



# Transportation and Marketing Micro-Grants for Food Security Program

*Fiscal Year 2020*

## *Description of Funded Projects*

**Number of Grants Awarded:** 6

**Amount of Funds Awarded:** \$4,361,752.80

For more information, please visit the grant program's website:

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/mgfsp>

**NOTE:** The below project descriptions were provided by the grant recipients.

### **Alaska Division of Agriculture**

**Recipient:** Alaska Division of Agriculture  
Juneau, AK

**Award Amount:** \$1,938,556.80

**Project Type:** Initiative

#### ***Alaska 2020 Micro Grants for Food Security Program Award***

In order to conduct a competitive grant process, the State of Alaska will put out a Request for Proposals (RFP) soliciting Letters of Intent (LOI) for projects conducted by eligible entities that “will increase the quantity and quality of locally grown food for food insecure individuals, families, neighborhoods, and communities.” The RFP will be placed on the statewide website, forwarded to other agency groups, and e-mailed directly to statewide Cooperative Extension Service (CES) offices. In addition, the Division will announce the RFP via a Statewide Media Release, reaching 100 different media outlets and posted to the Division Alaska Grown Facebook page with over 57,000 followers.

The Division of Agriculture has a statewide presence with all the programs that they administer. The Division has two Facebook pages, does Facebook live presentations on a weekly basis, consults with the non-profit and educational entities involved with food production and food security. Division staff present at all the major Agriculture (production and marketing) and Food related conferences. The Division also has a webpage and uses the Department of Natural Resources communication team to put out press releases, and conduct media events as requested. The Division gets regular requests for updates from the community and legislators (state and national) about this program.

The MGFSB grants are available to all individuals, Indian Tribes or tribal organizations, non-profit organizations, and federally funded educational facilities. Therefore, everyone in the State of Alaska who has a project which will meet the requirements of the program are eligible to participate.

## American Samoa Government Department of Agriculture

**Recipient:** American Samoa Government Department of  
Agriculture  
Tafuna, AS

**Award Amount:** \$121,159.80

**Project Type:** Initiative

### ***American Samoa 2020 Micro Grants for Food Security Program Award***

The USDA Micro Grants for Food Security Program awards grants to eligible agencies, commissions, or departments of agriculture for the competitive distribution of subgrants that 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. In short this means that ASG DOA will solicit applications from the farming community for the competitive distribution of grant awards. The focus of this proposal is to support pig farming in American Samoa.

ASG DOA will announce the program at regular monthly meetings that are held with all the registered farmers at the DOA compound. DOA holds regular meetings with the farming community to communicate updates, information, and other announcements as needed. The program will also be promoted daily via the DOA front office. Additional outreach will be done via the local radio station and the DOA Facebook page.

ASG DOA will announce the program in a coordinated community outreach effort, which will include:

- 1) Initial Launch: Media releases (radio, TV and newspaper, social media); Office of Samoan Affairs presentation (all village mayors attend the biweekly OSA meetings for information, updates, etc.); Chamber of Commerce; hardware stores
- 2) Ongoing: As the program's performance period is scheduled for 4 years, ASG DOA will advertise and promote the program regularly via the front office (fliers, brochures, posters), social media page, and local radio (English & Samoan).

## CNMI Division of Agriculture

**Recipient:** Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
(CNMI) Division of Agriculture  
Saipan, MP

**Award Amount:** \$121,159.80

**Project Type:** Initiative

### ***CNMI 2020 Micro Grants for Food Security Program Award***

CNMI DOA will use multiple methods to identify and reach eligible entities. DOA staff will develop a list of local entities that meet program requirements including individual farmers, ranchers, food pantries, and federal funded educational institutions such as head start, public school systems, Northern Marianas College (NMC) Community Research and Extension Services (CREES) and call or visit those entities to explain the program and encourage them to apply once the Request for Proposal is announced. The entities are all located in CNMI and are managing farm or agriculture businesses or programs on the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

DOA staff will also utilize KKMP Radio to disseminate information about the program. They will request an hour of airtime to talk about the program, including its requirements, deadlines and other important information. This will ensure the greatest number of eligible entities are reached, as the radio station usually interviews guest speakers during morning commute hours.

The DOA will announce in their Request for Proposal to eligible entities using local newspaper and radio ads. In addition, they will conduct virtual workshops via Zoom to explain the application process and requirements, making it easier for eligible applicants to apply to the program.

## Guam Department of Agriculture

**Recipient:** Guam Department of Agriculture  
Hagatna, GU

**Award Amount:** \$121,159.80

**Project Type:** Initiative

### ***Guam 2020 Micro Grants for Food Security Program Award***

The Guam Department of Agriculture (GDOAG) will employ multiple methods to identify eligible entities. DOAG will employ outreach to ensure eligible entities on Guam are informed and have access to information about the MGFSP. DOAG's Agricultural Development Services Division (ADS) will conduct targeted outreach to certified farmers through email, phone calls, and press releases to inform them about the MGFSP program grant opportunity. The information will also be posted on DOAG's website. Non-governmental organization (NGO) collaborators will be notified of the MGFSP opportunity directly via email and phone calls. Lastly, public announcements will be shared with multiple radio talk shows and marketing visuals will be posted on DOAG's main and satellite facilities.

The Guam Department of Agriculture will solicit proposals for MGFSP using networking and marketing avenues. DOAG will advertise the MGFSP opportunity on the agency's website and other social media platforms. DOAG will generate a list of NGO collaborators such as the Northern Soil and Water Conservation District and the Southern Soil and Water Conservation District, as well as existing farmers to use as references to send out emails and flyers. Word of mouth is also a tool to be utilized as Guam has a tight knit farming and sustainability community. Lastly, the media will be engaged to assist with information dissemination.

## Hawaii Department of Agriculture

**Recipient:** Hawaii Department of Agriculture  
Honolulu, HI

**Award Amount:** \$1,938,556.80

**Project Type:** Initiative

### ***Hawaii 2020 Micro Grants for Food Security Program Award***

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) will identify eligible entities and conduct outreach via email, phone, and in-person or virtual meetings. These methods will benefit food insecure communities by layering outreach through various local stakeholders, including government agencies tasked to assist the food insecure, commodity groups that produce food, entities whose focus is on educating and offering hands-on training to students and new farmers and associations whose members could add locally consumed food crops to their farm operations. This layered outreach is intended to maximize the potential of the MGFSP opportunity to increase the quantity and quality of locally grown food for food insecure individuals, families, neighborhoods and communities.

In concurrence with State law, the HDOA will issue a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) with a solicitation notice posting to the Hawaii State Procurement Office (SPO) website, followed with email notification to agricultural industry groups and individuals statewide. The RFP will state that the purpose of the solicitation is to increase the quantity and quality of locally grown food in food insecure communities through small-scale gardening, herding and livestock operations. The intent of the Hawaii MGFSP will be to support projects that provide the resources to food insecure communities to become more food secure, through activities that have measurable outcomes during the project and that will result in the applicant's ability to scale-up production in the longer term. The RFP process provides an opportunity for all eligible Hawaii-based individuals and organizations including commodity associations, agricultural cooperatives, producer groups, and other non-profit organizations relating to agriculture to participate in in the MGFSP.

# USVI Department of Agriculture

**Recipient:** U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture  
Kingshill, VI

**Award Amount:** \$121,159.80

**Project Type:** Initiative

## ***U.S. Virgin Islands 2020 Micro Grants for Food Security Program Award***

The USVI Department of Agriculture is seeking to fund sub-grants to help develop, support and promote the Agriculture industry in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Since an extremely high percentage of food eaten in the Territory is imported, this project will seek to provide small scale farming support resources such as gardening tools or equipment, soil, soil amendments, seeds, plants, canning equipment, refrigeration, or other items necessary to grow and store food. In addition, this project will seek to support livestock operations activities such as: purchasing animals, fencing for livestock, and supplies to equip a slaughter and processing facility. Finally, in an effort to expand much needed access to food and knowledge of food security, funds would be utilized to create or expand local avenues to market food, specialty crops, and meat grown for sale in the community (including costs for shipping of purchased food production items); in efforts to increase the availability of fresh, locally grown nutritious food.

The MGFSP Grant opportunity and Request for Proposal will be advertised to eligible entities via the Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture (VIDA) website <https://doa.vi.gov/>, social media accounts, farmer email list serv, and the weekly VIDA Saturday Morning Fresh From the Farm Radio talk show interviews. Additionally, radio and newspaper advertisements, flyers, and press releases will be posted throughout the community and shared directly with community stakeholders to ensure the greatest number of eligible entities are reached during the competitive application process.