



State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
AK	Lisa Murkowski & Dan Sullivan	Don Young (At Large)	Kodiak Rural Leadership	\$150,918	<p>The overall goal of this project is to support the establishment of a regional network of Alaska native farmers and ranchers in the Alutiiq Homeland of the Kodiak Archipelago to provide for local and regional access to affordable fresh produce, eggs, and meat. The project's two objectives focus on the delivery of a year long technical training and information program in six of the archipelago's communities of Akhiok, Kodiak, Larsen Bay, Old Harbor, Ouzinkie and Port Lions. At least 25 Alaska Natives (socially disadvantaged) will participate in the project's technical assistance activities and at least 10 Alaska Native owned farms or ranches will have developed business plans by September 2019.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Kodiak Archipelago, Alaska Contact Info: Roberta T. Vennel kodiakruralleadershipforum@gmail.com (907) 299-6185</p>
AL	Richard Shelby & Doug Jones	Mo Brooks (05)	Alabama A&M University	\$200,000	<p>Through this project that leverages the outreach capabilities of local organizations committed to engaging and serving VSDBFRs, individuals who choose farming opportunities will advance successfully via the training and mentoring made available by this project which targets 38 rural counties and 23 Strike-Force communities. The project will assist 195 producers (35 veterans, 10 young beginning-farmer trainees, and 150 minority producers). It will further reach a diverse group of over 3,500 VSDBFRs through effective outreach and information dissemination. Expected outcomes include increased participation in USDA farm loan, cost-share, and crop insurance programs; improved recordkeeping systems; enhanced knowledge of and compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act; improved financial management, marketing and estate planning skills; increased access to capital and viable markets; better understanding of risk management tools; enhanced revenue streams from value-added products; proficiency in developing and using business and food safety plans; enhanced leadership skills, networking and peer-to-peer learning; increased minority landownership, use and retention; and ultimately increased profitability of minority-owned farms and businesses.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Alabama's 38 Underserved Counties Contact Info: Dr. Duncan M. Chembezi duncan.chembezi@aamu.edu (256) 372-4970</p>
AR	John Boozman & Tom Cotton	Bruce Westerman (04)	University of Arkansas Pine Bluff	\$200,000	<p>This project takes the holistic approach by providing farm management training and technical assistance to socially disadvantaged and veteran producers (SDVPs) and beginning producers in economics, production, and marketing. The project also makes a special effort to assist producers in using USDA Programs to improve their operations. Twenty-one counties in eastern Arkansas and seven counties in southwest Arkansas are included in the project. Beef cattle, row crop, and vegetable producers are in the counties. The objectives are: To help SDVPs make better financial decisions by providing training and assistance with USDA Farm Loans and in the use of financial planning tools and statements. To help SDVPs make better production decisions by helping them use the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs and conservation practices to improve their lands and the Cooperative Extension Service (CES) research-based production practices to improve and increase their yields. To help vegetable and row crop SDVPs make better marketing price decisions by helping them to develop pre-planting and pre-harvest written marketing plans for vegetable and row crop respectively. Participants will be trained and assisted in developing and using balance sheets, income statements, enterprise budgets, cash flow projection and other financial tools. Producers will also be trained and assisted in obtaining NRCS conservation plans to identify and install land improvement practices while using CES recommended production practices to increase yields.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Contact Info: Dr. Henry English englishh@uapb.edu (870) 575-7246</p>

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CA	Diane Feinstein & Kamala Harris	Jimmy Panetta (20)	Agriculture & Land Based Training Association	\$200,000	<p>A New LIFE will build the capacity of hard-working socially disadvantaged farmers to own and operate viable organic farms. The project will also expand outreach and on-farm agriculture education to high-school, college, and at-risk youth in Salinas Valley's poor, inland communities to promote gainful career pathways in organic agriculture. Moreover, ALBA will actively recruit and educate veterans in the region, many of whom need help in transitioning into new careers after long stints of military service.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Salinas Valley, California Contact Info: Patricia Carrillo patricia@albafarmers (831) 758-1469</p>
CA	Diane Feinstein & Kamala Harris	Alan Lowenthal (47)	Kitchen Food Ventures	\$172,975	<p>Kitchen Food Ventures (KFV) in partnership with the Sisson Group will host educational workshops and KFV's Farmers Boot Camp/Business Institute. All classes and workshops will be offered in both Spanish and English, along with printed curriculums and syllabus. Coaches and business consultants are bilingual, speaking both Spanish and English. Core services will include Computer Basics, Business Financial Elevation, and Strategic Growth Workshop. The impact of this project will build the capacity of SDFRs and assist new and veteran SDFRs in achieving targeted growth allowing for contract opportunities that will provide stable income for farmers and expand their farming operations which will allow employment of other low income residents. In addition, advanced management training and counseling will help farmers effectively manage growth and provide opportunities to explore the appropriateness of clustering, strategic alliances, and mentoring strategies.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: The geographical area of service is the "Inland Empire farming community", located about 75 miles east of Los Angeles, CA, encompasses two counties, (San Bernardino & Riverside) and cities as stated below: Adelanto, Aguanga, Bryn Mawr, Calimesa, Forest Falls, Grand Terrace, Joshua Tree, Lucerne Valley, Mentone, Mira Loma, Newberry, Phelan, Thermal, Wildomar and Yucca Valley.</p> <p>Contact Info: Cherie Beasley kitchenfoodventures@msn.com (310) 920-7001</p>
FL	Bill Nelson & Marco Rubio	Carlos Curbelo (26)	Florida International University	\$183,337	<p>The Florida International University, in collaboration with three Veterans and non-profit organizations and private farms, proposes to empower a growing population of small and under-represented farmers in urban sustainable agriculture (eSURF USA) in the urban and peri-urban fringes of South Florida by helping them establish or sustain existing farm operations, conducting various intensive non-credit classes in urban sustainable agriculture, technical workshops, and networking with established farmers. The long term goal of the project is to equip the above groups of individuals (with a special emphasis on veterans and young urban farmers) with necessary technical know-how, farm entrepreneurial skills, and most importantly, increased access to government assistance programs.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: South Florida Contact Info: Mahadev Bhat bhatm@fiu.edu (305) 348-1210</p>

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GA	John Isakson & David Perdue	Sanford Bishop Jr. (02)	Golden Triangle RC&D Council	\$99,217	<p>The project will provide two demonstration workshops that feature information on farm conservation planning, new and current USDA programs, heirs property, estate planning, and recordkeeping. The project will include two exceptional six part educational programs that empower SDVFR's to steward their land more effectively known as the Georgia Landowner Academy (GLA). GLA topics include recordkeeping, financial management, agricultural management, business essentials, forest management, understanding taxes, heirs property, and estate planning. Participants will be offered free wills prepared by a licensed attorney. An introduction to the application process for USDA and NRCS programs is provided. Through these avenues of support, the course aims to empower landowners to make their land more profitable and sustainable. One-on-one time with a staff attorney(s) from the Heirs Property Law Center will be available to begin the work of clearing titles in order to maintain land tenure and be able to participate in USDA programs.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Southern Georgia (Baker, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brooks, Calhoun, Colquitt, Clay, Crisp, Dooly, Decatur, Early, Dougherty, Grady, Macon, Miller, Mitchell, Peach, Randolph, Seminole, Stewart, Taylor, Terrell, Thomas, Wilcox, and Worth Counties)</p> <p>Contact Info: Rhonda Gordon rgordon@goldentrianglercd.org (229) 723-3841</p>
GA	John Isakson & David Perdue	Sanford Bishop Jr. (02)	Southwest Georgia Project for Community Education	\$185,000	<p>In partnership with the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement, Ft. Valley Extension and University of Georgia Extension, the Southwest Georgia Project proposes an intensive Farm Viability Project that will provide outreach, training, and education to enhance the viability of socially disadvantaged farmers in southwest Georgia. This project will focus on African American farmers that need assistance scaling, growing, and securing their farm operation. The overall purpose of this project is to help move African American farmers to a more viable state through intensive outreach, technical assistance, and training. Providing this support will result in at minimum, the following: improve the overall capacity of African American farmers in southwest Georgia; increase the participation of African American farmers in USDA programs and services in southwest Georgia; increase the adoption of sustainable practices on African American farms (including record keeping and succession planning). The project will recruit at least 30 African American farmers who will engage in a year-long intensive on scaling, growing, and securing their farms. The intensive will provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-on-one, on farm visits and consultations (at least one per month) to develop goals; • Guidance and assistance on business and financial planning; • Management training; • Record keeping training and assistance; and • Assistance accessing markets, certifications/regulations, etc. <p>Geographic Service Area: Georgia</p> <p>Contact Info: Gail Morman morman.g@swgaproject.com (229) 430-9870</p>

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HI	Brian Schatz & Mazie Hirono	Tulsi Gabbard (02)	The Kohala Center	\$200,000	<p>Hawai'i imports approximately 90 percent of its food. As energy, transport, and input costs rise there is a growing urgency to address island food security by reviving local agriculture. The Kohala Center, established in 2000 as a non-profit 501(c)(3) on Hawai'i Island, will provide socially-disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers (SDVFRs) across rural Hawai'i with technical assistance in agricultural business development, and to expose young adults on Hawai'i Island to agriculture and related career opportunities. Individualized (minimum 40 individuals) and group (minimum 75 individuals) technical assistance activities will focus on business and market planning, production planning, financial literacy and accounting, farm and ranch capitalization and risk management strategies, food safety and organic certification, and familiarization with and access to USDA grant and loan programs. An agricultural education program will provide 36 SD youth with hands-on experience in agricultural production and knowledge of farm and ranch career opportunities. The long-term project goal is to enhance the capabilities of Hawai'i's existing SD-VFRs to own and manage viable and sustainable agricultural operations, recruit new SD-VFRs into the profession, facilitate rural community economic development, and increase island food self-reliance.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: State of Hawai'i Contact Info: Nicole Milne, Ph.D. nmilne@kohalacenter.org (808) 887-6411</p>
IA	Chuck Grassley & Joni Ernst	David Young (03)	Lutheran Services in Iowa	\$65,000	<p>This project will grow the profitability of sustainably-managed farming businesses owned and operated by beginning farmers who previously farmed in their home countries before being resettled in Central Iowa as refugees. The project will help aspiring and existing refugee farmers improve upon their businesses through: 1) increased participation in USDA programs including the Farm Service Agency microloan program and the EQIP conservation program as well as other programs USDA staff find are applicable through USDA presentations and outreach with Global Greens farmers; 2) through educational activities and workshops that build relationships between refugee farmers and USDA's local, state, regional, and national office; and 3) through innovative training and technical assistance that introduces linguistically and culturally appropriate agriculture-related information to refugee farmers. The outcomes of the proposal are to help refugee farmers; increase their awareness and participation in USDA programs; increase their receptiveness to effectively communicated USDA outreach efforts; increase their economic stability; and increase the community marketing and sales opportunities of their farming products.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Polk County, Iowa Contact Info: Nicholas Wuertz wuertz@LSIowa.org (515) 271-7443</p>

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KY	Mitch McConnell & Rand Paul	Garland Barr (06)	Kentucky State University	\$199,988	<p>The Kentucky State University staff are committed to assisting socially disadvantaged, veteran, women, beginning, and limited-resource farmers to use USDA programs and to build relationships with USDA's local, state, regional, and national offices. They will assist farmers through the entire application process and mentor the farmers afterwards. To teach and introduce agriculture-related information, the KSU staff will use innovative outreach and technical assistance techniques including: one-on-one outreach and technical assistance, workshops, local and statewide training meetings, tours, regional and national conferences, field days, demonstrations, the development of apps for smart phones and training farmers to use them, Third Thursday and Fourth Wednesday educational workshops, the Small, Limited-Resource/Minority Farmers Conference, and field days and demonstrations at the new demonstration incubator farm in Warren County. KSU has committed two new agents and a new half-time Extension associate to this project, along with the expertise of eight new assistants.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Kentucky statewide Contact Info: Marion Simon marion.simon@kysu.edu (502) 316-5423</p>
LA	Bill Cassidy & John Kennedy	Garret Graves (06)	Southern University A&M	\$199,970	<p>This project will address three of the most significant problems confronting small and mid-sized farms, low net farm income, ease in making farm related decisions, and the inability to access USDA programs and services. The major factors contributing to these problems are lack of proactive management, not having a clear understanding of the challenges and opportunities of the business, and not having the confidence and leadership skills to make positive changes in the farm operation before they become insurmountable challenges. The overall goal of this proposed project is to promote small and family farm sustainability through enhanced business management skills, leadership development, and the utilization of USDA programs and services. This goal will be achieved by helping farmers become better leaders while enhancing their business and farm management skills. This goal will be realized using a number of educational activities, such as grower's schools, on and off farm trainings / workshops, farm tours, conferences, and a leadership class. The targeted audience for this project is socially disadvantaged, veteran, and beginning farmers. Youth will also be targeted to increase their awareness and understanding of the agricultural industry. Outreach efforts will be done in a multi-tiered, coordinated approach that includes traditional extension methods and outreach tools, online outreach, and personal contacts. We plan to reach a minimum of 500 people in the state of Louisiana, focusing on the 44 strike force parishes.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: This project will target socially disadvantaged, veteran, and beginning producers in the persistent poverty parishes (counties) in the state of Louisiana, as well as the other parishes. Contact Info: Zanetta Augustine zanetta_augustine@suagcenter.com (225) 771-2591</p>

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MD	Benjamin Cardin & Chris Van Hollen, Jr.	Andy Harris (01)	University of Maryland Eastern Shore	\$167,473	<p>This project will build on the successes of a 2-day farm conference program to feature educational opportunities that appeal to target audiences and SDA youth with the goal of attracting 150+ farmers and landowners. UMES will collaborate with a list of partners to host follow-up educational workshops, on-farm demonstrations/tours, farmer mentoring, and other extracurricular activities over the next 8-10 months that will strengthen farmer's knowledge and skill-base in agricultural. The project will be driven by these three main objectives: 1) Connect SDA and veteran farmers/landowners to appropriate agricultural resources that will increase their ability to start and maintain successful agricultural business; 2) Train and assist agriculture producers on how to become more business and market savvy that will help them stay competitive and increase farm profits; 3) Introduce and educate farmers on alternative enterprise (crop/livestock) opportunities along with appropriate farm management practices to promote diversification and sustainability.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Southern MD and Maryland's Eastern Shore Contact Person: Berran L. Rogers b Rogers@umes.edu (410) 651-6693</p>
MI	Ron Johnson & Tammy Baldwin	Mike Bishop (08)	Michigan Integrated Food & Farming Systems	\$199,933	<p>Michigan Integrated Food and Farming Systems (MIFFS) will assist socially disadvantaged farmers (SDF) and farmer Veterans to own and successfully operate viable farms/ranches in Michigan by: 1) Enhancing and expanding the Beginning and Underserved Farmer Network, the Red Productores Hispanos Network, and the Veterans in Agriculture Network within Michigan that provides the support and education needed by SDF and farmer Veterans and ranchers to become successful agriculture entrepreneurs; 2) Hosting peer-to-peer demonstration field trips for network farmers to exchange information through immersive hands-on experiences; 3) Using MIFFS Field Specialists to work one-on-one with SDF and Veterans to assist in navigating and applying for USDA programs; 4) Linking MIFFS' USDA agency partners with our farmer and non-profit customers; 5) Planning, marketing, and facilitating a statewide conference with 18 workshops (covering many of the USDA programs and services) where SDF/farmer Veterans come together to learn, share resources and network; and 7) Hosting four USDA workshops through webinars and in communities that are active within Farmer Networks.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Michigan and surrounding states Contact Info: Jennifer Silveri jen@miffs.org (517) 709-8268</p>
MN	Amy Klobuchar & Tina Smith	Richard Nolan (08)	Fond Du Lac Tribal & Community College	\$195,692	<p>The Bimaaji'idiwin Tribal Agricultural Training project will build upon the success of the 2016 OAO funded Bimaaji'idiwin Tribal Agricultural Outreach project and the 2011 OAO funded Ojibwe Garden and further agricultural outreach for the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and throughout the Ojibwe Ceded Territories (Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan). Our project will provide training and technical assistance with the establishment of the Producer Training Program which involves extensive, hands-on agricultural education classes, promote participation with USDA programs through one-on-one producer consultations, presentations from USDA experts, and attendance to the 2019 MOSES conference, and build relationships between beginning and established farmers with farm tours, along with prospective farmers through the Bimaaji'idiwin Demonstration Garden and collaboration with existing programs in the community.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Minnesota counties of Aitkin, Carlton, Pine, and Saint Louis as well as the greater Ceded Territories in Wisconsin and Michigan. Contact Info: Courtney Kowalczak courtneyk@fdltcc.edu (218) 879-0862</p>

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MN	Amy Klobuchar & Tina Smith	Beth McCollum (04)	Hmong American Partnership	\$200,000	<p>HAP is best equipped to further the USDA's goal of assisting socially disadvantaged Hmong farmers and ranchers in owning and operating farms and ranches while increasing their participation in agriculture programs and services provided by the USDA. As the nation's leader in serving the Hmong community, HAP has the expertise to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate support and services to emerging farmers and ranchers from this community. Advancing Hmong Agriculture project is an initiative to expand the capacity of Hmong immigrants and refugees to successfully own and operate farms and ranches and to access the services of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Through HAP's strong microenterprise loan program and its tailored farm and ranch business technical assistance, HAP will support our community's newest members to contribute to the local economy and food production needs. AHA will focus on providing microenterprise loans in amounts ranging from \$500-\$20,000 to be used as working capital for expenses such as equipment, land leases, and certifications for being able to sell produce at farmer's markets, schools, and stores. AHA's robust technical assistance will provide training classes, farm and ranch business plan development, credit counseling, credit builder loan services, post-loan retention services, assistance in securing additional loans, and on-on-one assistance.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Twin Cities Metropolitan Region; in the more urban counties of Ramsey and Hennepin; pockets of St. Paul (East Side and Frog Town) and Minneapolis (North Minneapolis). HAP also serves farmers in Dakota, Washington and Scott counties.</p> <p>Contact Info: Ms. Bao Vang baov@hmong.org (651) 495-1507</p>
MN	Amy Klobuchar & Tina Smith	Keith Ellison (05)	Latino Economic Development Center	\$200,000	<p>This project represents the continuing efforts of the Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC) to build capacity and assist low-income, Latino farmers in a culturally-appropriate and linguistically-accessible way. LEDC was founded 15 yrs ago by Latino immigrants themselves, and immigrants continue to represent a large portion of our trainers, technical assistance providers, and clients. Through this grant we expect to reach at least 480 socially disadvantaged farmers in six states, host 14 events, and offer one-on-one technical assistance to at least 50 farmers, helping each to identify and achieve their own goals including land ownership, greater product sales, and higher, more stable net farm income. Through our work, we will increase the utilization of USDA programs by immigrant farmers, and build lasting relationships between the Latino immigrant communities and USDA staff. This project is part of an ongoing, comprehensive community-based food system plan, linking immigrant farmers and low-income communities together in the production, distribution, and consumption of locally-grown, healthy food.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: This project will serve socially disadvantaged farmers in primarily Minnesota, with services also offered in Oregon, Washington, Nebraska, Michigan and Florida.</p> <p>Contact Info: John Flory john@ledc-mn.org (612) 730-4453 or (612) 724-5332</p>

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MN	Amy Klobuchar & Tina Smith	Collin Peterson (07)	Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians	\$141,338	<p>Since 2014 Gitigaanike, the Red Lake Band of Ojibwe local food initiative has successfully initiated an agricultural revival on the Red Lake Indian Reservation. With an overarching goal of assisting Red Lake socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers located on or near the Red Lake Reservation as they start formal agriculture or local foods operations, grow or stabilize an existing operation, this project proposes a 3-pronged approach: (1) provide classroom education; (2) provide hands-on experiential learning in agriculture training sites including high-tunnels and multi-acre plots; and (3) introduce farmers to external farming support services including USDA resources and inter-tribal learning. Using this approach and with this proposal, Gitigaanike and its partners will achieve three objectives. 1) Provide training to 20 nascent and beginning producers to ultimately support the development of four new local food producers annually who are actively engaged in private agri-business enterprise and 2) Provide hands-on experience to 20 participants annually to promote best practices in agriculture utilizing scientific and indigenous expertise in high-tunnel, cultivated field and greenhouse locations. 3) Improve access to external resources for relationship building.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: The four communities on the Red Lake Reservation, Red Lake, Redby, Little Rock, and Ponemah.</p> <p>Contact Info: Sharon James SJames@redlakenation.org (218) 679-1456</p>
MO	Claire McCaskill & Roy Blunt	Vicky Hartzler (04)	Lincoln University	\$199,990	<p>Lincoln University of Missouri will build on the success achieved during the past 2 years of OAO support. The goal of the project is to directly assist Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers (SDVFR), located in Southeast Missouri (SEMO) in being successful with their farm businesses. This will be accomplished through one-on-one technical assistance and workshops targeted to SDVFRs; building relationships between the SDVFR, their community, and the USDA; and connecting them with the resources available to them through their local USDA offices. Our second goal is to leverage these funds to expand the Innovative Small Farmers Outreach Program (ISFOP) in Missouri. Lincoln University will adopt the program into the ISFOP, thereby expanding the impact of the program in years to come. Through outreach to USDA, MU extension, Community Based-Organizations, and Agricultural businesses, the staff will identify, recruit, and assist the SDVFR in the community and help them navigate the resources available and disseminate the latest relevant farming and ranching information. Conducting workshops and conferences will be another outreach tool to reach and assist new farmers. The ultimate goal is to help boost their farm/ranch income through one-on-one assistance.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Southeast Missouri</p> <p>Contact Info: Dr. Touria Eaton eatont@Lincolnu.edu (573) 681-5174</p>

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MO	Claire McCaskill & Roy Blunt	Billy Long (07)	Springfield Community Gardens	\$185,437	<p>Replicating a highly successful SCG model, funded in part by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) in 2016 and 2017, 50 Veterans and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers participating in the 12 month project will learn valuable, lucrative, and sustainable agriculture skills and experience in an area that is in need of highly skilled farmers. Specifically the project will: (1) Assist 50 socially disadvantaged or veteran farmers and ranchers in urban and rural areas of Greene and Webster Counties in owning/leasing and operating successful farms and ranches; (2) Improve participation among socially disadvantaged or Veteran farmers and ranchers in USDA programs by 35% among this cohort; (3) Build relationships between current and prospective farmers and ranchers who are either socially disadvantaged or Veterans and USDA's offices through an SCG career case manager; (4) Introduce agriculture-related information through 15 training and technical assistance; and (5) produce a report at the end of the project that will discuss the merits of such a model for other socially disadvantaged groups such as disadvantaged youth, and/or socially disadvantaged beginning farmers and ranchers in our community, or in other rural and persistent poverty communities adjacent to Greene and Webster counties.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Urban and rural areas of Greene County, MO and rural Webster County, MO Contact Info: Maile Auterson Springfieldcommunitygardens@gmail.com (417) 414-7129</p>
MS	Roger Wicker & Cindy Hyde-Smith	Bennie Thompson (02)	Alcorn State University Educational Building Corporation	\$200,000	<p>Agriculture is Mississippi's number one industry, employing approximately 29 percent of the state's workforce either directly or indirectly. According to the 2012 USDA Ag Census and National Ag Statistics Service, Agriculture in Mississippi is a 7.6 billion-dollar industry. According to the Labor Department, the median age for farmers and ranchers is 55.9 years. There are approximately 36,200 farms in the state covering over 10.7 million acres. The average farm size is 296 acres. Agriculture makes a significant contribution to all 82 counties. Alcorn State University Small Farm Outreach Project (SFOP) will work persistently with USDA and other agencies in identify three hundred fifty-four (354) Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers, Veteran Farmers and Ranchers, Women Farmers and Ranchers and youth in Agriculture. The project will work collaboratively with the USDA National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Risk Management Agency (RMA), Rural Development, (RD), Forest Service (FS) and Community Based Organizations (CBO's). The participants will increase their knowledge and adopt new and more efficient technology. They will be provided technical assistance in completing loan applications of various programs and services offered by USDA agencies. ASUEP SFOP will collaborate with CBO's. There will be other considerations; however, they will be determined based on individual farmers and their farm situations. The SFOP will be implemented in four (4) phases: information dissemination, training, technical assistance and evaluation.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Alcorn State University will focus on its outreach efforts in five southwest Mississippi counties; Adams, Claiborne, Jefferson, Lincoln, Pike counties. All five counties are located in Mississippi's rural and underserved counties.</p> <p>Contact Info: Anthony B. Reed areed@alcorn.edu (601) 877-2305</p>

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MS	Roger Wicker & Cindy Hyde-Smith	Bennie Thompson (02)	Mississippi Association of Cooperatives	\$200,000	<p>The overall goal of the proposed project is to educate 150 socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers to increase their participation in USDA Programs to enhance farm operation and increase their economic stability, marketing opportunities, and overall farm income. These increases would enhance their quality of life through better farm management practices, financial management, and marketing of a profitable mix of traditional and alternative enterprises production. The Mississippi Association of Cooperatives “Educating to Increase USDA Participation, Economic Stability, Marketing Opportunities, and Farm Income Project” will operate in seven south eastern Mississippi counties.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: The Mississippi Association of Cooperatives “Educating to Increase USDA Participation, Economic Stability, Marketing Opportunities, and Farm Income Project” will operate in south eastern Mississippi counties (Forrest, Jefferson Davis, Lawrence, Noxubee, Perry, Jones and Simpson).</p> <p>Contact Info: Ben Burkett benburkett601@gmail.com (601) 310-5223</p>
MS	Roger Wicker & Cindy Hyde-Smith	Trent Kelly (01)	Mississippi Minority Farmers Alliance	\$200,000	<p>The overall goal of the proposed project is to provide educational information and technical assistance to socially disadvantage farmers and ranchers and veteran farmers and ranchers in owning and sustainably operating farms and ranches while increasing their participation in agricultural programs and services provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and other state and local agricultural agencies. Another key goal of the project is to develop a consortium that leverages the strengths of each partner in a manner that builds capacity of small farmers to work together on planning, organizing and marketing such that sustainability of their agricultural operations is enhanced. Through farm training programs and technical assistance, Mississippi Minority Farmers Alliance will promote growth in agriculture by giving program participants the knowledge and skills they need to improve their livelihoods.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Five northeast Mississippi counties (Calhoun, Chickasaw, Clay, Monroe, and Oktibbeha)</p> <p>Contact Info: Carolyn Jones mmfa@netzero.net (662) 213-2433</p>

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MS	Roger Wicker & Cindy Hyde-Smith	Bennie Thompson (02)	Alcorn State University (Socially Disadvantaged Policy Research Center)	\$400,000	<p>The purpose of this grant is to fund the Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (SDFR) Policy Research Center at Alcorn State University (Policy Center) for fiscal year 2019 (October 1, 2018 through September 31, 2019). The SDFR Policy Center was created as a vehicle for minority farmers to have a voice in the development of agricultural policies that impact their livelihoods. The rationale for the SDFR Policy Center is that farm policies shape the reality of the agricultural sector, and policies can be ambivalent from the point of view of offering possibilities on one hand but imposing constraints on the other. To a large extent, SDFR have not been actively involved in policy construction, interpretation and implementation.</p> <p>The Policy Center is operational and staffed with a director, policy research analyst and a program assistant. It is located in the Biotechnology building on the Lorman (main) campus of Alcorn State University and specializes in policy research impacting socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (SDFR). The Policy Center is national in scope with a strategic focus on the 18 states with 1890 universities to assist in reaching the SDFR in high concentrated areas. The Policy Center has been operating for three years using a transparent management structure with a focus on stakeholder engagement, research, policy development and strategic outreach. These four areas, when strategically integrated, produce a platform for relevant active research, policy development, ongoing stakeholder dialogue, and continuous dissemination of research findings.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Nation-wide Contact Info: Eloris Speight espeight@alcorn.edu (601) 877-6535</p>
MT	John Tester & Steve Daines	Greg Gianforte (At Large)	Fort Peck Community College	\$196,300	<p>This project will deliver innovative training to promote equitable participation in federal programs, as well as provide socially disadvantaged American Indian farmers and ranchers with tools and strategies to improve financial sustainability while remaining faithful to the cultural values that have guided their operations for decades. The need for paying attention to agriculture on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation and other reservations is now extremely critical. The northern Great Plains experienced a severe drought in 2017, forcing many producers to downsize cattle operations, and crop production is the lowest it has been in two decades.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Fort Peck Indian Reservation Contact Info: Craig Smith csmith@fpcc.edu (406) 768-5555</p>

State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
NC	Richard Burr & Thom Tillis	George Butterfield Jr. (01)	East Carolina University	\$161,349	<p>The Institute will partner with the Veteran’s Farm of North Carolina, a 501C3, to develop and implement 6-day long workshops and two tours designed to increase the number of veterans, African Americans, Native Americans and other minorities entering agriculture in critical need areas of North Carolina. Workshops will focus on farm and business planning, accessing USDA programs, implementing and managing USDA funded projects and obtaining technical assistance from USDA and Cooperative Extension. Participants will receive health screenings, learn strategies for preventing farm-related related illnesses, injuries and fatalities and become familiar with services provided by the NC AgrAbility Partnership for individuals farming with a disability. Tours will provide participants with the opportunity to see successful farm operations supported by USDA resources.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Workshops will be conducted in Rocky Mount (Nash County), Clinton (Sampson County), Pembroke (Robeson County), Sanford (Lee County) and Fayetteville (Cumberland County), North Carolina. Participants will be recruited from these counties as well as from other counties where there are higher numbers of African American, Native American or veteran farmers: Bertie, Halifax, Nash, Wake, Warren and Duplin counties.</p> <p>Contact Info: Robin Tutor Marcom, EdD, MPH, OTR tutorr@ecu.edu (252) 744-1008</p>
NC	Richard Burr & Thom Tillis	David Price (04)	Whitaker Small Farm Group	\$199,974	<p>WSFG is shifting to a more proven to be successful approach of “Learning While Doing.” This project will address the barriers faced by socially disadvantage by using experiential training through apprenticeship and mentoring, access to incubator farms, classroom-based workshops and hands-on activities to build knowledge and skills required to make well informed business decisions and to operate sustainable and profitable farms. The proposed project will provide customized training to about 125 socially disadvantaged farmers and assist about 240 farmers in total by connecting them to resources. We are initiating an apprenticeship program for 12 young farmers at the Center for Environmental Farming Systems in Goldsboro, NC. Apprentices will be exposed to many aspects of sustainable agriculture production and farm management. Upon graduating, they will launch their farming ventures on our Incubator Farms. Our collaborators have provided access to their farm sites and facilities at no cost to the project. Our Business Management Academy will offer classes to build knowledge and skills needed for successful farm management. We will engage a certified nutritionist to train participants to add value to harvested produce and increase market access. Twenty-five participants will receive training geared towards Beekeeping certification. These activities will provide other options for additional income. We will increase participation and awareness of USDA programs by providing aggressive outreach, facilitate one-on-one assistance with the appropriate agency specialist and, assist farmers to apply for program assistance.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: The target area is primarily within eastern NC.</p> <p>Contact Info: Charles Whitaker c.w.l.whitaker@comcast.net (919) 412-1432</p>

State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
NC	Richard Burr & Thom Tillis	George Butterfield Jr. (01)	Roanoke Economic Development, Inc./DBA The Roanoke Center	\$200,000	<p>Roanoke Economic Development, Inc. works to restore/conservе threatened forestland by increasing forest-owner income and land asset values targeting socially disadvantaged/veteran forest landowners through access to education, technical assistance, sustainability practices, new technologies and emerging markets. Youth will increase knowledge and career options concerning forestry and agriculture and the importance of maintaining family forest/Ag land.</p> <p>Partners: Natural Resources Conservation Service, NC Forest Service</p> <p>Objectives: 1) Increase awareness of USDA, state, and county agencies that provide technical and financial assistance to forest landowners; 2) Increase forest landowners actively implementing sustainable practices by developing Forest Management Plans and Forest Stewardship/NC Tree Farm Plans through access to technical assistance, educational meetings/workshops/conferences utilizing forestry professionals and USDA programs; 3) Forest landowners will generate income into local forestry businesses utilizing consulting foresters; 4) Establish structured forest landowner educational networking group to provide peer-to-peer support; and 5) Youth increase Ag/Forestry knowledge to encourage maintaining inherited forestland as an asset and develop related career interest through workshops/activities.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Bertie, Chowan, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Northampton, and Perquimans counties</p> <p>Contact Info: Sondra Dickens sdickens@roanokecenter.org (252) 539-4600</p>
NE	Deb Fischer & Benjamin Sasse	Don Bacon (02)	Legal Aid of Nebraska	\$157,785	<p>To ensure equitable participation in USDA programs, Legal Aid of Nebraska will provide outreach and technical assistance to socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers, including those who aspire to farm or ranch, through its Legal Aid of Nebraska Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Producer Outreach Program. This assistance will occur throughout rural areas and communities of persistent poverty across the entire state of Nebraska. Legal Aid will partner with the Center for Rural Affairs (CFRA), Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA), and Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska (IMN) as well as with local and state USDA offices to leverage funding and to maximize areas of coverage for outreach. This project will remove barriers that prevent full participation in USDA programs and build lasting relationships between the USDA and socially disadvantaged and veteran producers to improve their ability to start and maintain successful agricultural operations.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: This assistance will occur throughout rural areas and communities of persistent poverty across the entire state of Nebraska.</p> <p>Contact Info: Michelle Soll msoll@legalaidofnebraska.org (402)-948-7015</p>

State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
NM	Tom Udall & Martin Heinrich	Steve Pearce (02)	Hispanic-American Institute, Inc.	\$199,970	<p>The Southwest Puerto Rico Outreach and Assistance Program (SWPROAP) of the Hispanic-American Institute provides 300 Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers (SDVFRs), with outreach, training, individual technical assistance and followup aimed at addressing 2501 Program Priorities. At least 90% of program participants are socially disadvantaged, 25% beginning farmers and ranchers, 10% veterans, and 10% youths. The SWPROAP provides linguistically and culturally appropriate training to 100 DVFRs at their sites, at the \$1 million Finca Explora Agribusiness Incubator and Processing Center, and at SWPROAP facilities. Training activities include classroom and field-based learning, peer-to-peer learning, and a Program Summit. Individual Technical assistance is provided on USDA program information is distributed to 300 SDVFRs, and followup provided to 200. The program projects a \$400,000 increase in sales by participating SDVFRs. The Program serves 30 largely rural, persistent poverty Municipalities in western and southern Puerto Rico severely impacted by the 2017 Hurricane Maria disaster.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: The service area is composed of 30 contiguous persistent poverty Municipalities in western and southern Puerto Rico, 28 of which are in rural areas (Ponce and Mayaguez) have at least 50% rural areas.</p> <p>Contact Info: Luis Valderrama luise.valderrama@gmail.com (787) 502-7436</p>
NM	Tom Udall & Martin Heinrich	Michelle Lujan Grisham (01)	Issachar Calling	\$191,000	<p>The Issachar Calling's main goal and mission is to provide quality education to our local communities in the areas of self-sustainability and health promotion. One very important aspect of self-sustainability and health promotion is educating our community through agricultural workshops, training, marketing tools, help lines, supplies, websites and demonstrations. We also strive to enable local farmers through providing them with free resources such as on site consultations, seeds, educational materials, greenhouse supplies, fertilizers, plants and manuals. In addition, we understand the continued concerns of many local farmers and future farmers with the "Gold King Mine Waste Water Spill" which occurred August 5, 2015. Part of our project entails testing soil samples and providing local disadvantaged farmers with exact data which will be analyzed by our soil science consultants, in regards to their farm lands. In addition, workshops will be provided to the local disadvantaged farmers which will include greenhouse installation. Through expanding the support for local farmers, we wish to accomplish our goals of making our communities self-sufficient and less dependent on government funded programs such as food stamps and welfare.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: San Juan County focusing on the Navajo Nation Native American Reservation located in the areas of Shiprock, New Mexico</p> <p>Contact Info: Anna Tyler mrsatyler@gmail.com (520) 250-4140</p>

State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
NM	Tom Udall & Martin Heinrich	Ben Lujan (03)	New Mexico State University	\$197,492	<p>American Indian Pueblo farmers and ranchers of northern New Mexico continue to be a vital economic component to the region with the longest continuous farming history in the continental United States dating back over 800 years. New Mexico State University, an 1862 and Hispanic Serving Land Grant Institution, brings years of service in working American Indian Pueblo producers. Through a coordinated effort led by the Cooperative Extension Service's New Mexico Pueblo Outreach Project, American Indian Pueblo farmers and ranchers from northern New Mexico will be made aware of USDA programs that can benefit their ability to own and operate their family farms and ranches; individually assisted in obtaining participation in these USDA programs; develop markets to increase profitability; utilize research-based educational and technical assistance programs that are specifically developed for the target audience, and; become a vital and participating entity in US agriculture.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Northern New Mexico Pueblos of Taos, Picuris, Okay Owingeh (San Juan), Santa Clara, San Ildefonso, Pojoaque, Nambe, and Tesuque which comprise the Eight Northern Pueblos Council. In addition, the Pueblos of Cochiti, San Felipe, Kewa (Santo Domingo), Sandia, Santa Ana, Zia, Jemez, Isleta, Laguna and Acoma who comprise the Ten Southern Pueblos Council.</p> <p>Contact Info: R. Edmund Gomez gr@nmsu.edu (505) 852-2668</p>
NM	Tom Udall & Martin Heinrich	Ben Lujan (03)	New Mexico Acequia Association	\$135,964	<p>The purpose of the New Mexico Acequia Farmer and Rancher Education Project is to strengthen the agricultural operations of the farmers and ranchers who use acequias or community ditches in New Mexico. Acequias are the centuries-old irrigation systems in New Mexico that support the livelihood of thousands of predominantly Hispanic farmers and ranchers who rely upon surface water irrigation for their agricultural operations. The project will build upon over 20 years of experience in conducting statewide outreach, education, technical assistance, and training to Hispanic farmers and ranchers. Through a statewide membership network, the New Mexico Acequia Association (NMAA) will provide education and technical assistance to improve agricultural operations through irrigation efficiency, to train new and beginning farmers and youth, and to increase participation in USDA programs. NMAA will work with organizational and agency partners to ensure farmers, ranchers, and acequias meet eligibility requirements for USDA programs and to assist with USDA applications which will benefit over 300 producers. NMAA will also provide education and training through workshops and demonstration sites for new and beginning farmers and youth benefiting over 150 participants.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: The service area for the project is statewide with an emphasis on counties with a high concentration of acequias and Hispanic farmers and ranchers in northern New Mexico.</p> <p>Contact Info: Serafina Lombardi serafina@lasacequias.org (505) 995-9644</p>
NY	Chuck Schumer & Kirsten Gillibrand	Tom Reed, II (02)	Center for Transformative Action	\$199,295	<p>The goal of the Groundswell Center for Local Food & Farming proposed project Every Farmer at the Table: Expanding access and opportunity for underrepresented farmers is to increase the number of socially disadvantaged farmers operating viable, sustainable and profitable farm businesses in Central New York. This will be achieved through a comprehensive series of technical agriculture and business Farmer Training Sessions, one-on-one consultations, a 3:1 matched savings account program designed to assist socially disadvantaged individuals with farm business start-up or expansion costs, and a multi-day agricultural "Farm to Plate" Conference that educates, celebrates, and unites for a just and sustainable food system.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Central New York</p> <p>Contact Info: Elizabeth Gabriel elizabeth@groundswellcenter.org (607) 793-3383</p>

State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
NY	Chuck Schumer & Kirsten Gillibrand	Carolyn Maloney (12)	Rural Development Leadership Network	\$200,000	<p>The Rural Development Leadership Network (RDLN), a national, multicultural organization concerned with social justice, community-based rural development, and sustainable agriculture, will build on recent 2501 work in two persistently poor rural counties: Mora County, New Mexico and Bolivar County, Mississippi. Working with partners Mississippians Engaged in Greener Agriculture (MEGA) in Mississippi and Collaborative Visions (CV) in New Mexico, the project will provide training to youth, adults, beginning farmers in farming practices, with special emphasis on Production, Food Safety, Farmers Markets and Business Development in order to increase farm yield and income, enhance agricultural practices, help certify farmers in food safety, foster businesses of beef growers and forest gatherers and others, and strengthen farmers markets, as more of these primarily African-American and Hispanic farmers and ranchers access USDA programs.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Mora County, New Mexico and Bolivar County, Mississippi Contact Info: Starry Krueger starrykru@aol.com (212) 777-9137</p>
OH	Sherrod Brown & Robert Portman	Michael Turner (10)	Central State University	\$200,000	<p>The Outreach Education and Technical Assistance (OETA) project intends to provide education and technical assistance to beginning, socially disadvantaged, and veteran farmers in the state of Ohio. Despite the increasing number of farmers from the mentioned categories, they seem to lack information on services and network available in the agricultural sector that could help them to increase the production, and then contribute to the mitigation of food insecurity threatening some parts of state of Ohio. Therefore, through face-to-face and online training, this project aims at boosting the willingness and the ability of targeted farmers to own and efficiently manage their farms. This project will also connect agribusiness students to experienced farmers for practical training and potential mentorships. This apprenticeship opportunity for our students is in line with efforts from policymakers to ensure and increase the availability of a well-trained and productive workforce in the US agricultural sector.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: State of Ohio Contact Info: Saima Bashir sbashir@centralstate.edu (937) 376-6428</p>
OK	James Inhofe & James Lankford	Frank Lucas (03)	Langston University	\$191,100	<p>Langston University Cooperative Extension Program in collaboration with partners have a long history of working with and supporting SDA farmers and ranchers. The Oklahoma Black Historical Research Project Inc. (OBHRPI), other community-based organization (CBO), and various USDA agencies, for e.g. USDA-NRCS, will be integral partners. The goal of this project is to increase the number of socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers in successfully operating their farm and/or ranch enterprise.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Oklahoma counties located primarily in the eastern, southeastern, south central and southwestern parts of the state. Contact Info: Dr. Vernon Jones vjones@langston.edu (405) 466-6151</p>

State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
OK	James Inhofe & James Lankford	Frank Lucas (03)	Oklahoma Assoc of Conservation Districts	\$189,104	<p>The Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) and the Oklahoma Black Historical Research Project (OBHRPI) are partnering to increase participation of USDA programs. The project's focus is to build relationships between SDA producers, USDA, and Conservation Districts at the local, state, regional and national levels by identifying and cultivating leadership of SDA producers. Our belief is that by building relationships and cultivating leadership of SDA producers we can increase participation in USDA programs and assist producers in developing profitable, sustainable agriculture operations. The project will focus on seven counties with a substantial population of African American/Black and Native American current/prospective farmers and ranchers. These seven counties include five counties in Eastern Oklahoma (Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Muskogee, Wagoner, McIntosh, Creek) and one county in western Oklahoma (Caddo). Additionally the project will provide educational information and training opportunities to SDA farmers/ranchers in larger geographic areas across Oklahoma. The project also provides educational opportunities for traditional farmers and ranchers and conservation district leaders and employees about the unique barriers that SDA farmers/ranchers face.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: The seven counties include eastern Oklahoma (Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Muskogee, Wagoner, McIntosh, Creek) and one county in western Oklahoma (Caddo).</p> <p>Contact Info: Sarah Blaney sarahblaney@okconservation.org (517) 763.8609</p>
OR	Ron Wyden & Jeff Merkley	Peter DeFazio (04)	Oregon State University	\$78,059	<p>The goals of Growing Veteran Agripreneurs are to increase veteran participation in established farmer training programs through targeted outreach; develop a pilot program for beginning farmer veterans in Southern Oregon; and initiate a coordinated statewide effort to support veteran farmers and ranchers. In order to fully assess past and current veteran farmer programs in Oregon, OSU faculty will organize and facilitate two statewide meetings for veteran farmer service providers and beginning farmer educators. The meetings will lay the groundwork for future collaborations beyond the scope and timeframe of this grant and will highlight the pilot project in Southern Oregon.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Rogue Valley, and locations across Oregon: The South Willamette Valley, Central Oregon, and Portland Metro</p> <p>Contact Info: Maud Powell and Garry Stephenson Maud.powell@oregonstate.edu and garry.stephenson@oregonstate.edu (541) 776-7371</p>
PR	Jennifer Gonzalez-Colon	Jennifer Gonzalez-Colon (Resident Commissioner)	Puerto Rico Agricultural Extension	\$199,422	<p>The Puerto Rico Agricultural Extension Service (PRAES) will offer grant readiness conferences and presentation of available USDA resources; and, conferences about agricultural business administration to attain the operation of viable agricultural enterprises in Puerto Rico. The target population are socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers in the island. Upon the conclusion of the project at least 500 participants will have assisted to conferences regarding USDA programs and grant-readiness during a 10-month period. A total of 225 participants will receive hands-on training on grant readiness workshops by trained Faculty Extensionists to become eligible for USDA programs throughout the project period. A total of 120 participants will receive business administration workshops amounting to 15 contact hours during a 10-month period and 250 persons will benefit of different business management topic conferences. This will allow meeting the goal of the project, which is to provide participants with an equitable opportunity to benefit of USDA programs. The participants will also be offered the tools to operate viable agricultural businesses.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: The target population is the island's socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers.</p> <p>Contact Info: Prof. Roberto Rigau robertoluis.rigaullorens@upr.edu (787) 765-8000 Ext. 3221</p>

State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
SC	Lindsey Graham & Tim Scott	Mark Sanford (01)	Center for Heirs Property Preservation	\$200,000	<p>The Center for Heirs' Property Preservation's (Center) Landowner Outreach and Forestry Technical Assistance Project will provide educational outreach and forestry technical assistance across 12 counties in South Carolina to increase knowledge and provide assistance to primarily low-wealth, rural, veteran and socially disadvantaged (SD) African American landowners – farmers and forest landowners – to promote land retention and land utilization through forestry and agriculture. The land retention work will focus on SD landowners who own heirs' property (i.e., land owned by groups of legally undetermined joint heirs). The Project's goal is to increase the ability of veteran and socially disadvantaged landowners to retain and operate their ranches/farms. The Center's efforts to connect directly with farmers on their land and facilitate their connection to FSA and NRCS will trust-build and enable landowners to make informed decisions and take action to access USDA programs and begin to move out of "persistent" generational poverty.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Across 12 counties in South Carolina: Allendale, Bamberg, Berkeley, Clarendon, Colleton, Dorchester, Georgetown, Hampton, Jasper, Orangeburg, Sumter and Williamsburg</p> <p>Contact Info: Dr. Jennie L. Stephens jstephens@heirsproperty.org (843) 745-7055</p>
SC	Lindsey Graham & Tim Scott	James E. Clyburn (06)	SCF-Organic Farms	\$166,500	<p>SCF Organic Farms, Ltd was incorporated as an organic farmer cooperative on August 15, 2005 with the secretary of state for South Carolina. Core Membership is comprised of socially disadvantaged producers comprised of 15 African Americans (8 male and 7 female) from rural areas of Sumter, South Carolina. The governing board of the SCF Organic Farms, Ltd" is comprised of at least 100% percent minorities which constitutes being of a socially disadvantaged group. Our board of directors is comprised of 3 men and 2 women that are African-Americans. The project director is identified as Fathiyyah Mustafa –President/ Register agent. The Heritage Organic Dry Farming Project 2.0 mission is to educate farmers and customers about the benefits of vegetables and fruits grown with organic, heritage, dry-farming methods, and to increase production and consumption of that produce among farmers and customers of all income levels and increase the growth of new farmers in South Carolina and beyond.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Clarendon, Florence, Kershaw, Lee, Richland, Sumter, and Williams County, South Carolina</p> <p>Contact Info: Fathiyyah Mustafa azeezmustafa@yahoo.com (803) 469-0116</p>

State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
TX	John Cornyn & Ted Cruz	Filemon Vela (34)	H.O.P.E For Small Farm Sustainability	\$193,863	<p>The goal of Holistic Organic Practical Education (H.O.P.E). for Small Farm Sustainability is to provide instructional and hands-on training assistance to 2501 farmers who have minimum resources for starting and owning economically and ecologically sustainable farms. Program training will be delivered using culturally and linguistically appropriate material in combination with hands-on training provided at a central training location and then additionally at the farmers' site. The project is designed to expand outreach, participation and farm ownership by Hispanic, socially disadvantaged, and veterans in USDA programs and serve as a catalyst for developing locally sustainable organic growers. The anticipated outcome is to assist forty (40) 2501-owned farms to become organic certified and/or compliant and be prepared for the FSMA requirements. Phase II of the project will expand and assist the 40 2501-farmers in establishing a sustainable source of income while participating in this training and educational program, using an "earn as you learn" philosophy. The project will assist in establishing a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program as a market for the produce harvested from the 2501-farmers' training locations. The CSA sales will help the new farmers meet the FSA requirements for being considered a farm.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Lower Rio Grande Valley, in Harlingen, Texas and counties located along the Mexican border and designated as USDA StrikeForce Counties</p> <p>Contact Info: Diana Garcia-Padilla dianapgone@yahoo.com (956) 412-4916</p>
TX	John Cornyn & Ted Cruz	Michael T. McCaul (10)	Prairie View A&M University	\$200,000	<p>The aim of this project is to increase the number of Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers, families, and communities participating in USDA programs. Historically this segment of our population has not participated in USDA programs representative of their proportion of the population. The long term goal of this project is to enhance the profitability and sustainability of Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers, Families, and communities in Texas by helping them to learn how to access technical and financial assistance programs that are available to help them succeed. This goal will be accomplished through the following objectives: (1) Increase the number of Socially Disadvantaged or Veteran Farmers and Ranchers who participate in USDA programs. (2). To increase the number of Socially Disadvantaged or Veteran Farmers and Ranchers who own and operate successful farm and ranch enterprises. Our efforts will be concentrated in selected counties in Texas where we have ongoing outreach efforts. We will work collaboratively with several Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in carrying out the objectives of this project.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: This request will concentrate on 20 targeted counties in East/Southeast/Central valley counties; Southeast Central Texas and Southern Texas (Valley) regions of the state.</p> <p>Contact Info: Dr. Keshia Henry kahenry@pvamu.edu (936) 261-5030</p>

State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
TX	John Cornyn & Ted Cruz	Bill Flores (17)	Texas A&M Agrilife Extension	\$199,998	<p>Agriculture is an important source of income for the limited-resource inhabitants of the Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV), a predominately Hispanic region located in the southernmost part of Texas. This region leads the nation in terms of the percentage of population living in poverty and number of persons without educational degrees at all levels. These detrimental conditions are accentuated among local socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. In order to build a promising future for LRGV's small-scale farmers and ranchers, it is essential to train them in sustainable and profitable agricultural production practices. Thus, the purpose of this project is to educate socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and provide learning opportunities to young farmers and veterans through workshops, field days, in situ and online demonstrations, and the creation of internship opportunities. Training and outreach activities are focused on crop production, irrigation and water management, livestock production, marketing and business planning, and how to successfully participate in USDA assistance programs. Bilingual educational materials will be developed to assist socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers on their farm management decisions. This project is a collaborative effort between Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Texas A&M AgriLife Research.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: The southernmost part of Texas Contact Info: Dr. Samuel Zapata samuel.zapata@ag.tamu.edu. (956) 968-5581</p>
TX	John Cornyn & Ted Cruz	Lloyd Doggett (35)	Texas State University	\$199,996	<p>Integrating the-Small Producer Initiative's-Research and Extension (InSPIRE). InSPIRE is an enhanced coordination of the Small Producer Initiative's outreach, technical assistance, and education efforts of the Department of Agriculture at Texas State University. This effort provides extension services in the form of workshops to train and introduce socially disadvantaged and veteran small producers to USDA and TDA policies, programs and opportunities as well as other non-profit organizations, such as Texas Farm Bureau. With the growing number of inexperienced, socially disadvantaged and veteran small producers in Texas, there is a concerning lack of education and implementation of The Farm Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and use of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) by Texas small producers. This lack of education puts Texas' growing fresh market and diverse agricultural system in peril. Furthermore, there is a need to provide socially disadvantaged farmers and veteran farmers with financial training and market opportunity for early and continuing success. And most importantly provide this training and education in a bilingual format.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Central Texas Contact Info: Dr. Ken Mix km77@txstate.edu (512)245-6621</p>

State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
TX	John Cornyn & Ted Cruz	Vincente Gonzalez (15)	University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	\$199,994	<p>The goals/priorities of this project are to: 1) Assist socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers (SDVFR) in owning and operating successful farms and ranches by providing training and technical assistance on niche markets and specialty crops, direct-marketing techniques, development of marketing cooperatives, and planting and growing techniques at demonstration sites; (2) Improve participation among SDVFR in USDA programs by introducing USDA-FSA farm-operating and -ownership loan and disaster-assistance programs, -NRCS conservation programs, -RMA insurance programs, -AMS farmers-market programs, and -RD cooperative-development and value-added programs; (3) Build relationships between current and prospective farmers and ranchers who are either socially disadvantaged or veterans and USDA's local, state, regional, and National offices by identifying needy farmers and ranchers and inviting them to participate in USDA programs; (4) Introduce agriculture-related information to SDVFR through innovative training, and technical assistance techniques by planning, developing, and conducting a series of outreach events, and developing success story articles, to introduce USDA programs and agriculture-related information; and, (5) Introduce agricultural education targeting socially disadvantaged youth in rural and persistent poverty communities.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: The project's geographic service area—consists of a largely rural 105-county region of Texas and New Mexico, containing poverty rates 20% or higher; 20% of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and 8% of all veterans in the U.S.</p> <p>Contact Info: Carlos Lago-Silva carlos.lago@utrgv.edu (956)343-8435</p>
VA	Mark Warner & Timothy Kaine	Don Beyer (08)	American Indian Higher Education Consortium	\$200,000	<p>The American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC), which comprises the nation's 38 Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), proposes to develop and pilot an innovative and sustainable program that engages undergraduate students to provide training and technical assistance to Native farmers and ranchers to support and improve their adoption of effective agricultural business practices. The program will deliver outreach and support services to Native farmers and ranchers through undergraduate TCU student fellows enrolled in agribusiness, business, and agriculture-related science programs. TCU students will receive intensive training, learning from nationally-known agribusiness subject matter experts and key USDA experts to provide outreach and education services to farmers and ranchers. TCU fellows will also assist farmers and ranchers in accessing USDA services available to support them. The project will provide direct services to Native farmers, ranchers and veterans in at least four Tribal nations through local agribusiness practice improvement workshops and one-on-one technical assistance interactions with area farmers and ranchers.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: 17 states (Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Washington, Wyoming and Wisconsin).</p> <p>Contact Info: John Phillips jphillips@aihec.org (703) 838-0400</p>

State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
VA	Mark Warner & Timothy Kaine	Donald McEachin (04)	Virginia State University	\$200,000	<p>The project's goal is to equip Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers (SDVFR) in Virginia, with the tools and skills needed for them to make informed decisions in owning and operating profitable farm businesses, while increasing their participation in U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs. Objectives are: 1) To create awareness and increase participation among SDVFR in USDA farm programs, and improve their access to timely agriculture-related information. 2) To enhance the knowledge and skills of SDVFR in farm estate, financial, and business planning and management, and in using computer as a management and resource tool. 3) To improve the knowledge, skills, and abilities of SDVFR to own, retain, and operate sustainable and profitable farm businesses. 4) To increase profits for SDVFR by identifying new markets, connecting them to existing markets, and assisting them with effective marketing strategies. The project area stretches from the Northern Neck to the South West region of Virginia. Target counties were selected due to high concentration of SDVFR that reside in them. These farmer have been traditionally underserved. This project will address these barriers with a holistic approach, with the expected result of an improved quality of life of these farmers, their families, and communities.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: The project area stretches from the Northern Neck to the South West region of Virginia Target counties were selected due to high concentration of SDVFR that reside in them.</p> <p>Contact Info: William Crutchfield wcrutchfield@vsu.edu (804)524-3295</p>
WA	Patty Murray & Maria Cantwell	Suzan DelBene (01)	Grow Food DBA Viva Farms	\$199,988	<p>Viva Farms and partners project, Creating Partnerships and Pathways for viable farm businesses with SDV farmers, will serve in Skagit and King County WA and across the state by achieving three Objectives. 1) Facilitate partnerships between current and prospective beginning SDV farmers, Viva Farms, Growing Veterans, Washington State University and the USDA that increases participation in partner programs; 2) Strengthen effective bilingual outreach, training and technical assistance pathways for SDV farmers; 3) Develop and deliver bilingual agricultural outreach and education targeting SD youth. We provide bilingual training in sustainable organic farming, and access to land, infrastructure, equipment, marketing and capital (essentials). Viva is currently incubating 23 independent farm businesses representing over 35 farmers (over half of these farmers are SD, Hispanic and/or women). At the core of our training is an accredited three quarter practicum, which offers a cohort real life experience in every aspect of a successful farming operation through a full farming season. After successful completion of the prerequisite practicum training, beginning farmers can launch their new businesses at one of our three locations in Skagit and King Counties.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Skagit and King County, Washington</p> <p>Contact Info: Michael Frazier michael@vivafarms.org (360) 969-7191</p>

State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
WI	Ron Johnson & Tammy Baldwin	Mike Gallagher (08)	Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council	\$190,994	<p>The goal of this project is to improve business and production operations and management of agricultural systems among Native American farmers and ranchers, including beginning farmers and ranchers so that Tribes have increased capacity to continue long-term sustainable and environmentally responsible agricultural practices and increase access to locally grown food to achieve food security long-term. WTCAC will work multiple partners including state and local USDA agencies to provide technical assistance, outreach, and education supporting the specific agricultural needs for each of the 11 Tribes in Wisconsin. As WTCAC works with each Tribe through technical assistance and training, project staff and partners will assist socially disadvantaged Indian farmers and rancher in participating and accessing USDA programs that support local agriculture. Trainings will incorporate in-classroom and on-site observation of existing successful Indian farming and ranching operations. WTCAC will also engage Indian youth on farming and ranching practices, providing support and resources to work on their local Tribal farms and ranches and attend the trainings and increasing tribal capacity long-term.</p> <p>Geographical Service Area: Eleven Tribes of Wisconsin totaling 683,676 acres Contact Info: Alan Johnson wtcacl@gmail.com (920) 618-1402</p>
WI	Ron Johnson & Tammy Baldwin	Mike Gallagher (08)	Oneida Nation	\$28,666	<p>The most significant need facing the Oneida Nation and other local farming communities is the greying of the American farmer. The problem is exacerbated annually as more farmers age out of the profession. It is likewise worsened by the lack of interest in agricultural/farmer-based careers shown by youth of all ages and backgrounds. Part of the need for this project is to prepare American Indian youth to step in agricultural leadership roles for the Oneida Nation and for other agriculturally focused businesses and food development entities. It is our belief that by focusing on this youth cohort and other interested participants that we can encourage them to develop educationally or through participation the skills necessary to become successful farmers or agricultural enterprise operators and leaders. We will use our farm employees, other Oneida program personnel, local producers with previous experience as trainers, and technical assistance providers to provide hands on information and technical knowledge to all participants.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Project will focus on an area to include both Brown and Outagamie counties in Northeastern Wisconsin. Contact Info: William VerVoort wvervoort@oneidation.org (920) 496-5649</p>

State	Sen.	Rep.	Recipient	Grants	Project Description
WV	Joe Manchin III & Shelley Capito	Alex Mooney (02)	West Virginia State University	\$199,919	<p>The purpose of this project is to provide an educational opportunity focused around Urban Agriculture in Charleston and Huntington, West Virginia, as well as a focus on development of urban agriculture activities in Parkersburg and Bluefield. In conjunction with the Charleston Urban Renewal Authority, Gro Huntington, Recovery Point, Capitol Conservation District, West Virginia National Guard and others, this project would develop urban agriculture training hubs with a focus on Charleston, Huntington, Parkersburg and Bluefield for educational opportunities for minorities, veterans, new and beginning farmers and those in drug rehabilitation with Recovery Point and Gro Huntington. High Tunnels would be utilized to increase production and have additional training methods found within these facilities including, but not limited to, raised beds, hydroponics, etc. The project would also allow for continued education directly targeted at West Virginia National Guard members, including active duty, retired and civilian employees. These workshops have continued for two years and continue to gain attendance and momentum throughout the National Guard network in West Virginia. The project projects to reach well over 400 people through all avenues of interaction, as well as aim to enroll program participants in programs with their local USDA Service Centers.</p> <p>Geographic Service Area: Charleston and Huntington, West Virginia Contact Info: Brad Cochran bcochran2@wvstateu.edu (304) 532-2304</p>