



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB4991

by Rep. Rita Mayfield

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 205/205-455 new

Amends the Department of Agriculture Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. Creates the Farmer-Direct Maternal Nutrition Program to provide grants or contracts to farmers for growing, aggregating, and distributing healthy food to eligible expectant mothers within 75 miles of the farm. Establishes eligibility based on income, participation in SNAP or WIC, or referral by a health care provider or social service agency. Authorizes partnerships with community organizations and health facilities. Requires coordination with other State agencies, outreach, rulemaking, and annual reporting to the General Assembly beginning in 2028. Effective immediately.

LRB104 20161 BDA 33612 b

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Department of Agriculture Law of the Civil
5 Administrative Code of Illinois is amended by adding Section
6 205-455 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 205/205-455 new)

8 Sec. 205-455. Farmer-Direct Maternal Nutrition Program.

9 (a) The Department shall adopt rules establishing the
10 Farmer-Direct Maternal Nutrition Program. Subject to
11 appropriation, the Program under this Section shall provide
12 grants or contracts to farmers to grow, aggregate, and
13 distribute healthy food from the farmer's farm to eligible
14 expectant mothers who reside within 75 miles of the farmer's
15 farm. The purposes of the Program under this Section are to
16 improve maternal and fetal health and reduce food insecurity
17 during pregnancy, as well as to support family-owned small and
18 midsize farms and socially disadvantaged farmers in the State.
19 The Department may operate the Program statewide and may phase
20 implementation to prioritize areas with higher rates of food
21 insecurity or adverse maternal health outcomes.

22 (b) The Department shall adopt rules establishing
23 eligibility for the Program under this Section and, at a

1 minimum, subject to the provisions of subsection (d) and the
2 stated purposes of the Program under this Section, limit
3 eligibility to expectant mothers who are residents of the
4 State and who demonstrate need based on:

5 (1) the expectant mother's family income is at or
6 below 80% of the area median family income, as reported in
7 the most recent American Community Survey (ACS) published
8 by the United States Bureau of the Census;

9 (2) the expectant mother participates in the
10 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Special
11 Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and
12 Children (WIC), or any other need-based public assistance
13 program; or

14 (3) the expectant mother is referred to the program
15 based on evidence of need by a health care provider or
16 social service agency.

17 (c) The Department may distribute food through local
18 farmers directly and through partners, including
19 community-based organizations, federally qualified health
20 centers, hospitals, clinics, home-visiting programs, and local
21 health departments.

22 (d) The Department shall coordinate with the Department of
23 Human Services, the Department of Public Health, and other
24 relevant agencies to avoid duplication and maximize access,
25 and may align eligibility screening with existing maternal and
26 child health programs.

1 (e) The Department shall conduct outreach to inform
2 expectant mothers and health care providers about the
3 availability of the Program under this Section.

4 (f) The Department shall adopt rules to implement and
5 administer this Section, including rules establishing
6 allowable costs under grants or contracts under the Program
7 and establishing priorities with respect to farms, farmers,
8 and food that are consistent with the stated purposes of the
9 Program under this Section.

10 (g) The Department may collect de-identified data on
11 participation and distribution to assess the performance of
12 the Program under this Section. Beginning March 1, 2028, and
13 annually thereafter, the Department shall submit a report to
14 the General Assembly summarizing Program operations during the
15 previous calendar year, including the number of participants
16 served, amounts and types of healthy foods distributed,
17 participating farms, geographic coverage, and outcomes and
18 recommendations.

19 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
20 becoming law.