

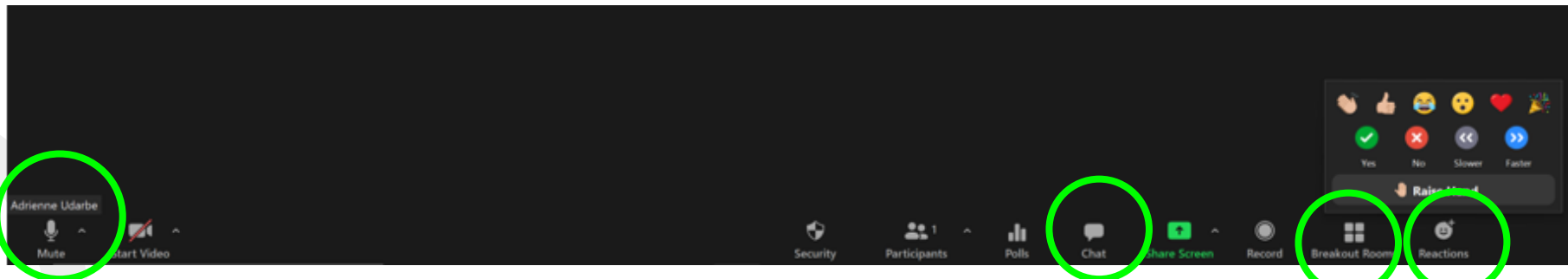
Purchase Local AZ: Lessons Learned & Next Steps

August 24, 2023



Thanks for joining us today!

- We had over 150 people register for the call today!
- Please feel free to drop your name, farm/organization, and location in the chat - and say hi to any friends!



AGENDA

1.

LFPA Overview

2.

**Purchase Local AZ:
Progress**

3.

Pinnacle Prevention

4.

AZFBN

5.

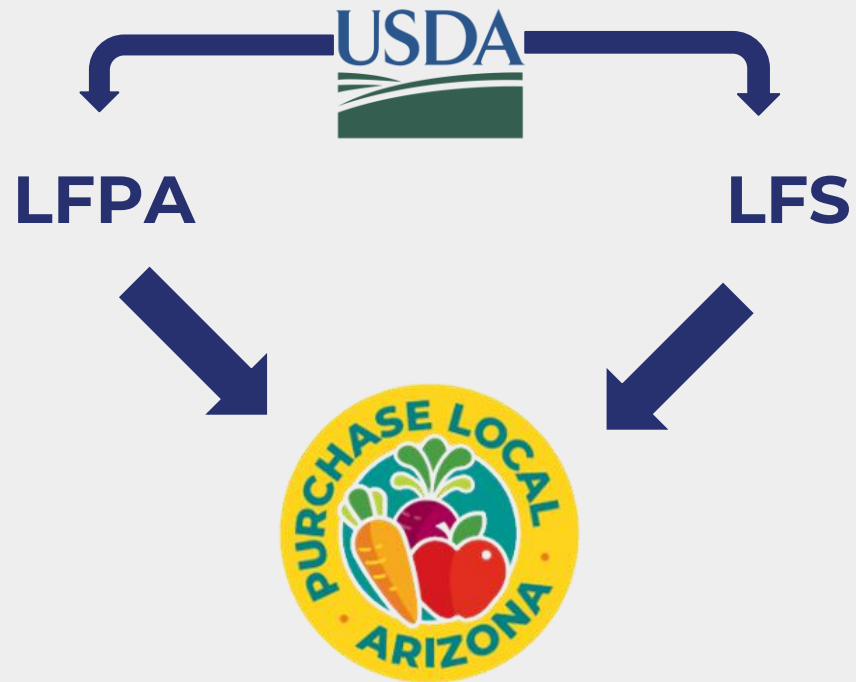
Looking Ahead

6.

**Q&A + Breakout
Sessions**

01

LFPA Overview





Organizations collaborating to buy locally grown goods and distribute them through food assistance programs and the statewide emergency food relief network



Local, regional, and socially disadvantaged food producers




Rural, remote, underserved communities in AZ

Program Budget



\$15,000,000

Roughly \$5 million over three years [2023-2026]



Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA)

- Purpose is to maintain and improve food and agricultural supply chain resiliency
- Allows states, tribes and territories to procure and distribute local and regional foods to meet areas of need
- Serves feeding programs such as food banks, schools, and organizations that reach underserved communities
- Helps build and expand economic opportunity for local and underserved producers



Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA)

- Local is defined as within the state or territory or within 400 miles of the distribution site
- Purchases must include both fresh and minimally processed foods
- Allows applicants to tailor food distribution to the needs of the population and feeding programs and organizations that serve underserved communities
- Intent of the program is to target socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers to expand existing local food networks (Note: not a requirement to participate in the program)



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02



PLAZ
Progress



71

community organizations and nonprofits that received high quality produce, eggs, beans, and protein to feed underserved Arizonans

165

individual farms and food aggregators participating- so far!.



123

different crops purchased; including "Purple Dragon" carrots, "Dino" kale, and "Easter Egg" Radishes- to name a few!

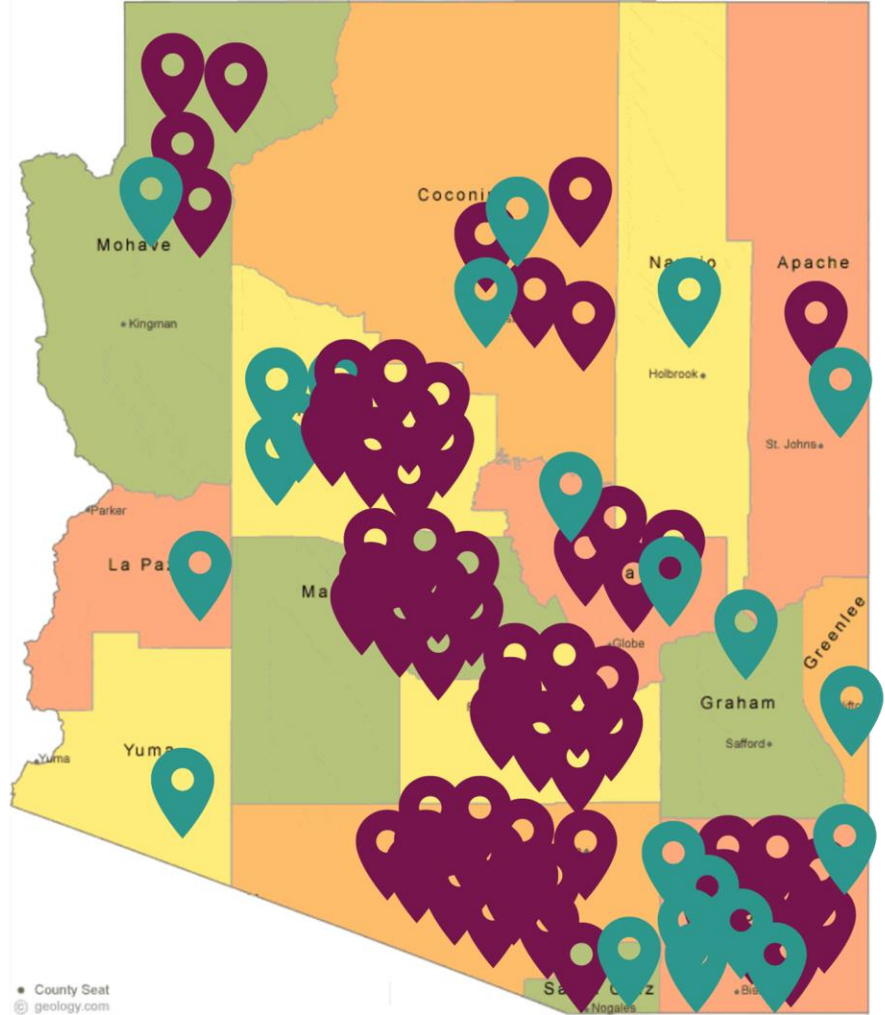


\$525,483.18

spent since March on fresh, seasonal produce grown by Arizona's farmers.



PLAZ Reach



Pinnacle Prevention

03



Pinnacle Prevention

Arizona-based non-profit serving state-wide.

9 years of food system programming, coordination, advocacy and support across Arizona.

Our mission: dedicated to cultivating a just food system and opportunities for joyful movement.

Programs include:

- Double Up Food Bucks
- Arizona Farmers Market Nutrition Program
- Arizona Food Systems Network
- USDA's RFSP
- USDA's LFPP



Program Updates

Creating two funding cycles per year (Oct/March)

Next application period: Opens October 1, 2023

Consider crop plan and timing. Spring Cycle for summer crops and higher elevations.

Consider community Partnership(s) to distribute food.

New “Net 30” reimbursement model.

Proposals limited to \$50,000 max.
Funding Very limited



Evaluation Criteria

Only AZ food Producers are eligible.

Funding prioritizes Socially Disadvantaged* producers.

Food system impact

Number of people served

Geographic equity

Indigenous food producers and partners



Next Steps

- Visit purchaselocalaz.org
- Complete the **Producer** or **Community Partner** interest form.
 - Expect response within 1-2 weeks.
- A one-on-one intake conversation may be requested, scheduled at your convenience.
- Submit proposals for winter '23/'24 contracts when funding window opens on October 1st.



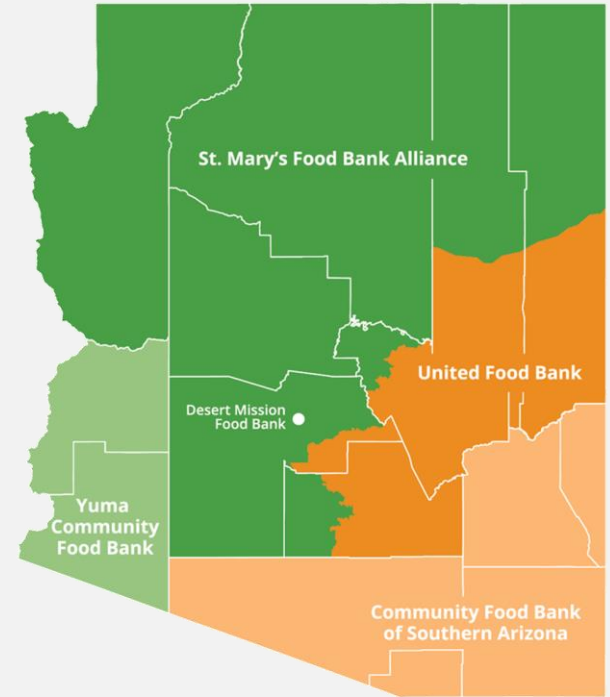
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Arizona Food Bank Network



Arizona Food Bank Network

- Food Bank state association that supports 5 regional food banks and 1,000 partner agencies across all 15 counties
- Our Mission: Developing solutions to end hunger through food banking, public policy, and innovation
- Collectively distribute 180-200 million pounds of food throughout Arizona
- Serve average of 460,000 Arizonans per month



Friends of The Farm (FOF)

- Farm-to-food bank procurement program that helps Arizona's small growers to serve food-insecure families within our network
- We define "small growers" according to the USDA farm classification scale of annual gross cash farm income below \$350,000 or 150 acres
- LFPA was integrated in March 2023
- Conduct purchasing through both growers agreements (preferred) and one-time purchases with excess produce available as a step to enter the program



Lessons Learned

- Working with growers and food banks to identify products that are most helpful to clients and creative distribution for produce not typical in the food bank network
- Supply and grower interest is much higher than expected
- Determine methods for equitable spending and equitable distribution
- How we work with regional food banks to equitably distribute food throughout



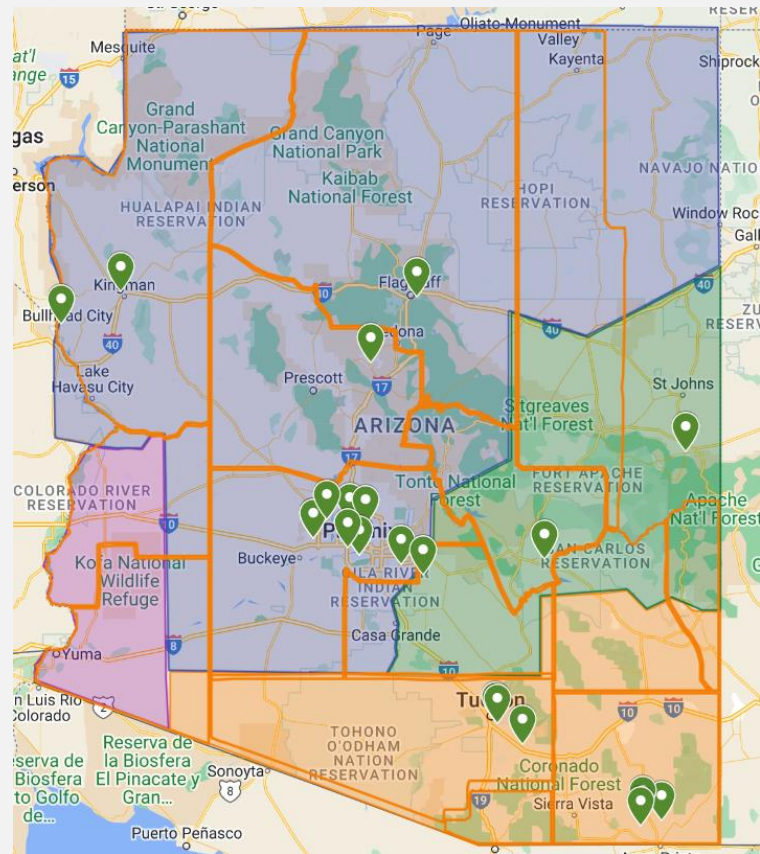
LFPA/FOF Progress (FY24)

- Expand the number of growers in the program, including prioritizing socially disadvantaged growers
- Increase varieties of food in the program including expansion to meat
- Reach new parts of the state with direct agency deliveries and deliveries through our network due to more volume
- Allowing growers to plan for increasing capacity and explore new product types and volume



Moving Forward

- Managing spend throughout the state and across program years
- Understanding needs of clients receiving food
- Determining where the food can go and how far it can go to ensure equitable distribution
- Determining equitable spending across farm partners
- Expanding reach to farms and reaching small pockets for distribution

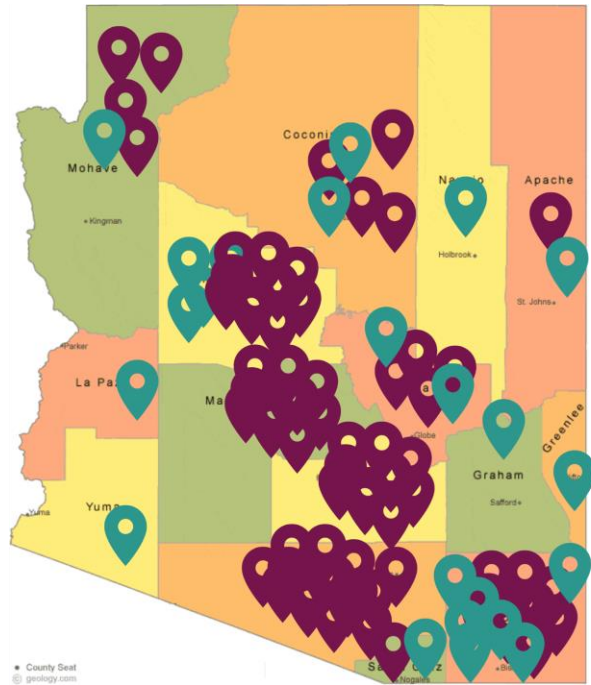


Q & A

05

06

Looking Ahead



Focusing on pockets and counties we have a lighter footprint

Partnership with Arizona Department of Agriculture on Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program

Partnership with Arizona SNAP-Ed program on education opportunities

Continue to dial in and refine data collection tool and

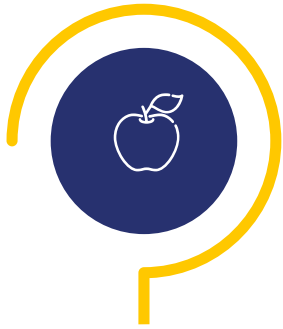
Share progress and welcome opportunities for improvement



Your Turn!

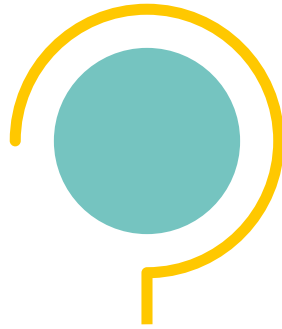
We want to hear from you!

Breakout Rooms



FOOD PRODUCERS

- Farmers
- Ranchers
- Value-added



AGGREGATORS

- Hubs
- Co-ops



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Schools
- Food Banks
- Distribution sites



Questions for Breakouts

- Share experiences about participating in LFPA or plans to participate
- What's working well?
- How can we strengthen the program?
- What would make it easier to participate?

GET IN TOUCH

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**Thank you for
being here!**