



Arizona
Food Bank
Network

FRIENDS OF THE FARM

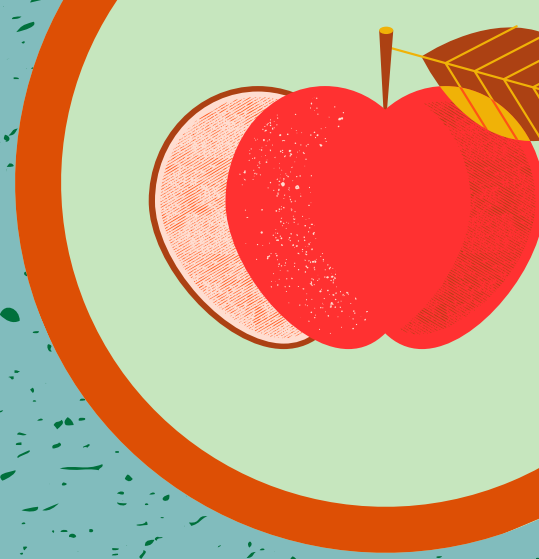


LOCAL IN FOOD AZ PURCHASE ASSISTANCE

3rd Annual Program Update

August 6th 2025

WHATS HAPPENING?



Welcome and Grounding

LFPA Background

Program Impacts

What next? Program Transition

Q & A and closing poll

“LFPA funding has allowed us to scale up production and connect with a variety of new markets and organizations. All of this helps make our local food systems more robust.”
- An Arizona Farmer and LFPA participant



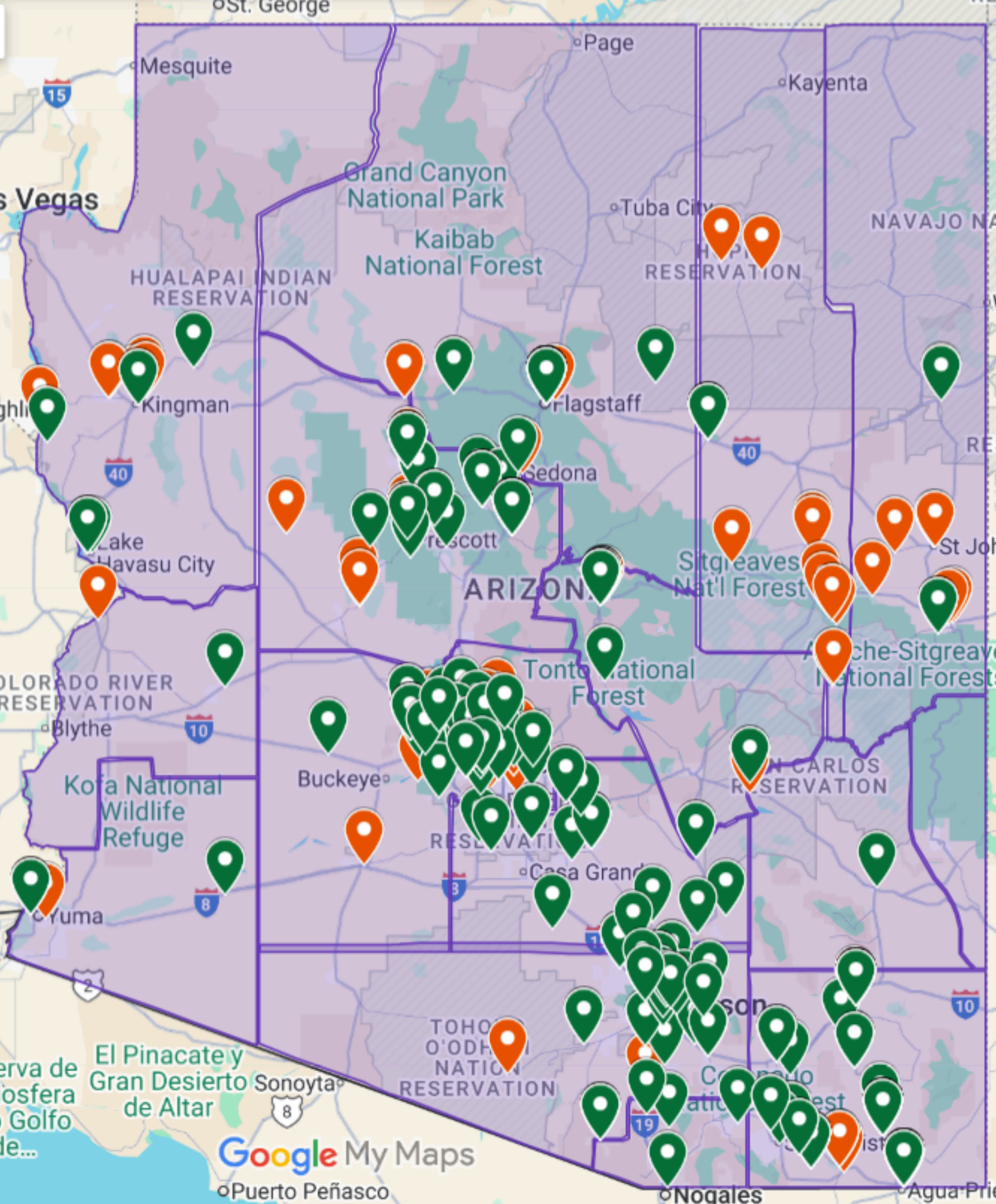
LOCAL FOOD PURCHASE ASSISTANCE



- A 3-year "Farm to Food Assistance" program of USDA-AMS.
- Improve food system resiliency.
- Serves feeding programs such as food banks, schools, nonprofit and community-based organizations serving rural, remote, and underserved individuals.
- Expand economic impact for local food producers; prioritizing socially disadvantaged groups.

OVERVIEW





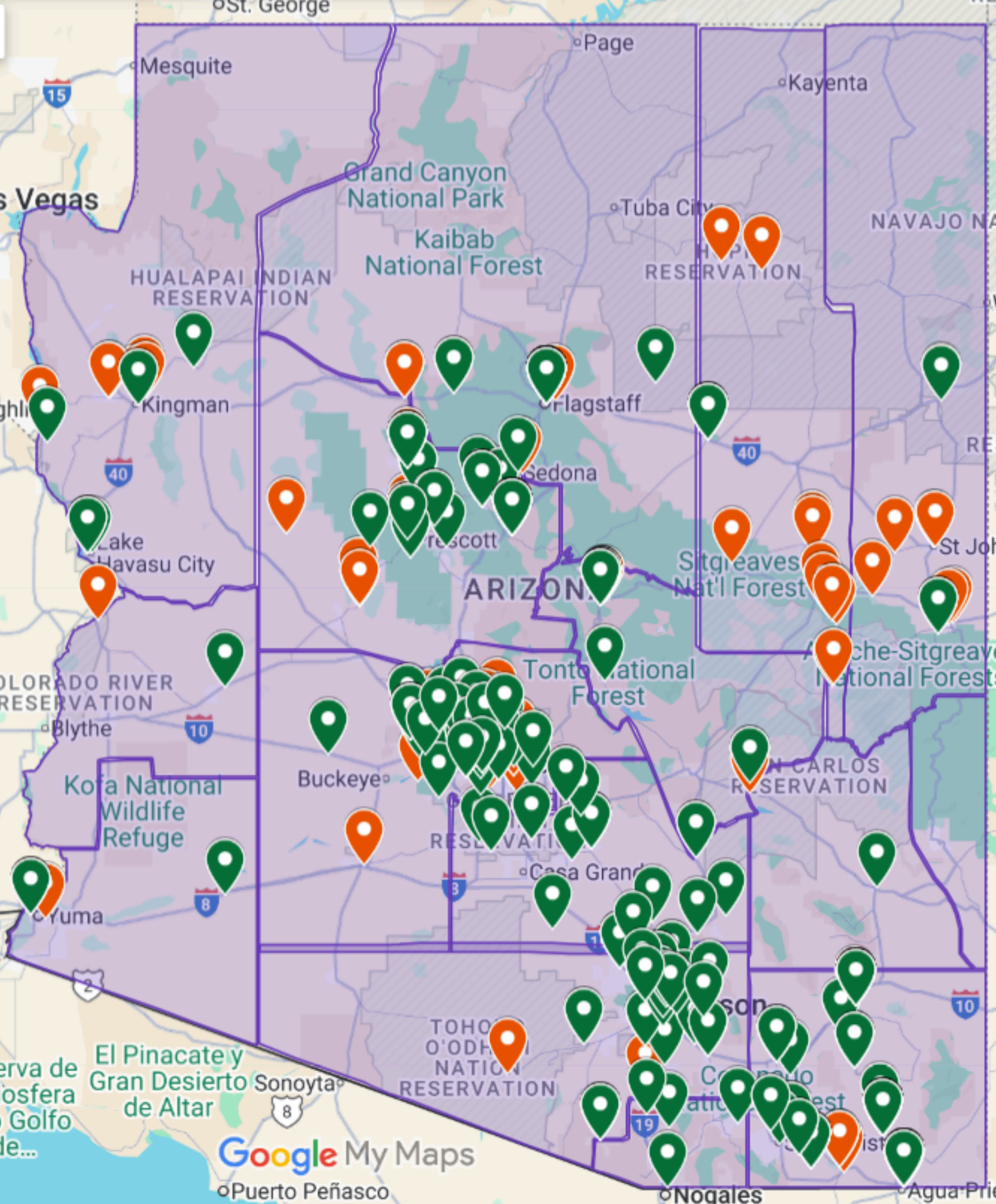
PARTICIPATION & DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM YEAR 2



\$4,770,768.61
FOOD PURCHASED

247 PRODUCERS

73 CITIES;
14/15 COUNTIES



PARTICIPATION & DISTRIBUTION

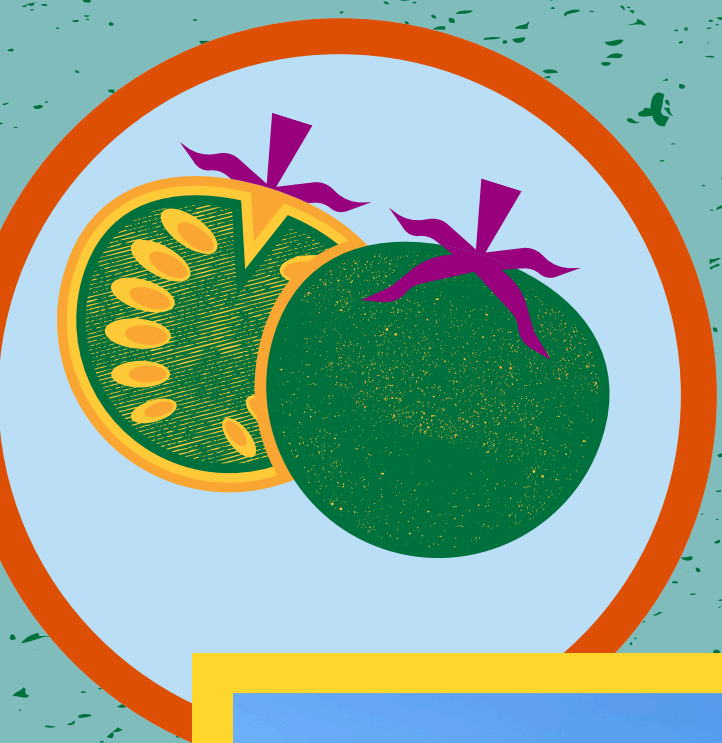
PROGRAM YEAR 2



142 DISTRIBUTION ORGS

**48 CITIES;
13/15 COUNTIES**

**110 FOOD PRODUCTS;
233 PRODUCE VARIETIES**



PROGRAM IMPACT



Reliable Market
Opportunity



Ability to Scale Up
Operations



Supports Local Food
Access

PROGRAM IMPACT

"PLAZ is filling a niche. PLAZ is giving 2nd and 3rd year farms the opportunity to learn and grow while serving very under-supported regions and communities."



"LFPA has allowed us to consistently deliver nourishing produce to individuals who are impacted by the harms of substance use in rural areas — neighbors who might otherwise face severe food scarcity. The produce grown by the hands of our local farmers is making its way onto the plates of those most in need of life-affirming access to healthy food, housing, and medical care..."



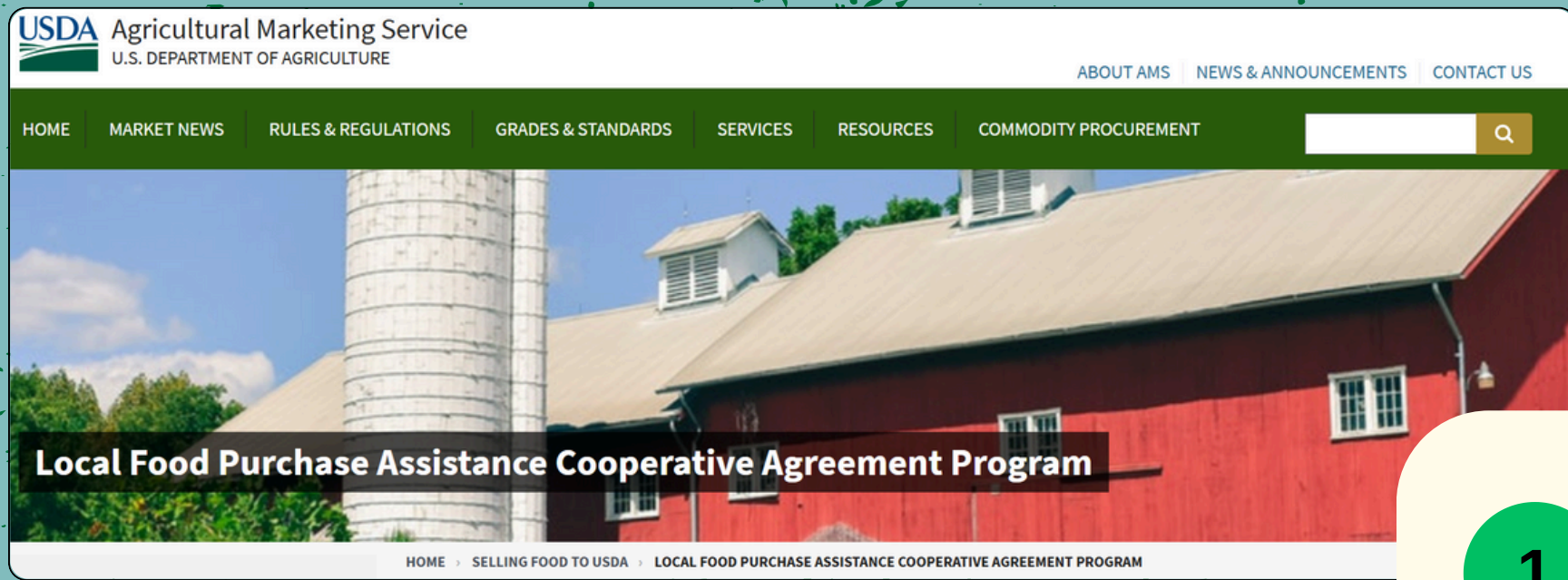
PROGRAM IMPACT

"I've been able to make meaningful connections within the agricultural community, including with local partners, which have been incredibly helpful along the way... I'm proud of the positive impact this experience has had on my farm and the community." - FOF Grower Feedback Survey



"The program has provided a reliable market for our produce, ensuring consistent sales and income for our network of farmers. With their support, we've been able to scale up our aggregation efforts, improving distribution efficiency and reducing waste." - FOF Grower Feedback Survey





PRESS RELEASE

USDA Invests \$1.7 Billion to Support Farmers, Deliver Nutrition Assistance, and Bolster Rural Economies

PUBLISHED: October 1, 2024

SHARE: [f](#) [X](#) [in](#)

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Local Food Purchase Assistance

Commodity Procurement Program

USDA-AMS is establishing cooperative agreements with states, territories, and federally recognized tribal governments for the purpose of supporting local, regional, and underserved farmers and producers through food purchases with the LFPA funds. These cooperative agreements will allow recipients to procure local and domestic foods that are unique to their geographic area and meets the needs of their population. Underserved communities will be the priority for distribution of the foods purchased through the program.

- The LFPA program allows applicants the flexibility to design innovative procurement programs that strengthen their local and regional food systems by purchasing foods that are healthy, nutritious, and unique to their geographic area within their state or territory.
- Food purchases must include both fresh and minimally processed foods. Any food or beverage product that meets the definition for domestic and local are permissible, including seafood. Local is defined as within the state or territory or within 400 miles of the distribution site.
- Funds will help increase the consumption of local food and build and expand economic opportunity for local and underserved producers, farmers and ranchers.
- These cooperative agreements will allow applicants to tailor food distribution to the needs of the population and feeding programs, including food banks, and organizations that serve underserved communities.
- The agreement holders will be required to provide quarterly performance and financial reports along with annual and final reports. Agreements may be up to two years in length.

For additional information regarding LFPA visit www.ams.usda.gov/selling-food-to-usda/lfpacap or contact Elizabeth Lober at Elizabeth.Lober@USDA.gov


December 2022 / USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



AGRICULTURE

USDA cancels \$1B in local food purchasing for schools, food banks

States have been notified that they will not receive 2025 funding for schools to buy food from nearby farms.



USDA ended the Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program and the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program. | Rogelio V. Solis/AP

By MARCIA BROWN
03/10/2025 08:29 PM EDT

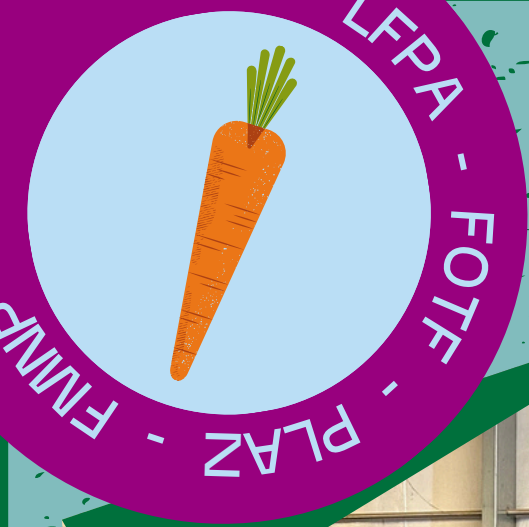
The Agriculture Department has axed two programs that gave schools and food banks money to buy food from local farms and ranchers, halting more than \$1 billion in federal spending.

Roughly \$660 million that schools and child care facilities were counting on to

LFPA: TIMELINE

- 1 Dec. 6th 2021: USDA -AMS releases Request for Proposals from States.
- 2 2022: AZ partners conduct focus groups and prepare proposal.
- 3 Oct. 2022: Award notice received.
- 4 Apr. 2023: funding becomes accessible.
- 5 Oct. 2024: USDA announces another round of 3 yr LFPA funding.
- 6 Feb. 2025: USDA terminates "LFPA 25"





LOOKING AHEAD: TRANSITIONS



- 1 March 2026: Marks the end of LFPA funding.
- 2 Exploring alternatives to sustain support for local food purchasing.
- 3 Tracking national policies.
 - SLFS / LFFC
- 4 Annual Impact Report: Year 2.
- 5 Share your story!





PURCHASE LOOKING

➤ 109 projects funded in 2.5 years. 42 currently active.

➤ Fall 2025 Call for proposals

- Final application period opening soon.

➤ How to apply.

➤ On track to complete spend down in full and on time.

✨ Join our email list to stay up-to-date!

EXAMPLE



Project Proposal & Budget

Fiscal Agent:

[Pat's Produce] | ATTN: [Pat A. Producer]

Distribution location 1: ABC Nonprofit | 123 Main Street, Tucson, AZ 85705

Distribution Contact: Jennifer Waverly, (555) 555-5555, | eatyourgreens@mail.com

Effective dates: [start date and end date]

Distribution location 2: Name, Address

Distribution Contact: Name, Contact phone, | email

Effective dates: [start date and end date]

I. Production and Partnership Plan

EXAMPLE 1 Aggregation

Distribution Dates	Distribution Location	Product	Specs	Quantity	Price	Total cost
Weekly for ten weeks beginning January 1, 2024	ABC Food Bank 123 Main Street, Phoenix, AZ 85000	Assorted Produce Boxes containing 4 items	Seasonal produce- including Kale, Broccoli, Buttercrunch head lettuce, and Carrots	125 boxes	\$14/box	\$1,750
						X 10 weeks
					TOTAL	\$17,500.00

I. Production and Partnership Plan

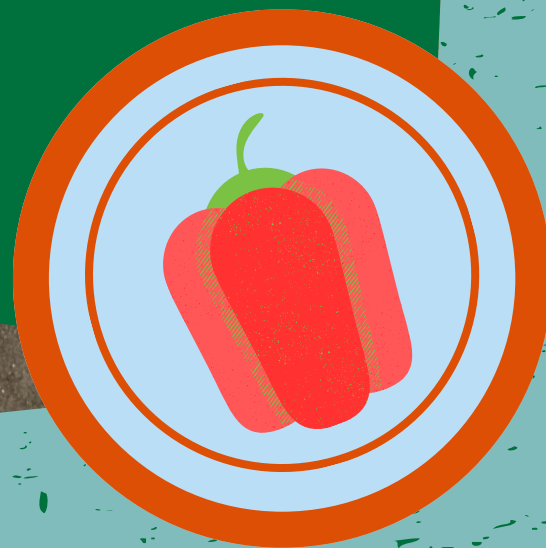
EXAMPLE 2 Bulk Deliveries

Distribution Dates	Distribution Location	Product	Specs	Quantity	Price	Total cost
Weekly for ten weeks beginning January 1, 2024	ABC Food Bank 123 Main Street, Phoenix, AZ 85000	Bulk Carrots	10 lb bags of Arizona-grown Carrots	100	\$8/Bag	\$800
Weekly for ten weeks beginning January 1, 2024	ABC Food Bank 123 Main Street, Phoenix, AZ 85000	Bulk Cabbage	Napa Cabbage, approx. 2 lb heads	75	\$5/head	\$375
						X 10 weeks
					TOTAL	\$11,750.00

FRIENDS OF THE FARM

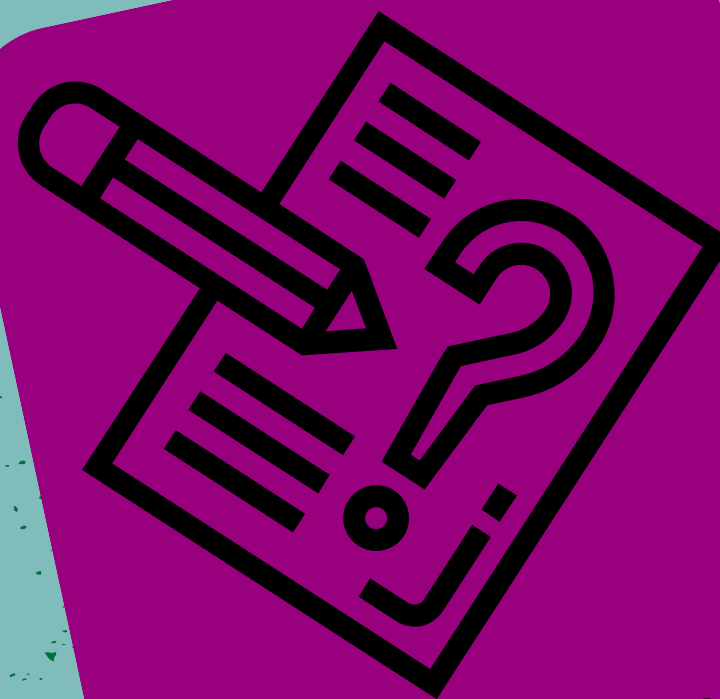
LOOKING AHEAD

- LFPA Term
 - Still time to apply!
 - Short term - 3-6 month contracts
 - September 1st to February 28th
 - Spot Purchasing
 - State Contract Term Reviews have concluded
 - March 1st - June 30th
 - Farmer Development Virtual Series - Apply to be a Guest Speaker!
 - Launch: Fall 2025
 - First sessions in October & November
 - Speaker Stipend: \$200 per session
 - Deadline August 15th
- ✨ Stay tuned for further updates!



QUESTIONS

What's on your mind?



Closing Poll time!
Three Q's





Local Food
Purchasing
Program Manager

Pinnacle
Prevention

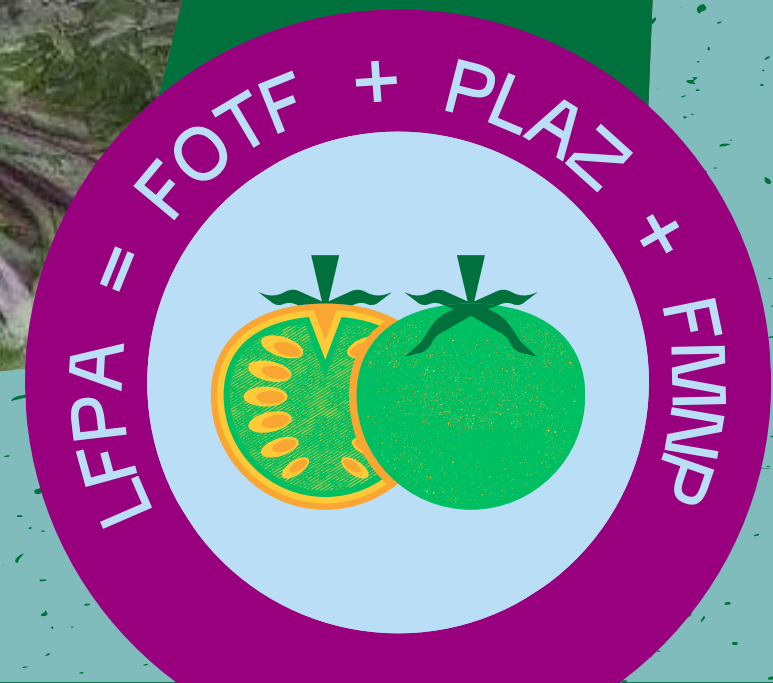
parkerfiler@pinnacle
prevention.org



Friends of the Farm
Program Manager

Arizona Food Bank
Network

erica@azfoodbanks.org



**LET'S CONTINUE
SUPPORTING**

OUR FARMERS!

Thank you for being here!

