

**Micro-Grants for Food Security**  
**Enacted as Sec. 4206 of H.R. 2, the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334)**

**Purpose:** To increase the quantity and quality of locally grown food through small-scale gardening, herding, and livestock operations in food insecure communities in areas of the United States that have significant levels of food insecurity and import a significant quantity of food.

**Eligible States:** Alaska, Hawaii, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

**Eligible Entities for Subgrants:** Individuals; Indian tribes and tribal organizations; non-profit organizations such as religious organizations, food banks and food pantries; federally-funded educational facilities including Head Start and Early Head Start programs, public schools, public institutions of higher education, Tribal Colleges and Universities, job training programs; and local and tribal governments that may not levy local taxes.

**Funding:** For Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021, the Micro-Grants for Food Security program was funded at \$5 million, and AMS will make \$4.8 million available to eligible states. The agricultural agencies in Alaska and Hawaii are guaranteed to receive 40 percent of the available funds; therefore, Alaska and Hawaii will each receive approximately \$1.9 million and the territories will each receive approximately \$125,000. Eligible States may use up to 3% to administer the competition for subgrants, provide oversight, collect data and submit a report to the Secretary describing the use of subgrants, the quantity of food grown, and the number of food-insecure individuals fed as a result.

**Matching Funds:** An eligible entity must provide a match equal to 10% of the subgrant; a State may waive the matching requirement for individuals.

**Project Period:** 3 years

**Amount of Subgrants:** Individuals are eligible to receive up to \$5,000 per year; other eligible entities are eligible to receive up to \$10,000 per year. Two or more subgrantees may receive different subgrants for the same project.

**Priority:** Eligible states may give priority to eligible entities that have not previously received a grant or are located in communities or regions with the highest degree of food insecurity.

**Use of Grant Funds:** To engage in activities that will increase the quantity and quality of locally grown food for food insecure individuals, families, neighborhoods, and communities, including by:

- Purchasing tools, equipment, soil, soil amendments, seeds, plants, animals, canning equipment, refrigeration or other items necessary to grow and store food;
- Expanding areas under cultivation to grow food or to qualify for an EQUIP high tunnel to extend the growing season;
- Hydroponic and aeroponic farming;
- Building, buying, erecting or repairing fencing for livestock, poultry, or reindeer;
- Purchasing and equipping a slaughter and processing facility;
- Traveling to participate in agricultural education
- Paying for shipping of items related to growing or raising food;
- Creating or expanding avenues for the sale of local food, increasing the availability of local nutritious food, and
- Engaging in other activities related to increasing food security (including subsistence)