

Regional Farm to Food Bank Program Disclaimer

New Mexico is pleased to be the recipient of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement (LFPA) funds. Because these funds are the result of a USDA agreement, New Mexico must comply with all provisions in the agreement.

Compliance of the agreement means:

- 1) Funds should be used to provide for the acquisition of locally produced food. Local food is defined by the USDA as food raised, produced, aggregated, stored, processed, and distributed where the final product is marketed to consumers. The food must come from within the state or 400 miles from the end distribution point (this may include out-of-state purchases but must be domestic).
- 2) Funds should support economic opportunities for small- to mid-sized producers with an emphasis on efforts to purchase from socially disadvantaged producers. The definition of a socially disadvantaged producer per the USDA is: A farmer or rancher who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group. A socially disadvantaged group is a group whose members have been subject to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and, where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.
- 3) Funds should support local food access for underserved communities. The USDA's definition of underserved community: "populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life".
- 4) Funds should be used to strengthen the regional food supply chain and improve its resiliency.

We must be compliant to receive reimbursements for all purchases and expenses of the Regional Farm to Food Bank program. Full compliance does not preclude the project specialists from purchasing with larger New Mexico producers, nor from New Mexico producers not defined as socially disadvantaged.

However, we do reserve the right to refuse purchasing of products quoted at prices above fair market value, from businesses who are disrespectful of our staff, and/or from producers offering foods that are either not desirable as specified by food banks, or not allowable per terms of the agreement.