</p>
NC	Thom Tillis & Ted Budd	Kathy E. Manning (06)	Whitaker Small Farm Group, Inc.	\$717,330	<p>This project will have a delivery plan that is specifically tailored to address the barriers faced by Socially Disadvantaged Farming Communities. This includes using experiential training through apprenticeship and mentoring on a model farm, classroom-based workshops, and hands-on activities to build knowledge and skills required to make well informed business decisions and to operate sustainable and profitable farms. WSFG will conduct a 9-month “learning by doing” apprenticeship training program on three Model Farms for 72 Socially Disadvantaged farmers in Halifax County. The training model is designed to have beginning socially disadvantaged farmers shadow the host farmer to understand real farming experience by participating in many aspects of regenerative agriculture and farm management practices. We will provide progressive training through a Business and Entrepreneurial Academy. This is a multifaceted training session designed to equip participants to improve on their business management skills, understand land retention and heirs’ property and learn to add value to raw produce and explore Bee keeping as an additional source of income. We will increase awareness and participation in USDA programs by providing aggressive outreach, facilitate one-on-one assistance with appropriate agency specialist and assist in applying for</p>



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					program assistance. We estimate to provide technical assistance to 360 veterans through our Connect to Agriculture Resource Summits. Geographic Service Area: North Carolina (Eastern side) Contact Info: Charles Whitaker c.l.w.whitaker@comcast.net (919) 412-1432
NM	Martin Heinrich & Ben Ray Lujan	Melanie A. Stansbury (01)	Hispanic American Institute, Inc.	\$741,394	The Institute is partnering with organizations that promote sustainable agriculture and equity. The project will provide capability building through education and training about climate smart conservation practices, soil management, responsible agricultural practices, agroforestry, agricultural entrepreneurship, business planning, marketing, legal and accounting aspects of farm business, succession planning; and outreach and technical assistance to address barriers and promote equitable access to information and resources to improve utilization of USDA programs. Outreach will be conducted with the collaboration of USDA Service Centers to enhance awareness and build relationships. This project also fosters youth's interest in agriculture through a youth summer training camp. Geographic Service Area: Puerto Rico (18 municipalities in the central and northwest) Contact Info: Bruce Young-Candelaria byc@hainst.org (505)385-8494
NM	Martin Heinrich & Ben Ray Lujan	Gabe Vasquez (02)	Isleta, Pueblo of	\$750,000	The Pueblo of Isleta (POI), a federally recognized Indian Tribe, proposes the POI Farmer Outreach and Assistance Project to assist POI farmers by removing systemic barriers and increasing equitable participation in USDA's programs. The Project includes: 1) hiring a full-time Outreach Program Manager to provide outreach and assistance to POI farmers concerning USDA programs and grant opportunities; 2) providing outreach and assistance to POI farmer heirs to help resolve land title issues; 3) providing training to POI farmers on various agricultural topics, including climate smart agriculture, indigenous regenerative practices, water



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State	Senators	Representatives	Recipient	Grant	Project Description
					<p>conservation practices, business planning, soil health, hay management, identification of disease and pests, use of fertilizer, herbicides, and pesticides, water delivery, and drainage; and 4) providing education opportunities to POI leadership and Natural Resources Department management and staff.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: New Mexico, Pueblo of Isleta (Bernalillo and Valencia counties)</p> <p>Contact Info: Warren Edaakie warren.edaakie@IsletaPueblo.com (505) 869-5564</p>
NM	Martin Heinrich & Ben Ray Lujan	Teresa Leger Fernandez (03)	New Mexico Acequia Association	\$537,504	<p>The project will strengthen agriculture in acequia communities, the centuries-old irrigation systems that are the lifeblood of rural communities in New Mexico. The purpose of the project is to strengthen agricultural production through farmer training and equitable access to USDA programs: Farmer-to-farmer training, workshops, and mentorships. Farmer training materials (bilingual) including an updated farm training curriculum and mentor handbook to integrate acequia traditional practices, indigenous and regenerative practices, and climate resiliency. Technical assistance on USDA programs by an experienced, culturally competent, bilingual team. Facilitate relationship-building and problem-solving between acequia-based farmers and ranchers and personnel from USDA Service Centers through monthly workshops and other events.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: New Mexico</p> <p>Contact Info: Paula Garcia lamorena@lasacequias.org (505) 995-9644</p>
NM	Martin Heinrich & Ben Ray Lujan	Teresa Leger Fernandez (03)	Quivira Coalition	\$719,268	<p>The project will focus on producers from Indigenous and Hispanic Communities and will include beginning farmers in the rural part of the state. Quivira will produce radio spots in English, Spanish, and in Diné Bizaad (Navajo) about land stewardship practices and conservation on dry New Mexico landscapes. These episodes will be donated to radio stations that broadcast in rural New Mexico, and each episode will advertise USDA programs and upcoming deadlines, as well as Quivira's services to help</p>



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					underserved producers access these programs. Quivira will also produce six workshops to be hosted on farms and ranches within Indigenous and Hispanic communities to showcase projects and stewardship strategies; and finally, grant writing, management, and reporting support for 30 underserved producers, including translation and interpretation services as needed, to facilitate their access to and success with USDA programs. Geographic Service Area: New Mexico Contact Info: Eva Stricker eva@quiviracoalition.org (505) 393-5354
NM	Martin Heinrich & Ben Ray Lujan	Teresa Leger Fernandez (03)	Taos County Economic Development Corporation	\$716,149	The overarching goal of the project is to assist socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers, including Hispanic and Native American farmers and ranchers, with increasing the financial stability of their farm and ranch operations using climate-smart practices. Partnering with local community-based organizations, we will combine modern innovations and traditional agricultural practices to advance our local traditions, including those pertaining to our acequias, ancient irrigation ditch systems supplying producers with water to maintain their livestock and crops. Ultimately, this project will contribute to a strong agricultural economy and thriving local food system. Geographic Service Area: New Mexico (Taos, Mora, Rio Arriba, and San Miguel counties) Contact Info: Mercedes Rodriguez mercedes@tcedc.org (575) 741-0616
NV	Jacky Rosen & Catherine Cortez Masto	Susie Lee (03)	Community Through Colors	\$594,396	Community Through Colors (CTC) will provide direct training, land access, marketing services, financial assistance, and business support to 45 socially disadvantaged and military veteran farmers and ranchers over a three-year project period. Farmers and ranchers will become equipped with the tools and networks necessary to successfully enter the agricultural workforce. CTC will provide an innovative internship program that exposes participants to a wide range of opportunities in the agricultural workforce. Internships address four unique program areas, with participants able to experience the full internship program over a one-year period.



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					<p>Program areas cover the following topics: agro-ecological production, livestock management, organic waste management, and value-added food products. Farmers and ranchers following topics: agro-ecological production, livestock management, organic waste management, and value-added food products. Farmers and ranchers will be trained in regenerative and sustainable agriculture, helping ensure an environmentally sound approach to farming.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Puerto Rico (Vieques) Contact Info: Edgar Ruiz oscar@sailrelief.team (202) 876-4517</p>
NY	Kirsten Gillibrand & Chuck Schumer	Claudia Tenney (24)	Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Jefferson County	\$357,797	<p>This comprehensive project is aimed at teaching agricultural basics to transitioning Service Members and Veterans. Each quarter, we will teach five courses over one week covering essential aspects of agricultural entrepreneurship, logistics, and sustainability. Courses include "Basics of Agribusiness and Marketing," "Livestock Management," "Horticulture 101," "Value-Added Food Processing," and "Putting it all Together – Planning your Agribusiness." To complement this core offering, we will offer focused seasonal courses that combine classroom instruction with farm tours. Topics will include Maple (February/March), Greenhouse Production (Spring), Vegetable Production (Summer), Value-Added Dairy Processing (Winter), Orchards (Summer/Fall), Meat Processing (Fall) and one additional topic each year (chosen based upon participant interest). These experiential sessions will inspire participants with information on emerging opportunities while providing a practical overview of farm logistics.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: New York State (North counties including Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, St. Lawrence, and Franklin) Contact Info: Michael Nuckols msn62@cornell.edu (315) 788-8450</p>



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OK	Markwayne Mullin & James Lankford	Kevin Hern (01)	The Learning Center Euchee Butterfly Farm, Inc.	\$749,051	<p>Beginning Native American farmers in rural Oklahoma often face several challenges to owning and operating successful farms, which may include a lack of quality arable land, a lack of financial resources to grow and market crops, poor health or physical infirmity, and a lack of access to information about how to improve agricultural and business practices. Many of these challenges could be ameliorated by participating in USDA programs, but historical distrust often prevents this from happening. The goal of this project will be to remove identified barriers that prevent Native American farmers from accessing USDA resources by funding conferences, workshops, training classes, technical support and outreach led by Native Americans.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Oklahoma, the Muscogee Nation Reservation (Okmulgee, Hughes, Okfuskee, Creek, Wagoner, Muskogee, Tulsa and McIntosh counties), and the Cherokee Nation Reservation (Cherokee, Adair, Mayes, Rogers, Washington, Nowata, Craig, Ottawa, Delaware, and Sequoyah counties)</p> <p>Contact Info: Jane Breckinridge jbreckinridge@hotmail.com (918) 366-0964</p>
PA	Bob Casey Jr. & John Fetterman	Dwight Evans (03)	John Bartram Association	\$690,000	<p>This project will leverage trusted existing partnerships and community green spaces, including a thriving African Diaspora–focused community farm sited at America’s oldest surviving botanic garden, to strengthen community agriculture and access to USDA resources through culturally relevant, intergenerational resident engagement such as public education, workshops, and technical assistance, reaching more than 1,000 youth and beginning farmers annually.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Philadelphia (West and Southwest areas)</p> <p>Contact Info: Maitreyi Roy mroy@bartramsgarden.org (215) 729-5281</p>
PR	N/A	Jennifer Gonzalez-Colon	Victus Puerto Rico, Inc.	\$750,000	<p>To embrace a bottom-up approach to improving socially disadvantaged farmers’ autonomy and stability on the island of PR, Victus aspires to implement the "Puerto Rican Agricultural Legacy Initiative". This project is built on the pillars of outreach and education and intends to recruit</p>



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		(At-Large Delegate)			<p>Hispanic farmers from the island of Puerto Rico from Historically Underserved Communities (including socially disadvantaged, limited resource and beginning farmers) to participate. Farmers who participate in this program will form a dynamic and proactive cadre of agricultural producers who will actively learn and contribute to the development of their own communities. The program will implement a focused outreach effort to increase the capacity of disadvantaged farmers in entrepreneurship, natural resources conservation, legal issues in farming, and to grow the visibility of USDA programs and services.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Puerto Rico Contact Info: Jose Sanchez jsanchez.victuspr@gmail.com (787) 458-2624</p>
RI	Sheldon Whitehouse & Jack Reed	Seth Magaziner (02)	Rhode Island Association of Conservation Districts	\$692,291	<p>This statewide project is led by the Rhode Island Association of Conservation Districts (RIACD) in partnership with the Rhode Island Food Policy Council (RIFPC) and Southside Community Land Trust (SCLT) and will serve the entire state of Rhode Island. AAFARI will utilize mapping techniques to identify potential land parcels for farming, connect new and expanding HU producers with these parcels, and then provide continuing support in the form of farm business training and connections with the USDA and its programs. The program will be governed by a Growers' Committee of underserved producers and will also create a decision tree of local agriculture providers to help close the gap between available services and equitable access to them. All services provided will be multilingual to ensure they can be utilized by all RI's grower communities.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Rhode Island Contact Info: Gennifer Keller gkeller.nricd@gmail.com (401) 934-0840</p>



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TN	Marsha Blackburn & Bill Hagerty	Mark E. Green (07)	Tennessee State University	\$674,662	<p>This proposal will provide training new, beginning, veteran farmers in all areas of agriculture and USDA Programs and Services. There will be a Veteran Boot Camp which will provide a 4-day intense training and make farm visits to assist new veterans in the areas of production and marketing. Women in Agriculture conference held yearly for women producers. Various classes and workshops will be held in production and marketing of all types of vegetables and fruits, how to develop and grow your business, animal production and management, writing business plans. Working with agricultural MANRRS students and high school youth. Through the Henderson County project, we will be training and educating new producers in various agricultural programs in this persistence poverty county. Educating youth in areas of agriculture. Tennessee State University will be collaborating with the Appalachian RC&D, Farmer Veteran Coalition and Henderson County with this three-year project on various training and educational programs.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Tennessee Contact Info: Arvazena Clardy aclardy@tnstate.edu (615) 963-4887</p>
TX	Ted Cruz & John Cornyn	Vicente Gonzalez (34)	Hope For Small Farm Sustainability	\$596,747	<p>This project will provide hands-on farm visits and personalized consultations, workshops, conference scholarships, and youth programs to equip underserved farmers, ranchers, and youth across Texas with the knowledge and tools to access USDA resources. Through farm visits and networking events, we will assess operations and connect producers to relevant USDA funding opportunities, applications assistance, and our own marketing channels like CSAs. Workshops will facilitate peer learning and strengthen business skills. By rebuilding relationships between underserved producers and USDA programs, we aim to increase participation and profitability. Outreach to underserved youth from food insecure areas of the LRGV will provide hands-on gardening and nutrition education to spark interests in agriculture as a potential career. From the LRGV up through Central Texas and Houston, our bilingual staff provides culturally sensitive support to predominately Hispanic farmers and ranchers we serve. By</p>



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					<p>linking underserved agriculturalists with capital, knowledge, and markets, this project will help transform passions into sustainable livelihoods.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Texas (Gulf Coastal Plains spanning 10 counties)</p> <p>Contact Info: Diana Garcia Padilla hopeforsfs@yahoo.com (956) 412-4916</p>
TX	Ted Cruz & John Cornyn	Pete Sessions (17)	Texas Agriforestry Small Farmers & Ranchers	\$657,610	<p>The goal of this project is to develop and sustain farm businesses for socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers (SDVFR) in Texas. This goal will be achieved by equipping these farmers and ranchers with the tools and skills needed for them to successfully own and operate profitable farm businesses, while increasing their participation in USDA programs and services. The supporting objectives are: 1) Increase participation among socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers in USDA programs, and services, 2) Improve knowledge and skills of SDVFR in farm business financial planning and management, 3) Strengthen the ability of SDVFR to own and retain farmlands successfully, 4) Enhance production skills for SDVFR through innovative, environmentally friendly, and cost-effective modern production practice, 5) Identify new markets for SDVFR, assist them with effective marketing strategies, and connect them to existing and new markets. The strategy is to provide a comprehensive program to the participants by training them on farm estate planning, land acquisition, transition, and retention strategies; financial and farm business planning and management; profitable and modern production practices; innovative marketing strategies; and providing them information and technical assistance on USDA programs and services.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Texas</p> <p>Contact Info: Igalious Mills igalikemills@swbell.net (409) 543-1411</p>



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TX	Ted Cruz & John Cornyn	Michael T. McCaul (10)	Texas Small Farmers & Ranchers Community-Based Organization	\$706,972	<p>The TSFR/CBO project will (a) conduct a Whole Farm/Ranch Manager three-year training that will result in three new Black Certified Educators, thus significantly increasing the capacity to support underserved producers throughout Texas, (b) provide Foundation training for 105 producers (35/year) and advanced training for a pilot cohort of 20 Regen Ag Mentor Program (RAMP) producers who will participate in training to realize practical implementation with ongoing support from an HMI Certified Educator and the Whole Farm/Ranger Manager trainees, (c) conduct a needs analysis of Texas Black livestock producers to share with USDA and stakeholders, and (d) host virtual sessions and provide direct technical assistance to Black and other underserved producers on USDA programs. The partners anticipate increasing USDA program participation among at least 10 producers, along with delivering USDA staff presentations and trainings each year.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Texas Contact Info: Wade Ross tsfrco@outlook.com (979) 589-3649</p>
TX	Ted Cruz & John Cornyn	Greg Casar (35)	Texas State University	\$750,000	<p>The Small Producer Initiative’s “Conservation Ranching, Beekeeping and Financial Education Program” (CRBFEP) collaborates with the Understanding Ag (UA), National Audubon Society’s Conservation Ranching Program (NAS), Holistic Management International (HMI), Two Hives Honey (THH) and Capital Farm Credit (CFC) to provide minority and veteran farmers in Texas, access to training opportunities beyond their financial reach. In collaboration with UA, NAS and HMI; SPI-CRBFEP, annually provides at least 125 socially disadvantaged, veteran farmers and ranchers (SDVFR) with relevant on-farm demonstrations of conservation ranching (CR). These CR opportunities typically cost from \$500 to \$1500 per event. Even more out of reach are consultation opportunities with these organizations, thus SPI-CRBFEP, provides funding for consultations to 14 SDVFR’s. Also, in collaboration with THH, SPI-CRBFEP provides</p>



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					<p>beekeeping training. Beekeeping is a low investment, small acreage, and low labor entry level agricultural enterprise; however, training is essential to operate and maintain healthy, productive hives. SPI-CRBFEP provides funding for 6 beekeeping internships and 40 online courses for beginner beekeepers. Beekeeping is also known for its beneficial impacts on PTSD. Lastly, but most important to all the previous endeavors is financial training. SPI-CRBFEP collaborates with CFC and their new financial training program for beginning farmers to provide training for 60 farmers annually. Not all SDVFR's are beginners, but even those with some knowledge will learn from the fundamentals of financial planning that CFC provides.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Texas Contact Info: Ken Mix km77@txstate.edu (512) 245-6621</p>
VA	Tim Kaine & Mark Warner	Bob Good (05)	Foodshed Capital	\$749,335	<p>Foodshed Capital will be providing a broader and more individualized array of comprehensive, customized support (CCS) to BIPOC regenerative farmers focused on financial literacy, bookkeeping and accounting, lending readiness, and long-term business viability. Programming will be provided through 1:1 customized technical assistance as well as public workshops tailored to the financial needs of small-scale, underserved farmers, with specific support on completing applications for USDA FSA microloans and NRCS conservation equipment grants. A free online resource library available in English and Spanish will create a one-stop shop for frequently requested resources in plain language. All programming will emphasize meeting underserved farmers where they are to remove barriers, increase accessibility of programs and services, and help them build more successful businesses. We will serve small-scale, beginning and established underserved farmers identifying as Black, Indigenous, or people of color (BIPOC), who utilize regenerative, climate-smart practices.</p>



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					Geographic Service Area: Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, South Carolina, West Virginia, New York, Georgia, Vermont, and Washington DC Contact Info: Emily Sepulveda emily@foodcap.org (480) 567-8873
WA	Maria Cantwell & Patty Murray	Rick Larsen (02)	Northwest Agriculture Business Center	\$576,000	NABC will serve socially disadvantaged farmer and ranchers including Latinx, Hmong/Lao, and East African populations. Our approach includes four tasks: 1) USDA program introductions and application training and support, 2) farming business administrative and operational templates, computer training, and business plan development training and support, 3) land access and financial literacy education and support, and 4) operations templates, sales platform training, and other technical assistance to support local Hmong farmers. Geographic Service Area: Washington State's northwest Island, King, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom counties along with the southwest counties of Lewis, Thurston, Grays Harbor, Pacific, Mason, and Pierce Contact Info: Sera Hartman sera@agbizcenter.org (360) 336-3727



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MS	Roger Wicker & Cindy Hyde Smith	Bennie Thompson (02)	ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY POLICY RESEARCH CENTER (PRC)	\$1,500,000	<p>The mission of the Policy Center is to conduct research, analyze policy and make recommendations seeking to achieve equitable and economic integration of USDA programs and policies for socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers, communities, and rural landowners. The vision of the Policy Center is to be the premiere authority for information on the history, current conditions, trends and future projections of socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers (SDFR) and communities. The Policy Center uses a transparent management structure with a focus on stakeholder engagement, active research, policy development and strategic outreach. These four areas, when strategically integrated, produce a platform for relevant active research, policy development, ongoing stakeholder dialogue, and continuous dissemination of research findings.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Nationwide Contact Info: Eloris Speight espeight@asu.edu (601) 877-6601</p>