



Healthy Farm and Food Fund

WHAT DOES THIS BILL DO?

This legislation would set aside 1.5% of Kentucky's annual Master Tobacco Settlement funds that food access programs using Kentucky grown products can utilize to meet federal grant match requirements.

The Healthy Farm and Food Fund would:

- Increase funding available to support programs which ensure that low-income Kentuckians—especially those utilizing SNAP—have access to affordable, healthy, locally-grown food
- Create program sustainability, ensuring that food insecure Kentuckians have access to healthy food
- Establish new opportunities and innovation for direct farm impact food access programs—such as Kentucky Double Dollars, Farms to Food Banks, and Fresh RX for MOMs

HOW ARE THESE PROGRAMS CURRENTLY FUNDED?

Food access programs that utilize Kentucky farm products are funded through charity, private philanthropy, the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund (KADF), as well as federal sources. This funding is typically on an annual or biennial basis with both federal and KADF requiring matches. These factors impact food access programs, making them unstable and unable to grow to their full potential.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THIS PROGRAM?

- **For farmers:** These programs grow their businesses through increased sales from new and repeating customers who otherwise would not be able to afford locally-grown food. Increasing capacity for matched federal dollars increases profits for farmers.
- **For families and communities:** By increasing the accessibility of healthy locally-grown foods, the Healthy Farm & Food Fund will decrease household food insecurity and simultaneously improve the dietary health outcomes of Kentucky's children and their families.
- **For the economy:** This fund will bring more federal dollars flowing into the state, which will raise the percentage of families' grocery budgets spent on Kentucky-grown foods, increasing the amount of money in Kentucky farmers' pockets and keeping more dollars local. Economists estimate that every \$1 a household redeems through SNAP generates about \$1.70 in economic activity.

DOES A FUND LIKE THIS EXIST IN THE STATE?

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund currently funds some projects through Agriculture's 50% of Master Tobacco Settlement funds but KADF also requires a 50% match.



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WHY IS STATE FUNDING NEEDED?

Even though healthy food access impacts both health and agriculture, currently only the agriculture portion of the fund is supporting programs like Kentucky Double Dollars and Farms to Food Banks. This creates instability and jeopardizes sustainable funding for Kentucky's direct farm impact healthy food access programs.

The General Assembly's Task Force on Childhood Obesity Report from 2012 recommended the state ensure positive health outcomes and promote economic growth for Kentucky farmers.

The USDA has multiple grant programs that are applicable to healthy food access such as: the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (\$75M annually), the Community Food Project (\$5M annually), Local Food Promotion Program (\$38M annually), and others. However, all of these funding opportunities require matching funds which, in the absence of state funding, puts a lot of stress on non-governmental organizations.

CAN ANY PRODUCE BE INCLUDED IN THIS PROGRAM?

These incentive programs are only able to use produce grown in Kentucky including eggs and dairy, as well as locally raised meat.

IS THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AWARE OF THIS BILL?

Yes. These incentive programs are also partly funded by KDA.

HAVE OTHER STATES PASSED SIMILAR LEGISLATION?

Yes. Similar legislation has been passed in Arizona, New Mexico, Michigan, and California.



QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

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