



Farmers' Market and Food Bank Local Revitalization Act of 2023

The Farmers Market and Food Bank Revitalization Act:

- Increases market capacity for local farmers by increasing and enhancing funding for the Seniors and for the Women, Infants, and Children Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs (SFMNP and WIC FMNP) to support the elderly and support food insecure families.
- Provides funding assistance for the expansion, construction, and updating of farmers markets in rural, suburban, and urban food desert areas.
- Increases local food production through partnership with food banks by local farmer contracting and funding assistance to grow necessary produce through traditional or through controlled environment agricultural farming.

Section 2 – Findings and Purpose: Fresh and local produce from farmers markets supports a healthy food source for those most in need of healthy foods, namely seniors, women, infants, and children, and recognizes that funding for the WIC FMNP has fallen since 2008.

Section 3 – Authorization and Additional Authorization of Appropriations for Seniors FMNP:

Authorizes \$60M per year in appropriations for the SFMNP in FY24, \$70M in FY25, and \$100M in FY26-28. The minimum individual benefit is increased to \$35, and the maximum is removed. Program eligibility income limit increased is to 200% of Federal poverty guideline.

Section 4 – Minimum Individual Benefit Increase under the WIC FMNP: Minimum individual benefit is increased to \$35 and maximum benefit increased to \$60 through 2028.

Section 5 – Infrastructure Funding for Farmers Markets: The Secretary of Agriculture will make loans, loan guarantees, and grants available for the construction of new or rehabilitation of existing farmers markets. \$50 million will be available, through the Commodity Credit Corporation, each year through FY29.

Section 6 – Pilot Program for Food Banks and Local Farmer Contracting for Local Procurement:

The Secretary of Agriculture will establish a pilot program in which food banks are allowed to contract with local farmers to grow locally sourced produce for food bank programs. The aim of this is to promote local producers and create strong connections between community farmers and local partners. \$7,500,000 will be available for 15 separate pilot programs funded at \$500,000 each through the Commodity Credit Corporation in FY24 and FY25.

Please join Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH-9) in supporting this legislation to expand funding for essential nutrition programs for seniors, women, infants, and children. Not only does the bill support local farmers and their bottom line, but it also increases access to affordable, nutritious, and healthy food options. Loans and grants are made available for new farmers markets to be built and current ones to be updated for the 21st century. Finally, through the promotion of local procurement through a pilot program, food banks will be able to contract with their local farmers. This will help protect food banks from supply chain issues and further solidify local community ties. The **Farmers Market and Food Bank Local Revitalization Act of 2023** is a win-win for local producers and consumers.