

Local and Regional Healthy Food Financing Partnerships Grants The Healthy Food Financing Initiative

What does this program do?

The Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI) provides loans, grants, and technical assistance resources to improve and support access to fresh, healthy, affordable food in urban and rural underserved communities. HFFI is using additional USDA-allocated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA - available at this link: <https://www.usda.gov/arp>) resources to expand its services and reach. With an additional \$30 million in available grants, the Local and Regional Healthy Food Financing Partnerships Program – which focuses on improving access to capital and capacity building – is the first funding opportunity available under this expanded initiative.

What is an eligible area?

- Those in USDA's Low Income, Low Access census tracts (information is available at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/b8v6ejd2>)
- Census tracts adjacent to USDA's Low Income, Low Access census tracts, with median family incomes equal to – or less than – 120 percent of the area median family income
- Census Block Groups in Limited Supermarket Access (LSA) areas meeting one or more additional distress criteria

When used in conjunction with additional distress criteria, other measures of limited access to supermarkets or grocery stores adopted for use by local governments or philanthropic healthy food initiatives can also be used to determine eligibility. For help determining if your project is in an eligible area, email help@investinginfood.com.

Who can apply?

- State, local, Tribal governments and their agencies
- Nonprofit organizations
- Cooperative businesses
- For-profit businesses

The Healthy Food Financing Initiative

How can funds be used?

- Support new or existing partnerships, such as state or local food funds or financing programs
- Explore, establish, or grow a healthy food financing fund for underserved communities
- Increase internal and external capacity building
- Identify and improve access to seed capital

What are some of the grant terms?

- HFFI Partnerships Program grants range from \$200,000 to \$3 million

How do we get started?

HFFI is a public-private partnership administered on behalf of USDA Rural Development by Reinvestment Fund (information is available at this link: <https://www.investinginfood.com>) – a Community Development Financial Institution. For additional information, email help@investinginfood.com.

What governs this program?

HFFI was first authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and reauthorized in the 2018 Farm Bill (information available at this link: <https://www.usda.gov/farmbill>).



This QR code takes you to our partners at www.investinginfood.com.

NOTE: Because information changes, always consult official program instructions or contact your local Rural Development office for help. A list is available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xJHPE>. You will find additional resources, forms, and program information at <https://rd.usda.gov>.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.