

117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 8707

To provide increased financial assistance for farmers markets and farmers' market nutrition programs, to increase local agricultural production through food bank in-house production and local farmer contracting, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 12, 2022

Ms. KAPTUR (for herself, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. RYAN, and Ms. BROWN of Ohio) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide increased financial assistance for farmers markets and farmers' market nutrition programs, to increase local agricultural production through food bank in-house production and local farmer contracting, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as “Farmers Market and Food
5 Bank Local Revitalization Act of 2022”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Food insecurity, epidemic levels of obesity,
4 hypertension, diabetes, and youth osteoporosis are
5 caused by improper nutrition yielded by lack of nu-
6 tritious, reliable, and locally available healthy food
7 options.

8 (2) The American Diabetes Association esti-
9 mated a 41-percent increase in costs of diagnosed
10 diabetes from 2007 (\$174,000,000,000) to 2012
11 (\$245,000,000,000) with most of these costs (62
12 percent) coming from senior health programs such
13 as Medicare and Medicaid.

14 (3) Since sequestration in 2008, there has been
15 no funding increase for the Seniors Farmers' Market
16 Nutrition Program.

17 (4) From 2008 to 2020, the moderate at home
18 food cost for a family of 2 (aged 51–70 years old)
19 increased by an average of \$70 a month. Seniors
20 Farmers' Market Nutrition Program funding has
21 not kept pace with such inflation.

22 (5) According to the Department of Agri-
23 culture, Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Pro-
24 gram has a total program funding backlog of
25 \$20,065,021 and a season benefit level backlog of

1 \$16,120,741 across all participating States, terri-
2 tories, and Native American Tribes.

3 (6) Roughly 1 in 10 United States senior citi-
4 zens (about 5,146,000) are forced to live well below
5 the Federal poverty level, and the Seniors Farmers'
6 Market Nutrition Program is only able to reach
7 about 725,000 due to inadequate funding.

8 (7) Since sequestration in 2008, funding for
9 farmers' market nutrition programs has fallen by
10 over \$6,000,000 and never rebounded.

11 (8) The farmers' market nutrition program is a
12 vital safeguard for the nearly 1 in 7 children who
13 will be born into poverty in the United States and
14 will be at nutritional risk.

15 (9) According to the Department of Agri-
16 culture, the farmers' market nutrition program has
17 a total program and seasonal benefit funding back-
18 log of \$6,198,432 across all participating States,
19 territories, and Native American Tribes.

20 (10) In the United States, food banks will pro-
21 vide meals to 1 in 7 people.

22 (11) Many food banks share special relation-
23 ships with local farmers who often donate their
24 crops to food banks. The partnership allows for

1 more efficient and sustainable procurement for food
2 banks.

3 (12) Assisting food banks to grow their own
4 food will aid local procurement and allow food banks
5 to serve as farming resources to their communities,
6 especially to those who are food insecure.

7 (13) The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018
8 specifically required looking at ways to incorporate
9 local goods to reduce food waste.

10 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

11 (1) to increase and enhance funding for farm-
12 ers' market nutrition programs to support seniors,
13 food insecure families, and to increase market capac-
14 ity for local farmers;

15 (2) to provide funding assistance for the expan-
16 sion and construction of farmers markets in both
17 rural and urban food desert areas; and

18 (3) to increase local food production through
19 partnership with food banks by local farmer con-
20 tracting and funding assistance to food banks to
21 grow necessary produce through traditional or con-
22 trolled environment agricultural farming.

1 **SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS**
2 **TO EXPAND PARTICIPATION IN THE SENIORS**
3 **FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM.**

4 (a) INCREASED AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
5 TIONS.—To expand and address season benefit level and
6 total backlogs of the Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition
7 Program, there is authorized to be appropriated—

8 (1) for fiscal year 2022, an increase to
9 \$60,000,000;

10 (2) for fiscal year 2023, an increase to
11 \$70,000,000; and

12 (3) for each of the fiscal years 2024 through
13 2028, and increase to \$100,000,000.

14 (b) BENEFIT ENHANCEMENT.—For the purpose of
15 expanding access to the Seniors Farmers' Market Nutri-
16 tion Program, funds appropriated under subsection (a)
17 shall be used for the following purposes:

18 (1) Program eligibility income limit shall in-
19 crease to 200 percent of the Federal poverty guide-
20 line.

21 (2) The minimum individual benefit shall be in-
22 creased to \$35.

23 (3) The maximum individual benefit shall be in-
24 creased to \$80.

1 **SEC. 4. MINIMUM INDIVIDUAL BENEFIT INCREASE UNDER**
2 **WIC FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PRO-**
3 **GRAM.**

4 Section 17(m) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42
5 U.S.C. 1786(m)) is amended—

6 (1) by striking “paragraph (10)” both places it
7 appears and inserting “paragraph (9)”;

8 (2) in paragraph (5)(C)—

9 (A) by striking “\$10” and inserting
10 “\$35”; and

11 (B) by striking “\$30” and inserting
12 “\$60”; and

13 (3) in paragraph (9)(A), by striking “2015”
14 and inserting “2025”.

15 **SEC. 5. INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING FOR FARMERS MAR-**
16 **KETS.**

17 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Agriculture shall
18 make loans, loan guarantees, and grants to public agencies
19 and nonprofit organizations for—

20 (1) the construction of new farmers markets; or

21 (2) the improvement or rehabilitation of exist-
22 ing farmers markets, including by adding or improv-
23 ing payment technologies used in such farmers mar-
24 kets.

25 (b) **ELIGIBILITY.**—To be eligible to receive a loan,
26 loan guarantee, or grant under subsection (a) with respect

1 to a farmers market the public agency or nonprofit organi-
2 zation involved shall—

3 (1) demonstrate financial need as determined
4 by the Secretary; and

5 (2) commit to reserving at least 50 percent of
6 the floor area of the farmers market for the sale of
7 products that are produced locally, as determined by
8 the Secretary, by farmers, ranchers, or aquaculture,
9 mariculture, or fisheries operators, or by associa-
10 tions of farmers, ranchers, or such operators.

11 (c) COST SHARING.—

12 (1) GRANTS.—The amount of a grant under
13 this section shall not exceed 25 percent of the cost
14 of the activity for which the grant is made.

15 (2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The combined amount
16 of a grant made and loan made or guaranteed under
17 this section shall not exceed 80 percent of the cost
18 of the activity for which the grant or loan is made
19 or guaranteed.

20 (d) INTEREST RATE.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—A loan made by the Sec-
22 retary under subsection (a) shall bear interest at the
23 rate equivalent to the rate of interest charged on
24 Treasury securities of comparable maturity on the
25 date the loan is approved.

1 (2) DURATION.—The interest rate referred to
2 in paragraph (1) with respect to a loan referred to
3 in such paragraph shall remain in effect for the term
4 of the loan.

5 (e) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Cred-
6 it Corporation, the Secretary shall make available to carry
7 out this section \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022
8 through 2027.

9 **SEC. 6. PILOT PROGRAM FOR FOOD BANKS AND LOCAL**
10 **FARMER CONTRACTING FOR LOCAL PRO-**
11 **CUREMENT.**

12 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Agriculture
13 shall establish a pilot grant program in which food banks
14 may voluntarily contract with their local farmers for them
15 to grow produce for food bank programs to promote local
16 procurement of produce. Food banks in economically de-
17 pressed or food dessert areas shall be given priority to re-
18 ceive grants under this section.

19 (b) METHODS.—Under contracts made by food banks
20 with grants received under subsection (a), local farmers
21 may grow produce through traditional or controlled envi-
22 ronmental agriculture farming.

23 (c) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Cred-
24 it Corporation, the Secretary shall make available to carry

1 out this section \$250,000 for the fiscal years of 2022 and
2 2023.

3 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR SEN-**
4 **IORS FARMERS’ MARKET NUTRITION PRO-**
5 **GRAM.**

6 Section 4402(a) of the Farm Security and Rural In-
7 vestment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3007(a)) is amended by
8 striking “2023” and inserting “2028”.

9 **SEC. 8. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**

10 Not later than 180 days after effective date of this
11 Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit a report to
12 the Congress that contains a review of the effect of this
13 Act on local procurement of food, local farmers, and the
14 communities involved.

15 **SEC. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

16 This Act shall take effect 120 days after the date of
17 the enactment of this Act.

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