

## **Expanding Access To (EAT) Local Foods Act One Pager**

The Expanding Access To (EAT) Local Foods Act would create a permanent grant program for state and tribal governments to procure local foods for distribution to nearby feeding programs. Modeled after the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA), the EAT Local Foods Act program would help small local producers access new market opportunities, strengthen domestic agriculture supply chain resilience, and combat food insecurity.

### **How it would work:**

Under the EAT Local Foods Act program, USDA would enter into cooperative agreements and provide non-competitive funding to interested states and tribes. With these funds, states and their partners would purchase food from producers within their state's geographic bounds, or within 400 miles of the final delivery destination, for distribution through their state's hunger relief system. Priority would be given to food purchases from small, beginning, or underserved producers and program funds could also be used to provide technical assistance, including assistance to producers for obtaining food safety training, or other efforts to grow the local agriculture value chain.

### **Program Benefits:**

1. Support Local Economic Development

The EAT Local Foods Act program would prioritize food purchases from small, beginning, or underserved farmers, ranchers, and fishers. The program would open access to the hunger relief market for new producers and create a new, reliable stream of orders for participating producers, in turn allowing these growers to further expand and invest in their businesses.

2. Strengthen Domestic Agriculture Supply Chain Resilience

By investing in local food, for local distribution, the EAT Local Foods Act program would help build relationships across the agriculture value chain to create more durable and resilient local food systems.

3. Combat Food Insecurity

Under the EAT Local Foods Act program, fresh, nutritious, local food would be distributed in underserved communities, helping ease the strain on the hunger relief system and feed more families.

### **Background:**

The bill is modeled on USDA's Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA), which was initiated in response to the national agriculture supply chain disruptions that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic. Using one-time American Rescue Plan and the Commodity Credit Corporation funds, USDA awarded grants to state and tribal governments to procure local foods for distribution to nearby feeding programs. The economic impacts of the program have been significant. A June 2023 report estimates that the [\\$691 million in LFPA purchases from local farms has generated an estimated \\$1.5 billion in local economic impact](#). By establishing a permanent program, Congress will be able to carry these gains forward.