

STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

USDA Seeks Partner to Evaluate Impact of Food Supply Chain Funding

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9, 2023 – United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development today announced that it is inviting proposals to evaluate the impact of the agency’s grant and loan programs on regional food supply chains.

The agency is making \$750,000 available to measure how well USDA Rural Development programs are creating market opportunities for small- and mid-sized farmers and independent agricultural businesses throughout the food supply chain.

In 2022, the Biden-Harris Administration and USDA launched the [Food Transformation Initiative](#) to create a more distributed and fair food system.

USDA Rural Development has provided funding for several programs under this initiative, including the [Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loan Program](#), the [Healthy Food Financing Initiative](#), the [Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program](#) and the [Meat and Poultry Intermediary Lending Program](#).

The agency is making the funds announced today available to show how USDA Rural Development’s investments in local and regional food supply chains have:

- Created a more resilient, diverse and secure food system.
- Resulted in more fair and accessible food systems with more and better market opportunities.
- Led to more economically viable farm and food businesses and healthy rural communities.

The findings will help guide USDA’s future investments in the food supply chain.

To be eligible for the funding, an organization must be a public or private sector institution with five or more years of experience conducting research on U.S. food systems or evaluations of federally funded programs to strengthen food supply chains.

Additional information on this funding opportunity is available [Grants.gov](#). Completed applications must be submitted via Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. ET on Sept. 8, 2023.

This funding opportunity answers President Biden’s call to federal agencies to use the best science and data available for decision-making and gather the best evidence to tackle complex policy challenges. Learn more about the [Presidential Memorandum on Restoring Trust in Government Through Scientific Integrity and Evidence-Based Policymaking](#).

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