

PUBLIC NOTICE

AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Notice of Availability of Grant Funds

Fiscal Year 2026 State Food Purchase Program – Farm Gleaning and Seafood Recovery Support

Grant – July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026

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 – Farm Gleaning and Seafood Recovery 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, vegetables, and seafood 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 fruit, vegetables, and seafood.

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 through farm gleaning and seafood recovery operations. Gleaning, a strategy for eliminating food waste on farms, and seafood recovery, a strategy for redirecting surplus seafood from fisheries, docks, and markets, complement the goals of the SFPP by providing 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 are absorbed by the gleaning or seafood recovery organization. To assist, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, through the SFPP, has identified funds to be allocated to support these activities (the Gleaning and Seafood Recovery Support Grant).

Grant funds can be requested from the NJDA by interested, eligible non-profit 501(c)3 entities that are either gleaning from New Jersey farms or recovering seafood from New Jersey sources and distributing such food to only New Jersey organizations that help feed New Jersey's food insecure residents. The eligibility requirements are included in the application packet. Please note the following:

Gleaning Organizations:

- The applicant must be a non-profit, 501(c)3 entity formed and operated in New Jersey. A Letter of Determination from the IRS documenting non-profit status is required.
- The applicant must submit an implementation plan stating how a grant would support its gleaning/recovery program activities.
- "Gleaning activities" include the active involvement in the hands-on work of harvesting surplus produce from farms, orchards, and gardens.

Seafood Recovery Organizations:

- The applicant must be a non-profit 501(c)3 entity formed and operated in New Jersey. A Letter of Determination from the IRS documenting non-profit status is required.
- The applicant must submit an implementation plan stating how a grant would support its seafood recovery program activities.
- "Seafood recovery activities" include the active involvement in the hands-on work of recovering surplus seafood from fisheries, docks, or markets.

Examples of activities eligible for grant support include, but are not limited to: entering into agreements with New Jersey farmers or fisheries; providing support for vehicles and drivers by paying for mileage; buying containers for transport of gleaned or recovered products; buying coolers and ice for transport and interim storage of 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 \$518,000, 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 the NJDA:** Public and private non-profit New Jersey-based organizations may apply for funding to support farm gleaning or seafood recovery 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 this grant.

e. **Procedure for Organizations to Apply:** Application packets will be distributed by the NJDA to the organizations that have previously received the grant and to any other entities currently engaged in farm gleaning or seafood recovery activities in New Jersey 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 the NJDA electronic address shown below.

f. **Deadline by which Applications Must be Received:** Completed applications must be submitted by email to both Rose.chamberlain@ag.nj.gov and david.defrange@ag.nj.gov no later than noon, 12:00 P.M., on August 29, 2025. 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 30, 2025.