



State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
AK	Lisa Murkowski & Dan Sullivan	Don Young (At Large)	Kodiak Rural Leadership	\$213,308	<p>The overall goal of this project is to support the establishment of a regional network of Alaska native farmers and ranchers in the Alutiiq Homeland of the Kodiak Archipelago to provide for local and regional access to affordable fresh produce, eggs, and meat. The project's two objectives focus on the delivery of a year-long technical training and information program in six of the archipelago's communities of Akhiok, Kodiak, Larsen Bay, Old Harbor, Ouzinkie and Port Lions. Alaska Natives (socially disadvantaged) will participate in the project's technical assistance activities and Alaska Native owned farms or ranches will have developed business plans.</p> <p><b>Geographic Service Area:</b> Kodiak Archipelago, Alaska  <b>Contact Info:</b> Roberta J. Townsend Vennel   robbietownsendvennel.kali@gmail.com   (907) 299-6185</p>
AL	Richard Shelby & Doug Jones	Mo Brooks (05)	Alabama A&M University	\$621,640	<p>The overarching goal of this outreach project is to increase producer participation in government programs, facilitate access to capital and markets, stimulate rural development, and enhance profitability and sustainability of minority-owned farms. The project leverages outreach capabilities of several local community-based organizations committed to engaging and serving Alabama's rural residents. Individuals who choose farming opportunities will advance successfully through this project's assistance and mentorship programs. Expected outcomes include increased participation in USDA farm loan, cost-share, and crop insurance programs; improved recordkeeping systems; enhanced knowledge of and compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act; improved financial management, marketing and estate planning skills; increased access to capital and viable markets; better understanding of risk management tools; enhanced revenue streams from value-added products; proficiency in developing and using business and food safety plans; enhanced leadership skills, networking and peer-to-peer learning; increased minority landownership, use and retention; and ultimately increased profitability of minority-owned farms and businesses.</p> <p><b>Geographic Service Area:</b> Alabama's 38 Underserved Counties including 23 economically-depressed areas in the Black Belt region  <b>Contact Info:</b> Dr. Duncan M. Chembezi   duncan.chembezi@aamu.edu   (256) 372-4970</p>
AL	Richard Shelby & Doug Jones	Mike Rogers (03)	Tuskegee University	\$675,000	<p>The overall goal for the three-year Tuskegee University Small Farmer Outreach, Training, and Technical Assistance Project is to conduct outreach and technical assistance to encourage and assist socially disadvantaged farmers (SDFs) to own and operate farms; and to provide information on loan applications and farmer programs. Through partnering with and accessing programs by state (Department of Agriculture and Industries, RC&amp;D Councils) and federal (RMA, AMS, NIFA, RD, FSA, NRCS) agencies, the Project will complete the following objectives: (1) develop and implement programs so that eligible SDFs may apply for and acquire farm ownership and operating loans; (2) assist SDFs access the full range of 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 to the point where the owner graduates to a commercial lender; (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.</p> <p><b>Geographic Service Area:</b> The Black Belt and adjacent counties of South-central Alabama  <b>Contact Info:</b> Dr. Robert Zabawa   rzabawa@tuskegee.edu   (334) 727-8114</p>

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AR	John Boozman & Tom Cotton	Eric Crawford (01)	East Arkansas Enterprise Community	\$450,000	<p>The EAEC works to empower impoverished people and impoverished communities by providing financial and technical assistance to establish programs to meet their need for jobs, work force education, food, housing, health care, safe water, and improved community infrastructures. One priority is to create economic opportunities-jobs and work- for all residents. The EAEC works throughout the region to help residents become increasingly economically self-sufficient and communities can revitalize themselves. The EAEC has a business development center to help foster enterprise development; and, it helps small scale producers use their land and the farm knowledge and skills they learned over the years to increase their financial livelihood through the sale of locally grown produce.</p> <p><b>Geographic Service Area:</b> Crittenden, Lee, Monroe, Phillips, and St. Francis Counties  <b>Contact Info:</b> Robert L. Cole   eaec@sbcglobal.net   (870) 630-2005</p>
AZ	Kyrsten Sinema & Martha McSally	Tom O'Halleran (01)	Developing Innovations in Navajo Education	\$449,656	<p>Developing Innovations and New Mexico State University are collaborating on the <i>Native American Producers Success (NAPS VII) Project</i>. The project seeks to increase the profitability and sustainability of socially disadvantaged and veteran (SD&amp;V) Navajo farmers and ranchers. The project's activities include improving farming and ranching operation through (1) producer workshops, on-farm/on-ranch technical assistance and mentoring, (2) agriculture resource fairs featuring programs and services provided by USDA agencies (NRCS, FSA, RMA), the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Navajo Nation, Extension and other organizations, (3) assistance to farmers and ranchers in gathering data and information to successfully apply for NRCS EQIP grants and FSA/RMA insurance products, (4) building the leadership and organizational capacity of the Navajo Farmer and Rancher Congress (NFRC), a producer advocacy group, (5) training and mentoring Navajo youth and next generation farmers and ranchers, and (6) working with Navajo schools (middle and high) to develop and implement gardening curriculum and establish school-based gardens and "farmers markets."</p> <p><b>Geographic Service Area:</b> The geographical area of service includes Coconino, Navajo and Apache in Arizona and San Juan, McKinley and Cibola Counties in New Mexico.  <b>Contact Info:</b> Kyril Calsoyas   kyrilcalsoyas@earthlink.net   (928) 714-9422</p>
CA	Dianne Feinstein & Kamala Harris	Barbara Lee (13)	Multi-national Exchange Sustainable Ag-MESA	\$673,697	<p>This project, <i>Building Resilience for Socially Disadvantaged and Beginning Farmers Via Training, Mentorship, and Urban-Rural Networks</i>, is a collaboration spearheaded by the non-profit and community-based organization of MESA (Multinational Exchange for Sustainable Agriculture) in partnership with Planting Justice (PJ) and the Community Alliance for Family Farmers (CAFF). Each organization has unique and diverse experience providing specialized beginning farmer trainings, technical assistance, wrap-around services, entrepreneurial support, and employment opportunities for socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers.</p> <p><b>Geographic Service Area:</b> San Francisco, Marin, Solano, Stanislaus, Sacramento and Fresno, Alameda and Contra Counties  <b>Contact Info:</b> Leah Andrea Atwood   leah@mesaprogram.org   (510) 654-8858</p>

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CA	Dianne Feinstein & Kamala Harris	Salud O. Carbajal (24)	Peoples Foundation Connecting Community	\$675,000	<p>The project brings together the unique experiences of The Peoples Foundation CCMVS, a California-based 501c3 serving veterans and youth, the Legacy Farming and Health Group, a hands-on agricultural- and nutrition-focused initiative serving socially disadvantaged farmers, and the National AgrAbility Project at Purdue University that has served socially disadvantaged farmers with disabilities for over 25 years. The mission will be to assist socially disadvantaged farmers by increasing awareness of and participation in USDA farm programs and services. The documented low participation rate of this audience in programs and resources offered by FSA, RRCS and Extension is seen as a significant barrier to increasing potential for success, continued ownership of land, and agricultural education programs addressing the needs of socially disadvantaged farmers, building relations between organization serving this audience such as Farmer Veteran Coalition, National Black Farmers' Association, and USDA representatives.</p> <p><b>Geographic Service Area:</b> The geographic reach extends from coast to coast and abroad, with members in the states of Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, California, Washington State, Jamaica, Ghana and South Africa.</p> <p><b>Contact Info:</b> Tameka Peoples   <a href="mailto:contact@peoples-foundation.org">contact@peoples-foundation.org</a>   (805) 738-3123</p>
HI	Brian Schatz & Mazie Hirono	Tulsi Gabbard (2)	Sustainable Molokai	\$441,397	<p>Sustainable Molokai's Hoomahuahua Project will take place on the island of Molokai, Hawaii, which has a population of approximately 7,500 people, with 62% of Native Hawaiian ancestry. The goal of the project is to grow the number of beginning farmers on the island and provide tools to enhance their successes and financial viability. The majority of these farmers will be "socially disadvantaged." There are numerous Molokai families that have a history of farming, but who have lost that familial knowledge. There is currently a movement on the island to learn (or re-learn) these skills that are critical for our sustainability and survival in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Sustainable Molokai aims to address this need by collaborating with community partners to offer 5 different agricultural education and training programs that foster the development of these socially disadvantaged beginning farmers: (1) University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UHCTAHR) Garden to Farm classes, (2) Agricultural internships, (3) Egg Production Workshops, (4) GoFarm Hawaii AgBusiness Workshops, and (5) USDA program coordination. We expect this project to result in at least 80 SD individuals trained, and 70 connected with USDA programs (150 total). At an average of 4 people per household, this means approximately 600 people will be directly impacted, which is almost 10% of our island population.</p> <p><b>Geographic Service Area:</b> The island of Molokai, Hawaii</p> <p><b>Contact Info:</b> Harmonee Williams   <a href="mailto:harmonee@sustainablemolokai.org">harmonee@sustainablemolokai.org</a>   (808) 646-1314 and Jamie Ronzello   <a href="mailto:jamie@sustainablemolokai.org">jamie@sustainablemolokai.org</a>   (808) 658-9935</p>

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MA	Elizabeth Warren & Edward Markey	Ayanna Pressley (07)	Third Sector NE-ISED Solutions	\$398,485	<p>Challenges addressed: Thousands of socially disadvantaged (SD) refugees are engaged in beginning farming via participation in over 50+ refugee farming incubator projects (RFIPs) nationwide. But there are inadequate educational resources due to their limited English language, literacy, and education. Visual communications are an integral to training and technical assistance (T&amp;TA), but suitable resources are either unavailable or inaccessible. We need to produce our own materials and share them widely.</p> <p>Project key objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assemble six experimental RFIPs to collaborate with ISED to develop over 225-250 T&amp;TA photo series and short instructional videos accessible to all SD farmers.</li> <li>2. Three major partners will integrate these resources into T&amp;TA for hundreds of new refugee farmers.</li> <li>3. 50+ RFIPs will receive access to these resources to use for their own T&amp;TA to hundreds more farmers.</li> <li>4. Refugee and other socially disadvantaged farmers will receive more appropriate T&amp;TA and improve multiple aspects of their emerging farm enterprises.</li> <li>5. All socially disadvantaged farmers and associated programs can access and use these as well.</li> </ol> <p><b>Geographic Service Area:</b> The project will take place in Boston, MA with three major partners in Charlottesville, VA; Greater Atlanta, GA; and Des Moines, IA.</p> <p><b>Contact Info:</b> Hugh Joseph, Ph.D.   <a href="mailto:hugh.joseph@tufts.edu">hugh.joseph@tufts.edu</a>   (617) 636-3788</p>
MA	Elizabeth Warren & Edward Markey	Ayanna Pressley (07)	Tufts Univ-New Entry Sustain Farming	\$360,000	<p>While significant progress has been made in helping socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers get established in MA, these groups are still underrepresented as a percentage of principal producers. And yet, there is an increased interest among urban communities in addressing food justice and increasing access to healthy, locally grown produce in their communities. In rural and peri-urban areas, small-scale farmers face stagnating or declining direct market sales indicating a greater need for USDA services that could help mitigate risk and support new investments in infrastructure. This proposal addresses the geographic, cultural, and economic barriers facing current and prospective socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers by providing outreach, technical assistance, and access to resources and services to historically underserved populations across rural and urban divides.</p> <p><b>Geographic Service Area:</b> Northeastern Massachusetts (Middlesex, Essex, Suffolk Counties)</p> <p><b>Contact Info:</b> Kevin Robert Cody   <a href="mailto:kevin.cody@tufts.edu">kevin.cody@tufts.edu</a>   (978) 529-2362</p>

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MA	Elizabeth Warren & Edward Markey	Lori Trahan (03)	World Farmers	\$674,865	<p>This project will provide socially disadvantaged immigrant and refugee farmers with the technical assistance, training, and resources needed to operate a successful farming business; while strengthening farmers' relationships with USDA and their understanding of USDA programs and services. This will be accomplished through customized, hands-on TA, USDA-farmers gatherings, and farmer-to-farmer mentoring. Our project activities will address all five priority areas identified in the 2501 Program. Primary Populations Served: 100% immigrant and refugee farmers, the majority of whom are beginning women farmers from over 25 countries, such as Kenya, Laos, Somalia, Mexico, Burundi, and Tanzania.</p> <p><b>Geographic Service Area:</b> Massachusetts (Worcester County), Main (Androscoggin and Cumberland Counties), Florida (Miami-Dade, Lake, Putnam, and Volusia Counties)</p> <p><b>Contact Info:</b> Maria C. Moreira   <a href="mailto:mmoreira@worldfarmers.org">mmoreira@worldfarmers.org</a>   (413) 658-4279</p>
ME	Susan Collins & Angus King	Chellie Pingree (01)	Cultivating Community	\$537,604	<p>Cultivating Community with lead partner the Cooperative Development Institute and supporting partners New England Farmers of Color and ProsperityME will offer a comprehensive suite of farm business development services to Maine's largest cohort of socially disadvantaged farmers—refugee and immigrant farmers living in greater Lewiston and greater Portland. Leveraging the assets of Cultivating Community's well-established land-based two-site incubator farm training program and food hub as well as a network of business development and agriculture service providers, the project will support socially disadvantaged farmers from the exploratory and introductory phases through business formation to independence with support with production, marketing, business structure, access to land, to markets, to capital, and more—always with an eye on preparing farmers to access appropriate USDA programs.</p> <p><b>Geographic Service Area:</b> Cumberland and Adroscoggin Counties, Maine</p> <p><b>Contact Info:</b> Alex Redfield   <a href="mailto:alex@cultivatingcommunity.org">alex@cultivatingcommunity.org</a>   (207) 475-7235</p>

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MI	Debbie Stabenow & Gary Peters	Elissa Slotkin (08)	Michigan Integrated Food & Farming Systems	\$674,760	<p>Michigan Integrated Food and Farming Systems' (MIFFS) project, Nurturing Resilience Through Farmer-Led Networks, will assist socially disadvantaged farmers (SDF) and farmer veterans to own and successfully operate viable farms/ranches in Michigan by: 1) Enhancing and expanding peer-to-peer farmer networks for beginning and historically underserved farmers; 2) Conducting linguistically appropriate USDA listening sessions across the state with regional partners and USDA staff; 3) Hosting adaptive resilient demonstration field trips; 4) Training and using MIFFS Field Specialists to work one-on-one with SDF/R and veterans to assist in navigating and applying for USDA programs; 5) Linking MIFFS' USDA agency partners with our farmer and non-profit customers; 6) Planning, marketing, and facilitating a statewide conference for SDF/farmer veterans (and youth); and 7) Hosting four USDA workshops annually.</p> <p><b>Geographic Service Area:</b> Michigan and surrounding states  <b>Contact Person:</b> Jennifer Silveri   jen@miffs.org   (517) 709-8268</p>
MN	Amy Klobuchar & Tina Smith	Ilhan Omar (05)	Latino Economic Development CE	\$472,500	<p>LEDC has extensive experience delivering comprehensive support to socially disadvantaged beginning farmers, helping them to overcome barriers to growth, including the difficulty in securing access to financing, farmland, and markets. LEDC's approach delivers services in these three core areas through a program of technical training and individual assistance. For this project, LEDC will also co-sponsor an annual Immigrant Farm Conference and will create a Regional Latino Farmers Conference. Proposed training activities include workshops in farm planning, farmland purchase, finance, greenhouse production, sheep and goat production, food safety and organic certification and marketing with an estimated average of 20 farmers per session, yielding a 3-year total of approximately 590 farmers attendees. LEDC will also provide targeted individual assistance to at least 75 farmers, with many of those clients drawn from workshop attendees. All training and technical assistance will be delivered in culturally appropriate formats, in the language of choice for the participant. Through this program, LEDC will promote, and connect clients to USDA and other traditional farm programs for eligible clients. LEDC has significant experience linking immigrant farmers to financing resources, helping them to qualify for both traditional and alternative finance programs.</p> <p><b>Geographic Service Area:</b> Minnesota and Western Wisconsin while offering selected services in Michigan and Florida through a collaboration with local partners  <b>Contact Info:</b> Jaime Villalaz   Jaime@ledc-mn.org   (320) 223-5441 and Aaron Blyth   aaron@ledc-mn.org.   (651) 722-2773</p>
MO	Roy Blunt & Josh Hawley	Billy Long (07)	Springfield Community Gardens	\$672,457	<p>The 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 of sustainable vegetable, fruit, nut and herb production and agricultural business management with the added support of connections to career support networks and resources (including USDA programs and services) in Greene County and Webster County, Missouri. The project will consist of the following main components for socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers: (1) land; (2) infrastructure; (3) knowledge; (4) markets; and (5) capital, with the added component of (6) wrap around service support, technical assistance, and mentorship from project personnel. The proposed project will provide an integration of services to address barriers that would normally prevent socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers from completing goals related to becoming farmers in the proposed target area. The project provides a seamless integration of mentorship, technical assistance and wrap around services in case management from an experienced, collaborative, team of experts and staff who have success working together over several other funded projects.</p> <p><b>Geographic Service Area:</b> Greene and Webster counties in Missouri  <b>Contact Info:</b> Maile Auterson   springfieldcommunitygardens@gmail.com   (417) 414-7129</p>

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MS	Roger Wicker & Cindy Hyde-Smith	Bennie Thompson (02)	Alcorn State University Policy Research Center	\$525,000	<p>The purpose of this grant is to fund the <b><i>Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (SDFR) Policy Research Center at Alcorn State University (Policy Center)</i></b> for fiscal year 2020 (October 1, 2019 through September 31, 2020). The SDFR Policy Center was created as a vehicle for minority farmers to have a voice in the development of agricultural policies that impact their livelihoods. The rationale for the SDFR Policy Center is that farm policies shape the reality of the agricultural sector, and policies can be ambivalent from the point of view of offering possibilities on one hand but imposing constraints on the other. The Policy Center provides a vehicle for SDFR to be involved in policy construction, interpretation and implementation. The Policy Center has been operating for four years (one Farm Bill cycle) using a transparent management structure with a focus on stakeholder engagement, 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><b>Geographic Service Area:</b> The Policy Center is national in scope with a strategic focus in the 18 states with 1890 universities to assist in reaching the SDFR in high concentrated areas.</p> <p><b>Contact Info:</b> Eloris Speight   <a href="mailto:espeight@alcorn.edu">espeight@alcorn.edu</a>   (601) 877-6601</p>
MS	Roger Wicker & Cindy Hyde-Smith	Bennie Thompson (02)	Mississippi Assoc of Co-ops	\$578,475	<p>The Mississippi Association of Cooperatives (MAC) is a state association of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund, since 1972. Funding will support MAC's outreach project entitled "<i>Enhancing Mississippi Agriculture by Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers and Youth to Flourish in Viable Agricultural Enterprises.</i>" The overall goal of the proposed project is to enhance Mississippi socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers and youth to own and operate viable agricultural enterprises by infusing technology, informing participants of USDA programs, and implement an educational outreach program to improve farm income and improve socially disadvantaged or veteran farmers and rancher's quality of life through better farm management practices, financial management, and marketing of a profitable mix of traditional and alternative enterprises production.</p> <p><b>Geographic Service Area:</b> Copiah, Forrest, Jefferson Davis, Noxubee, Perry and Simpson Counties</p> <p><b>Contact Info:</b> Ben F. Burkett   <a href="mailto:Mac39202@gmail.com">Mac39202@gmail.com</a>   (601) 944-0592 or (601) 310-5223 (cell phone)</p>

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MS	Roger Wicker & Cindy Hyde-Smith	Trent Kelly (01)	Mississippi Minority Farmers Alliance	\$675,000	<p>The overall goal of this Mississippi Minority Farmers Alliance (MMFA) proposed project is to provide educational information and technical assistance to socially disadvantage farmers/ranchers and veteran farmers/ranchers in owning and sustainably operating farms and ranches while increasing their participation in agricultural programs and services provided by USDA and other state and local agricultural agencies. Through farm training programs and technical assistance, MMFA will promote growth in agriculture by giving program participants the knowledge and skills they need to improve their livelihoods. MMFA funding will support the goals and objectives of the 2501 Program efforts. Therefore, 300 socially disadvantaged farmers and veteran farmers and ranchers in eight northeast Mississippi counties will be exposed to new knowledge of production practices and other agricultural-related information that will enable them to obtain, own and operate successful farms and ranches. They will build relationships, be exposed to available federal, state and local agricultural programs, learn how to apply for such programs and receive cutting edge agricultural-related information through innovative outreach and technical assistance.</p> <p><b>Geographic Service Area:</b> Calhoun, Chickasaw, Clay, Lee, Lowndes, Monroe, Oktibbeha and Pontotoc Counties  <b>Contact Info:</b> Carolyn Jones   mmfa@netzero.net   (662) 213-2433</p>
MT	Jon Tester & Steve Daines	Greg Gianforte (At-Large)	Fort Peck Community College	\$638,372	<p>FPCC is a 1994 Land Grant Institution that serves the rural and isolated Fort Peck Indian Reservation with the purpose of providing access to higher education opportunities. This project will support the land grant initiative by providing socially disadvantaged American Indian farmers and ranchers, youth and beginning farmers and ranchers with tools that promote financial management practices, establish relationships amongst TCUs, USDA, and participants that will lead to sustainability in agriculture in Indian country.</p> <p><b>Geographic Service Area:</b> Fort Peck Community College is in rural Montana in Roosevelt County. The reservation itself is widespread, covering Valley, and Daniels County as well. Other counties included in the project are Hill, Big Horn, Yellowstone, Treasure, and Flathead County.</p> <p><b>Contact Info:</b> Craig Smith   csmith@fpcc.edu   (406) 768-5555</p>

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MT	Jon Tester & Steve Daines	Steve Womack (03)	National Center for Appropriate Tech	\$635,653	<p>This training project seeks to positively impact the farming operations of military veteran farmers and ranchers, including socially-disadvantaged military veterans, across the U.S. Through a series of Armed to Farm trainings, networking and educational workshops, targeted educational materials, and personal one-on-one technical assistance, veteran farmers and ranchers, including socially-disadvantaged veteran farmers, will be better equipped to manage farm operations, access USDA programs, and participate in a learning network with other veteran farmers and ranchers. NCAT staff have extensive experience in beginning farmer education, as well as working specifically with veterans and socially-disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. Since 2010, NCAT has provided training and technical assistance to more than 3,000 veterans interested in farming. Military veteran farmers and ranchers, including socially-disadvantaged military farmers and ranchers, are the primary populations served.</p> <p><b>Geographic Service Area:</b> The project will serve veterans across the U.S. Training activities will occur in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, and Washington.</p> <p><b>Contact Info:</b> Margo Hale   <a href="mailto:margoh@ncat.org">margoh@ncat.org</a>   (479) 442-9824 and Robyn Metzger   <a href="mailto:robynm@ncat.org">robynm@ncat.org</a>   (479) 442-9824</p>
ND	John Hoeven & Kevin Cramer	Kelly Armstrong (At-Large)	Sitting Bull College	\$76,500	<p>The purpose of this grant is to increase the agricultural management training and agricultural technical assistance provided by TBIC to farmers, ranchers and veterans. It is also to reach the youth in the community and present non-conventional agriculture options to farmers, ranchers, veterans and youth. Goals of the project are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Provide Ag Borrower training to 30 farmers, ranchers and veterans.</li> <li>2) Have 30 farmers, ranchers and veterans participate in the USDA &amp; SBC Agricultural Resources &amp; Services workshops.</li> <li>3) Provide agricultural youth training and technical assistance for young people.</li> <li>4) Develop Ag Borrower Training course on-line.</li> </ol> <p><b>Geographic Service Area:</b> The Standing Rock Sioux Reservation is in both North Dakota and South Dakota, which is approximately 60 miles south of Bismarck, ND. Standing Rock is composed of approximately 3,600 square miles and a population of 8,560.</p> <p><b>Contact Info:</b> Jonathan Anderson   <a href="mailto:jonathan.anderson@sittingbull.edu">jonathan.anderson@sittingbull.edu</a>   (701) 854-8122</p>

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NE	Deb Fischer & Ben Sasse	Jeff Fortenberry (01)	Center for Rural Affairs	\$484,222	<p>This project will provide education and technical assistance to current and aspiring Latino farmers to enable startup and development of diversified farms. These prospective and current farmers rarely use mainstream educational resources or USDA programs. At least 300 participants will access introductory farm-startup classes followed by focused courses of enterprise exploration, with an emphasis on diversified farms. Videos of educational sessions will also be available online to meet the scheduling constraints of the audience. Participants will experience state and local support networks and will gain increased access to USDA programs. Individual technical assistance will be provided by Center for Rural Affairs and Practical Farmers of Iowa, two leading support organizations for beginning farmers.</p> <p><b>Geographic Service Area:</b> Activities will take place in rural, high-Latino-population counties in Nebraska and Iowa.  <b>Contact Info:</b> Sandra Renner   sandrar@cfra.org   (402) 687-2100</p>
NM	Tom Udall & Martin Heinrich	Ben Ray Lujan (03)	Indian Nations Conservation Alliance	\$224,412	<p>INCA is a national tribal conservation-district (TCD) organization and focuses on outreach and assistance concerning USDA programs available to tribal farmers and ranchers. INCA also works to remove the barriers that are keeping Native American farmers and ranchers and veterans from being able to participate in USDA's programs. INCA will provide USDA agency program information through newsletters, webinars and trainings explaining programs and assist Native American and Veteran farmers and ranchers by helping them complete applications. INCA will hold a national meeting to bring the TCD's, Tribal farmers and ranchers, USDA agencies and BIA together to strengthen relationships and address barriers preventing tribal members from participating in USDA programs. INCA will conduct local and regional USDA outreach and education meetings in Arizona and Montana, South Dakota, Nevada with the same objective. INCA district coordinators will conduct local USDA program trainings and assist the tribal farmers and ranchers in completing the conservation planning workbook. INCA will assist Fort Belknap, Northern Cheyenne, Crow and Blackfeet tribes to implement Agricultural Resource Management Plan (ARMP) by coordinating with tribes, tribal farmers and ranchers, NRCS, FSA and BIA. INCA will recruit, hire and mentor, Native American student interns to volunteers with USDA agencies to learn about agriculture opportunities and natural resources.</p> <p><b>Geographic Service Area:</b> Arizona, Montana, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Nevada  <b>Contact Info:</b> Delane Jeffery Atcitty   Delaneatcitty@inca-tcd.org or info@inca-tcd.org   (505) 252-5340</p>

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NM	Tom Udall & Martin Heinrich	Ben Ray Lujan (03)	Not Forgotten Outreach	\$200,776	<p>Through NFO VetCorps, members will receive agricultural training and resources to assist them with transitioning from military to civilian life. VetCorps serves as a military veteran or family member's second mission, through providing healthy food to local, low-income families. Primary populations served: NFO's target audience for this proposal is Veterans and Military Families in Taos County and Northern New Mexico, which has a deeply rooted culture of military service. We are looking specifically to serve beginning ranchers and farmers who will look to use the skills learned in VetCorps to later develop or start their own farms.</p> <p><b>Geographic Service Area:</b> Taos County, New Mexico, United States  <b>Contact Info:</b> Don Peters   don@notforgottenoutreach.org   (575) 224-1503</p>
OK	James Inhofe & James Lankford	Kevin Hern (01)	Learning Center at Euchee Butterfly Farm	\$405,000	<p>Within the Creek Nation, the primary areas served by the Natives Raising Natives project (Okfuskee and Hughes Counties) are designated Persistent Poverty Counties, with over 20% of households living below the poverty line since 1970. Compounding the problem, the unemployment rate Native Americans consistently exceeds that of other ethnic groups. The need for innovative economic development in these areas is clear, yet not enough is being done by the state, federal or tribal government. The Natives Raising Natives Project has three primary goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use butterfly farming to create economic development for Native Americans living in rural areas by providing training and technical support to help them become success farmers.</li> <li>2. To use butterfly farming as a hands-on learning opportunity to teach Native American youth about agriculture, conservation and science.</li> <li>3. To use butterfly farming as a vehicle to raise awareness about the need for habitat conservation efforts that support native butterflies and other threatened pollinators on lands owned by Native Americans and tribes, and training on how to implement those conservation efforts.</li> </ol> <p><b>Geographic Service Area:</b> Okfuskee and Hughes Counties  <b>Contact Info:</b> Jane Elliot Breckinridge   nativebutterflies@live.com   (651) 343-8951</p>

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OK	James Inhofe & James Lankford	Frank D. Lucas (03)	Langston University	\$547,446	<p>This project will utilize funding to increase the number of socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers successfully operating their farm and/or ranch enterprises. Expected outputs of this project include assisting approximately 1,900 SDA farmers and ranchers per year through one-on-one meetings, community meetings, agriculture field days, and an annual small farms conference. This three-year project also focuses upon building the capacity of community-based organizations leadership in order to increase sustainability. Participants will also be assisted in completing applications for the most suitable USDA loan and grant programs. Langston University School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences Cooperative Extension and Outreach educators and facilitators will provide innovative methods for providing timely technical information for producers. The annual Small Farmers Conference will share best management and marketing practices, introduce USDA agencies, provide updates, and equip participants and SDA Farmer and Rancher community leaders for more productive agriculture production and marketing. Langston University will develop conference themes and workshop trainings based on continued interaction with community-based organizations.</p> <p><b>Geographic Service Area:</b> Eastern, south-central, north-central, and western parts of Oklahoma.  <b>Contact Info:</b> Joshua Ringer   joshua.ringer@langston.edu   (405) 466-6102</p>
PA	Robert Casey, Jr. & Patrick Toomey	Salud O. Carbajal (24)	Pennsylvania Friends of Ag	\$321,470	<p>This outreach and education initiative will promote agriculture enterprise development, expansion, and sustainability among veteran farmers throughout Pennsylvania. We will partner with the PA Veteran Farming Project on this three-year project. The project will engage and empower beginning and future farmers who are veterans, equipping them with tools to build profitable and sustainable agribusinesses in the Commonwealth. Through resource referral, education, and mentoring, our target audience will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Gain awareness and understanding of USDA and other federal, state, and local resources and programming;</li> <li>2. Learn to navigate and access the sometimes-confusing web of technical assistance available locally and regionally;</li> <li>3. Improve their understanding of, and successfully obtain, financial resources such as grants, loans, and cost share program funding.</li> <li>4. Convene annual statewide Veteran Farming Summits, host 5 workshops throughout Pennsylvania each of the three years and create a veteran-to-veteran mentoring program, Ag Allies.</li> </ol> <p>The Project will reach a minimum of 300 eligible veterans resulting in at least 24 new farms as a result of grant activities.</p> <p><b>Geographic Service Area:</b> Pennsylvania  <b>Contact Info:</b> Mimi Thomas-Brooker   pavets@gmail.com   (724) 691-1087</p>

State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
PA	Robert Casey, Jr. & Patrick Toomey	Dwight Evans (03)	Food Moxie (Weavers Way)	\$675,000	<p>This three-year collaborative project between CBO FOOD MOXIE, SAEO High School WB Saul, incubator farm Ruth Bennett Community Farm and commercial farming and grocery business Weavers Way Cooperative will increase Capacity for SDVFR farmers (both beginning and existing) by introducing agriculture-related information to socially disadvantaged and veteran SAEO youth and incubator farmers in the Philadelphia region, the poorest of the ten largest Cities in the country, through 300 hours of publicly accessible innovative training and technical assistance techniques including support for opportunities to access regional fieldtrips and workshops. Activities will improve participation by SDVFRs in USDA programs through networking events and resource fairs as well as one-on-one technical assistance with applying for resource opportunities. Networking events will build relationships between current and prospective SDVFR farmers and USDA local, state, regional and national offices. Project activities will support 360 hours of field-based training for SAEO youth and adult SDVFR farmers. At least 150 socially disadvantaged SAEO youth and adult beginning farmers will increase their capacity to start and sustain agricultural businesses as a result of project activities.</p> <p><b>Geographic Service Area:</b> The Philadelphia Region  <b>Contact Info:</b> Lisa Mosca   lisa@foodmoxie.org   (215) 843-8289</p>
PR	(n/a)	Jennifer Gonzalez-Colon (At-Large)	Puerto Rico Ag Extension	\$233,102	<p>The Puerto Rico Agricultural Extension Service (PRAES), is a unit under the Land Grant College, University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez (UPRM), a Hispanic-Serving Institution. PRAES will offer grant readiness conferences and presentation on available USDA resources; and, conferences about agricultural business administration to attain the operation of viable agricultural enterprises in Puerto Rico. PRAES will also generate educational modules. The target population are socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers in the island. Over 1,000 participants will benefit from the proposed initiative throughout the life of the project (24 months). Upon the conclusion, at least 330 participants will have attended conferences regarding USDA programs, grant-readiness and administration. At least a total of 360 participants will receive hands-on training on grant readiness and administration workshops by trained Extension Faculty to become eligible for USDA programs throughout the project period. A total of 100 participants will receive business administration workshops amounting to 15 contact hours and at least 275 persons will benefit from different business management topic conferences. This will allow meeting the goal of the project, which is to provide participants with an equitable opportunity to benefit of USDA programs. The participants will also be offered the tools to operate viable agricultural businesses and prepare competitive grants.</p> <p><b>Geographic Service Area:</b> All Geographic Regions of Puerto Rico  <b>Contact Info:</b> Professor Roberto Rigau   robertoluis.rigaullorens@upr.edu   (787) 765-8000 Ext. 3221</p>

State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
SC	Lindsey Graham & Tim Scott	Ralph Norman (05)	SCF-Organic Farms	\$453,600	<p>SCF Organic Farms, Ltd” was incorporated as an organic farmer cooperative on August 15, 2005 with the Secretary of State for South Carolina. Core Membership is comprised of socially disadvantaged producers comprised of 15 African Americans (8 male and 7 female) from rural areas of Sumter, South Carolina. The governing board of the SCF Organic Farms, Ltd” is comprised of at least 100% percent minorities which constitutes being of a socially disadvantaged group. SCF Organic Farms, Ltd” has been an active and vital cooperative serving and educating the Sumter community for over 13 years. SCF Organic Farms, Ltd is a Non-Profit in good standing with incorporation with the State of South Carolina. SCF Organic Farms, Ltd” is a cooperative of farmers with more than 60 years of combined farming experience, and the management of the cooperative has a combined 30 years of organizational and leadership experience in cooperative development. The Heritage Organic Dry Farming Project 3.0 mission is to educate farmers and customers about the benefits of vegetables and fruits grown with organic heritage, dry-farming methods, teach skills to meet long-term, growing demand for healthy farm produce and to increase production and consumption of that produce among farmers and customers of all income levels and increase the growth of new farmers in South Carolina and beyond.</p> <p><b>Geographic Service Area:</b> Allendale, Chester, Clarendon, Darlington and Florence Counties  <b>Contact Info:</b> Fathiyyah Mustafa   azeezmustafa@yahoo.com   (803) 469-0116</p>
VA	Tim Kaine & Mark Warner	Don Beyer, Jr. (08)	American Indian Higher Ed	\$665,754	<p>AIHEC proposes to develop and grow an innovative and sustainable initiative that engages well trained/qualified staff and TCU students to support and improve Native American farmers and ranchers’ adoption of effective agricultural practices and builds a self-sustaining TCU community of practice in agribusiness. Modeled after the AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) and Peace Corps programs, this initiative builds capacity by using VISTA volunteers and training. Both the VISTAs and local TCU staff and students will deliver technical assistance, outreach and education services to Native agricultural producers, with guidance and technical support from area USDA field offices and land grant partners. TCU staff, VISTAs and students will also assist farmers and ranchers in accessing USDA information and participating in USDA programs available to support them and Staff from participating TCUs will become a sustainable community of practice in agribusiness, sharing best practices and learnings beyond the 3-year grant period.</p> <p><b>Geographic Service Area:</b> The 37 TCUs that compose AIHEC operate in 16 states (Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, N. Dakota, Oklahoma, S. Dakota, Washington and Wisconsin). AIHEC and the TCUs support Indian reservations, Alaska Native villages, and the surrounding agricultural communities within their service areas.</p> <p><b>Contact Info:</b> John Phillips   jphilips@aihec.org   (703) 838-0400</p>

State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
VA	Tim Kaine & Mark Warner	Donald McEachin (04)	Virginia State University	\$605,385	<p>The project's goal is to equip Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers (SDVFRs) in Virginia, with the tools and skills needed for them to make informed decisions in owning and operating profitable farm businesses, while increasing their participation in USDA programs. The supporting Objectives are: 1) To create awareness and increase participation among SDVFRs in USDA farm programs and improve their access to timely agriculture-related information. 2) To enhance the knowledge and skills of SDVFR in farm estate, financial, and business planning and management, and in using computer as a management and resource tool. 3) To improve the knowledge, skills, and abilities of SDVFR to own, retain, and operate sustainable and profitable farm businesses. 4) To increase profits for SDVFRs by identifying new markets, connecting them to existing markets, and assisting them with effective marketing strategies. Target counties were selected due to high concentration of SDVFR that reside in them. These farmers have been traditionally underserved and have been plagued by several barriers such as, limited access to credit and capital, lack of skills in business and financial planning, lack of knowledge of USDA programs and services, lack of skills in operating successful farm businesses and, limited access to new and existing markets. This project will address these barriers with a holistic approach, with the expected result of an improved quality of life of these farmers, their families, and communities.</p> <p><b>Geographic Service Area:</b> The project area stretches from the Northern Neck to the South West region of Virginia  <b>Contact Info:</b> William A Crutchfield   wcrutchfield@vsu.edu   (804) 524-6245</p>
WI	Ron Johnson & Tammy Baldwin	Mark Pocan (02)	Easter Seals Wisconsin	\$280,960	<p>The AgrAbility of Wisconsin, a unique and long-term partnership between Easter Seals Wisconsin (ESW) and University of Wisconsin-Extension (UWEX), will provide targeted outreach and specific technical assistance regarding USDA programs and services to socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers through the Enhancing Participation through Outreach and Technical Assistance for USDA Programs in Wisconsin project. The long-term goal of the project is to enhance the profitability and sustainability of current and prospective Hmong, other socially disadvantaged, and veteran farmers in Wisconsin. Activities include target audience focused presentations and conferences, developing and distributing digital marketing and social media content, and providing individualized guidance to Hmong, other socially disadvantaged, and veteran farmers in rural communities throughout Wisconsin in accessing USDA programs. Agricultural educational opportunities will be made possible through agricultural exploration classes, safety days, and targeted presentations. This initiative provides socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers with the information and assistance necessary to access, engage and follow through on participation in USDA programs.</p> <p><b>Geographic Service Area:</b> Rural and agricultural communities in Wisconsin  <b>Contact Info:</b> Paul Leverenz   pleverenz@eastersealswisconsin.com   (608) 225-2394</p>