DATE: January 5, 2026

SUBJECT: Notice of Funding Opportunity for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) – State Plan Requests and Allocations for Fiscal Year 2026 Farm to Food Bank Projects

TO: Regional Directors
Supplemental Nutrition Programs

State Directors
All TEFAP State Agencies

Under the leadership of Secretary Brooke Rollins, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is committed to strengthening strategies to connect America's farmers to nutrition assistance programs. In support of this goal, this memorandum announces the availability of $8 million for TEFAP Farm to Food Bank projects in fiscal year (FY) 2026 and provides guidance to TEFAP state agencies on how to submit TEFAP state plan amendments to implement FY 2026 projects.

Farm to Food Bank Projects

Section 4018(b) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334, the 2018 Farm Bill) amended Section 203D of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 to provide funding for TEFAP state agencies to pay for projects to harvest, process, package, or transport commodities donated by agricultural producers, processors, or distributors for use by emergency feeding organizations (EFOs). These projects are known as Farm to Food Bank projects. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (P.L. 119-21, H.R. 1), extends the authorization for TEFAP Farm to Food Bank projects through FY 2031.

Farm to Food Bank projects are defined at 7 CFR 251.13(a) as the harvesting, processing, packaging, or transportation of unharvested, unprocessed, or unpackaged foods donated by agricultural producers, processors, or distributors for use by EFOs under Section 203D of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983. The purpose of such projects must be to (a) reduce food waste at the agricultural production, processing, or distribution level through the donation of food, (b) provide food to individuals in need, and (c) build relationships between agricultural producers, processors, and distributors and EFOs through the donation of food. Farm to Food Bank project funds can only be used for costs associated with harvesting, processing, packaging, or transporting privately donated foods, and cannot be used to purchase foods or for agricultural production activities (e.g., purchasing seeds or planting crops). Additionally, these funds may not be used for costs associated with handling USDA Foods provided for distribution through TEFAP. States have discretion in determining how to distribute Farm to Food Bank project funds and may apply funds to both new initiatives and to existing projects that meet the definition of a Farm to Food Bank project. Please see FD-151: Questions and Answers about Farm to Food Bank Projects for additional information on allowable and unallowable use of funds.

FY 2026 Farm to Food Bank Project Funding

H.R. 1 provides $4 million[1] per year for Farm to Food Bank projects from FY 2025 through FY 2031. FNS is making $8 million available for Farm to Food Bank projects in FY 2026, using the total amount of funding appropriated in FY 2025 and FY 2026. All state agencies that submit a plan for FY 2026 will be considered for this funding. These funds will be issued as a grant award under each state's existing federal-state agreement.

[1] Farm to Food Bank funding may be subject to recission beginning in FY 2027.

Farm to Food Bank Project Partners

As required by 7 CFR 251.6(a)(5) and 7 CFR 251.13(e)(3), Farm to Food Bank projects must be carried out in partnership with one or more EFOs located in the state. Per 7 CFR 251.3(e), an EFO is an eligible recipient agency which provides nutrition assistance to relieve situations of emergency and distress through the provision of food to needy persons, including low-income and unemployed persons. States must have a TEFAP agreement in place with all participating EFOs in a Farm to Food Bank project before the start of a project.[2]

Through agreements, state agencies may also partner with other states to maximize the use of foods donated under any Farm to Food Bank project. TEFAP state agencies will have the discretion to distribute funds to Farm to Food Bank project partners as they see fit while ensuring that funds are only expended on allowable Farm to Food Bank project costs.

State Plan Amendments

To be eligible for funds to carry out a Farm to Food Bank project in FY 2026, state agencies must submit an amendment to their state plan to their FNS regional office by February 2, 2026.[3] State agencies that wish to fund multi-year Farm to Food Bank projects must submit an updated state plan amendment each fiscal year reconfirming the ongoing operation of the project. Per 7 CFR 251.13(e), state plan amendments must include all of the following requirements:

- A high-level summary of the Farm to Food Bank project.
- A description of the types of foods expected to be donated through the project.

[2] The burden for these agreements is related to OMB #0584-0293 Food Distribution Programs, Expiration: 08/31/2026, Title: TEFAP Eligible Recipient Agency (ERA) Agreements (7 CFR 251.2(c)(2)).
[3] The burden for the State Plan amendment for Farm to Food Bank Projects is related to OMB #0584-0293 Food Distribution Programs, Expiration: 08/31/2026, Title: TEFAP Federal-State Agreements (7 CFR 251.6(b)).

- A list of EFOs within the state that will operate the project in partnership with the state agency.
- A list of any state agencies that will operate the project as a part of a cooperative agreement.
- A description of the project that includes how the project will:
    - Reduce food waste at the agricultural production, processing, or distribution level through the donation of food;
    - Provide food to individuals in need; and
    - Build relationships between agricultural producers, processors, and distributors and EFOs through the donation of food.
- The fiscal year in which the project will begin operating; and
- A description of how the match requirement will be met.

Attached to this memorandum (Attachment A) is a sample Farm to Food Bank state plan amendment for FY 2026 that addresses each of these required items.

Match Requirement

As per TEFAP regulations at 7 CFR 251.13(d)(1), the federal share of a Farm to Food Bank project shall not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the project. Therefore, all federal funds utilized for Farm to Food Bank projects must be matched by non-federal funds. The match requirement must be met through a cash or in-kind contribution from either the state or partner EFOs. Match funds must be used for allowable Farm to Food Bank project costs. While funds or in-kind contributions from non-federal sources expended to administer a project count toward the match requirement, donated foods, including the value of foods donated as a part of a Farm to Food Bank project, cannot count toward the match requirement.

Additional guidance on allowable cash and in-kind match contributions for Farm to Food Bank projects can be found at 7 CFR 251.9(c) and 7 CFR 251.13(d).

Allocation of Funds for Farm to Food Bank projects

FY 2026 Farm to Food Bank project funds will be allocated to state agencies that have submitted an approved state plan amendment describing a plan of operation for a Farm to Food Bank project.[4] The funds will be allocated using the current TEFAP formula found at 7 CFR 251.3(h). The estimated initial level of funds potentially available for each state agency in FY 2026 is attached to this memorandum (Attachment B) and was generated using the FY 2026 TEFAP funding formula.

To receive funds in FY 2026, state agencies must submit their state plan amendment (Attachment A) to their FNS regional office by February 2, 2026, for review and approval. The allocation of funds in Attachment B should be considered the minimum amount of funds that each state can receive for FY 2026. If any TEFAP state agency does not accept all or part of its minimum allocation, remaining funds will be allocated among all states that have submitted an approved state plan amendment and that have accepted their full amount of funds on a pro-rata basis once all state plan amendments for FY 2026 are received and reviewed. Thus, states' final allocations may vary significantly from what is included in Attachment B. The period of performance for these grants will be for one year from the date of allocation.

Reporting Requirements

All state agencies that receive funds to carry out Farm to Food Bank projects in FY 2026 must provide semiannual financial reports via the Food Programs Reporting System (FPRS).[5] The SF-425 must be used for these reports. A report titled "TEFAP-F2F-Bank- TEFAP Farm to Food Bank Projects" in FPRS has been established for this purpose. A first report must be

[4] The burden for the State Plan amendment for Farm to Food Bank Projects is related to OMB #0584-0293 Food Distribution Programs, Expiration:08/31/2026, Title: TEFAP Federal-State Agreements (7 CFR 251.6(b)).
[5] The burden for TEFAP Farm to Food Bank Project reporting is related to OMB #0584-0594 Food Programs Reporting System, Expiration: 09/30/2026, Title: SF-425.

submitted by April 30, 2026, and reflect Farm to Food Bank project funds expended from the start of the performance period to March 31, 2026. The second report must be submitted by October 30, 2026, and reflect funds expended from April 1, 2026, to September 30, 2026.

A final report must be submitted within 90 days after the grant expires that reflects funds expended during the period of performance. Please see 7 CFR 251.13(g) for more information on reporting requirements.

Farm to Food Bank project funds should be reported under the TEFAP administrative funding assistance listing number (formerly known as the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number), 10.568.

TEFAP state agencies with questions should contact their FNS regional offices.

/ Original Signature on File /

Sara Olson

Director

Policy Division

Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Programs

OMB Control Number: 0584-0293, Expiration Date 08/31/2026

Attachment A – State Plan Amendment Template for FY 2026 Farm to Food Bank Projects

Date Submitted:

State Agency:

State Agency Point of Contact (POC):

POC Email:

POC Phone Number:

1. Provide a high-level summary (1-2 paragraphs) of the anticipated uses of the Farm to Food Bank project funds. Please note that projects must meet the statutory definition of a Farm to Food Bank project (i.e., they must involve the harvesting, processing, packaging, or transportation of unharvested, unprocessed, or unpackaged foods donated by agricultural producers, processors, or distributors, for use by EFOs).

2. What types of foods do you expect will be donated for this project(s) and who will donate them?

3. How will the project(s) reduce food waste at the agricultural production, processing, or distribution level through the donation of food?

4. How will the project(s) provide food to individuals in need?

5. How will the project(s) build relationships between agricultural producers, processors, and distributors and EFOs through the donation of food?

6. List all EFOs that will partner with the state agency to carry out the project(s) and describe the role of the EFO(s) in the project. You must list at least one EFO. You do not need to list all EFOs that will distribute Farm to Food Bank foods; only those that will carry out the project(s) in partnership with the state agency.

7. List any other state agency(ies) from other states that the state agency will partner with and describe the role of the other state agency(ies) in the project.

8. State the percentage of Farm to Food Bank project funds that will be kept at the state level.

9. As per 7 CFR 251.13(d)(1), all federal funds utilized for Farm to Food Bank projects must be matched dollar-for-dollar by non-federal funds through a cash or in-kind contribution from either the state or partner EFOs. Please describe how the match requirement will be met for this project. If the match will be met in- kind, please provide a description of in-kind resources that will be used to meet the match.

10. Describe the state agency’s method(s) for monitoring the use of Farm to Food Bank Funding and how the state agency will ensure that funds are only used for allowable costs as described at 7 CFR 251.13(c).

11. Will the state agency accept its full initial allocation of FY 2026 Farm to Food Bank Funding, if available?

12. Is the state agency interested in receiving additional funding beyond its initial allocation of FY 2026 Farm to Food Bank project, if available?

Options

If yes/unsure, what is the maximum amount of additional funds the state agency is willing and able to accept while still meeting the match requirement? If unsure, please insert an estimated amount in the box below, and we will contact you to verify final funding totals prior to finalizing them.

Maximum amount of additional funding (in addition to what is estimated to be allocated in Appendix B):

OMB Disclosure Statement: Section 4018(b) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334, the 2018 Farm Bill) amended Section 203D of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 to provide funding for TEFAP state agencies to pay for projects to harvest, process, package, or transport foods donated by agricultural producers, processors, or distributors for use by EFOs. These projects are known as Farm to Food Bank projects. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1), extends the authorization for TEFAP Farm to Food Bank projects through FY 2031. To be eligible for funds to carry out a Farm to Food Bank project in FY 2026, TEFAP state agencies must submit an amendment to their state plan to their FNS regional office which requires this information collection. This is a mandatory collection and FNS will use the information to allocate funding for such projects. The collection does not request personally identifiable information under the Privacy Act of 1974. According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0584-0293. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average four hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and providing the data needed, and completing, reviewing and submitting the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to:

U.S. Department of Agriculture,
Food and Nutrition Service,
Office of Policy Support,
1320 Braddock Place, 5th Floor,
Alexandria, VA 22314.
ATTN: PRA (0584-0293).
Do not return the completed form to this address.

Attachment B

TEFAP FARM TO FOOD BANK PROJECTS POTENTIAL ALLOCATION WORKSHEET

REGION/STATE	FY 2026 Potential Allocation for Farm to Food Bank projects
NORTHEAST	
Connecticut	$68,714
Maine	$28,231
Massachusetts	$150,747
New Hampshire	$20,375
New York	$484,302
Rhode Island	$26,269
Vermont	$11,030
Virgin Islands	$4,511
TOTAL-NERO	$794,179
MID-ATLANTIC	
Delaware	$19,302
District of Columbia	$19,104
Maryland	$102,717
New Jersey	$200,382
Pennsylvania	$284,977
Puerto Rico	$161,296
Virginia	$160,024
West Virginia	$47,524
TOTAL-MARO	$995,326
SOUTHEAST	
Alabama	$122,151
Florida	$500,932
Georgia	$243,278
Kentucky	$130,657
Mississippi	$80,691
North Carolina	$245,573
South Carolina	$131,413
Tennessee	$169,649
TOTAL-SERO	$1,624,344

MIDWEST	
Illinois	$304,601
Indiana	$159,577
Iowa	$69,019
Michigan	$271,641
Minnesota	$107,540
Ohio	$292,359
Wisconsin	$114,893
TOTAL-MWRO	$1,319,630
SOUTHWEST	
Arizona	$164,732
Arkansas	$80,643
Louisiana	$136,902
New Mexico	$58,017
Oklahoma	$98,738
Texas	$783,997
Utah	$60,511
TOTAL-SWRO	$1,383,540
MOUNTAIN PLAINS	
Colorado	$126,603
Kansas	$66,008
Missouri	$142,338
Montana	$21,590
Nebraska	$39,688
North Dakota	$14,198
South Dakota	$14,461
Wyoming	$11,967
TOTAL-MPRO	$436,853
WESTERN	
Alaska	$15,619
California	$1,003,674
Guam	$7,207
Hawaii	$22,125
Idaho	$42,978
Nevada	$86,034
N Mariana Islands	$3,969
Oregon	$100,253
Washington	$164,269
TOTAL-WRO	$1,446,128
NATIONAL TOTAL	**$8,000,000**

Updated 1.5.2026