

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1265

To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to make temporary assistance available to support community food security projects designed to meet the food needs of low-income people, increase the self-reliance of communities in providing for their own food needs, and promote comprehensive, inclusive, and future-oriented solutions to local food, farm, and nutrition problems, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 21 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 5), 1995

Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. HARKIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to make temporary assistance available to support community food security projects designed to meet the food needs of low-income people, increase the self-reliance of communities in providing for their own food needs, and promote comprehensive, inclusive, and future-oriented solutions to local food, farm, and nutrition problems, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Community Food Se-
3 curity Act of 1995”.

4 **SEC. 2. ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY FOOD SECURITY**
5 **PROJECTS.**

6 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) COMMUNITY FOOD SECURITY PROJECT.—

8 The term “community food security project” means
9 a community-based project that—

10 (A) is designed to—

11 (i) meet the food needs of low-income
12 people;

13 (ii) increase the self-reliance of com-
14 munities in providing for their own food
15 needs; and

16 (iii) promote comprehensive, inclusive,
17 and future-oriented solutions to local food,
18 farm, and nutrition problems; and

19 (B) requires a one-time infusion of Federal
20 assistance to become self-sustaining.

21 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible en-
22 tity” means an entity that has experience in the area
23 of—

24 (A) community food work, including the
25 development of new markets in low-income com-

1 munities for agricultural producers, particularly
2 small- and medium-sized farms; or

3 (B) job training and business development
4 activities for food-related businesses in low-in-
5 come communities.

6 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
7 the Secretary of Agriculture.

8 (b) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may make
9 grants to assist eligible entities in establishing and carry-
10 ing out community food security projects.

11 (c) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible entity may submit to
12 the Secretary an application, in such form and containing
13 such information as the Secretary may require, that—

14 (1) demonstrates competency in implementing a
15 community food security project;

16 (2) demonstrates fiscal accountability;

17 (3) contains an agreement that the entity will
18 collect data and prepare reports and other docu-
19 mentation, as required by the Secretary; and

20 (4) demonstrates that the entity is willing to
21 participate in a continuing assessment of regional
22 food security and to share information with re-
23 searchers, practitioners, and other interested parties.

24 (d) PREFERENCE FOR CERTAIN PROJECTS.—In se-
25 lecting community food security projects to be supported

1 by grants under subsection (b), the Secretary shall give
2 preference to projects designed—

3 (1) to develop linkages between 2 or more sec-
4 tors of the food system;

5 (2) to support the development of entrepreneur-
6 ial solutions to local food problems;

7 (3) to develop innovative linkages between the
8 for-profit and nonprofit food sectors; or

9 (4) to encourage long-term planning activities
10 and multisystem, interagency approaches.

11 (e) MATCHING FUNDS.—

12 (1) REQUIREMENTS.—The Federal share of the
13 cost of establishing or carrying out a community
14 food security project that receives assistance under
15 subsection (b) may not exceed 50 percent of the cost
16 during the term of the grant.

17 (2) CALCULATION.—The non-Federal share of
18 the cost of carrying out a community food security
19 project may be provided through a payment in cash
20 or in kind, fairly evaluated, including facilities,
21 equipment, or services from private, State, or local
22 sources.

23 (f) SINGLE GRANT.—A community food security
24 project may be supported by only a single grant under
25 subsection (b), for a term of not to exceed 3 years.

1 (g) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND RELATED INFOR-
2 MATION.—The Secretary shall—

3 (1) provide technical assistance regarding com-
4 munity food security projects, processes, and devel-
5 opment to entities seeking such assistance;

6 (2) provide for the sharing of information about
7 community food security projects and issues among
8 and between government agencies, private for-profit
9 and nonprofit groups, and the public through publi-
10 cations, conferences, and other appropriate form;
11 and

12 (3) participate in assessments of regional food
13 security and share information with researchers,
14 practitioners, and other interested parties.

15 (h) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—The Secretary
16 shall—

17 (1) provide for the evaluation of community
18 food security projects supported using funds under
19 this section; and

20 (2) not later than January 30, 2000, submit to
21 Congress a report on the results of the evaluation.

22 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
23 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section

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- 1 \$4,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1996, 1997, 1998,
- 2 1999, and 2000.

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