

## **Community Food Projects**

Community Food Project (CFP) grants are provided to community-based and other non-profit organizations that link rural and urban communities, create business opportunities for food producers, and increase access to local and healthy foods for consumers and school children.

In the **House Farm Bill, Section 4020** reauthorizes the program, but does not provide mandatory funding. Appropriations of \$30 million are authorized for fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

In the **Senate Farm Bill, Section 4801** reauthorizes the program, with \$10 million in mandatory funds for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

**Request:** Community Food Security Coalition **urges legislators to support at least \$10 million in mandatory funding for Community Food Projects** as the Farm Bill moves through conference. We would also support an additional authorization of discretionary funding over and above the mandatory funding.

## **Geographic Preferences for Schools**

**Support no-cost language in the Farm Bill that requires USDA to allow geographic preferences and increased flexibility for schools to purchase food for meal programs.** Despite significant interest from parents and schools to purchase local foods, USDA has prohibited requesting local products during bidding for federally-funded school meals. This conflicts with federal legislation specifically allowing the implementation of farm to school programs.

**In the House Farm Bill, Section 4304** clarifies that the Secretary shall encourage institutions receiving funds under the National School Lunch Act and Child Nutrition Act to purchase locally produced foods to the maximum extent possible, including the use of geographic preference for the procurement of locally produced foods.

**In the Senate Farm Bill, Section 4901** clarifies that institutions participating in the school lunch program are allowed to use a geographic preference for the procurement of locally grown fruits and vegetables to the maximum extent practicable and appropriate.

Community Food Security Coalition supports the House provision, which includes any locally produced foods, because it may be possible for a school to access local products besides fruits and vegetables, for example, milk products. **We ask legislators to maintain the geographic preference provision and support the more encompassing House language as the Farm Bill moves through conference.**

For more information, please contact Community Food Security Coalition at 202.543.8602 or Steph Larsen at [steph@foodsecurity.org](mailto:steph@foodsecurity.org)