

PUBLIC NOTICE

AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Notice of Availability of Grant Funds

2024 State Food Purchase Program – Gleaning Support Grant – July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024

Take notice that, in compliance with N.J.S.A. 52:14-34.4 et seq., the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) hereby publishes notice of grants, subject to the availability of funds, in the following program:

a. Name of Grant Program: State Food Purchase Program – Gleaning Support.

b. Purpose: The State Food Purchase Program (SFPP) was initially funded in Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 through the Governor’s Hunger Initiative. Funds were provided for purchases of nutritious foods and infrastructure support for Emergency Feeding Organizations (EFOs) and Local Distribution Agencies (LDAs). A cornerstone of the SFPP is the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables based on a local, regional, and national hierarchy. These products are severely lacking in the diets of many food-insecure people who receive food assistance. It has been well documented that families with limited income often do not consume enough fresh fruits and vegetables.

In addition to the purchase of such items through the SFPP for EFOs and LDAs, organizations that feed New Jersey’s food insecure also receive donations of fresh fruits and vegetables via gleaning operations. Gleaning, a strategy for eliminating food waste on farms, redirects gleaned food items from New Jersey farms to pantries, shelters, soup kitchens, EFOs, and LDAs. These gleaning operations are a legitimate complement to the goals of the SFPP as they serve to provide additional fresh items to the food insecure. These items are provided at no cost to

the donating or receiving agency. Costs (such as labor and transportation of gleaned foods from farms to the receiving agencies) are absorbed by the gleaning organization. To assist, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, through the SFPP, has identified funds to be allocated to support gleaning activities (the Gleaning Support Grant).

Gleaning Support Grant funds to support gleaning activities can be requested from NJDA by interested, eligible non-profit entities who are gleaning from New Jersey farms and distributing such gleaned food to only New Jersey organizations that help feed New Jersey's food insecure. The grant will be limited to up to four awardees. The eligibility requirements are included in the application packet.

- Non-profit entity owned and operated in New Jersey - A Letter of Determination from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) documenting non-profit status is required.
- An implementation plan stating how a grant would support gleaning program activities.
- Evidence of operating a gleaning program for a minimum of 2 years within the past three calendar years in New Jersey.

“Gleaning activities” means gleaning New Jersey farm fields, collecting such gleaned New Jersey grown products, and distributing them to organizations that help feed New Jersey's food insecure. Examples of gleaning activities eligible for grant support include, but are not limited to: entering into gleaning agreements with New Jersey farmers; providing support for vehicles and drivers by paying for mileage, buying containers for transport of gleaned products; buying coolers and ice for transport and interim storage of gleaned foods; obtaining innovation to improve efficiency and reduce costs of distribution systems; developing volunteer networks; and adding administrative support to manage and/or coordinate larger operation logistics.

c. Potential Funding: A total of \$300,000, subject to the availability of funds, is anticipated to be accessible to eligible non-profit applicant organizations.

d. Organizations that may apply for Funding from NJDA: Public and private non-profit organizations may apply for funding to support gleaning activities. Applicants must be legal entities and have the legal capacity to contract. Single organizations and institutions are encouraged to apply as project partners. Organizations that currently receive State Food Purchase Program funding are **not** eligible to apply for Gleaning Support Grant funds. Applications for grant funds should describe how the project potentially impacts, and produces measurable outcomes for, New Jersey's food insecure.

e. Procedure for Organizations to Apply: Application packets will be distributed by NJDA to the organizations that have previously received the grant and to any other entities currently engaged in gleaning activities on New Jersey farms that request an application packet. The same application packet will be published on the NJDA website. Applications for a grant are to be submitted to NJDA electronic address shown below.

f. Deadline by which Applications must be received: Completed applications must be submitted via email to Rose.chamberlain@ag.nj.gov **no later** than noon on August 31st, 2023. Incomplete and/or late submission will be determined ineligible.

g. Date by which Notices of Decision shall be mailed: A Notice of Decision regarding the award of a grant shall be sent to each applicant no later than September 30th, 2023.