

# LOCAL FOOD MOVEMENT

Practical tips and tools to help you connect with and work with local food banks and agencies to support purchases from local farmers.

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AZ Community Hub, Co-Owner





# Identifying Farm-to-Food Bank Programs and Supporters

- Farm-to-Institution Opportunities
- Friends of the Farm/Purchase Local/Try it Local
- RFSI Opportunity



## 10 BIPOC Farms Represented

We offer FREE technical service for all local producers in the southwest region of the country that produce in the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Texas.



# Local Farm to Institution Programs in AZ



- Purchase Local Arizona (PLAZ) is a local food purchasing program administered by Pinnacle Prevention and the Arizona Department of Economic Security. The program is funded by USDA's Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA). The Goals of PLAZ are:
- to support Arizona farmers, ranchers, and food producers; prioritizing those from socially disadvantaged groups; and
- to distribute fresh nutritious foods to underserved communities across Arizona.



- Friends of the Farm is a farm-to-food bank program that helps Arizona's small growers and food-insecure families.
- The focus is to plan contracts and purchase surplus from small-scale producers to provide a reliable market that pays a living wage, offer unique variety to food bank clients, and invest in a strong local food system.
- To date, AzFBN and our member food banks have worked with more than 25 farms in 6 counties to acquire and distribute over 321,500 pounds of fresh, Arizona-grown food (over 75 varieties!) to families in need—with planned purchases in additional counties and tribal communities to come.



- The USDA's Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program (LFS) is designed to help states deal with the challenges of supply chain disruptions brought on by the pandemic. The Arizona Department of Education is using LFS funds to launch a new campaign called Try it Local.
- Through Try it Local, schools operating the National School Lunch Program can be reimbursed for purchasing unprocessed or minimally processed local or regional produced food purchased and used in school meal programs.
- Funds aim to support socially disadvantaged food producers and/or small businesses. ADE memo, HNS 09-2023, provides program guidance.







# FRIENDS OF THE FARM

## AZ Food Bank Network/ St Mary's Food Bank



Friends of the Farm is a farm-to-food bank program that **helps Arizona's small growers** and food-insecure families. With seed money from the office of Governor Ducey, we purchase Arizona-grown fruits, vegetables, dairy, eggs, and meat for distribution throughout our network of food banks and pantries. The focus is to plan contracts and purchase surplus from small-scale producers to provide a reliable market that pays a living wage, offer unique variety to food bank clients, and invest in a strong local food system.



**\$86,000 2023-24 Contract for our partnering farmers**







# Purchase Local AZ



## Pinnacle Prevention/Mom's Pantry

Purchase Local Arizona (PLAZ) is a local food purchasing program administered by Pinnacle Prevention and the Arizona Department of Economic Security. The program is funded by USDA's Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA). The Goals of PLAZ are:

1. to support Arizona farmers, ranchers, and food producers; prioritizing those from socially disadvantaged groups; and
2. to distribute fresh nutritious foods to underserved communities across Arizona.

Through 2025, Purchase Local Arizona will strengthen local and regional food systems by working collaboratively with food producers, aggregators, distributors, food security organizations, food banks & pantries, and tribal partners and help underserved communities in Arizona get nutritious, seasonal, Arizona grown food.

PLAZ has two application windows:

- October 1 - October 31
- March 1 - March 31



**\$50,000 2023-24 Contract for our partnering farmers**







# Try it Local

## Department of Education Farm to School Network Glendale Union High School District

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- Through Try it Local, schools operating the National School Lunch Program can be reimbursed for purchasing unprocessed or minimally processed local or regional produced food purchased and used in school meal programs. Funds aim to **support socially disadvantaged food producers and/or small businesses**. ADE memo, [HNS 09-2023](#), provides program guidance.



**Produce Budget of just ONE district: \$25,000 per month  
Schools are reimbursed!**





# RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS INFRASTRUCTURE (RFSI) PROGRAM

The Arizona Department of Agriculture (AZDA) was recently awarded funding from USDA AMS through the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program (RFSI).

Through this program, approximately \$3.2 million will be available for competitive sub-award grants to support the development of the **middle-of-the-supply chain** for Arizona-based food and farm businesses.

Through the RFSI Program, AZDA will issue the following types of grants:

- Simplified Equipment-Only Grants (minimum of \$10,000 and maximum of \$100,000 for equipment only plus taxes and fees).
- Infrastructure Grants (minimum of \$100,000 for personnel, equipment, supplies, construction, etc.).

These funds support expanding capacity for the aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, and distribution of local food products including specialty crops, dairy, grains for human consumption, aquaculture, and other food products, excluding meat and poultry.

## Simplified Equipment Only

### Refrigerated Van



### Cooler





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## Infrastructure Grant Processing Facility





**THANK  
YOU!!!**

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