



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB2769

Introduced 2/16/2023, by Rep. Cyril Nichols

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

305 ILCS 5/12-4.50

Amends the Illinois Public Aid Code. In provisions concerning the Department of Human Services' Health Local Food Incentives Program, expands the program to provide grants to farm stands, mobile markets, community-supported agriculture sites, grocery stores, and other direct food retailers that participate in the SNAP program (rather than providing grants to participating Illinois farmers markets and direct producer-to-consumer venues). Requires the Department to consult and cooperate with non-profit organizations to develop and implement rules to distribute grants under the program (rather than designating a single non-profit organization or agency to receive an annual \$500,000 grant to be distributed to participating Illinois farmers markets and direct producer-to-consumer venues). Effective July 1, 2023.

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1 AN ACT concerning public aid.

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

4 Section 5. The Illinois Public Aid Code is amended by
5 changing Section 12-4.50 as follows:

6 (305 ILCS 5/12-4.50)

7 Sec. 12-4.50. Healthy Local Food Incentives Program.

8 (a) Legislative findings. Diet and other lifestyle choices
9 contribute to more than half of all deaths in Illinois. Health
10 risk factors include smoking, obesity, stress, nutrition, high
11 blood pressure, and alcohol and drug use. Illinois residents
12 should be encouraged to adopt diets and lifestyles that lead
13 to wellness. The State can help provide that encouragement by
14 funding wellness programs that enhance the health of Illinois
15 residents. Healthy local food incentives encourage wellness
16 among some of the most vulnerable residents of Illinois (those
17 whose incomes are below the poverty line and who often have
18 limited access to fresh, healthy, and affordable foods) by
19 doubling the purchasing power of LINK cardholders at farmers
20 markets, farm stands, mobile markets, community-supported
21 agriculture sites, grocery stores, direct producer-to-consumer
22 venues, and other direct food retailers across the State. The
23 benefits of such a program include: an increase in population

1 health, Medicaid health care cost savings, decreased incidence
2 of preventable diseases, increased revenue for Illinois small
3 farmers, and economic stimulus for the region.

4 (b) Definitions. As used in this Section:

5 "FINI eligible fruits and vegetables" means any variety of
6 fresh, canned, dried, or frozen whole or cut fruits and
7 vegetables without added sugars, fats, or oils, and salt (i.e.
8 sodium), as defined by the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive
9 Grant Program administered by the United States Department of
10 Agriculture.

11 "LINK card" means an electronic benefits transfer card
12 issued by the Department of Human Services for the purpose of
13 enabling a user of the card to obtain SNAP benefits or cash.

14 "SNAP" means the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
15 Program.

16 (c) The Department of Human Services shall establish a
17 Healthy Local Food Incentives Program to double the purchasing
18 power of Illinois residents with limited access to fresh
19 fruits and vegetables. The Healthy Local Food Incentives Fund
20 is created as a special fund in the State treasury for the
21 purpose of implementing the Healthy Local Food Incentives
22 Program. All moneys received pursuant to this Section shall be
23 deposited into the Healthy Local Food Incentives Fund.

24 (d) Subject to appropriation, the Department of Human
25 Services shall make grants ~~an annual grant of \$500,000~~ from
26 the Fund to ~~a qualified Illinois non profit organization or~~

1 ~~agency, which shall be distributed to~~ participating Illinois
2 farmers markets, farm stands, mobile markets,
3 community-supported agriculture sites, grocery stores, direct
4 producer-to-consumer venues, and other direct food retailers
5 that participate in the SNAP program for the purpose of
6 providing matching dollar incentives (up to a specified
7 amount) for the dollar value of SNAP benefits spent on FINI
8 eligible fruits and vegetables at those participating food
9 retailers. The Department of Human Services shall consult and
10 cooperate with non-profit organizations to develop and
11 implement rules to distribute grants as provided in this
12 subsection ~~participating Illinois farmers markets and direct~~
13 ~~producer-to-consumer venues.~~

14 (e) Qualifying non-profit organizations ~~The designated~~
15 ~~qualified non-profit organization or agency~~ shall have a
16 demonstrated track record of:

17 (1) building a statewide network;

18 (2) designing and implementing successful healthy food
19 incentive programs that connect SNAP recipients with local
20 producers;

21 (3) implementing funds distribution and reporting
22 processes;

23 (4) providing training and technical assistance to
24 farmers markets, farm stands, mobile markets,
25 community-supported agriculture sites, grocery stores,
26 direct producer-to-consumer venues, or other direct food

1 retailers;

2 (5) conducting community outreach and data collection;

3 and

4 (6) providing full accounting and administration of
5 funds distributed to farmers markets, farm stands, mobile
6 markets, community-supported agriculture sites, grocery
7 stores, direct producer-to-consumer venues, or other
8 direct food retailers.

9 (f) 100% of the moneys deposited into the Fund shall be
10 distributed to participating Illinois farmers markets, farm
11 stands, mobile markets, community-supported agriculture sites,
12 grocery stores, direct producer-to-consumer venues, and other
13 direct food retailers that participate in the SNAP program for
14 healthy local food incentives.

15 (g) Within 90 days after the end of a grant cycle, the
16 designated non-profit organizations ~~qualified non profit~~
17 ~~organization or agency~~ shall submit a progress report to the
18 Department of Human Services. The progress report shall
19 include the following information:

20 (1) the names and locations of Illinois farmers
21 markets, farm stands, mobile markets, community-supported
22 agriculture sites, grocery stores, direct
23 producer-to-consumer venues, and other direct food
24 retailers ~~and direct producer-to-consumer venues~~ that
25 received funds distributed under the Program;

26 (2) the dollar amount of funds awarded to each

1 participating Illinois farmers market, farm stand, mobile
2 market, community-supported agriculture site, grocery
3 store, direct producer-to-consumer venue, and other direct
4 food retailer ~~and direct producer-to-consumer venue;~~

5 (3) the dollar amount of SNAP benefits, and funds
6 provided under the Program, that were spent at Illinois
7 farmers markets, farm stands, mobile markets,
8 community-supported agriculture sites, grocery stores,
9 direct producer-to-consumer venues, and other direct food
10 retailers participating in the Program, as well as the
11 dollar amount of any unspent funds available under the
12 Program;

13 (4) the number of SNAP transactions carried out
14 annually at participating Illinois farmers markets, farm
15 stands, mobile markets, community-supported agriculture
16 sites, grocery stores, direct producer-to-consumer venues,
17 and other direct food retailers;

18 (5) the impact of the Program on increasing the
19 quantity of fresh fruits and vegetables consumed by SNAP
20 families, as determined by customer surveys.

21 (h) ~~The No later than December 31, 2017,~~ the Department of
22 Human Services shall adopt rules to implement the provisions
23 of this Section.

24 (i) (Blank).

25 (Source: P.A. 99-928, eff. 1-20-17; 100-636, eff. 1-1-19.)

26 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,

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1 2023.