

Stakeholder Announcement

USDA Seeks Applications for Funding to Support Local and Regional Food Systems

(April 30, 2014)

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) is accepting applications from farmers, ranchers, and rural businesses for loan guarantees to support local or regional food production. The loan guarantees are being provided through USDA Rural Development's [Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program \(B&I\)](#), which provides financial backing for rural business development in partnership with private-sector lenders.

The 2014 Farm Bill authorized Rural Development to set aside 5 percent of its annual B&I funding for local and regional food projects. Support for local foods is a key part of President Obama's plan to strengthen rural communities and promote rural economic growth.

For more information about how to apply for Rural Development B&I loan guarantees for local food production, see [page 24393 of the April 30, 2014 Federal Register](#).

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).