

BROWN AMENDMENT TO ENCOURAGE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE MARKET DEVELOPMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND EDUCATION

SUMMARY:

This amendment provides much-needed funding and a few important technical policy changes to a handful of key programs that support development of a more resilient food system. These changes and the funding the amendment provides make strides towards aligning our agriculture, health, and economic policy in ways that ensure farmers get a fair price for their product, all Americans have access to affordable, healthy food, and that both contribute to strong communities and a thriving economy.

COST: (estimated \$175 million—CBO score pending). As written the 2013 farm bill saves \$24.2 billion. The Committee originally committed to saving \$23 billion. This amendment would direct \$175 million of the additional and unexpected to the programs listed below. The total savings for the bill would still exceed \$24 billion and the amendment would make a small but significant investment in long-term health and a robust food economy.

DETAILS:

Community Food Program

- Increases funding from \$5 million to \$10 million in mandatory funds per year
- Reaffirms the purposes of the Community Food Program as measuring food-insecurity, assessing its causes, and identifying solutions that will build long-term strength and resilience in the community. Prioritizes projects that involve multiple stakeholders. Would prompt development of a national repository of food and agriculture best practices that would be useful to people working at the local level.

Food and Agriculture Service Learning Program

- Provides \$15 million in mandatory funding over the life of the farm bill

Value-Added Producer Grants Program

- Increases mandatory funding from \$12.5 million to \$20 million per year
- Authorizes grants to those that operate through centralized food distribution systems as part of the existing mid-tier value chain eligible purpose and set-aside. Retains and clarifies the priority for projects benefitting farmer cooperatives, small and medium-sized family farms, and beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

Business and Industry Loan Program

- Modifies the existing set-aside for loans for local food enterprises to eliminate a burdensome third party labeling requirement, to clarify that project priorities include creating new market opportunities for farmers, increasing good food access in underserved communities, and supporting comprehensive regional economic development strategies, and to provide flexibility for USDA to reduce barriers to participation.

Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program

- Increases funding from \$20 million to \$30 million in mandatory funds per year

Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program

- Increases funding from \$20.6 million to \$23.1 million in FY2014 and to \$25.6 million per year in FY2015 – FY2018.

PROGRAM SUMMARIES AND MORE INFORMATION:

Community Food Projects

The [Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program \(CFPCGP\)](#) has since 1996 promoted self-sufficiency and food security in low-income communities through community food projects (CFP), Planning Projects and Training and Capacity Building projects (TCB). CFPs unite the entire food system, assessing strengths, establishing linkages, and creating systems that improve self-reliance over food needs. TCB helps successful applicants carry out and evaluate their projects. USDA Community Food Project Home page - [Here](#)

Food and Agriculture Service Learning Program

A provision in the Local Farms, Food, and Jobs Act that would establish a program to advance children's nutritional health and education in underserved communities, both urban and rural, by increasing the number of national service members working in K-12 schools to engage children in experiential learning about agriculture, gardening, nutrition, cooking and where food comes from, as well as to facilitate a connection between schools and area agricultural producers in coordination with the Cooperative Extension Service.

Value-Added Producer Grant Program

The primary purpose of this grant program is to enable eligible agricultural producers to develop businesses that produce and market value-added agricultural products. Eligible applicants must be an independent producer, agricultural producer group, farmer or rancher cooperative, or majority-controlled producer-based business venture. The project must evidence a high likelihood of creating value-added for an agricultural product. [USDA Example](#). USDA's VAPG homepage - [here](#)

Business and Industry Loan Program - The purpose of the B&I Guaranteed Loan Program is to improve, develop, or finance business, industry, and employment and improve the economic and environmental climate in rural communities. This purpose is achieved by bolstering the existing private credit structure through the guarantee of quality loans which will provide lasting community benefits. It is not intended that the guarantee authority will be used for marginal or substandard loans or for relief of lenders having such loans. [USDA background and example](#)

Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program

An expanded version of the Farmers Market Promotion Program designed to support not only direct producer-to-consumer marketing but also scaled-up local and regional food marketing. Included in the 2012 Senate-passed farm bill, S.10, and also Section 10003 of S. 954, the 2013 farm bill currently under consideration.

Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program

Awards grants to States, U.S. Territories, and federally recognized Indian tribal governments to provide low-income seniors with coupons that can be exchanged for eligible foods (fruits, vegetables, honey, and fresh-cut herbs) at farmers' markets, roadside stands, and community-supported agriculture programs. The SFMNP is administered by State agencies such as your State Department of Agriculture or Agency on Aging. [Participating State Agencies](#), [Map of Participating State Agencies](#), [USDA SFMNP homepage](#).