

Food Policy in Mississippi

An Overview of Current State and National Efforts to
Address Food Insecurity, Fund Feeding, & Strengthen Food
Systems

Prepared for Mississippi Food Policy Council by Alex Akre, Sophie
Hathaway, Meghana Iragavarapu, Olivia Lofton, Wesley Neal, and
Justin McMahan

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL- MISSISSIPPI DELTA PROJECT | FOOD JUSTICE TEAM

Index

Funding Feeding

The Emergency Food Assistance Program [TEFAP]	2-5
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program [SNAP]	6-7
Medicaid Section 1115 Waivers.....	8-10

Sourcing Food

Farmer + Supplemental Food Provider Partnerships	11-12
Other Agricultural Policies	13
School + Food Provider Partnerships.....	14-16

Accessing “Additional Outreach” Communities..... 17-20

Appendix

National Food Systems Work.....	21-22
---------------------------------	-------

FUNDING FEEDING

TEFAP

TEFAP, or “The Emergency Food Assistance Program” was established in 1983 by the Emergency Food Assistance Act which directed the USDA to distribute federally purchased commodities, such as fruits, vegetables, dairy, meats, and grains to food banks, food pantries, and other emergency feeding organizations serving low-income Americans.¹

TEFAP provides food commodities and funds to states and emergency feeding organizations through:²

1. Entitlement commodities
2. Administrative grants to support food storage and distributions
3. USDA donated commodities (“bonus commodities”)

Entitlement commodities are the number of food items each state is entitled to and are determined by a USDA formula that takes into account state poverty and unemployment.³ How much aid a state gets from TEFAP in total is determined by that formula, but also by the availability of commodities, payment of storage and distribution funds, matching of funds for the program, and bonus commodities.⁴ Each state agency that distributes TEFAP foods or receives administrative funds for food storage and distribution costs must have an operational plan approved by the USDA and provide at least 40% of administrative funding to the organizations distributing the food.⁵

TEFAP funding and commodities are administered at a state level by a “state distributing agency.” Organizations that are eligible for TEFAP aid are called “recipient agencies.”⁶ A majority of these recipient agencies are classified as “emergency feeding organizations,” like food banks, food pantries, soup kitchens, etc.⁷ The state distributing agency for Mississippi is the Mississippi Department of Human Services’ Division of Economic Assistance Eligibility.⁸ The MS Department of Human Services then partners with the selected recipient agencies—Mid-South Food Bank, Mississippi Food Network, and Catholic Charities of South Mississippi—to get the food into the hands of those in need in Mississippi.⁹

After the Mississippi Food Network, Catholic Charities of South Mississippi, and Mid-South Food Bank receive the TEFAP commodities, they then partner with smaller organizations (churches, food pantries, youth programs, etc.) to distribute the food.¹⁰ Below is information on how to connect with each recipient agency in order to become a partner:

Mississippi Food Network:

- <https://www.msfoodnet.org/partners/resources/>
- (601) 973-7090
- rharrison@msfoodnet.org

Catholic Charities of South Mississippi:

- (228) 822-0836

Mid-South Food Bank:

- <https://www.midsouthfoodbank.org/partner-agencies>
- https://assets.speakcdn.com/assets/2749/agency_partnership_agreement_2023 - final-2023041109523297.pdf
- Contact Belynda Terry at bterry@midsouthfoodbank.org

Comparing Mississippi's TEFAP Performance to its Neighbors

To contextualize how Mississippi administers TEFAP, the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia and Louisiana were chosen as comparison states to Mississippi based on similar agricultural production, nutritional challenges, extent of reliance on food assistance programs, and culinary traditions. The following table compares Mississippi to the aforementioned states on the basis of their: (1) household income guidelines for program recipients, which are based on Federal Poverty Levels; (2) recipient requirements, which clarify whether recipients must show proof of identification or income in order to receive food; (3) geographic requirements, such as whether the recipient must reside in the same county as the distributor from which they receive food; (4) TEFAP food orders for federally purchased fruits, vegetables, dairy, meats, grains, etc., which may be placed by the food bank state association, local food banks, or a partnership between the state and selected food banks; (5) the share of federal administrative funds that the state passes on to the local distributor; (6) distribution frequency, such as whether the state or the local food bank maintains discretion in deciding how many times a recipient may receive food per month; and (7) mobile and direct distribution, such as whether states use vans or buses to transport food to local households.¹¹ These policy comparisons are meant to enable policymakers “to improve the management of the program in their state based on the experience of other states.”¹²

¹ Congressional Research Service, TEFAP Background and Funding (December 2023).
<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R45408>.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ Mississippi Department of Human Services-Division of Economic Assistance Eligibility, TEFAP (2023).
<https://www.mdhs.ms.gov/help/emergency-food-assistance/#:~:text=Distributing%20food%20to%20local%20food.income%20Mississippians%20at%20no%20cost>.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ USDA Food and Nutrition Service, State/Local Agency (last visited January 30, 2024).
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tefap/state-local-agency>. Contact information for Mississippi's TEFAP distributing agency can be found here: https://www.fns.usda.gov/fns-contacts?sort_bef_combine=title_fulltext_ASC&f%5B0%5D=fns_contact_related_programs%3A27&f%5B1%5D=fns_contact_state%3A297.

¹² All table data has been compiled from Feeding America's State Guide to TEFAP. See Feeding America, The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP): State Guide (February 2020). https://feedingamericaaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Resource_Feeding-America-TEFAP-State-by-State-Guide.pdf. The guide also includes policy comparisons for all 50 states plus D.C. in addition to the comparisons listed here.

State	Income Guidelines	Recipient Requirements	Geographic Requirements	TEFAP Food Orders	Administrative Funds	Distribution Frequency	Mobile/Direct Distribution
AL ¹	≤ 130% of Federal Poverty Level	Alabama citizen within geographic boundaries of distributing agency	Distributed within regions of four main food banks	State orders and allocates to four distributing agencies	Typically passes through 90% or more for TEFAP Storage and Distribution	Food banks determine quantity and types of TEFAP commodities	Allowed
AR ²	≤ 130% of Federal Poverty Level	ID required for distribution	Recipients should reside in same county as TEFAP distributor	Deliveries made directly to food banks	All federal funds passed to food banks	Rates established by commodity distribution	Allowed
GA ³	≤ 130% of Federal Poverty Level	Complete Household Eligibility Criteria Form	Prefer access in county of residence, neighboring county allowed	Sole distribution network via Feeding America food banks	At least 40% passed to food banks	No limits on distribution frequency	Allowed
LA ⁴	≤ 130% of Federal Poverty Level	Picture ID required, no documentation needed in crisis for first visit	Receive TEFAP near zip code, divided between five food banks	Annually provided total amount for selection, state enters orders into WBSCM	100% of storage and distribution funds passed to food banks	Based on availability, must be based on household size	Allowed
MS ⁵	≤ 135% of Federal Poverty Level	Self-declaration; no state ID laws	Recipients can receive TEFAP foods from any distributor	Mississippi Food Network, Mid-South Food Bank, and Catholic Charities of Mississippi	Passes through no less than federally required 40%	Determined by the food bank	Allowed

¹ Alabama State Department of Education, State Plan: The Emergency Food Assistance Program (2019).
<https://www.alabamaachieves.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/ALSDE-TEFAP-STATE-PLAN.pdf>.

² Arkansas Department of Human Services-Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, TEFAP: The Emergency Food Assistance Program (2018).
<https://tefap.ade.arkansas.gov/ade/tefap/Documents/TEFAPPProgram/TEFAP%20MANUAL.pdf>.

³ Georgia Department of Human Services-Division of Family & Children Services, The Emergency Food Assistance Program Overview (last visited January 29, 2024). <https://dfcs.georgia.gov/emergency-food-assistance-program-overview>.

⁴ Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Food distribution and assistance (last visited January 29, 2024).
<https://www.ldaf.la.gov/food/distribution-assistance>.

⁵ Mississippi Department of Human Services-Division of Economic Assistance Eligibility, TEFAP (2023).
<https://www.mdhs.ms.gov/help/emergency-food-assistance/#:~:text=Distributing%20food%20to%20local%20food,income%20Mississippians%20at%20no%20cost>

SNAP

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a federally-funded safety-net program that aims to “provid[e] food benefits to low-income families to supplement their grocery budget so they can afford the nutritious food essential to health and well-being.”¹ SNAP is a vital source of food assistance for many community members that are facing food insecurity; by enacting public policies that strengthen and expand SNAP, multiple states have expanded access to nutrition support for food-insecure individuals. These policies include:

1. Expanding the Population Eligible to Receive SNAP Benefits

Many individuals facing food insecurity are precluded from participating in SNAP because of federal rules that attach certain restrictions on program participation, such as asset and income tests. While it’s sometimes possible for states to receive permission from the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to waive certain of these requirements, states can always use their own money to supplement SNAP and extend coverage to populations that would otherwise be ineligible per federal regulations. Massachusetts, for instance, provides state SNAP benefits to documented immigrants, many of whom would otherwise be ineligible to participate in SNAP under federal regulations.²

2. Making it Easier for Those Already Eligible to Enroll in SNAP

Even those who qualify for SNAP benefits may not receive food assistance if they face barriers to enrolling in the program. To ensure that eligible residents are able to access the benefits for which they qualify, many states have sought to make the SNAP enrollment process easier. Nearly all states allow eligible participants to apply for benefits online.³ Nonprofits in some states, like Alaska, have created a tool that allows residents to text a hotline that can determine their SNAP eligibility within minutes,⁴ while other states, such as Oklahoma, run hotlines that provide callers with personal assistance in filling out their SNAP applications.⁵ Many states also have created separate, streamlined applications for populations who may face additional barriers to applying, such as Arizona’s simplified application for the elderly⁶ or Pennsylvania’s shorter application for those with disabilities.⁷

3. Bundling SNAP Enrollment with Other Safety-net Program Enrollment

Another way to simplify the application process for eligible SNAP participants is to combine the application process for SNAP with that of other safety-net programs. For instance, Nebraska’s SNAP application is combined with those of the state’s programs providing cash assistance, childcare subsidies, home energy assistance, and more.⁸

In addition to simplifying the application process, bundling SNAP with other safety-net program benefits provides SNAP recipients with additional resources that can better protect them from food insecurity. Vermont, for example, provides some SNAP recipients with telephone bill and weatherization help.⁹

4. Providing Better Nutrition Support Through SNAP

When it comes to incentivizing better nutrition through SNAP, states have implemented a range of different policies. Perhaps most commonly, states will provide additional SNAP benefits to those who spend their benefits on nutritious foods, either by doubling the amount of SNAP dollars available to spend on fruits and vegetables at select, participating markets (as Mississippi does with its “Double Up Bucks” program)¹⁰ or by crediting the amount spent on fruits and vegetables back to an EBT card as SNAP dollars (as in Massachusetts).¹¹ Many states also operate “SNAP-Ed” programs, such as Maine’s program that provides SNAP participants with free nutrition classes, healthy recipes, meal-planning guidance, and tips for saving money while food shopping.¹² Mississippi’s own SNAP-Ed program is run by Mississippi State University Extension.¹³

¹ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), USDA Food and Nutrition Service (last visited January 27, 2024). <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program>.

² Sam Drysdale, “State lawmakers restore food benefits to immigrants with legal status”, WBUR (December 12, 2023). <https://www.wbur.org/news/2023/12/12/snap-benefits-restored-immigrants>.

³ E.g., AccessMS, Access.MS.gov (last visited January 30, 2024). <https://www.access.ms.gov/consumer/home/>.

⁴ Anne Hillman, “New, easy tool to check SNAP eligibility could help Alaska’s economy”, Alaska Public Media (February 8, 2016). <https://alaskapublic.org/2016/02/08/new-easy-tool-to-check-snap-eligibility-could-help-alaskas-economy/>.

⁵ Call the SNAP Hotline, Hunger Free Oklahoma (last visited January 27, 2024).
<https://www.hungerfreeok.org/resources/snap/>.

⁶ Elderly Simplified Application Project (ESAP), Arizona Department of Economic Security (last visited January 27, 2024). <https://des.az.gov/ESAP>.

⁷ Simple Application for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for Elderly or Disabled Households, Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (last visited January 27, 2024).

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Documents/Benefits%20Applications/PA%201935.pdf>.

⁸ Application for Economic Assistance Benefits, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (last visited January 27, 2024). <https://phsneb.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/EA-Application.pdf>.

⁹ 3Squares VT (Food Stamps), Vermont Legal Aid & Legal Services Vermont (last visited January 27, 2024).
<https://vtlawhelp.org/3squaresvt-food-stamps>.

¹⁰ See Welcome to Double Up Food Bucks Mississippi, Double Up Food Bucks Mississippi (last visited January 30, 2024). <https://doubleupms.com/>.

¹¹ See Massachusetts Healthy Incentives Program (HIP), Mass.gov (last visited January 27, 2024).

<https://www.mass.gov/massachusetts-hip-gives-you-money-back-when-you-use-your-snap-benefits-to-buy-healthy-local-fruits-and-vegetables-from-hip-farm-vendors>.

¹² About Maine SNAP-Ed, Maine Snap-Ed (last visited January 27, 2024). <https://www.mainesnap-ed.org/maine-snap-ed/>.

¹³ SNAP-Ed, Mississippi State University Extension (last visited January 30 2024).
<http://extension.msstate.edu/food-and-health/nutrition/snap-ed>.

Medicaid Section 1115 Waivers

Although Medicaid has historically funded only what we might think of as “traditional” healthcare expenditures, a growing number of states have been looking toward the program to serve as a new source of monetary support to fund their campaigns against food insecurity.¹ This trend arose in part due to the Biden Administration’s announcement that it sought Section 1115 waiver requests from states that were willing to experiment with new programs designed to tackle their populations’ social determinants of health (SDOH), including food insecurity.²

A number of states have already been approved for “food-is-medicine” pilot programs by the Administration, and more states have submitted waiver requests to implement similar programs.³ The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) additionally published the following table of nutrition supports, illustrating the kind of interventions that the agency is likely to approve under an 1115 waiver:⁴

Intervention	Description
1. Nutrition counseling and education	Including on healthy meal preparation
2. Medically-tailored meals	Up to 3 meals a day delivered in the home or other private residence, for up to 6 months
3. Meals or pantry stocking	For children under 21 and pregnant individuals, up to 3 meals a day delivered in the home or other private residence, for up to 6 months
4. Fruit & vegetable prescriptions and/or protein box	For up to six months

The preceding table is intended to only provide suggested examples of possible program interventions rather than mandate what interventions must contain to gain approval by CMS. For example, participants in Massachusetts’s approved “Flexible Services Program” are eligible to participate in the program for up to nine (rather than six) months.⁵ The Flexible Services Program is operated by the state’s Medicaid program, MassHealth, and works to facilitate the referral of certain food-insecure MassHealth patients by healthcare partners to Project Bread, a food-assistance non-profit.⁶ Once referred to Project Bread, participants are paired with one of the organization’s coordinators who assess each participant’s individual need and connects them with appropriate resources, such as: “grocery store gift cards; procurement of kitchen supplies and appliances; cooking classes; nutrition counseling; referrals for medically tailored meals; assistance connecting with federal nutrition assistance program[s] like SNAP and WIC; and referrals to nearby food pantries.”⁷

Massachusetts is not the only state whose food-is-medicine pilot has received the green light; Oregon has also been approved to use federal Medicaid funds to provide eligible participants with “application support” for SNAP and WIC, “nutrition and cooking education,” “fruit and vegetable prescriptions,” “healthy food boxes [and] meals,” and “medically tailored meal

delivery.”⁸ Starting this year, the state will focus on delivering these resources to Medicaid patients that are in the middle of current “life transitions,” such as involvement with the child welfare system, homelessness or risk of homelessness, and recent institutionalization at facilities such as jails and state hospitals.⁹ Arkansas is another state that will be using Medicaid dollars to fund nutrition supports for populations similar to those on which Oregon is focusing while additionally making “pregnant women and women who have recently given birth” as well as “people dealing with mental illness or substance abuse” eligible for the program.¹⁰

In addition to the aforementioned states, multiple other states have requested permission to use Medicaid funds to support nutrition services under Section 1115, including New Mexico, Washington, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maine.¹¹

While the preceding examples of different food-is-medicine pilot programs evince the fact that states have flexibility in creating Medicaid-funded programs designed to tackle food insecurity, note that this flexibility is not unlimited as any nutrition supports approved under an 1115 waiver are still subject to certain restrictions. More specifically, CMS requires that such supports:¹²

- are time-limited;
- do not, in combination with programs aimed at addressing other health-related social needs (such as housing supports), comprise more than 3% of a state’s yearly Medicaid budget;
- supplement rather than supplant pre-existing safety-net programs aimed at addressing food insecurity, such as SNAP and WIC.

While the first restriction in particular underscores the fact that the federal government only intends for Medicaid funds to be used to “stabilize the . . . nutritional circumstances of [certain] Medicaid enrollees,”¹³ even time-limited food assistance has proven to be effective in combatting food insecurity: 25% of patients enrolled in Massachusetts’s Project Bread program “were no longer food-insecure after six months of programming.”¹⁴

Despite the fact that Mississippi has not adopted the ACA’s Medicaid expansion, the state still remains eligible for Medicaid 1115 waivers.¹⁵ The current 1115 waiver approved for Mississippi is “Healthier Mississippi,” which expands coverage to people aged 65+ and or people with disabilities who do not have Medicaid.¹⁶

¹ Ayurella Horn-Muller, “Medicaid for food’s next destination”, Axios (March 16, 2023).

<https://www.axios.com/2023/03/16/medicaid-for-food-next-states>.

² Anne Marie Costello, State Health Official (SHO) Letter #21-001, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (January 7, 2021). https://www.medicaid.gov/sites/default/files/2022-01/sho21001_0.pdf.

³ Madeline Guth, “Section 1115 Waiver Watch: Approvals to Address Health-Related Social Needs”, Kaiser Family Foundation (November 15, 2022). <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/section-1115-medicaid-waiver-watch-a-closer-look-at-recent-approvals-to-address-health-related-social-needs-hrsn/>.

⁴ All-State Medicaid and CHIP Call, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services p. 10 (December 6, 2022). <https://www.medicaid.gov/sites/default/files/2022-12/covid19allstatecall12062022.pdf>.

⁵ Project Bread, “Food Security is Health Care: Early Outcomes on Reducing Hunger Through Health Insurance”, p. 4 (September 2022). <https://projectbread.org/uploads/attachments/clah461wg0028339hh94u3xxe-hcp-impact-brief-with-policy.pdf>.

⁶ Lisa Held, “Medicaid Is a New Tool to Expand Healthy Food Access”, Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation (January 10, 2023). <https://chlpi.org/news-and-events/news-and-commentary/health-law-and-policy/medicaid-is-a-new-tool-to-expand-healthy-food-access/>.

⁷ Project Bread, “Healthcare Solutions: Treating Food Insecurity” (last visited January 13, 2024). <https://projectbread.org/healthcare-partnerships>.

⁸ Kate Brown, Oregon Health Plan 1115 Demonstration Waiver – Application Renewal 2022-2027, p. 20-21 (February 8, 2022). <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/Medicaid-Policy/Documents/2022-2027-Waiver-Application-Final.pdf>.

⁹ 2022-2027 Medicaid 1115 Demonstration Waiver, Oregon Health Authority (last visited January 13, 2024). <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/hsd/medicaid-policy/pages/waiver-renewal.aspx>.

¹⁰ Department of Health and Human Services, Medicaid Waiver News (2022). <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2022/11/01/hhs-approves-ar-medicaid-waiver-to-provide-medically-necessary-housing-nutrition-support-services.html>.

¹¹ Horn-Mueller, *supra* note 1. To see what the latest states are to have requested Section 1115 authority to create food-is-medicine pilot programs, check out the Kaiser Family Foundation’s table entitled “[Section 1115 SDOH & Other DSR Changes](#)” which tracks approved and pending 1115 waivers that contain provisions related to nutrition supports.

¹² “Mainstreaming Produce Prescriptions in Medicaid Managed Care: A Policy Toolkit and Resource Library”, Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation and DC Greens p. 14 (June 2023). <https://chlpi.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Mainstreaming-Produce-Prescriptions-in-Medicaid-Managed-Care-V6.pdf>.

¹³ HHS Approves Groundbreaking Medicaid Initiatives in Massachusetts and Oregon”, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (September 28, 2022). <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2022/09/28/hhs-approves-groundbreaking-medicaid-initiatives-in-massachusetts-and-oregon.html>.

¹⁴ “Food Security is Health Care”, *supra* note 5 at p. 3.

¹⁵ Mississippi Division of Medicaid. Healthier Mississippi Waiver. <https://medicaid.ms.gov/medicaid-coverage/who-qualifies-for-coverage/healthier-mississippi-waiver/>.

¹⁶ *Id.*

SOURCING FOOD

Farmer + Supplemental Food Provider Partnerships

In 2022 the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce received funding from the USDA to establish the Mississippi Local Food Purchase Assistance Program (LFPA).¹ This program serves to connect local farmers with local supplemental food providers (e.g., food pantries/food banks) and increase the amount of Mississippi-grown produce going to supplemental food providers. Mississippi-based farmers can apply to be a partner in the LFPA using this link: <https://agnet.mdac.ms.gov/FoodBank/>.

Some food banks have initiated their own programs to connect with farmers. The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts owns a 142-acre organic farm in Hadley and contracts local farmers to grow organic produce for the food bank.² The farmers, in lieu of direct payment, are allocated a portion of the harvest that they can sell to retailers and profit from.³ Although the state of Massachusetts is not directly involved in the farm program, both farms were made possible due, in part, to funding from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources to put the land under “Agricultural Preservations Restrictions,” which limits development on the land and typically makes the land more affordable.⁴ Maryland Farm to Food Bank program uses a combination of contract growing, donations, and filed gleaning to stock their food banks with produce.⁵ A strength of the program is that the food bank picks up any crops directly from the farmer.⁶

States interested in supporting a Farm to Food Bank Program can apply for additional funding through TEFAP for projects “to harvest, process, package, or transport commodities donated by agricultural producers, processors, or distributors for use by emergency feeding organizations.”⁷ Mississippi does not currently have one of these projects in place.

States can also incentivize farmers to donate surplus crops to food banks or supplemental feeding organizations. Multiple states, like Arizona, California, Colorado, and Iowa, have tax incentives for farmers who donate crops.⁸ Several states have opted to offer the farmer 15% of the market price of the donated item in the form of a tax credit.⁹ The National Gleaning Project has a useful legal guide and factsheet about these tax incentives.¹⁰ Mississippi does not appear to offer any tax incentives for donated crops.¹¹ More detailed information can be found in this fact sheet on [Mississippi Food Donation: Tax Incentives](#).¹²

Food gleaning (e.g., going through harvested fields to salvage leftover crops, collecting almost/just-expired grocery products, salvaging any food that will go to waste) is a USDA endorsed way to bridge farmers to supplemental food providers.¹³ The Society of Saint Andrew runs a volunteer-based field gleaning program in Mississippi and Arkansas that prevents leftover/dumped/unwanted crops from going to waste.¹⁴ They estimated, in 2023, that they gleaned 637,250 pounds of food and donated 2,549,000 servings of fresh produce.¹⁵ In Mississippi there are several gleaning-friendly state laws that protect food donors and supplemental food providers from incurring any liability for damages (e.g., illness) relating to the condition of the food.¹⁶ More detailed information can be found in this fact sheet on [Mississippi Food Donation: Liability Protections](#).¹⁷

¹ Mississippi Department of Agriculture & Commerce, Mississippi Local Food Purchase Assistance Program (2023). <https://www.mdac.ms.gov/bureaus-departments/market-development/ms-local-food-purchase-assistance-program/>.

² Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, Food Bank Farms (2023). <https://www.foodbankwma.org/learn/food-bank-farm/>.

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Maryland Food Bank, Farm to Food Bank (2023). <https://mdfoodbank.org/hunger-in-maryland/programs/farm-to-food-bank/>.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Fiscal Year 2024 Farm to Food Bank Project Summaries, USDA Food and Nutrition Service (last visited May 13, 2024), <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tefap/fy24-farm-food-bank-projects>.

⁸ National Gleaning Project, Legal Questions and Answers- Tax Incentives and Food Donation for Gleaning Organizations (March 2023). https://nationalgleaningproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Gleaning_Tax_Incentives_2023.pdf.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ Mississippi Food Waste Policy, ReFED U.S. Food Waste Policy Finder (last visited May 13, 2024). <https://policyfinder.refed.org/mississippi/>;

Mississippi Department of Revenue (2023). <https://www.dor.ms.gov/credits/FBCO>.

¹² Harvard Law School Food Law & Policy Clinic, https://chlpi.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Mississippi_Tax_Fact_Sheet_final.pdf.

¹³ United States Department of Agriculture, Let's Glean! Toolkit (n.d.).

https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/usda_gleaning_toolkit.pdf.

¹⁴ Society of Saint Andrews, Gleaning in Mississippi and Arkansas (2023). <https://endhunger.org/mississippi/>.

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ Miss. Code Ann. §§ 95-7-1, 95-7-3.

¹⁷ Harvard Law School Food Law & Policy Clinic, https://chlpi.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Mississippi_Liability_Protection_Fact_Sheet_final.pdf.

Other Agricultural Policies

Pesticide drift, or “off-target pesticide application,” is when pesticide droplets drift from the intended target crop and come into accidental contact with crops, wildlife, humans, etc.¹ For farmers who do not use pesticides or who are following USDA organic farming practices, pesticide drift is a large concern.² Some states impose fines on applicators when the pesticides they spray drift onto neighboring properties.³ Scholars have also proposed establishing state compensation funds to pay for damage caused by pesticide drift.⁴

Currently, there are not any express policies in Mississippi that offer financial compensation for farmers affected by pesticide drift.⁵ In order to receive compensation, the affected farmer must file a civil lawsuit or negotiate directly with the pesticide applicator. The litigation avenue is both expensive and challenging, especially because Mississippi has a right to farm law that protects agricultural operations from nuisance suits so long as the operation complies with state law and federal permits.⁶ These barriers mean that policy change may be a better avenue for obtaining compensation for harm caused by drift.

For individuals exposed to pesticide drift, the Pesticide Action Network of North America has published a helpful guide: [In Case of Drift Toolkit](https://www.panna.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/In-Case-of-Drift-Toolkit-2023.pdf).⁷

Some states are working to increase community oversight and equity in agricultural policy. The Massachusetts Food System Collaborative’s Agricultural Equity Network⁸ introduced bill S.2880 that seeks to establish a commission of BIPOC farmers focused on “racially equitable investments, policies, and practices to promote equity in agriculture” in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.⁹ This model of coalition building and lobbying for agricultural equity may be of interest to the Food Policy Council.

¹ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Introduction to Pesticide Drift (2023). <https://www.epa.gov/reducing-pesticide-drift/introduction-pesticide-drift>.

² *Id.*

³ See, e.g., Iowa Code Ann. § 206.19.

⁴ Terrence J. Centner, Creating a compensation program for injuries from dicamba spray drift and volatilization, 44 Appl. Econ. Perspect. Policy 1068 (2022).

⁵ Mississippi Department of Agriculture & Commerce, Laws and Pesticide Programs (2023).

<https://www.mdac.ms.gov/agency-info/laws-regulations/laws-pesticide-programs/>.

⁶ Miss. Code. Ann. § 95-3-29.

⁷ <https://www.panna.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/In-Case-of-Drift-Toolkit-2023.pdf>.

⁸ Massachusetts Food System Collaborative’s Agricultural Equity Network (2023).

<https://mafoodsystem.org/projects/agricultural-equity-network/>.

⁹ Bill S.2880, 192nd Gen. Court (MA, 2022). <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S2880>.

School + Food Provider Partnerships

How have states provided meals to K-12 students?

Schools participating in the National School Lunch Program offer federally supported low-cost, reduced price, and free meals to students.¹ Students who are from low-income households, whose families receive SNAP benefits, who are foster children, or who are unhoused can qualify to receive reduced-price or free lunches.² Following the expansion of free meals for students during the COVID-19 pandemic, some states opted to maintain broad availability even as the federal eligibility criteria reverted back to the regular standards.³ At the moment, eight states (California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico and Vermont) offer universally free meals to all public school students.⁴

Schools may also offer breakfast, with federal support, through the School Breakfast Program. Some states have a state statute requiring schools to participate in the Breakfast Program in certain circumstances. These states include Arkansas (requires all school districts to participate in the School Breakfast Program if the district has at least 20 percent free and reduced-price certified students), Louisiana (requires all schools in a district to participate in the School Breakfast Program if one school in the district has at least 25 percent free and reduced-price certified students), and Tennessee (requires School Breakfast Program for all K-8 schools with 20 percent free or reduced-price lunch students and all other schools with 40 percent free or reduced-price lunch students).⁵ Mississippi does not have a state statute requiring schools to participate in either the School Breakfast Program or the National School Lunch Program. The MS Department of Education website implies that Mississippi schools participate in NSLP and provides information about both programs without specifying whether the programs are available at all schools.⁶

Other programs, like backpack meals, may also provide meals and/or snacks to school children. Backpack meals are not normally required by legislation but arise via nonprofit organizations,⁷ including through members of Feeding America.⁸ The closest geographically relevant example the authors found is the program through Feeding the Gulf Coast.⁹ However, it is difficult to determine the scope of this program. As another option, local communities in Massachusetts, such as Cambridge and Somerville, have used reloadable debit cards to provide meals to school children and their families during the weekend.¹⁰

How do farmers connect with schools to provide food for school meals?

Many schools and school districts participate in “farm to school” programs that foster procurement by these institutions of local farm products for use in school meals. Farm to school programs vary on a state-by-state basis.¹¹ As of 2021, 14 states (**Alabama, Arkansas**, California, Florida, Hawaii, **Louisiana**, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Vermont, and Wisconsin) had passed comprehensive farm to school legislation.¹² In total, 43 states had passed farm to school legislation by that year.¹³

Mississippi has passed farm to school legislation, but the state’s most significant bill, creating a farm to school agency, was repealed in 2015.¹⁴ Mississippi appears to have a Farm to School

program which allows growers to participate in the Department of Defense's Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.¹⁵ Schools can also work directly with growers if they choose to. There is also a Farm to School network that facilitates opportunities for farm to school programs to begin.¹⁶ Additionally, between 2020 and June of 2023, there was a Farm to Early Care and Education program in Mississippi through the Association of State Public Health Nutritionists.¹⁷

Mississippi has a garden grant program that allocates funding to schools interested in starting a school garden.¹⁸ The grant program, however, only provides funding and does not offer direct support in establishing the school garden or managing it, which the school must seek out independently.

Choctaw Fresh, one of the Mississippi Food Policy Council's partners, has a notable organic farming movement that ensures that Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indian students have access to organic produce at their schools every week.¹⁹

How have states tackled food insecurity in higher education?

At the higher education level, there has been a growing push to pass the Hunger Free Campus Bill, which sends "funding to public colleges who are addressing student hunger on campus."²⁰ This bill, originally penned by Swipe Out Hunger, has already been passed in 10 states (California, Illinois, **Louisiana**, Massachusetts, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Washington). Swipe Out Hunger also allows students to donate extra meal swipe dollars to fellow classmates.²¹ In Pennsylvania, the state also provides grant money for colleges and universities to expand their food pantries.²² For example, Carnegie Mellon plans on offering frozen and prepared meals during finals and Pittsburgh Technical College plans on offering food bundles when class is out of session.²³ This will help address the fact that about 50% of Black and Latino college students in the Pittsburgh area are experiencing food insecurity.²⁴ Meanwhile, in a state that has not passed the Hunger Free Campus Bill (Wisconsin), Marquette University has a BackPack meals program for its students facing food insecurity.²⁵

Some states have expanded the population of students eligible to receive SNAP benefits by utilizing flexibilities in the SNAP statute.²⁶ In order to receive SNAP, college students enrolled in school at least half time must meet one of the student exemptions to be eligible.²⁷ One of those exemptions applies when a student is attending a state and locally administered education and training program for low-income households.²⁸ In Massachusetts, the state determined that a college student could qualify for SNAP under this exemption if they were a "SNAP-eligible community college student who [was] in a certificate or associate's degree course of study likely to lead to employment."²⁹ Pennsylvania has also adopted a similar approach.³⁰ Those interested in enacting a similar policy in Mississippi should review [Connecting Community College Students to SNAP](#) from the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute.

¹ United States Department of Agriculture, National School Lunch Program (2023). <https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/NSLPFactSheet.pdf>.

² *Id.*

³ Food Research and Action Center, School Meals Legislation and Funding by State (2023). <https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/School-Meals-State-Legislation-Chart.pdf>.

⁴ Caitlyn Meiser, Education Week, “Massachusetts Joins Short List of States Providing Free Schools Meals to All.” (2023). <https://www.edweek.org/policy-politics/massachusetts-joins-short-list-of-states-providing-free-school-meals-to-all/2023/08#:~:text=In%20Massachusetts%2C%20a%20new%204.approved%20by%20voters%20last%20year>.

⁵ Food Research and Action Center, School Meals Legislation and Funding by State (2023). <https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/School-Meals-State-Legislation-Chart.pdf>.

⁶ Mississippi Department of Education, National School Lunch Program (2023). <https://www.mdek12.org/OCN/SS>.

⁷ Cultivate Food Rescue, Backpack Program (2023). <https://cultivatefoodrescue.com/backpack-program/>.

⁸ E.g., Food Bank of Delaware, Backpack Program (2023). <https://www.fbd.org/backpack-program/>.

⁹ Feeding the Gulf Coast, Backpack Program (2023). <https://www.feedingthegulfcoast.org/learn-more/our-programs/child-nutrition-programs>.

¹⁰ Food for Free, Weekend Eats (2023). <https://foodforfree.org/weekend-eats/>.

¹¹ National Farm to School Network, Farm to School Advocacy (2023). <https://www.farmtoschool.org/policy/advocacy>.

¹² National Farm to School Network, State Farm to School Policy Handbook (2002-2020). https://assets-global.website-files.com/5c469df2395cd53c3d913b2d/611055ea25a740645f082f18_State%20Farm%20to%20School%20Policy%20Handbook.pdf.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ *Id.* at 99.

¹⁵ Mississippi State Department of Agriculture & Commerce, Farm to School Network (2023). <https://www.mdac.ms.gov/bureaus-departments/market-development/farm-to-school-week/farm-to-school-overview-2/>.

¹⁶ Mississippi Farm to School Network (2023). <https://www.mississippifarmtoschool.org>.

¹⁷ Association of State Public Health Nutritionists, Mississippi Farm to ECE Coalition (2023). <https://asphn.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/mississippi-infographic-FINAL.pdf>.

¹⁸ Mississippi State Department of Agriculture & Commerce, Garden Grants (2023). <https://www.mdac.ms.gov/bureaus-departments/market-development/garden-grants/>.

¹⁹ Nicole Greenfield, Natural Resources Defense Council-Choctaw Fresh (2022). <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/mississippi-tribe-growing-its-own-organic-movement>.

²⁰ Hunger Free Campus Bill, Swipe Out Hunger (2023). <https://www.swipehunger.org/hungerfree/>.

²¹ Campus Hunger, Swipe Out Hunger (2023). <https://www.swipehunger.org>.

²² Emma Folts, Public Source- Food Insecurity on Campus (2023). <https://www.publicsource.org/college-food-insecurity-pittsburgh-pitt-cmu-rmu-la-roche-technical-college-hunger/>.

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ *Id.*

²⁵ Marquette University, Backpack Program (2023). <https://www.marquette.edu/neighborhood-kitchen/backpack-program.php>.

²⁶ Ashley Burnside & Parker Gilkesson, Connecting Community College Students to SNAP (2021). <https://www.mlri.org/report-viewer/?report=Connecting%20Community%20College%20Students%20to%20SNAP~3809>.

²⁷ *Id.*

²⁸ *Id.*

²⁹ *Id.*

³⁰ Pennsylvania Pressroom, SNAP Eligibility for College Students (2023). [https://www.media.pa.gov/pages/DHS_details.aspx?newsid=945#:~:text=Media%20%3E%20DHS%20%3E%20Details-%20Shapiro%20Administration%20Announces%20Expansion%20of%20SNAP%20Eligibility%20for%20College%20Students,Certain%20Employment%20and%20Training%20Programs&text=Announcement%20means%20eligible%20college%20students,Services%20\(DHS\)%20Secretary%20Dr](https://www.media.pa.gov/pages/DHS_details.aspx?newsid=945#:~:text=Media%20%3E%20DHS%20%3E%20Details-%20Shapiro%20Administration%20Announces%20Expansion%20of%20SNAP%20Eligibility%20for%20College%20Students,Certain%20Employment%20and%20Training%20Programs&text=Announcement%20means%20eligible%20college%20students,Services%20(DHS)%20Secretary%20Dr).

ACCESSING “ADDITIONAL OUTREACH” COMMUNITIES

Additional outreach communities, for the purposes of this policy scan, are defined as older adults, individuals with disabilities, and rural communities. These are communities of individuals who may not be able to participate in existing programs due to the fact that those programs were not designed with their specific identities in mind. With those identities may come barriers to accessing programming resources such as transportation, mobility, accessible application materials, etc. Therefore, these groups greatly benefit from additional outreach and programs that are tailored for their specific needs.

How have states made it easier to provide food to rural populations?

Because community members living in rural areas may have a hard time accessing existing food-assistance programs, states have adopted various initiatives aimed specifically at combatting food insecurity in rural communities. This list includes existing initiatives as well as other approaches that states like Mississippi could consider adopting:

- 1. Taking Advantage of the Federal Government’s Summer Program to Feed Children in Rural Areas***

A new program launched by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) and Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides states with the option to use federal funds to “provide summer meals for non-congregate meal service in rural areas with no congregate meal service” as well as to “establish a permanent summer electronic benefits transfer for children program for the purpose of ensuring continued access to food when school is not in session for the summer.”¹ Unfortunately, Mississippi has rejected these funds for the upcoming 2024 summer, but could participate in the program in a future summer.²

- 2. Investing in Food Enterprises Located in Rural Areas***

Illinois recently passed the Illinois Grocery Initiative, a state program with the purpose of offering “competitive grants to support establishment of new grocery stores and equipment upgrades for existing stores in food deserts.”³ In 2024, the state intends to give away \$20 million to groceries that commit to selling ample amounts of fresh produce to populations living in food deserts. Likewise, North Dakota pledged to disburse \$1 million in the form of grants to sustain rural groceries; one grant recipient will “complete a feasibility study for a local foods market truck.”⁴

Alternatively, states could fund nonprofits like the Michigan Good Food Fund, which offers subsidized financing for food enterprises that benefit low-income communities, including rural communities.⁵ Eligible recipients include grocery retailers, growers, packers, distributors, and food entrepreneurs. Preference is given to “food and farm businesses [that improve] people’s access to culturally relevant food, creat[e] jobs, and strength[en] local economies.”⁶

Federal grants and technical assistance are also available to support food enterprises in underserved areas through the Healthy Food Financing Initiative.⁷

3. *Strengthening Access to Farmers Markets in Rural Areas*

There is a growing evidence base that farmers markets, especially for those who live in food deserts, are not only vital sources of fresh produce but also serve as markers of community health and can play a role in managing chronic health conditions in the community.⁸ The [Farmers Market Legal Toolkit](#) is a great resource for anyone looking to establish or expand a farmers market or learn more about what legal considerations go into running a farmers market and facilitating a vendor-client connection.⁹ Some areas the Farmers Market Legal Toolkit touches on include:

- What type of business structure a farmers market can be (partnerships, LLC)
- Liability and risk management
- Case studies on successful farmers markets
- How to implement SNAP/EBT

An example of a farmers market that emulates some of the best practices described by the Farmers Market Legal Toolkit is the Hernando Farmers Market in Hernando, Mississippi.¹⁰ To better facilitate vendor participation at the market, the Hernando Farmers Market implemented a payment system using tokens, where patrons are able to use credit cards/cash/SNAP benefits in exchange for tokens. This token system takes the burden of transaction management off of the vendors, so that vendors do not have to bring credit card machines or otherwise manage these alternative types of payment. The Market also participates in the Double Up Bucks Mississippi program, so all SNAP recipients can receive extra tokens to use on produce.

4. *Creating Community-Supported Agriculture Programs*

States could help rural communities to implement community-supported agriculture programs. Community-supported agriculture (or, a CSA) is a system in which local residents pledge to buy a portion of a nearby farmer's harvest, typically before the season.¹¹ This provides farmers with upfront cash to run their farms as well as some predictability in sales, while residents get a regular supply of fresh produce. This program lets both farmers and consumers share the upsides and downsides of local farming.

5. *Funding Mobile Food Pantries*

State governments could choose to fund nonprofits that operate mobile food pantries capable of distributing food to rural areas. For instance, in Southern Colorado, Care and Share operates Mobile Food Pantries and Mobile Markets.¹² California's El Dorado County Mobile Pantry also delivers meals to rural communities.¹³ In Florida, the nonprofit Florida Impact operates in rural communities across the state to ensure that children have access to nourishing meals year-round.¹⁴

How have states made it easier to provide food to individuals with disabilities?

Individuals with disabilities present another community group that may face barriers to accessing traditional food-assistance programs. Consequently, states have launched the following initiatives to ensure that their food-security efforts include individuals with disabilities:

1. *Creating "Food as Medicine" Pilots*

As touched on in the “Medicaid Section 1115 Waivers” section of the report, multiple states have launched food-is-medicine pilots.¹⁵ These programs can be especially useful for individuals with disabilities, as they can receive meals tailored to their specific health needs at their homes.

2. *Establishing a Restaurant Meals Program*

The SNAP statute allows states to operate a Restaurant Meals Program (RMP), but few states take advantage of this option.¹⁶ California currently has a statewide initiative that is inviting local restaurants and prepared meal providers, including in-store delis, to join the Restaurant Meals Program (RMP).¹⁷ Participating establishments have the opportunity to broaden their customer reach and contribute to community service. Elderly, disabled, or homeless CalFresh recipients can utilize their Golden State Advantage (EBT) cards to buy meals from approved restaurants.¹⁸ A currently pending federal bill, S.3034, seeks to facilitate the expansion of RMP programs to multiple states and make it easier for states to adopt the program model.¹⁹

3. *Administering Home-Delivered Meal Programs*

Some states run or fund home delivery programs for the elderly and/or those with disabilities. In California, the Home-Delivered Meals Program offers nutritious meals to older adults in the comfort of their homes, along with additional services such as nutrition education, nutrition risk screening, and, in certain areas, nutrition counseling.²⁰

Delaware’s home-delivery meal program also provides warm meals to individuals who are confined to their homes during the day while additionally providing some participants with chilled, packaged meals to ensure they have food options available for the evening.²¹

4. *Simplifying SNAP Applications*

As touched on in the “SNAP” section of this report, simplifying SNAP applications as well as expanding SNAP for individuals with disabilities is a possibility that many states have jumped on. In Texas, for instance, the Texas Simplified Application Project (TSAP) offers Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) food benefits specifically for Texas households where all members are either older adults (aged 60 and above) or individuals with disabilities.²² Unlike regular SNAP benefits, the TSAP application is shorter, and recipients receive a three-year certification instead of the standard six months.²³ Additionally, eligible individuals under TSAP are not required to undergo an interview during the renewal process.

¹ Federal Register, Summer EBT Programs and Rural Non-Congregate Option (2023).

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/12/29/2023-28488/establishing-the-summer-ebt-program-and-rural-non-congregate-option-in-the-summer-meal-programs>.

² Kenya Hunter, MS Rejects Summer Food Assistance Program (January 2024).

<https://www.mississippifreepress.org/38967/mississippi-rejects-summer-food-assistance-program-for-children>.

³ Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Illinois Grocery Initiative (2023).

<https://omb.illinois.gov/public/gata/csfa/Program.aspx?csfa=3295>.

⁴ Megan Langely, North Dakota Monitor, Investments in Rural Food Sustainability (2023).

<https://northdakotamonitor.com/2023/12/12/investments-in-rural-food-sustainability-are-investments-in-states-future/>.

⁵ Michigan Good Food Fund (2023). <https://migoodfoodfund.org/eligibility/>.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ America's Healthy Food Financing Initiative (2023). <https://www.investinginfood.com/funding-opportunities/>.

⁸ Farmers Market Coalition, Healthy Communities (2023). <https://farmersmarketcoalition.org/education/farmers-markets-support-healthy-communities/>.

⁹ Farmers Market Legal Toolkit (2023). <https://farmersmarketlegaltoolkit.org/>.

¹⁰ Hernando Farmers Market (2023). <https://www.cityofhernando.org/departments/community-development/farmers-market>.

¹¹ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Community Supported Agriculture. <https://www.nal.usda.gov/farms-and-agricultural-production-systems/community-supported-agriculture>.

¹² Care and Share, Food Bank for Southern Colorado (2023). <https://careandshare.org/about/how-we-work/>.

¹³ Food Bank- El Dorado County (2023). <https://foodbankedc.org>.

¹⁴ Florida Impact (2023). <https://floridaimpact.org>.

¹⁵ See S.E. Smith, Food Inflation- Civil Eats (2023). <https://civileats.com/2023/05/01/how-food-inflation-adds-to-the-burdens-disabled-people-carry/>.

¹⁶ Restaurant Meals Program, USDA Food and Nutrition Service (2023).

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/retailer/restaurant-meals-program>.

¹⁷ CalFresh Restaurant Meal Program (2023). <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/rmp>.

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ Meals for At-Risk Americans Act of 2023, S. 3034, 118th Congress, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/3034>.

²⁰ California Department of Aging, Food and Nutrition Services (2023).

https://aging.ca.gov/Programs_and_Services/Food_and_Nutrition/.

²¹ Delaware State Government, Home Delivered Meals. <https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dsaapd/hdm.html>.

²² Texas Health and Human Services, TSAP (2023). <https://www.hhs.texas.gov/services/food/snap-food-benefits/texas-simplified-application-project-tsap-snap-food-benefits>.

²³ *Id.*

APPENDIX

National Food Systems Work

State	Organization/Program	Information
Alabama	Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program	https://agi.alabama.gov/rfsip/
Alaska	Alaska Food Systems	https://www.alaskafoodsyste.com
Arizona	Arizona Food Systems Network	https://www.azfsn.org
Arkansas	Northwest Arkansas Food Systems	https://www.waltonfamilyfoundation.org/northwest-arkansas-food-systems
California	Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program	https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/rfsi/
Colorado	Colorado Food Systems Coalition	https://cofoodsyste.org
Connecticut	Connecticut Food Systems Alliance	https://ctfoodsystemalliance.com
Delaware	Delaware Council on Farm and Food Policy	https://farm-and-food-delaware.hub.arcgis.com
Florida	Various smaller initiatives	-
Georgia	Sustainable Food Systems Initiative	https://site.extension.uga.edu/sfsi/
Hawaii	Transforming Hawai'i's Food Systems	https://transforminghawaiifoodsystem.org
Idaho	Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force	https://www.idahohunger.org/local-food-systems
Illinois	Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning	https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/programs/sustainability/local-food/about
Iowa	Iowa Food System Coalition	https://www.iowafoodsystemcoalition.org
Kansas	Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program	https://agriculture.ks.gov/kda-services/grants-and-cost-share-programs/resilient-food-system-infrastructure-program
Kentucky	Local Food Initiative	https://www.kcard.info/local-food-initiative
Louisiana	Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program	https://www.ldaf.la.gov/business/grants-funding/resilient-food-systems-infrastructure
Maine	Maine Food System	https://extension.umaine.edu/maine-food-system/
Maryland	Maryland Food System Resiliency Council	https://mdem.maryland.gov/Pages/food-resilience.aspx
Massachusetts	Massachusetts Food System Collaborative	https://mafoodsyste.org
Michigan	Michigan Food and Farming Systems	https://www.miffs.org
Minnesota	MN350	https://mn350.org/food-systems-team/
Missouri	Missouri Foundation for Health	https://mffh.org/our-focus/issue-based-work/food-justice/
Montana	Montana Food Resource Library	https://mtfoodsystemresources.org

Nebraska	Nebraska Regional Food Systems Initiative	https://foodsystems.unl.edu
Nevada	Reno Food Systems	https://www.renofoodsystems.org
New Hampshire	NH Food Alliance	https://www.nhfoodalliance.org/get-involved/nh-food-system-statewide-gathering
New Jersey	NJ Food Democracy Collaborative	https://www.njfooddemocracy.org
New Mexico	New Mexico Food Systems Collaborative	https://sust.unm.edu/research/new-mexico-food-systems-collaborative.html
New York	Slow Food NYC	http://www.slowfoodnyc.org
North Carolina	Center for Environmental Farming Systems	https://cefs.ncsu.edu/food-system-initiatives/nc-food-resiliency-plan/
North Dakota	North Dakota Local Food Development Alliance	https://ndlocalfood.org/home/start
Ohio	Ohio Food Policy Network	http://ohiofpn.org/ohios-food-system/
Oklahoma	OK State Local Food Systems	https://extension.okstate.edu/programs/local-food-systems/
Oregon	Oregon Community Food System Network	https://ocfsn.org
Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania Food Policy Council	https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Food_Security/Pages/PA-Food-Policy-Council.aspx
Rhode Island	Rhode Island Food Council	https://rifoodcouncil.org
South Carolina	South Carolina Food Council	https://www.scfoodpolicy.org/roadmap
South Dakota	Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program	https://danr.sd.gov/Press/RFSI.aspx
Tennessee	United Way Greater Knoxville	https://uwgk.org/food-security/
Texas	Texas Center for Local Food	https://texaslocalfood.org/food-system/
Utah	Local Food Advisory Council	https://ag.utah.gov/local-food-advisory-council/
Vermont	Food Systems Council	https://centralvtplanning.org/programs/food-systems-planning/food-systems-councils/
Virginia	Virginia Food Systems Council	https://virginiafoodsystemcouncil.org
Washington	Western Washington Food Systems Partnership	https://wwfsp.org
West Virginia	WV FOODLINK	https://foodlink.wvu.edu
Wisconsin	Wisconsin Food Systems	https://wifoodsystems.org
Wyoming	Wyoming Food Coalition	https://www.wyfoodcoalition.org