



## HFFI Partnerships Program

### The Local and Regional Healthy Food Financing Partnerships (HFFI Partnerships) Program supports local capacity to establish and grow healthy food financing programs.

The Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI) works to improve access to healthy foods in underserved areas, to create and preserve quality jobs, and to revitalize low-income communities. HFFI aims to build a more equitable food system that supports the health and economic vibrancy of all Americans.

HFFI is launching a new program, the Local and Regional Healthy Food Financing Partnerships Program (HFFI Partnerships Program).

The HFFI Partnerships Program will offer funding to support local capacity and capital to establish and grow local, regional, or state food financing programs.

To do this, the HFFI Partnerships Program will offer grants to support partnerships between organizations from different sectors that will work together at the local, state, or regional level to improve access to fresh, healthy, affordable food by providing financial and technical assistance to eligible projects.

This new program will expand the impact of the HFFI program nationally and bring in new partners to address the complexity of food access in communities across America. Through support of local and regional Partnerships, this program will build capacity for local groups serving the needs of their communities and deepen the reach of HFFI into underserved communities. Authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill, and reauthorized by the 2018 Farm Bill, the HFFI Partnerships Program is a program of HFFI administered by Reinvestment Fund on behalf of USDA Rural Development.

The HFFI Partnerships Program offers financial assistance to eligible Partnerships for two types of activities:

- 1) **Capacity Building** activities will allow a new or existing Partnership to research, plan, or implement an FFP to provide more funding and technical assistance to Food Retail and Food Enterprise projects.
- 2) **Credit Enhancement** activities will allow Qualified Lenders in the Partnership to increase the deployment of financial assistance to Food Retail and Food Enterprise projects in Underserved Areas.



## IMPORTANT DATES

Program Webinar:  
September 7, 2023 at 3 pm ET

Application Closes:  
November 3, 2023 at  
11:59 pm ET

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE

The HFFI Partnerships Program is for regional, state, or local public-private partnerships that are organized to improve access to fresh, healthy foods and provide financial and technical assistance to eligible projects.

Partnerships include meaningful collaboration between two or more organizations. Partnerships must be public-private partnerships; one entity must be a public entity such as a local, state or a tribal authority, government, or agency; the others may be nonprofits, for-profit businesses, foundations, food policy councils, food systems and food access organizations, among others.

*The HFFI Partnerships Program is not for food retailers or food enterprises seeking funding for a capital project.*

## GRANT AWARDS

In 2023, up to \$30,000,000 is available for HFFI Partnerships Program grants. Grant awards will range from \$200,000-\$1,000,000 for capacity building activities and \$500,000-\$3,000,000 for credit enhancement activities, for a total of up to \$3,000,000 per total award. Future funding rounds may be available.

## WHAT WE WILL FUND

The HFFI Partnerships Program will fund eligible Partnerships that are working to improve access to fresh, healthy food in underserved communities through providing technical and financial assistance to food retailers and food enterprises.

Grant funding may be used to establish, expand, or deepen local, statewide, regional, and other Food Financing Programs (FFP) that serve food retailer and food enterprise projects in underserved areas. Food retail projects include grocery stores and other markets that sell staple and perishable foods and accept SNAP from consumers. Eligible food enterprises include food retail supply chain businesses that serve or work with food retailers.

These FFPs should provide, or plan to provide, financial assistance such as grants, loans, or equity investments to food retail or food enterprise projects. FFPs may also provide technical assistance to those projects or to communities trying to improve food retail access.

Grant funding may be used to increase the capacity of current partnerships to go deeper in their current communities or expand to new communities. It may also be used to assist the development or launch of a new Partnership and FFP in an underserved area where resources have not previously existed. Grant funding may be used to increase the ability of existing partnerships to provide financial assistance to food retail or food enterprises in their current communities or expand to new communities.

## HOW TO APPLY

For more information on how to apply, read the full Request for Applications (RFA) at: [www.investinginfood.com](http://www.investinginfood.com)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO CONTACT US

If you have questions about the HFFI Partnerships Program, please email us at [help@investinginfood.com](mailto:help@investinginfood.com) or call 215-574-5862. If you are calling, you will be prompted to leave a voicemail. Visit our website [www.investinginfood.com](http://www.investinginfood.com) to learn more and to join our mailing list.

