

## **Food Outreach and Opportunity Development (FOOD) for a Healthy America Act**

### **FINDINGS**

- 1) The rise in diabetes, heart-disease, and other diet-related diseases are in part a result of a lack of access to affordable healthy foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables;
- 2) Increasing the availability of fresh and healthy food in schools, hospitals, and underserved communities is an important component of improving overall food security in the United States;
- 3) Strengthening local and regional food systems is necessary for the long-term supply of fresh and healthy food to these communities and helps support family farmers and their communities by providing opportunities for direct farmer-to-consumer marketing activities including farmers markets, roadside stands, community supported agriculture and other direct order marketing activities;
- 4) Local and regional food systems that support underserved communities should be provided with Federal financial and technical support, with a focus on—
  - (A) locally-led food access initiatives;
  - (B) infrastructure needs, such as food processing, transportation, and marketing;
  - (C) direct farmer-to-consumer marketing activities, including farmers' markets;
  - (D) access to fresh fruits and vegetables for school children; and
  - (C) the protection of productive farmland in close proximity to urban areas which is necessary to grow food;

### **SEC. 101 COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECTS GRANTS**

The Community Food Projects grant program provides eligible nonprofit entities with a one-time infusion of federal assistance. Projects are funded from \$10,000-\$300,000, from 1 to 3 years, and require a dollar-for-dollar match in resources. Chosen projects target low-income populations, develop community self-reliance, and promote access to fresher and more nutritious foods.

- Increase funding to \$30 million annually from 2008-2013

### **SEC. 102 FARMERS' MARKET PROMOTION PROGRAM**

The Farmers' Market Promotion Program provides federal grants to support direct farmer-to-consumer marketing activities such as farmers' markets, roadside stands, and community supported agriculture. Projects seek to promote access for consumers and provide training, education, and technical assistance for producers.

- Expand purpose to include all direct farm-to-consumer marketing activities.
- Increase funding to \$25 million annually and make mandatory through Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) from 2008-2013.
- Set-aside 25% of funds to be distributed to entities operating in underserved communities, including activities related to the use of food stamp electronic benefit transfers at farmers' markets.

### **SEC. 103 SENIOR FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM**

The Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program provides coupons to low-income seniors for the purchase of fresh, unprepared foods at farmers' markets and other community based agriculture programs.

- Increase funding and make it mandatory through CCC; \$20 million in 2008, \$30m in 2009, \$45m in 2010, \$60m in 2011, and \$75m thereafter.

### **SEC. 104 HEALTHY FOOD ENTERPRISE PROGRAM**

The purpose of this program is to promote the health and well-being of all Americans, especially school children, low-income populations, and individuals residing in underserved communities by increasing the availability and affordability of healthy and fresh foods, which when produced, processed, and packaged, can significantly enhance agricultural producers' income by increasing the producer's share of the final retail product price.

- Establish the Healthy Food Enterprise Program which will provide direct loans and loan guarantees for the development of healthy food infrastructure that supports underserved communities.
- Provide grants for feasibility studies, technical assistance, and outreach to eligible entities and communities for the establishment of local food infrastructure.
- Authorize mandatory funding at \$35 million annually through CCC.

### **SEC. 105 FARMLAND PROTECTION PROGRAM**

The Farmland Protection Program provides matching funds to state and local government entities and nongovernmental organizations to purchase conservation easements for the purpose of protecting farmland in danger of development. Many eligible farms are located near urban centers and are the best positioned to supply local food markets.

- Increase funding to \$300 million annually;
- Expand purposes of program beyond protection of top soil;
- For “qualified” state and local farmland protection programs and land trusts, funding would be provided through grants;

### **SEC. 106 FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM**

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program provides free fresh produce to schools to encourage children to snack on fruits and vegetables in order to improve their overall health, and reduce their risk of obesity. The program began as a pilot program covering over 100 schools in 4 States and 7 schools on Indian reservations.

- Expand to a minimum of 100 schools in each state.
- Increase funding to \$300 million annually from 2008-2013.

### **SEC. 107 FARM-TO-CAFETERIA PROGRAM**

The Farm to Cafeteria program creates projects linking farms and schools, bringing locally-grown food from small and medium sized farms into the school lunch program. The program also funds nutrition curricula in the classroom and the creation of school gardens. A competitive seed grant fund covers the initial costs associated with a new Farm to Cafeteria project, including food procurement, storage and cutting equipment, staff time and training, educational and promotional materials, and creation of school gardens.

- Increase to \$20 million annually from 2008-2013

### **SEC. 108 PURCHASES OF LOCALLY PRODUCED FOODS**

- Allow institutions participating in the school lunch program, the Department of Defense Farm to School Program and the programs established by the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to use geographic preferences in their bidding and procurement programs to purchase, in addition to other food purchases, locally produced foods for meal programs.

### **SEC. 109 IMPROVING HEALTH THROUGH NUTRITION EDUCATION**

The goal of Food Stamp Nutrition Education (FSNE) is to improve the likelihood that FSP participants and applicants will make healthy choices within a limited budget and choose active lifestyles consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the Food Guide Pyramid. Currently, \$90 million is allotted to this program annually.

- Increase to 100 million annually from 2008-2013