

# FARM TO FOOD BANK ENHANCEMENT ACT

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## Overview

The 2018 Farm Bill created The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) Farm to Food Bank Projects, which provides funding for TEFAP State agencies to pay for 50% of the harvesting, processing, packaging, or transportation costs for donated foods to food banks. To date, 19 states have submitted plans to USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to participate in the Farm to Food Bank program under the Farm Bill provision, and FNS is in the process of reviewing and approving those plans.

The Farm to Food Bank Enhancement Act would provide \$25 million for states to expand or establish new TEFAP Farm to Food Bank projects, with the federal government paying up to 100% of harvesting, processing, packaging, and transportation costs for donated commodities. States are encouraged to work with agricultural producers, distributors, and processors who grow or market products that have seen decreased demand due to the COVID-19 outbreak and cannot easily be repackaged for retail sale.

## Program Eligibility

To start a Farm to Food Bank project, a state must submit a plan of operation that includes:

- a list of emergency feeding organizations (EFOs) willing to partner with the state;
- a description of how the project will reduce food waste; provide food to needy individuals; and build relationships between agricultural producers, processors, and distributors and emergency feeding organizations;
- a timeline for the project; and
- optionally, a list of priority agricultural products that are ready for donation and transport.

All participating EFOs must have a TEFAP agreement with the state prior to the start of a project.

## Summary of the Farm to Food Bank Enhancement Act

- Appropriates \$25 million through fiscal year 2020 for Enhanced Farm to Food Bank Projects;
- Enhances the funding for harvesting, processing, packaging, and transportation costs up to 100% of costs. The original Farm to Food Bank program only covers 50% of costs;
- Encourages states to work with agricultural producers, distributors, and processors who grow or market products that have seen decreased demand due to the COVID-19 outbreak and cannot easily be repackaged for retail sale;
- Allows states to carry out new projects with agriculture producers, processors, or distributors;
- Allows the Secretary to reallocate unexpended funds to other eligible states if the Secretary determines that a State will not use all of its allocated funds;
- Requires states that receive funding to submit financial reports to the Secretary describing the use of the funds; and
- Allows states to partner with other states to maximize the use of donated foods.